



CEA-CISA



**General Assembly  
Human Rights Council  
36<sup>th</sup> session**

**Item 2 - Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports  
of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

**General debate**

I thank you Mr. President,

My name is Chejja Abdalaha Moh Ahmed and I have the honour to speak on behalf of a group of 10 NGOs in relation to the situation prevailing in the Non Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara.

Last June, in his presentation to the Council, the High-Commissioner said that discussions were ongoing with the Government to resume technical missions.

We believe that the information was related to the government of the Kingdom of Morocco. To our knowledge, no contact has been made with the Polisario Front, the only recognized representative of Western Sahara by the UN General Assembly, for the resumption of the Technical Mission in the non-occupied part of Western Sahara and in the refugees' camps around Tindouf.

While we can understand the difficulties the Kingdom of Morocco may have in letting the OHCHR evaluate the Human Rights situation in the Occupied territory, nothing can prevent the Office to pursue the Technical Mission East of the Berm.

Last June, the UN Secretary-General expressed his deep concern over the plight of tens of thousands of Sahrawi refugees in Algeria<sup>1</sup>, who have their food rations cut due to lack of funding. To be clear, the situation of the Sahrawi people is not only a humanitarian concern; it is primarily a Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law issue as a consequence of the illegal occupation of Western Sahara by the Kingdom of Morocco.

In referring to UNGA resolution 71/104<sup>2</sup>, we call upon the High-Commissioner to provide all appropriate assistance to the people of Western Sahara, to resume without further delay the Technical mission, at least East of the Berm and in the refugees' camps around Tindouf, and to report to the Council on the human rights situation of the Sahrawi people.

I thank you for your attention.

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sgsm18549.doc.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations