



**WFDY- WORLD FEDERATION OF DEMOCRATIC YOUTH**  
 FEDERATION MONDIALE DE LA JEUNESSE DEMOCRATIQUE  
 FEDERACION MONDIAL DE LA JOVENUD DEMOCRATICA  
*International NGO consultative with UN (ECOSOC) and operational relation with UNESCO*  
*Peace messenger award by UN Secretary General in 1987*

Address: 1139 Budapest XIII, Frangepan, U 16 - Hungary Tel/Fax: +961 350 22 02 /350 12 04 E-Mail: wfdy@wfdy.org

## **World Council of Human Rights**

16<sup>th</sup> Session- UN- Geneva 28 February 25 March, 2011

Mr. Malainin Mohamed

### **Oral intervention on Item No. 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to development**

M. President, the WFDY would like to draw your attention to the serious violations of the civil, economic, political and social rights in the Non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara, a territory still pending a process of decolonisation, where the UN has a mission for the organisation of a referendum on self-determination since 1991 (MINURSO).

The Saharawi human rights defenders are one of the main targets of oppression. There are 17 human rights defenders in prisons now. 7 of them along with 13 civilian protestors will be brought before a Moroccan martial court in the coming future, and at least 4 other defenders are under temporarily release waiting for trials. Some of these defenders participated in previous sessions of the Council and gave their testimonies in front of you.

Concerning violence against women, WFDY would like to seize the Council on the many cases of ill-treatment and torture. The case of the young girls, Nguia Hawasi and Hayat Rguibi, is a very revealing example. Since they were 14 years old, they have been victims of numerous acts of torture, arrest, sexual harassment and rape and now that they are 19 and 20 years old, they are in prison since November 2010.

The exercise of torture against Saharawi detainees and peaceful demonstrators is systematic. All Saharawi prisoners, victims of arbitrary arrests and forced disappearance affirm having been beaten, humiliated, intimidated, in many cases raped and sexually harassed, handcuffed and blindfolded, deprived of food, water and sleep, and above all deprived of the right to a fair trial.

Children in Western Sahara are also victims of systematic oppression in schools. They are watched by police in classrooms, and harassed in streets. A big number of Saharawi children fear going to schools and most of the time they end up stopping their studies because of psychological pressures or end up with serious psychological and social problems.

After more than 35 years of war and conflict, Western Sahara, seems to be the only conflict zone that has never been the subject of a formal report by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights (OHCHR). The only report elaborated by the office was by a mission sent to the region last 2006. The mission concluded that all human rights violations in Western Sahara are the result of the non-implementation of the right to self-determination. Amazingly, the report has been kept under embargo since. We wonder why, M. President? I thank you.