



**General Assembly  
Human Rights Council  
36<sup>th</sup> session**

**Item 6 -Universal Periodic Review  
Report of the Working Group on the Kingdom of Morocco**

I thank you Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of a group of 8 NGOs.

With reference to NGOs written statements number 9 – 49 – 76 – 120 – 121 and 133 we wish to call upon the attention of the Council's members on the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law violations in the Non Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara, illegally occupied by the Kingdom of Morocco.

The invasion of the Territory, which the Security Council<sup>1</sup> and the General Assembly<sup>2</sup> have deplored, compels the Kingdom of Morocco to respect International Humanitarian Law. We take note of the numerous and serious breaches of articles 31, 32, 33, 49, 53, 66 and 76 of the IV<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention, still occurring to this date.

In regretting that too few members of the Working Group have paid due attention to the serious and continuous Human Rights violations in the occupied Territory of Western Sahara, we call on the attention of the Council's members on the violations of the inalienable right to self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources, the right to peaceful assembly and association and on the right to freedom of opinion and expression of those advocating for the implementation of UNGA resolution 1514 (XV) on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

We also stress the violation of the principle of the independence of judges and lawyers, as demonstrated in the proceedings of what is known as the Gdeim Izik trial, during which the judges had to disregard the internationally recognized legal status of Western Sahara, and the French lawyers were expelled because of referring to it.

We call on the Human Rights Council to recommend to the Kingdom of Morocco to agree on the establishment of a permanent Human Rights monitoring mechanism in Western Sahara within the MINURSO mandate, to respect the legal status of Western Sahara and to abide to the rules of the International Humanitarian Law.

I thank you for your attention.

**21<sup>st</sup>September 2017**

<sup>1</sup> UNSC resolution 380 (6 November 1975)

<sup>2</sup> UNGA resolutions 34/37 (21 November 1979) and 35/19 (11 November 1980)