

Aicha Dahane: Sydney 12 – 18 May 2011

Human rights activist and International Officer for Forum Future for Saharawi Women

The Australia Western Sahara Association (AWSA) has invited human rights activist from Western Sahara, Aicha Dahane, to visit Australia.

In her role as a human rights defender for Western Sahara while a law student in Rabat, and because of the involvement of her brother, Brahim Dahane, president of the ASVDH (Saharawi Association for Victims of Human Rights Violations by the Moroccan state) in political activism, Aicha was subject to serious pressure, intimidation and harassment by the Moroccan regime. As a result she sought political asylum in the UK in 2002. Aicha is in daily contact with her family living in occupied Western Sahara, a life she knows well and which she shared for 28 years.



Behind the wall of silence: Human Rights in the Occupied Territory of Western Sahara Sydney, 12 – 18 May 2011

Friday 13 May, 6 for 6.30pm: *Talking Heads at Toxteth*, “North Africa protests: crises but no road map. Analysis of recent events and implications for Africa’s last colony.”

Toxteth Hotel, Glebe Point Rd Glebe \$10/5 Chair: Hon John Dowd AO. Panellists:

Gennaro Gervasio: Centre for Middle East and North African Studies, Macquarie University

Tara Povey: Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Sydney University and researcher on Iran

Aicha Dahane: Occupied Territory of Western Sahara

Saturday 14 May, 11.30 – 1pm: *Opening of photographic exhibition by Jamie Parker MP, Member for Balmain, and tea making ceremony with Aicha*

Reading Room Balmain Library, 370 Darling Street Balmain (exhibition runs through May)

Sunday 15 May, 12.30: *Meet Aicha Dahane Fundraiser Lunch*, 136 Louisa Road Birchgrove \$15/10

Aicha will be introduced by Dr Meredith Burgmann, Labor Councillor, Sydney City Council

RSVP by 13 May, email Juanita juanihadges@isp.net.au or Sheree waksy1@hotmail.com or ph 95557738

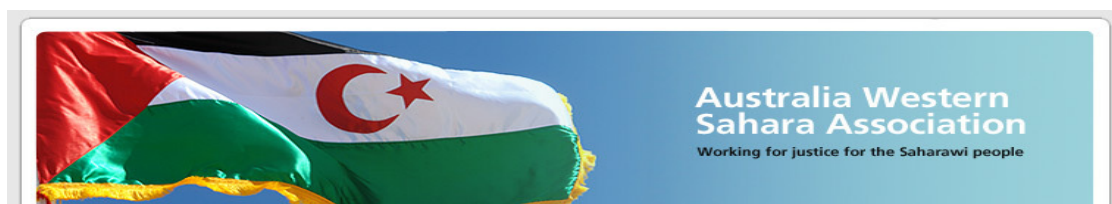
Tuesday 17 May, 1 – 2.30pm: *Human Rights in Western Sahara, Africa’s last colony with Aicha Dahane, Education Seminar Room 432 Education Building*, University of Sydney

Further information contact: Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Tel. 02 9351 7686 or email: arts_cpacs@sydney.edu.au

Wednesday 18 May, 12 – 1pm: *‘Women and Resistance in Western Sahara’* Macquarie University
Centre for Middle East and North African Studies, Building W6A, Room 127

To interview Aicha Dahane and for information, contact: Lesley Osborne ph: 0439 363 010
email: lesleyosborne@bigpond.com or Annette O’Neill ph: 02 9810 8603 email: annetteone@gmail.com
or go to <http://www.awsa.org.au>

Assisting AWSA in bringing Aicha Dahane to Australia: Union Aid Abroad – Apheda; Australian Manufacturing Workers Union; Australian Services Union; Australian Workers Union; Fremantle City Council, UnionsWA



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