



Statement to the 3rd discussion paper: Europe and the need to respect human rights

47 European nations from Iceland to Azerbaijan signed the Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Individuals in these countries can appeal to the European Court of Human Rights. Saharawis in occupied El Aijun cannot; but they can expect that European nations, especially members of the EU, will qualify the treatment of Saharawis by Moroccan authorities – apart from international law and the Charter of the United Nations – along the same principles.

Convention article 5 states that everyone has the right to liberty and security of the person and according to article 6 the right to fair trial. Freedom of thought and of expression is regulated in the articles 9 and 10.

According to article 14 rights and freedoms set forth in this convention shall be secured without discrimination such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

At a meeting on August 18 2010 Saharawian Prime Minister Abdelkader Taleb Omar asked the European Union to refrain from signing any agreements with Morocco calling the international community to use economic sanctions against Morocco to comply with the



international legitimacy and respect of human rights in the occupied territories in the Western Sahara.

What are the facts?

In the report of the European Commission on Morocco 2004 ten lines are spent for Western Sahara. They qualify this conflict to be hindering, the referendum to be blocked but without saying by whom. MINURSO just mentioned, no reference to the fundamental decision of the International Court, without mentioning the decolonisation of the Western Sahara.

On September 16 2010 an agreement of the EU with Morocco upon liberalisation of the market for agricultural goods during the next 10 year period was signed. 135 million Euro are paid to Morocco by the EU in 2010.

A cooperation programme EU-Morocco for 2011 to 2013 was signed on 14th July 2010. 6 billion and 300 million Dirham will be paid to Morocco.

This is the political reality as well as Spanish Melilla and Ceuta at Morocco's coast side.

Since 1988 mainly Spaniards are fishing in the waters of Western Sahara and the EU pays for it to Morocco.



Conclusion of the study group for peace research at the University of Kassel, Federal German Republic:

A European Union pretending to promote worldwide peaceful living together but at the same time fixing trade agreements with partners violating international law as well as human rights, will lose credibility internationally.

The policy since the 1990ies couldn't achieve as much for the Saharawi people as they would urgently need. Therefore the political leadership has to look for new horizons.