



Letter from the Saharawi refugees, to the Office of the High Commissioner for refugees.

We are a group of Saharawi refugees In different countries we have established this Initiative and we chose March 16 as international day to inform the silent world of the suffering of the Saharawi refugees in the Tindouf area of Algeria after the negligent of the UNHCR to its special legal obligations to the Saharawi Refugees.

"The international Convention on refugees of 1951 stipulates that refugees has the right to humanitarian assistance and international protection, and to the assistance, and ensure the right of asylum, and to ensure the fundamental human rights. And the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the UN agency responsible for providing protection and assistance to refugees. Unlike most refugees who have cherished that right and the care of the UN High Commissioner for refugees, the Saharawi refugees are excluded of this leverage and care without presenting convincing any clear reasons by UNHCR, which states that the Saharawi refugees in Algeria are in collective refugee status. It is illogical argument by the UNHCR to evade the responsibilities for over 39 years.

Is it possible that a person who was born in a refugee camp for over 39 years and does not have any document to indicate such a status? In addition to this major problem facing the Saharawi refugees are denied the most basic a refugee status since 1976. As a result, thousands of Saharawis are suffering, in the refugee camps and in the champion of peace countries such as: Spain, France, Sweden, Norway, Germany, United States, Italy, Finland and others. Where they may spend years deprived of their legal rights because of the lack of document. The office of the High Commissioner for refugees is refusing to issue such a document although the Saharawis have been refugees the longest time in the world.

During the experience of UNHCR in the Saharawi refugee camps, this organization has paid attention to aspects related to the application of humanitarian projects of donor States and neglected its legal obligations towards refugees, which had a negative impact on the image of the Organization, to which many perceive it as a commercial organization rather than humanitarian. For these reasons we the Saharawis call on the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to respond to the following:

- 1-Recognition of the rights of the Saharawi refugees and their right to obtain a document that will identify them as refugees so they will be able to obtain to their rights to travel, employment and health and so on.
- 2-Increase humanitarian aid for Saharawi refugee's camps, in both quantity and quality.
- 3-Create a similar agency UNRWA (Palestinians) for the Saharawis.
- 4-Assist countries with information regarding Saharawis who are seeking a legal status.
- 5-Include the Saharawi refugees in the program of "quota" for Refugees organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for refugees.

We hope to hear your response to this Initiative, or we will be forced to undertake an international campaign to raise awareness about the suffering of the Saharawi refugees for which the Office of the High Commissioner for refugee UNHCR most responsibility. We will communicate with all donor embassies and the NGOs communicate our message.

For more information, please contact us at the e-mail address below : refugeesaharawi@gmail.com

Facebook : Saharawi Refugee