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Mr Miguel de Aranda Villen GOMEZ
Consul-General
Consulate-General of Spain
146A Elgin St, Carlton Vic 3053

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to bring to your attention the situation in Western Sahara and kindly request you forward this letter to HE Mr Jose Luis Rodriguez, President of the Spanish government.

The Socialist Alliance notes that Morocco invaded and illegally occupied Western Sahara in 1975. which led more than 165,000 Saharawis to flee their homeland and seek refuge in South West Algeria for the past 35 years in dire conditions.

We believe that Spain, as the *de jure* Administering Power in Western Sahara can play a positive role in assisting the Saharawi people achieve their inalienable right to self-determinaton and independence. The role that Portugal played in assisting East Timor achieve independence is a good example to follow.

We are convinced that the only just, legal and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara is to end the Moroccan illegal occupation and allow the Saharawi people to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the UN decolonisation doctrine.

We condemn the gross violations of human rights in the occupied territories of Western Sahara by Morocco.

We urge the Spanish government to:

- (1) grant diplomatic status to the Polisario mission in Madrid;
- (2) extend the necessary support for the Saharawi people in their struggle for freedom and independence, under the leadership of their legitimate representative, the Frente Polisario;
- (3) ask the Moroccan government to respect human rights in the Saharawi occupied territories and to release all Saharawi political detainees forthwith;
- (4) declare illegal the exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara through

- deals made with the occupying Moroccan regime;
- (5) call on Morocco to respect the rights entitlements of Saharawi workers and pensioners particularly those who were employed during the Spanish administration of the Territory;
 - (6) provide all the necessary assistance to the UN in its efforts to organise a free and fair referendum for the people of Western Sahara;

We look forward to hearing from you on these important matters.

Yours sincerely

Sue Bolton
Socialist Alliance state convenor

Ron Guy
Socialist Alliance Senate candidate