



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 26 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex, a letter from Brahim Ghali, the Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, concerning new developments relating to Western Sahara, issued as document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Neville **Gertze**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I would like to write to you again to express our strong condemnation of the holding by the Moroccan occupying authorities of a so-called “Forum international des gens de mer” in the city of Dajla (Dakhla) in the part of Western Sahara under illegal occupation by Morocco.

The Frente POLISARIO firmly condemns, in the strongest terms, and rejects this unacceptable, provocative action that is in utter violation of the legal status of Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory waiting for a self-determination process under the supervision of the United Nations. At this critical juncture, holding such an event in the Sahrawi occupied territories is a deliberate attempt to fuel more tension and thwart the already stalled United Nations peace process, whose integrity has increasingly been compromised due to these kinds of actions by the occupying power.

The Moroccan presence in Western Sahara is an illegal military occupation in line with General Assembly resolution [34/37](#) of 21 November 1979 and resolution [35/19](#) of 11 November 1980, among other relevant resolutions. Therefore, all actions undertaken by the Moroccan occupying state, whether they are political, social, economic or cultural or of another character, are essentially colonial practices imposed by force.

As I underscored in my previous letter, dated 20 November 2019, since its rejection of the holding of the United Nations-supervised self-determination for the people of Western Sahara, Morocco has engaged in continued annexationist policies and actions aimed at “normalizing” its militarily imposed illegal occupation and forcible annexation of parts of Western Sahara. Morocco’s organization of international conferences, such as the abovementioned “forum” in the occupied city of Dajla, is a recent case in point. These actions are unacceptable, and they must end for the sake not only of peace and security of the region but also of the United Nations credibility.

Together with its obstructionist attitude towards the United Nations peace process in Western Sahara, Morocco continues to perpetrate systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Sahrawi territories under its illegal occupation. Morocco also persists in plundering the natural resources of the occupied territory, often in complicity with foreign entities and in blatant violation of the permanent sovereignty of the Sahrawi people over their natural resources.

The United Nations is present on the ground in Western Sahara through its mission, the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), whose mandate consists in holding a free and fair referendum on self-determination for the Sahrawi people. The inaction by the United Nations has only emboldened the Moroccan occupying authorities to persist in entrenching their illegal occupation of Western Sahara, perpetrating more violations of basic human rights of the Sahrawi people, including their inalienable right to self-determination, and plundering their natural resources.

Despite the repeated calls by the Security Council on both parties to refrain from any actions that could further destabilize the situation in Western Sahara, destabilizing actions by Morocco continue unabated. In addition to organizing such unlawful events in the Sahrawi occupied territories, Morocco persists in its escalation in Guerguerat, in southern Western Sahara. As we have underscored on numerous occasions, the breach that Morocco opened in Guerguerat across the Moroccan

military wall did not exist at the time of the entry into force of the ceasefire on 6 September 1991. It also did not exist when Military Agreement No. 1 was signed between MINURSO and the Frente POLISARIO on 24 December 1997. None of the two agreements included any provisions authorizing the creation of breaches or crossing points for “commercial traffic” or other civilian activities along the Moroccan military wall. The breach, which represents a persistent violation of the spirit of the peace plan and Military Agreement No. 1, was negotiated neither between the two parties nor between the parties and the United Nations.

I would like to reiterate that the Frente POLISARIO will under no circumstances accept any attempt by the occupying power, Morocco, or any third party to normalize the illegal situation in Guerguerat or any other part of occupied Western Sahara. We therefore call on you and on the Security Council to assume your respective responsibilities to close this illegal and provocative breach, which is jeopardizing not only the situation in the Buffer Strip but also the very basis on which the United Nations peace process, including the ceasefire and Military Agreement No. 1, had been agreed by both parties and endorsed by the Security Council.

The annexationist practices pursued by Morocco in the occupied part of Western Sahara are creating an increasingly intolerable situation on the ground that seriously puts in jeopardy peace, security and stability in the entire region. Unfortunately, the absence of a strong, unequivocal and firm position by the United Nations Secretariat and the Security Council regarding the persistence of Morocco in such reckless actions has contributed to this situation that we categorically reject.

The United Nations must assume its responsibility that is reaffirmed every year by the General Assembly towards the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara and its people. As long as the decolonization of the Territory has not been accomplished, the United Nations should take all the necessary measures to protect the rights and interests of the Sahrawi people and the integrity of Western Sahara from any act that may undermine it. The United Nations should also hold Morocco accountable for its provocative and destabilizing actions in the occupied Western Sahara which, if left unchecked, could plunge the region into total confrontation and war.

I would be most grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Brahim **Ghali**  
Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO