



Bir Lehlou, 27 February 2018

Western Sahara Campaign UK

Dear Friends of Western Sahara Campaign UK,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to all of you our most sincere congratulations on the landmark judgement handed down today by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg in relation to your legal case against the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Indeed, the judgement is a great victory for the Sahrawi people, for Western Sahara Campaign UK and for all those who defend justice and peace for the Sahrawi people. It is also a testament to the unwavering commitment and tireless work of your organisation for the recognition of the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and freedom and for raising awareness about Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara and its political and economic consequences.

I would like to transmit our many thanks and appreciation to the solicitors and barristers of law firm Leigh Day, who acted on your organisation's behalf, for their dedication, professionalism and excellent work.

I would also like to take this occasion to extend a formal invitation on behalf of the Frente POLISARIO to Western Sahara Campaign UK and law firm Leigh Day to pay a visit at your convenience to the Sahrawi Republic and the Sahrawi refugee camps. The visit will be an opportunity to exchange views on matters of common interest.

The CJEU's judgment of today, which consolidates its ruling of 21 December 2016, is a legal asset that establishes unequivocally that agreements concluded between the European Union and Morocco cannot be applicable to the territory of Western Sahara and to the waters adjacent thereto, because Western Sahara is not part of Morocco. This means that all agreements concluded between Morocco and third parties would be in violation of basic principles of international law, including the right to self-

determination, if they were to include Western Sahara and its territorial waters.

With its judgement of today, the CJEU leaves no doubt about the principles of international law applicable to the case of Western Sahara and its natural resources. It now remains to be seen whether the EU and its Member States will put in place all necessary measures to ensure that present and future agreements with Morocco do not in any case involve Western Sahara and its territorial waters. We therefore should persevere in our work to defend the rights and interests of the Sahrawi people and to use all means, including legal ones, if need be.

Please accept, Dear Friends, my warmest greetings and best wishes.


Brahim Ghali

**President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO**

