

United in the presence of the President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Mohamed Abdelaziz, 435 participants from 25 countries across Europe, the Americas and Africa, were welcomed by a large representation of the Frente Polisario. They were joined by Aminatou Haidar, a symbol of the Sahrawi people's struggle for their right to self-determination and for independence, who led eighteen envoys from the Sahrawi resistance in the occupied territories.

Also present were representatives of Spanish political parties, of the European Parliament, and of national and regional parliaments, such as the Parliament of the African Union, the parliaments of Algeria, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and SADR. All of the above, as well as representatives from human rights organizations, NGOs and Sahrawi support committees engaged in the two plenary sessions, the working groups and the demonstration held in Madrid on the 16th of November.

EUCOCO condemns the tripartite Madrid Accords of the 14 November 1975, which still today acts as a major obstacle on the road to self-determination and independence for the Sahrawi people. The Spanish state is responsible for the suffering that has befallen the Sahrawi people. It therefore must denounce these accords, vestiges of the Franco era, and repair the injustices.

The search for a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara is reaching a crucial stage. The strategy of the King of Morocco developed for nearly two decades is based on dangerously throwing caution to the wind, and on the illegal occupation with all its adverse consequences. This strategy is fused with diversion, lies and aggression towards Algeria. This strategy, challenging the international community and rejecting international law is failing. It is no longer fooling anyone.

EUCOCO delegates noted the Moroccan government is on the defensive. It is at an impasse due to their total refusal to negotiate under the auspices of the United Nations. Not only that, but they continue to block the work of Ambassador Christopher Ross, the United Nation Secretary General's personal envoy to Western Sahara. This tactic punishes the occupied territories population.

EUCOCO reiterates its backing of Mr. Ross, and pays tribute to his resolve in completing his mission. EUCOCO salutes the UN's many resolutions on Western Sahara, and welcomes the words of Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon, who in March 2014 expressed his determination to actively seek a solution consistent with the doctrine of decolonization.

EUCOCO condemns that His Excellency Joaquin Chissano, the mediator appointed by the African Union and Special Representative for Western Sahara, and Mrs. Kim Bolduc, Head of MINURSO are also prevented from exercising their mandate. Similarly, EUCOCO deplores that parliamentarians, human rights activists and representatives of non-governmental organizations are denied the right to visit the Occupied Territories, to meet the Saharawi resistance and political prisoners.

Whether it's the National Court of Spain, the European Court of Justice, the United Nations or the OECD, the highest authorities must today more than ever before underline the rights of the Sahrawi people to their own identity, to the protection of their territory, their natural resources and of their culture.

EUCOCO delegates reaffirm their commitment to the Sahrawi people in their struggle to defend Human Rights, humanitarian law and international law. Delegates denounce the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Morocco in the occupied territories. Delegates call on the UN Security Council and the European Union to impose sanctions against Morocco, and to recognize SADR as a full member of the United Nations.

The vast movement of international solidarity with the Sahrawi people, who reunited in Madrid on the 14 and 15 of November, strongly reaffirms their solidarity with the 40-year struggle for independence led by Frente Polisario, the Sahrawi people's sole legitimate representative.

This movement of solidarity needs more from the international community. It needs more targeted and efficient actions in order to force Morocco to respect international law. Our movement challenges all countries, France, Spain and the European Union in particular, to adopt a clear position consistent with international law on Western Sahara.

EUCOCO welcomes the expansion and strengthening of its activist base in Europe and the World, as well as the strong and constant support of Algeria, and the determined work of CNASPS in its support and solidarity with the Sahrawi people.

EUCOCO delegates adopt the motion to proclaim 2015 the "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE SAHRAWI PEOPLE". The 40th EUCOCO will take place in Spain in November 2015.

The 39th EUCOCO would like to thank the Spanish organizing committee and its members, as well as the rector of the Complutense University of Madrid for the welcome and help in organizing that this important event.

This declaration will be followed by summaries of the conclusions of each EUCOCO working group, to be found on this website <u>www.eucocomadrid.org</u>