

Ref: SB:dd

23 April 2010

His Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
Secretariat Building, Room S-3800  
New York, NY 10017

By Facsimile: +212 963 7055 / 4879

Dear Your Excellency,

The ACTU, being a long-standing supporter of the Saharawi people's right to self-determination and justice, was alarmed to learn that your latest report on Western Sahara [S/ 2010/175](#) has failed to deliver on two crucial points.

1. The referendum of self-determination, the key element in over a hundred UN resolutions, is shown not to be progressing in your report. We repeat the words of a motion passed at our 2009 annual conference:

*"We call on the Security Council to empower MINURSO to complete its mission to organize a referendum of self-determination in Western Sahara and thus to complete the decolonization process of the last colony in Africa. We call on the Security Council to empower MINURSO to complete its mission to organize a referendum of self-determination in Western Sahara and thus to complete the decolonization process of the last colony in Africa".*

2. Your previous report proposed the creation of a mechanism to monitor the respect of human rights in occupied Western Sahara and in the Saharawi refugee camps near Tindouf. We see no reason for abandoning this important proposal. MINURSO should be brought into line with other peace-keeping missions in having capacity for this responsibility.

We ask you to consider whether the UN's failure to implement this policy gave the green light for the escalation of human rights abuses by the Moroccan authorities against Saharawis that has been seen in the past year.

~ 2 ~

The ACTU represents two million workers and strong supporter of democratic rights, take most seriously attacks on human rights. We implore you to uphold UN principles

The ACTU is concerned about the welfare of the seven human rights defenders in Salé prison on hunger strike since 18 March. They and other Saharawi prisoners of conscience should be released.

We are asking other concerned groups in Australia to join with us in asking you to ensure justice and protection for the Western Saharawi. And the right for the last colony of Africa have their legitimate vote of self determination in a free and fair referendum.

Yours sincerely,



Sharan Burrow  
PRESIDENT

Cc: *Permanent members of the UN Security Council are: China, France, Russia Federation, UK and US.*

*Non-permanent members: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey and Uganda.*