



Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.
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Disastrous verdicts in Morocco violating Human Rights again

Once again Morocco has proven not to respect human rights.

Quite recently, after months of delaying tactics, the court in Rabat has confirmed judgments for Sahrawi independence activists and human rights defenders, outspoken four years ago by a military court, though civilians, ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment..

It concerns activists who were taken into custody following the dismantling of the Gdeim Izik protest camp near the Western Sahara capital of El Aaiun in 2010. The peaceful camp was destroyed by Moroccan forces, thus getting out of hand, and 11 of their staff were killed.

Since then Morocco refused any independent research called for by the Sahrawi to clarify who was responsible for the deaths.

In fact the occupying Morocco punishes political activists calling for independence of their brutally occupied country. In this shameful process the court based itself on confessions that were allegedly extracted under torture. Though Morocco's penal code states that this is inadmissible, the court did not bother to verify this fact.

Morocco also ignores that the UN Committee Against Torture condemned the country in November 2016 for plentiful violations of the Convention Against Torture in regard to activist Enaâma Asfari, who was among the Gdeim Izik detainees and who has been again in court now.

Allowed as witnesses were people who surprisingly showed up after seven years and who had not been present in Gdeim Izik. On the other hand witnesses called for by Sahrawi defenders and who had been around were not admitted.

Independent observers were partly hindered to enter the court-room or were even expelled. Defendants and lawyers decided to boycott the trial in May, as evidences were fabricated and, according to the lawyers there had been a total disrespect for the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

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Inspite of all these proceedings, the 23 prisoners have been found guilty and condemned.

Eight of them received life sentences, another eleven got between 20 to 30 years of imprisonments, the remaining ones got 2 to 6 years.

Morocco unveils itself and bargains in a way whatever needed and appropriated. International agreements, laws, standards are trampled with contempt!

We are in deep and sincere solidarity with the Gdeim Izik prisoners and the Sahrawi people!

Referendum now! Freedom for Western Sahara and its rightful inhabitants!

Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.

Gunther Hilliges
Vice-chairman of the board

Regina Dietzold
Member of the board

August 7th, 2017

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Schirmherr: Christian Weber (Präsident der Bremischen Bürgerschaft)

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