

Appeal to Morocco's King Successfully Delivered to Embassy: Stop Obstructing Referendum or Leave Western Sahara

Thank you to everyone who participated in person, in spirit, in prayer, and by signing the petition to the King of Morocco.

The November 6, 2015 event was a great success!

The petition calling for the King to end his obstruction of the referendum or withdraw from Morocco's illegal occupation of Western Sahara was successfully delivered this morning.

The people of Western Sahara knew we were there to support their noble cause AND King Mohammed VI knows we hold him accountable for this ongoing tragedy.

The Algerian press covered the event as a major news headline today. Their report was aired worldwide and of course can also be heard in the refugee camps.

Below you will see some photos that we wanted to share with you taken by photographer Rico Hayes.

We gathered at the Gandhi statue and then proceeded to the Moroccan Embassy where we heard spirited remarks on this issue from several speakers and were joined by the grim reaper/Mohamed VI and others waving signs: **FREE WESTERN SAHARA; MOROCCO OUT of WESTERN SAHARA; KING MOHAMMED VI: STOP ATROCITIES VS SAHRAWI PEOPLE; REFERUNDUM NOW!** and photos showing the recent flooding in the camps.

Here are some quotes from speakers today:

"King Mohammed's oppressive policies in the Western Sahara are unsustainable and cannot prevail. He has a simple choice: recognize the inalienable human rights of the Saharawi, including their right to self-determination, or be forever relegated to the wrong side of history"• -- **Gare Smith, former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor**

"There is absolutely no reason why a referendum cannot be held which would permit the indigenous people of Western Sahara to choose their future. The excuses offered by Morocco and certain other officials are patently false." -- **Katlyn Thomas, the former Member of the Commission responsible for legal affairs at MINURSO**

"Since 1991, US protesters have championed the cause of self-determination for Western Sahara, and the movement continues to grow." --**Michael Beer, Executive Director, Nonviolence International**

"We are here today for two purposes: to show our support for the people of Western Sahara and to call on the King of Morocco to stop obstructing the referendum or withdraw from the illegal occupation of Western Sahara." -- **Suzanne Scholte, Chairman, US Western Sahara Foundation**

"My people, the people of Western Sahara, are frustrated and they feel betrayed by the UN and the international community because of the 40 years in exile and the 24 years in the status quo of no peace and no war; they cannot trust any more the mediation and the negotiation since they see no actions or even a deadline to organize the referendum which makes them closer to having the war choice. Otherwise, the plight and harsh conditions in the refugee camps and the latest floods and hardships creates more anger towards the Moroccan regime and makes us even more determined that our people will achieve their legal rights for self-determination."• --**Zeiny Ali Taleb, Founder of Youth for Youth Development**

"In the name of all Saharawis, we express our great thanks to you for being her today. We also express our determination and commitment to the struggle until we have total freedom." -- **SADR Ambassador Mohamed Beisat**

A few things of note for those who signed the petition:

- 1) We did not include anyone's emails on the document that we submitted -- just names and country of origin to protect the signers from online harassment;
- 2) Even though we had the petition up for just a day and a half before the protest, your efforts garnered signatories representing 18 nations; and
- 3) We are **keeping the petition on line** so more can sign as we plan to continue this action!

Sign here if you have not signed yet:

<http://www.defenseforumfoundation.org/western-sahara/214-a-petition-to-king-mohamed-vi-of-morocco-in-the-matter-of-western-sahara.html>

SAHARA LIBRE,
Suzanne

Suzanne Scholte
President, Defense Forum Foundation
www.defenseforumfoundation.org
Chairman, US-Western Sahara Foundation

Click [here](#) for a link to a recording of this event!





SAHRAWI REFUGEE
CAMPS: OCT 2015

MOROCCAN
COLONIALISM

SAHRAWI REFUGEE
CAMPS: OCT 2015

Morocco
OUT

SAHRAWI REFUGEE
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