

Draft Resolution

1 *Tabled by FYEG*

2

3 **On Freedom for Western Sahara**

4

5

6 As Greens, we have always supported the anti-colonialist struggles of those who have been under the
7 control of other European countries. Today, colonialism is still present, and can be observed by taking a
8 look at a map. The Western Sahara, which is under Moroccan occupation, is one of such case, and its
9 liberation has been demanded by the 'UN Special Committee on Decolonisation' on countless occasions.
10 We, the Greens in Europe, demand freedom for Western Sahara and an end to this case of colonialism,
11 which is just beyond our borders.

12

13 Western Sahara was a Spanish colony under Franco's fascist regime, until its fall in 1975. When it was
14 handed over to Morocco and Mauritania to be divided between the two countries, the 'Liberation Front
15 for Western Sahara' took on its fight for independence. The scattered majority of the population of
16 Western Sahara had to flee to refugee camps in neighbouring Algeria. The guerrilla warfare continued into
17 1992, which is when the UN brokered a cease-fire agreement, under the condition that the Sahrawi
18 population could hold a referendum on self-determination. Ever since then, the population of Western
19 Sahara is still waiting for its referendum.

20

21 Meanwhile, between 90.000 and 125.000 people are living in refugee camps in Tindouf, which is south of
22 Argel, and in the middle of the Sahara Desert. Living conditions there are far from dignified, and the most
23 common feelings amongst Sahrawi youth are those of resignation and desperation. The international
24 community pays practically no attention to this quiet conflict, in which Morocco, France and Spain are the
25 main actors. They avoid finding a fair solution to the conflict, which could be done by holding the
26 referendum as was agreed in the UN framework.

27

28 And even so, the situation in Western Sahara, or the "occupied territories" as called by the Sahrawis, is
29 even worse than in the refugee camps. Systematic human rights violations, enforced disappearances,
30 torture, arbitrary detentions, and executions are commonplace on the part of Moroccan authorities, as is
31 the lack of freedom of speech, association, and assembly.

32

33 The military architecture established by Morocco within the Western Sahara is huge, having amongst
34 others built a triple 2.700 kilometre long wall against the Western Saharan population. The wall is
35 surrounded by anti-personnel mines and barbed wire, and has approximately 40.000 Moroccan soldiers
36 stationed around it. The wall is also used as a deterrent to refugees coming from other African countries,
37 and is therefore often ignored in the European political sphere. The militarisation of the Sahara needs to
38 come to an end.

39

40 Morocco clings to the Western Sahara because it is a resource-rich region. It has the biggest sources of
41 phosphate, which is the main ingredient for modern fertilisers, that support industrialised agriculture
42 worldwide. In fact, six per cent of Morocco's GDP comes only from exports related to Western Saharan
43 phosphate. Other resources include fish stocks, where 74% of Moroccan fishery production is derived
44 from Western Saharan waters, and more than 80.000 tons of agricultural products. Recently, western
45 companies have started exploring possible sites for oil exploitation in the region. Remarkably, the wealth
46 of Western Sahara is its curse, and European countries are partly to blame for its economic exploitation.
47 For example, the 'Development Agency of France' (France being the country that invests in Morocco the
48 most) has built a modern harbour in the capital of Western Sahara, so as that resources can be shipped
49 out of the country more easily.

50

Draft Resolution

- 51
52 The Western Sahara needs proper recognition by the international community, and international
53 awareness of its struggle. We congratulate the Swedish Red-Green Government on its intention to
54 recognise Western Sahara, which we believe is a brave and important step that other European nations
55 should follow.
56
- 57 We believe the debate on the liberation of Western Sahara needs to be present on a European Level, and
58 we, the European Greens, stand in solidarity with the Sahrawi, and demand the following:
59
- 60 • A fair referendum on the self-determination of Western Sahara needs to be conducted without
61 delay. The basis for the electorate must be the voting list that was established by the United
62 Nations in 1996.
63
 - 64 • ‘The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in the Western Sahara’ (MINUSRO) mandate
65 needs to be extended, from only observing the cease-fire agreement to actively reporting on
66 human rights violations in the Western Saharan territory.
67
 - 68 • Morocco currently holds many people, including political activists, in detention without due
69 procedure. There are plenty of accounts of human rights violations, including torture, perpetrated
70 by the Moroccan police forces. We demand the release of political prisoners from their unlawful
71 detention.
72
 - 73 • In particular, we demand the liberation of political prisoners from ‘Gdeim Izik’, who have been
74 judged before a military court for having led the start of the Arab Spring Revolution in Aiuun at
75 the end of 2010, and who are currently on hunger strike.
76
 - 77 • The European Union is currently supporting the occupation in various ways. The EU has, for
78 instance, supplied the Moroccan government with border control technology to detect refugees
79 crossing the Moroccan border. This technology is used at the wall erected against the Sahrawis.
80 The EU must stop the proliferation of any kind of technology that is used in this war against the
81 Sahrawis.
82
 - 83 • The ‘EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement’ allows European trawlers preferential access to
84 Moroccan waters, including those bordering the Western Sahara. We demand that European
85 trawlers refrain from fishing in Western Saharan waters, before the conclusion of treaties
86 regulating such usage is agreed upon with the exiled Sahrawi government.
87
 - 88 • We demand appropriate reparation be paid to the Western Saharan people, for all of the
89 resources that have been exploited by both Moroccan and international companies.