

European Court of Justice rules EU-Morocco trade deals illegal

In a great victory of the Saharawi people the European Court of Justice has ruled that:

“The 2019 EU-Morocco trade agreements regarding fisheries and agricultural products, to which the people of Western Sahara did not consent, were concluded in breach of the principles of self-determination.”

That couldn't be clearer. Read their press release: Link to:

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2024-10/cp240170en.pdf>

When the UK was still part of the EU, the Western Sahara Campaign UK sought a judicial review of a trade agreement with Morocco which allowed Morocco to exploit the resources of Western Sahara and sell the produce to the UK preferential terms.

As the trade agreement was between the EU and Morocco, the case was referred to the EU Court of Justice which ruled that Western Sahara was not part of Morocco and the agreement was therefore unlawful. This position was then accepted by High Court in the UK.

In response, the European Commission appealed against the judgement. This month, however, the EU Court of Justice dismissed the EU's appeal and also ruled that any produce imported into the EU from Western Sahara cannot be labelled as from Morocco.

For further information: <https://wsrw.org/en/news/eu-court-ruling-occupied-western-sahara-not-part-of-eu-morocco-agreements>

Following Brexit, the Conservative government reached an agreement with Morocco which mirrored the EU agreement.

The question now is whether the new Labour government will follow the EU Court of Justice in insisting that Western Sahara is not part of Morocco and that international law prohibits the exploitation of its resources without the consent of the people of the territory, or will it continue to turn a blind eye to an occupation which resulted in an appalling, and often violent, denial of human rights.

The campaign is holding a meeting in parliament to hear from Saharawi Activist, Mahfud Bechri, for discussion about the role of natural resources exploitation by Morocco in the ongoing occupation of Western Sahara and the implications of the EU Court ruling.

The meeting will take place Monday 21st October, 7.30pm, Portcullis House, Westminster.

If you want to attend please email wsactionforum@gmail.com. We will confirm your attendance.