Take Action—MINURSO Mandate Renewal

In the lead-up to the UN Security Council vote on the renewal of the MINURSO mandate at the end of October, we ask our partners and supporters to work with us and contact members of the UNSC.

For over 50 years, the Saharawi people have been waiting for their promised right to self-determination. This is a crucial moment to demand the UNSC supports the Saharawi people and increases its efforts to ensure a just and lasting resolution rooted in the Saharawi right to self-determination.

The Moroccan 'autonomy' plan

Recently several countries, particularly the United States and Israel, have promoted Morocco's plan for Western Sahara to become an 'autonomous' province of Morocco. Far from enabling peace, this plan is simply a device for Morocco to underpin its military occupation. It is likely to lead to greater conflict. This is not surprising. The 'autonomy' plan would involve the Saharawi people accepting the authority of the Moroccan security forces that have persecuted them for 51 years. Human rights organisations report ongoing repression and abuses. Saharawis living under Moroccan rule face state violence for mentioning independence.

No solution that is imposed can lead to lasting peace in the region. This plan is not a realistic proposal for peace

UN Security Council member states need to go further in reaffirming their support for self-determination, to ensure the violent conflict in Western Sahara does not continue.

The UN Security Council must give increased support to Staffan de Mistura, the Secretary General's Personal Envoy to Western Sahara.

The US, the UK and the EU all condemn Russia's invasion and occupation of part of Ukraine and have imposed sanctions. But when it comes to Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara the silence is deafening.

The UN—if it aims to abide by its founding principles—must pursue a robust peace process to achieve a just and lasting solution rooted in full respect for the Saharawi people's right to self-determination.

50 Years in Exile

Without these changes, the Saharawi people face a future scenario where:

- Armed conflict continues—and more civilians are killed by Moroccan drones operating in the liberated territory;
- Further human rights abuses are committed by Moroccan authorities—following the systematic campaign of repression and violence outlined by UN officials;
- Generations of exiled Saharawis continue to face inhospitable conditions—which are worsening with climate change.

Take Action!

You can take action to help the Saharawi people and push for vital change.

You Can Make a Difference!
Please write, e-mail or call members of the UNSC to express your views on the need for international public support for the Saharawi people. You can prioritise the Greek ambassador in October, as they hold the Security Council Presidency then, and ask them, in their capacity as President to circulate your letter to the other council members. Contact details are below and in the attached document.

Use your own words if you can; make some of the points – no need to make them all.
More information is available at www.westernsaharacampaignuk.com

The UN Security Council should promote a political, democratic way forward, by

Renewing MINURSO at full strength and with its mission to remain focused on achieving self-determination for the Saharawi people. and setting a date for a free and fair referendum to be carried out in Western Sahara with an option for independence.

Insist that contacts between the parties are conducted in an impartial and neutral manner.

Setting a date for a free and fair referendum to be carried out in Western Sahara.

Protect human rights, by

Granting MINURSO the legal mandate to monitor, report on and intervene in matters of human rights in territories controlled by the Kingdom of Morocco and the POLISARIO Front.

Uphold international law, by

Demanding an end to arms sales to Morocco while the Kingdom continues to breach the ceasefire and kill civilians.

Greece **Presidency in October**
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