

### **Violation of human rights / Tindouf camps**

- The Tindouf camps, held for four decades under a lead slab, have been witnessing an unprecedented, campaign of repression for the last few months, marked by the excessive use of force, enforced disappearances, arrests and torture, resulting in several casualties among the inhabitants of the camps.
- The restriction on freedom of expression and mobility imposed by the Polisarian junta have become the daily lot of Saharawi populations sequestered in the Tindouf camps, reduced to a business to make, through resolding international aid in the form of smuggling into the markets of neighboring African countries ;
- The leaders of the “Polisario” imposed, in flagrant violation of the conventions and international humanitarian law, travel restrictions to people and vehicles in Tindouf, which paralyzed mobility within the camps
- These repressive measures led these people to organize demonstrations- to demand freedom of movement-that were brutally repressed by “Polisario” militias through the excessive use of force against civilians and the destruction of private property of the camp inhabitants
- During these peaceful demonstrations and rallies, journalists, bloggers and protesters were intimidated and held hostage, in addition to pressure on their families and relatives to silence them
- After denouncing the diversion of international food aid perpetrated by the leaders of the “Polisario” to the detriment of the camp populations, three Saharawi opponents are in detention and prosecuted for acts of “treason” : Moulay Bouzid Abba, Fadel El Mahdi, Breica and Mahmoud Zeidane are incarcerated in the prison, with a highly bad reputation of “Dheibiyā” and are being investigated for “slander, insults, sedition and incitement to rebellion” and face prison terms ranging from five years to life imprisonment. It should be noted that these opponents, whose release is screamingly demanded by their many supporters (Associations and NGOs) and families have never been brought to Justice. To these arrest is added the forced disappearance of EL Khalil Ahmed kidnapped in 2009 in Algiers, while he was preparing to denounce in a conference the human right violations committed by the “Polisario”
- The NGO “Human Right Watch” denounced the arbitrary arrests of the “Polisario” and demanded the release of the three Sahrawi activists, insisting on “the absence of evidence of criminal activities”. HRW said that “Algeria can not outsource the protection of human rights on its territory and closes the eyes if the Polisario violates them”

Link to consult : <https://www.hrw.org/fr/news/2019/07/16/algeria/sahara-occidental-trois-dissidents-derriere-les-barreaux>