



**EUCOCO**

Confencia Europea de Apoyo y Solidaridad con el Pueblo Saharaui  
European Conference for Support and Solidarity with the Saharawi People  
Conférence Européenne de Soutien et Solidarité avec le Peuple Sahraoui  
الندوة الأوروبية للتضامن ودعم الشعب الصحراوي

**48<sup>th</sup> European Conference of support and solidarity with the Sahrawi People**

**Lisbon 29-30 November 2024**

***STATEMENT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF JURISTS FOR WESTERN  
SAHARA  
AT THE 48<sup>TH</sup> EUCOCO***





## 48<sup>TH</sup> EUCOCO Statement of the International Association of Jurists for Western Sahara at the 48th EUCOCOCO

Lisbon 29-30 November 2024

The International Association of Jurists for Western Sahara has actively participated in this 48<sup>th</sup> edition of the European Conference for Peace and Support to the Saharawi people, in defence of the fundamental right of the Saharawi people to self-determination.

We congratulate the work and conclusions of this Conference, which contribute to the strengthening and enrichment of the cause, as well as to the organisation of a coordinated and positive plan of action for the next year.

This organisation of jurists, which I am honoured to preside, continues to work in a cross-cutting manner, in all the technical legal fields that affect the Saharawi cause, on the road towards the exercise of Self-Determination.

This year, several important legal events have taken place, reaffirming once again the defence of Western Sahara's right to self-determination. And, in particular, the judgments handed down by the Court of Justice of the European Union on 4 October, which, on the occasion of reiterating and confirming the nullity of the Fisheries and Agriculture Agreements between the EU and Morocco, confirm, as international law does, four essential issues:

- That Western Sahara is not Moroccan territory.
- That the Polisario Front is the legitimate representative of the Saharawi people, reaffirming its capacity and legal standing to intervene in defence of its rights in international tribunals.
- That the Saharawi people are the sole and exclusive owners of the Natural Resources of Western Sahara.

- That it is the will and decision of the Saharawi people on its natural resources, as expressed by its legitimate representative, the Polisario Front, which alone can decide on these resources.

Similarly, we highlight the extensive and neat work carried out in the UN Special Political and Decolonisation Committee last October in which a large international delegation, coordinated by IAJUW, appeared and denounced the war of occupation that persists in Western Sahara by Morocco with the connivance of Spain, and the silence of the international community, also demanding compliance with international law for the Sahrawi people.

Thus, we reaffirm:

- That Morocco remains in the territory of Western Sahara as an occupying power, using violence to establish itself there, in breach of the mandatory rule (*erga omnes*) prohibiting the acquisition of a Territory by force.
- That Spain is the administering power of Western Sahara and is in breach of its obligations, without penalty.
- That among the obligations of Spain, the EU, and the other States, in the face of Morocco's occupation of Western Sahara through the use of force, **is the obligation not to recognise Morocco's sovereignty over the territory of Western Sahara**, ... Spain, the EU, and the other States are obliged not to assist or cooperate with Morocco in policies that help Morocco to consolidate its occupation of the territory. This is also reflected in the rulings of the CJEU.
- That war crimes and violations of humanitarian law continue to be perpetrated by the occupying power against the Sahrawi people, with the persistence of population transfers, the prosecution of human rights defenders and the Saharawi human rights, the apartheid regime with the Saharawis, and an arms and economic war.
- We recall that Humanitarian Law is mandatory for the occupier, and that he must be required to strictly observe it, which he does not do, acting against international law with impunity.
- We call on the release of all Saharawi political and conscience prisoners in Moroccan prisons, condemned by illegal courts.
- We recall that IAJUWS has been monitoring and directly observing the human rights of the Saharawi population in the occupied territory for more

than twenty years, being victims at present of Morocco's violent impediment to access the Occupied Saharawi Territory over which it has no sovereignty, and counting on the complicit silence of the government of the Kingdom of Spain.

- We recall that the opacity on the territory, the silence of the media and governments, is a guilty attitude that favours the impunity of the systematic action of genocidal annihilation of the Moroccan occupier towards the Saharawi people.

Within the framework of this Conference, the main areas affecting Western Sahara were discussed, delving into the international geopolitical situation and adopting concrete actions and lines of work,

The aforementioned judicial decisions open up a new and dynamic framework for action, placing the defence of the right to self-determination in a positive sphere on the way to its achievement.

And it is obvious that the road ahead is not only legal, it is political, and it is social, which is why all areas of work in the defence of the human rights of the Sahrawi people will continue to be reinforced, and in which this organisation on behalf of which I am appearing will continue to strengthen its work.

And, as we did in the last edition in Toledo, we invite the committed participation, in the sessions of the Special Policy Commission and Decolonisation, IV Committee, of the United Nations, and in the programme of action drawn up for this purpose. For it is there that the key issue affecting the Saharawi people is debated... Decolonisation and self-determination.

And finally, I conclude by paying tribute to a person who devoted so much dedication and conviction to the defence of the rights of the Peoples, and to the defence of the Sahrawi People, and who has sadly left us.

By remembering him, we make him present.

THANK YOU DEAR GILLES DEVERS.

THANK YOU LAWYER

Lisbon, 30 November 202