



WORKING FOR JUSTICE FOR THE SAHARAWI PEOPLE

June 2015

## SAHARA ANALYSIS

No: 86

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### WSC Wins First Day In Court

As you can read below the Western Sahara Campaign has decided to take the British Government to court. As a small, volunteer run campaign, taking the UK Government to court is not a decision we have taken lightly. But it is now almost 40 years since Morocco occupied the Western Sahara, and the Saharawi were forced into exile in Algeria. Their cause has never been well known in the UK but since the 1970s the WSC has carried out valuable research, shared information, publicised their cause and co-ordinated political action in the corridors of power. However this has not been enough and the longer the occupation of Western Sahara continues the more entrenched it becomes. The international community and the UN has consistently failed in its legal duty to make sure that the Saharawi can express their inalienable right to self-determination. We have decided that we must do something extraordinary to help the Saharawi get their country back.

By taking the UK Government to court we will show that any complicity in the occupation of the Western Sahara will be challenged. We are not asking you to support one view or another - all we are saying is that it is up to the Saharawi to determine their own future. Not Morocco or Algeria or, indeed, the UK Government. But by facilitating trade in goods from the Western Sahara the UK Government is acting illegally and must be challenged. We need to cover our legal costs, which have been limited to a maximum of £10,000, so we are asking you to help us by donating what you can.

Please [donate via Paypal](#) or visit our website to [donate via cheque or standing order](#)). If you can't donate yourself please ask your friends and colleagues to do so or perhaps organise a fundraising event. £10 000 is a big target and we need all the help we can get from people who know about the plight of the Saharawi. Thank you

Our applications for a Judicial Review was successful. We have a date for the hearing – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>h</sup> July. The Court will review

- Her Majesty's Revenue and Custom's treatment of products originating in Western Sahara being imported into the United Kingdom as Moroccan for the purposes of the EU – Morocco Association Agreement.

- the Department for Food and Rural Affairs' granting licences to fish in the territories of Western Sahara under the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Morocco.

To read the witness statements

**You can attend and support our application.**

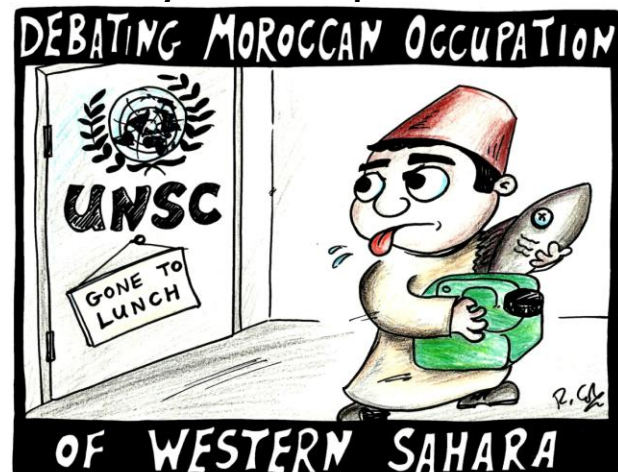
The court number and hearing time can be found on the Administrative Court Daily List at [http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/list\\_admin.htm](http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/list_admin.htm) after 2.30pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. Case reference numbers CO/1032/2015 & CO/1034/2015.

[To read more](#)

### In April 243 organisations wrote to the Security Council asking the UN to condemn Morocco's colonial oil plans

"No oil drilling should take place in the territory until the Saharawis have had the chance to exercise their right to self-determination and have freely and fairly decided the political status of their homeland"

### The Security Council's response -



[To read the letter and see the signatures](#)

*The WSC works in solidarity with the Saharawi people to generate political support in order to advance their right to self-determination and promote their human rights*

## [Morocco's Campaign To Influence Clinton](#)

Morocco's team of American lobbyists regularly communicated with State Department officials during Hillary Clinton's four-year tenure and several are supporting her candidacy for the 2016 presidential election, according to disclosures filed with the Justice Department.

Meanwhile, a controversial cache of what appear to be Moroccan diplomatic documents show how the Moroccan government courted Clinton, built a cooperative relationship with the Secretary of State, and orchestrated the use of consultants, think tanks and other "third-party validators" to advance the North African nation's goals within elite U.S. political circles.

## **John West to sell Saharawi Sardines**



Canned fish brands such as John West and Parmentier will soon sell fish from occupied Western Sahara. The owner of the brands, MW Brands, has begun a partnership with Oceamic Laayoune, a sardine cannery in the occupied territory.

MW Brands sealed a deal with Oceamic - a sardine cannery that is based in El Aaiun, located in the parts of Western Sahara that Morocco invaded in 1975, and still holds under military occupation. In blatant violation of international law, Morocco is selling off Western Sahara's ample resources, including its fish stocks. The Saharawi, the original inhabitants of Western Sahara and rightful owners of the territory's resources, have been relayed to the fringes of society, suffering social and economic exclusion, while Moroccan nationals run the illegal economy in the occupied territory.

Oceamic is owned and managed by Moroccans, not Saharawi.

[To read more](#)

## **Morocco Obstructs the UN**

Guardian 17 June

### **Leaked cables: Morocco lobbied UN to turn blind eye to Western Sahara in 'House of Cards' operation**

UN report accuses Moroccan government of intercepting communications and using 'unethical tactics' to influence organisation on occupied territory.

The Moroccan government intercepted United Nations communications and used "unethical tactics" in a "House of Cards"-style operation designed to get the organisation to turn a blind eye to the humanitarian situation in [Western Sahara](#), according to a leaked UN report.

[To read the Guardian Article](#)

Guardian 4 March

### **Western Sahara's 'conflict tomatoes' highlight a forgotten occupation**

Morocco's control of the 'last colony in Africa' is at the centre of campaigners' legal challenge to the labelling of Saharan produce and the tax breaks it receives.

Accurate labelling of consumer produce is a familiar part of the struggle for Palestinian rights under Israeli occupation and a striking example of global citizen empowerment. Now campaigners for the freedom of [Western Sahara](#) are making similar demands to try to undermine Morocco's control of the territory.

In the first case of its kind, British government departments are facing action in the high court over complaints that goods that originate in Western Sahara, often described as "the last colony in Africa", are illegally benefiting from preferential tariffs granted to [Morocco](#) by the EU.

British consumers are also being misled: sweet mixed baby tomatoes – sold by supermarket giants Tesco and Morrisons – have been labelled as produce of Morocco when in fact they were from giant agribusinesses in the Sahara, some of them owned by the wealthy King Mohammed VI, others by powerful Moroccan conglomerates or French multinational firms. None is owned by the indigenous Saharawi people.

[To read the Guardian Article](#)

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## Phosphate Plunder Continues



Earlier this month , the bulk carrier Alam Molek left the harbour of El Aaiun to set sail for the United States, carrying an estimated 50,000 tonnes of phosphate rock from occupied Western Sahara.

The phosphate rock in the Alam Molek's holds was illegally excavated in Western Sahara. Western Sahara's phosphate deposits are controlled by Morocco's state-owned phosphate company OCP, which sells them off to phosphate producers around the world. OCP has made headlines in the United States for providing ["Blood Phosphate money" to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.](#)

[To read more](#)