



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 January 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Misappropriation of Humanitarian Aid in Tindouf Refugee Camps

We are writing to draw Council's attention to a pressing issue regarding the misappropriation of humanitarian aid in the refugee camps located in Tindouf, Algeria. It has come to my attention that there have been reports of aid diversion and misuse, which is a grave violation of human rights and a cause for concern among the international community.

The Tindouf refugee camps have been housing Sahrawi refugees who fled the Western Sahara conflict for several decades now. These camps were initially established with the intention of providing temporary shelter, protection, and essential assistance to the refugees until a permanent solution to their predicament could be found. However, recent reports and testimonies suggest that a significant portion of the humanitarian aid intended for the refugees is being misappropriated by certain individuals within The Frente Polisario Tindouf refugee camps in Algeria .

The misappropriation of humanitarian aid presents a multifaceted challenge that directly impacts the wellbeing and human rights of the vulnerable populations residing in the Tindouf refugee camps. Firstly, it deprives the refugees of the essential supplies and services that they are entitled to receive. Food, clean water, medical assistance, and educational opportunities are indispensable components of a dignified and sustainable life, especially for those who have been displaced and are dependent on external assistance.

Furthermore, the misallocation of aid resources perpetuates a cycle of dependency and vulnerability, hindering the prospects of self-reliance and sustainable development for the refugees. By diverting aid meant for the refugees, the perpetrators undermine the capacity of the affected individuals and communities to rebuild their lives and gain a sense of autonomy. This situation not only prolongs the suffering of the refugees but also hampers their ability to break free from the cycle of poverty and displacement.

Moreover, the misappropriation of aid by Frente Polisario in the Tindouf refugee camps by in Algeria has broader implications for regional stability and security. It is essential to consider the potential consequences of diverting humanitarian assistance to unintended recipients or purposes. The lack of accountability and transparency surrounding aid distribution can create an environment conducive to corruption, which may fuel tensions within the camps and exacerbate social divisions. This situation could potentially compromise the overall peace and stability in the region.

In light of these concerns, I urge the United Nations Human Rights Council to take immediate action to address the issue of aid diversion in the Tindouf refugee camps. The following recommendations are proposed as a starting point to tackle this problem:

1. Conduct an independent and comprehensive investigation: The UNHRC should establish an impartial commission to investigate the allegations of aid diversion in the Tindouf refugee camps. This investigation should be conducted with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including humanitarian organizations, host countries, and the refugee community.
2. Strengthen monitoring and accountability mechanisms: It is crucial to enhance the transparency and accountability of aid distribution processes within the camps. This can be achieved by implementing robust monitoring systems, conducting regular audits, and ensuring the participation of refugees in decision-making processes related to aid allocation.

In conclusion, the misappropriation of humanitarian aid in the Tindouf refugee camps is a grave violation of human rights and a matter of urgent concern. The United Nations Human Rights Council has a crucial role to play in addressing this issue and working towards a sustainable solution that upholds the rights and dignity of the refugees. By implementing the recommendations outlined above, we can take significant steps towards ensuring the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to those who need it the most.

I kindly request the United Nations Human Rights Council to prioritize this issue on its agenda of the 55 and 56 session of HRC and take prompt action to prevent further misappropriation of aid in the Tindouf refugee camps. The international community must stand united in its commitment to upholding human rights and ensuring the well-being of all individuals affected by conflicts and displacement.
