

MARSEILLE FORUM JUNE 2019

Western Sahara



HOUSING RIGHT

Western Saharaoui is therefore located in Moroccan territory. As such, it should benefit from the right to housing reserved for the Moroccan people. As a reminder, the new Moroccan Constitution (2011) enshrines the right to housing in its article 31 (see country fact sheet on MOROCCO). However, many social movements observe that on the ground, the Saharawi people do not enjoy the same rights. This is what the People's Tribunal on Expulsions held in Geneva in 2013 denounced.

A video testimony, shot in 2013 in Geneva during the Expulsion Tribunal, shows the strength of Sahrawi women.



Western Sahara is located between Morocco in the north and Mauritania in the south and east. The country is currently occupied by Morocco over a large part of its territory. In terms of international law, it is a non-self-governing territory, a colony, the last one in Africa.

The violent Moroccan colonization dates back to 1975, when the former colonizer, Spain, withdrew.

The Sahrawi/Moroccan war lasted from 1975 to 1991.

The ceasefire then signed under the aegis of the United Nations included the condition of self-determination of the Sahrawi people, a choice by referendum between becoming Moroccan or being independent. The vote has still not taken place.

A Moroccan "defence" wall of more than 2400 km built in the 1980s cuts the country in two. It is bordered by fields of millions of anti-personnel mines.

200,000 refugees survive in exile in camps thanks to international aid in an inhospitable desert near Tindouf (southwestern Algeria)... In 1975, they fled Moroccan bombardments of napalm and white phosphorus.

Families remaining in Western Sahara face daily discrimination and police brutality...

The republic is in exile in the refugee camps, it is the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR)

Since 1975, Morocco has illegally plundered the natural resources of Western Sahara, phosphate, fish, sand, water...

Since 1991, the UN's "diplomatic efforts" have been trying to resolve the conflict, without changing the status quo. Injustice cannot be resolved when the solution sought should satisfy both parties.

Source : APSO (Amis du Peuple du Sahara Occidental)

Some people have been living in refugee camps in Algeria for more than 35 years, children were born and raised there. Southwest Algeria, where the camps are located, is exposed to strong winds, extreme heat and occasional flooding. For refugees, the consequences of these extreme weather conditions can be devastating to their already poor housing and livelihoods. (APSO)



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