



## Forum Future for Saharawi Women

FAFESA was founded on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2009 in order to promote the situation of the Saharawi woman and to defend her rights as prescribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all related charters and conventions.

FAFESA is actually an inevitable result of a situation in continuous agitation. Western Sahara administrated by Morocco since Spain withdrew in 1975, undergone serious violations of human rights that have affected all components of the Sahrawi society. Women and children have not escaped this dilemma.

The Saharawi woman, who enjoyed a privileged status within the Sahrawi society, which differentiates the latter from other Arab-Muslim societies, and violence against women, has always been a denounced act by Saharawis on the basis of a specific culture enriched throughout the history of this people.

However, and since Morocco annexed the territory by war, the situation of Saharawi women has become very critical. The woman became a victim of all sorts of abuses: arbitrary arrest, forced disappearance, political trial and imprisonment, beatings, sexual abuse, intimidation and so on.

In such a situation, the Saharawi woman has shown courage and strength in defending her rights and those of her people. First, as a mother or wife, the Saharawi woman struggled to publicize the plight of the Sahrawi disappeared and the situation of Saharawi political prisoners. Second, a Saharawi citizen, she also participated in all activities and demonstrations to defend the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination as.

The FAFESA comes therefore within this context of continuous suffering and struggle and works in order to promote the situation of Saharawi women and defend their legitimate rights.

Constitutive press release:

**Forum Future for Sahrawi Women  
FAFESA**

El-Aaiun, 18 February 2009

**Declaration of constitution**

Due to the tragic conditions in which Sahrawi women live on all levels, political, economic, social and cultural, in the territory of Western Sahara, and, after long and deep consultations, a general meeting was held on 18 February 2009, in El-Aaiun, for the establishment of the Forum Future for Sahrawi Women (FAFESA).

After deliberation on the situation of women in the territory of Western Sahara and the ratification of the constitutional documents of the Forum, an Executive Bureau was elected as follows:

1 - Soukaina Jad Ahlou: ex-disappeared	President
2 - Sultana Khayya: human rights activist	Vice President
3 - Embarka Aalina Baali: ex-disappeared	Secretary General
4- Nguia Radi: mother of the political prisoner Bachri Bentaleb	Treasurer
5 - Khaoula Alballal: university Student	Advisor
6 - Aziza Baali : university Student	Advisor
7 - Aminatou BDIH: activist	Advisor