

Malak Amidan

Australia Speaking Tour

May 2012

A Saharawi human rights activist speaks out



Malak Amidan is a Saharawi human rights activist and trade unionist and will share her experiences of life in her homeland where the Saharawi people have lived under Moroccan occupation for 37 years.

This will be the first time a Saharawi living in the occupied zones of Western Sahara visits Australia.

Melbourne 30 April – 6 May

Canberra 7 – 10 May

Sydney 11 – 18 May

Malak will call for Australia to support:

- ◆ *The right of the Saharawi people to determine their own future through a free and fair UN referendum*
- ◆ *The inclusion of human rights monitoring in the mandate of the UN mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO)*

To **interview Malak** or for **more information** contact:

Ron Guy 0428 173 970 (Melb) and Lesley Osborne 0439 363 010 (Syd)

or visit www.awsa.org.au



Western Sahara is in Northwest Africa and was a Spanish colony until 1975 when it was invaded and illegally occupied by Morocco. The invasion caused a long war that lasted until 1991 when the UN promised to organise a referendum of self-determination in the Territory. Western Sahara is known as the last colony in Africa and the East Timor of Africa.



About Malak Amidan

As a young Saharawi student Malak participated in the peaceful demonstrations that took place in the Capital of Western Sahara El Ayoun 2005. Since then she has been active as an advocate for the respect of the Saharawi people rights to live in freedom and dignity and exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

Malak has been arrested many times and subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Malak's family members have also been imprisoned by the Moroccan authorities, including her brother, El Uali Amidan who was arrested by the Moroccan police after a peaceful demonstration, and served 5 years in prison.

Malak's uncle, Mouloud Amidan, has been on hunger strike and is undertaking a sit-in inside the offices of OCP (Office Cherifienne PhosBucraa) the company that exploits Western Sahara phosphates since 29 February 2012, to protest discrimination against Saharawi workers and demand basic rights for Saharawi employees.

Malak has been working closely with overseas human rights organisations including speaking tours and conferences in many European countries. She has had work experience in OCP and in the Moroccan Ministry of tourism. She has also worked as a teacher of Arabic and French.

**To interview Malak on her speaking tour (30 April – 18 May 2012)
or for more information contact:**

Ron Guy 0428 173 970 (Melb) and Lesley Osborne 0439 363 010 (Syd)
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SPONSORS of Malak's speaking tour

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