

Australia Western Sahara Association Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 October 2010

Teenage protester killing in Western Sahara condemned

Lyn Allison, President of the Australia Western Sahara Association, today called on the Australian government to join international condemnation of Morocco for killing a fourteen year old boy, and injuring others on their way to a protest camp in occupied Western Sahara.

'The people of Western Sahara must be free to protest their ongoing economic and social discrimination and Morocco's pillage of their natural resources,' said Ms Allison. 'Most of all they must be free to assert their right to self-determination'.

Najim El Garhi, 14, wanted to join Saharawis who have been protesting since 11 October for respect of their rights in their own country under Moroccan military occupation since 1975. In Rabat, a senior government official claimed on 18 October there would be no intervention against the protesters.

The protest camp has been growing at the rate of 500 new tents a day. Cars were bringing water and food and essential medical needs but Morocco's Royal Armed Forces along with police and auxiliary forces have been mobilised to watch over the tent city at Gdem Izik, 18 km from the capital of Western Sahara, El Aaiun. They opened fire on a truck bringing a family group to join the tent protest.

Similar peaceful camp protests have been broken up brutally outside other towns in Western Sahara such as Dakhla, Boujdour and Smara.

The Australia Western Sahara Association urged the Australian Government to lend its voice to international calls for the Saharawi to be protected. The UN has a mission there keeping the cease-fire, brokered in 1991, to allow a vote of self-determination to be organised.

New YouTube videos documenting this novel form of protest are being posted Daily, see : <http://saharaoccidental.blogspot.com/2010/10/protesta-protest-protestation-ii.html>
<http://www.saharathawra.com/index.php/noticias/70-campamento-protesta-de-el-aiun-22-de-octubre>

For other stories in English, see : http://www.upesonline.info/index_eng.asp
<http://www.demotix.com/news/486318/fourteen-year-old-boy-killed-moroccan-soldiers-laayoune>
<http://www.wsrw.org/index.php?cat=105&art=1632>

photos: <http://picasaweb.google.es/114162724517415991490/CampamentosProtesta#>