



TAKE ACTION FOR WESTERN SAHARA!

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

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

Western Sahara now hosts violent conflict; severe limitations on Saharawi people's freedom of information, freedom of assembly, and freedom of movement and attacks on Saharawi women.

Despite the rise of human rights violations by the Moroccan government, MINURSO still has no mandate to monitor and report on human rights in Western Sahara.

The Saharawi people's right to self-determination remains unrealised despite the presence of MINURSO, which was explicitly established to organise a referendum on self-determination. Morocco continues to test the patience of the Saharawi people by obstructing the peace process.

Morocco continues to violate the ceasefire and Military Agreement No. 1 through its illegal breach in Guerguerat. Morocco is using drones to kill people travelling through the liberated territory of Western Sahara, including civilians from Mauritania and Algeria as well as Saharawis.

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.

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 Swiss ambassador, as Switzerland holds the Security Council Presidency in October 2024 and ask her, in her 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 in these communications if possible to maximize your impact. More information is available at [Western Sahara Campaign UK](https://www.westernsaharacampaign.org/)

Western Sahara Action Forum is an international coalition of organisations dedicated to the protection of human rights and the implementation of international law in Western Sahara

For guidance, you can consider the following key points of emphasis; make some of the points – you don't need to make them all.

The UN Security Council should:

Bring new momentum to the political process, by

- moving to renewing the MINURSO mandate **every six months** (instead of annually).

Uphold international law, by

- granting MINURSO the legal mandate to **monitor and report on human rights** in the territories controlled by both the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO.
- demanding an **end to arms sales to Morocco** while the Kingdom continues to breach the ceasefire and kill civilians.
- demanding an **end to the illegal extraction of natural resources** from Western Sahara, which disregards the interests and wishes of the indigenous Saharawi.
- maintaining a focus on **self-determination**, which is the legal right of 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.

Incorporate climate change considerations into MINURSO's mandate, by

- monitoring the impacts of increased **desertification and flooding** on the livelihoods of Saharawi refugees.
- considering how Moroccan dominance of Saharawi natural resources impacts **GHG emissions**.

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