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**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.

[26 May 2021]

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



Human Right Situation In Western Sahara And In Tindouf Camps

When talking about the situation of human rights in Morocco, we need, as human right defenders, to admit the fact that there has been a considerable amount of progress at the level of issues raised and institutions founded and also at the level of legislative space which has been opened to tackle many subjects that still taboo in the majority of Arab and African countries.

Concerning public liberties in Morocco, there is a certain understanding that respecting human rights by the state officials and institutions is indispensable to build an expected democracy in a developing country. Understanding is not enough? so here as much Morocco has proved its will to promote policies and as much the state become tolerant in many issues such as founding association ,freedom of speech , freedom of belief ,women rights and so on .We think that there is a lot of to be done especially when we talk about the situation in Western Sahara, of course human right in Western Sahara has known a positive change but we must help overcoming the miss-understanding of the situations in that region of Morocco because the political conflict occurring there .

In Western Sahara, if we want to evaluate the situation, we should bear in mind those human rights defenders tend to classify themselves according to political positions they take concerning the issue of Western Sahara. However, we must admit that over the last years, Morocco has been tolerant to manifestations and public gathering and freedom of speech. Human rights defenders tend not appreciate that fact not for the universality of human rights but because we have a problem of best practices, unfortunately, defending human right is misleading because there must be criteria to help us distinguish between objective human right defenders and political propagandist in favor of one part of the conflict.

But in general the Sahrawi defenders are benefiting a lot from the vast margin of liberties in Morocco , so they are known and there are free to voice up their opinion concerning different issues as individual or association ,they travel all over the world to defend their cases .

On the other hand, in the camps of Tindouf , the international community and human rights organizations must put more pressure on the Polisario regime to respect human right and to free the people in the camps who are suffering from the hard situation of being used for political agendas .According to returnees , we meet in the southern region of Morocco, they are talking about hard conditions of life , where people are not allowed to found associations or manifest for their rights.

Therefore:

1. We call on the High Commissioner for Human Rights to protect human right defenders in Tindouf Camps from harassment, reprisal and intimidations and let them express their opinion freely and without obstacles .
2. We stress that The state of Algeria must respect the international convention of Human rights and to let the special Procedures make a visit to Tindouf Camps to investigate the violation of human right defenders namely El fadel Braika ,Moulay Bouzid and Mahmoud Zaidan.