

## Sahrawi arab democratic republic solar energy companies

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Dissatisfied with decades of political stalemate and gridlock, the Polisario Front decided to return to active resistance after the Guerguerat incident in 2020. Since the Polisario Front is aware of the disparity of military power, one can deduce that its armed escalation is a tactical move rather than a concrete solution to end the occupation. Its aim is to exert pressure to push for a change in political course by bringing about renewed international attention to the forgotten cause and ending popular frustration.

Sahrawis have grown deeply frustrated by the lack of movement on their quest for national self-determination and Morocco's impeding the referendum and exploitation of the territory's natural resources.

The state of affairs became more complicated after former US President Donald Trump's unilateral recognition of Morocco's claim of sovereignty over Western Sahara in December 2020, in a quid pro quo for Morocco's normalization with Israel (and in contravention of international law). Trump's proclamation was promptly rejected by the United Nations, the European Union, and the African Union (AU), pitting the United States against most of the world on this issue. The Polisario's armed escalation, coupled with Trump's decision, have returned the Sahrawi issue to international attention.

Trump''s recognition of Morocco''s claim--which President Joe Biden has yet to reverse--violates international law and all UN resolutions that affirm Western Sahara''s right to self-determination.

The United Nations continues to list Western Sahara as a non-self-governing territory awaiting decolonization--an international legal status enshrined in the UN General Assembly"s 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It also reminds that self-determination of peoples is protected in the United Nations Charter and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a right of "all peoples."

Despite the AU's firm position on the decolonization of Western Sahara and its commitment to the rights of Sahrawis to self-determination, Morocco has been able to achieve some gains with several African countries.

Amnesty International is also requesting the same for the Tindouf refugee camps in Algeria for further human rights monitoring. While the Moroccan authorities have denied access to independent human rights groups, the Polisario Front has allowed them to monitor the camps and appears to have posed no obstacles to visits by Human Rights Watch (HRW), as stated in the 2014 HRW report of a two-week research mission to the camps in late 2013. In addition, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has an office in Tindouf camps to safeguard the rights of Sahrawi refugees.

Despite its recent diplomatic gains, Morocco has so far failed to decisively advance the Western Sahara



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dossier in its favor. The Western Sahara remains the last colony in Africa that requires decolonization. Solving the conflict should be under the auspices of the United Nations. It would safeguard the North African region from further turmoil and destabilization and help protect Europe's southern border. Indeed, any violation of international law in the Western Sahara would lead to drastic consequences globally.

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