

In September, prior to the rescheduled O.A.U. implementation committee meeting which was to include both Moroccan and S.A.D.R. representatives, U.S. vice president George Bush conferred with King Hassan. The outcome of their discussion, although the particulars are unknown, was the refusal of Moroccan representatives to negotiate directly with the Polisario.

Moroccan claims that Polisario is a "secessionist movement" appear to be an interesting manipulation of fact. No world body recognizes Moroccan sovereignty of the Western Sahara while large numbers of nations recognize the existence of the S.A.D.R. The Polisario Front began its independence efforts in 1973 prior to the attempted takeover by Morocco in late 1975 and early 1976.

UNILATERAL POLISARIO TRUCE ENDED IN JULY SAYS FRONT NOTING FAILURE OF RESOLUTION EFFORTS WITH MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVES

July 10 marked the end of the unilateral Polisario truce in the conflict in Western Sahara. Polisario forces had ceased military operations in an attempt to assist Organization of African Unity efforts to apply O.A.U. resolutions for the resolve of the conflict adopted at meetings in Nairobi and in Addis Ababa.

According to Polisario sources Moroccan spokesmen interpreted this effort by Polisario to honor O.A.U. efforts at peaceful resolution as military and moral weakness on the part of Polisario. It has been reported in both Moroccan and U.S. publications that the "wall" has effectively neutralized Polisario forces and protected Moroccan-held territory.

Battles in July were at Lemseyed and Foj Rih. Polisario reported 326 dead in Moroccan forces and the capture of 109 tanks and heavy artillery vehicles. Battles by Polisario have recently been waged in and outside the "wall" that protects the "useful" area of the Western Sahara, that is, the cities and areas of Bou Craa, El Ayoun, Smara. The

WAR WAGED IN WESTERN SAHARA SAYS POLISARIO REPRESENTATIVE IN HAUSA TO NEWS REPRESENTATIVES

According to Polisario Representatives, about eighteen thousand Moroccan troops have launched a major offensive against Polisario Front guerrillas fighting for control of the S.A.D.R. The offensive, begun on October 27, involves four Moroccan regiments using aircraft, tanks and heavy artillery in fighting around Polisario bases in the S.A.D.R. in the region between Tifariti and Smara. (See Map This Page.)

The Moroccan forces have suffered heavy losses according to Polisario spokesmen in Hausa. The battle follows Morocco's refusal in September to honor its O.A.U. agreement which included negotiations with the Polisario Front, a cease fire and a referendum in the territory. (See article this issue.)

Polisario Front controls ninety percent of the territory of the S.A.D.R. (See map, this issue.)

On September 1 Polisario forces launched a major attack on Smara. According to Polisario spokesmen the Moroccan forces used French Mirages and U.S. F-5's as well as helicopters equipped with "Hot" missiles against the Front. The Front noted that during the operation they had succeeded in occupying five Moroccan bases. Destroyed during the attack were a number of armored tanks and "Tow" missile bases.

OAU TEXT ON THE WESTERN SAHARA AT THE 19TH SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION

The summit conference of the heads of state and governments of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its nineteenth regular session at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from June 6 to June 11 and having examined the report of the implementation committee of the heads of state on the Western Sahara:

Recalling the solemn promise made by King Hassan II at the time of the eighteenth summit to accept the organization of a referendum on the Western Sahara with the view of permitting the people of this territory to exercise its right to self-determination.

Recalling with appreciation that His Majesty King Hassan II accepted the recommendation of the sixth session of the ad hoc committee of heads of state on the Western Sahara as well as engaging himself to cooperate with the ad hoc committee in the search for a just, peaceful and lasting solution (to the problem).

Reaffirming its previous resolutions and decisions on the question of the Western Sahara and in particular the resolution of June 27, 1981.

Receives the report of the implementation committee of the heads of state on the Western Sahara.

Exhorts the parties to the conflict, the kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, to undertake direct negotiations with the view of arriving at a ceasefire aiming at the creation of conditions necessary for a peaceful and just referendum with no military or administrative constraints with the view to the self-determination of the people

of the Western Sahara under the auspices of the O.A.U and the United Nations, and asks the implementation committee to look after respect of the ceasefire.

Invites the implementation committee to meet as soon as possible and in collaboration with the parties to the conflict to define the modalities and all other pertinent details with regard to application of a ceasefire and the organization of a referendum within the coming six months.

Asks the United Nations to jointly establish with the O.A.U. a force to maintain peace and security during the organization and administration of the referendum.

Instructs the implementation committee (with the participation of the U.N.) to take every measure necessary to ensure the correct application of this resolution.

Asks the implementation committee to report to the twentieth summit meeting of the heads of state the results of the referendum with a view to permitting the twentieth summit to take a final decision on all aspects of the Western Sahara question.

Decides to continue to study the question of the Western Sahara.

Asks the implementation committee, within the scope of its charge, to bear in mind the minutes of the eighteenth and nineteenth ordinary meetings on the problem of the Western Sahara and invites the secretary general of the OAU to put at the disposition of the committee all texts of meetings herein specified.

Congratulates itself on the constructive attitude of the Saharawi leaders who by retiring provisionally and voluntarily (from this summit) have permitted the nineteenth summit meeting to take place.

Addis Ababa
19th Summit Meeting

SPSC LETTER

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ABDERRAHMANE AHMED SALEM, HEAD OF THE SAHARAWI RED CRESCENT, DESCRIBES RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF SAHARAWIS IN MOROCCO AND THE SADR

The following is excerpts of the memorandum presented to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in 1983. His presentation was made at the 39th meeting of the Commission.

The objective of the Moroccan regime is to reduce to silence that portion of the Saharawi people who did not succeed in fleeing at the time of the Moroccan invasion of the Western Sahara in October 1975.

This population as well as that Saharawi population which has lived for a long time in southern Morocco remain hostages of the Moroccans, hostages at risk in their dignity, their life, their existence.

Their Crime?

They are Saharawis. They can't hide nor do they wish to hide the fact even if, to escape death or simply torture or arrest, they wear Moroccan clothing. Their language, Hassania, is totally different from the Moroccan language as is their clothing, their customs, their traditions and their manner of life.

Their Life?

In Tan-Tan, Tarfaya or in the Goulimine region in southern Morocco as well as in El Aiun, Dakhla or Smara in the Western Sahara, day and night an untenable police-state climate exists.

Everyone is suspect. Even the children. All are therefore persecuted. Informers, police, guardsmen, the army, secret agents of the Second Bureau of Information poison the lives of the people.

The cities are transformed into concentration camps and into detention and torture centers; districts are made into ghettos rigorously controlled by the army. Those who govern, the caids, each possess their informers, their prisons, their "mafia" and their torturers.

No day or night passes without some arrests. The daily searches in certain districts--- Zemla in El Aiun for example ----weekly in other neighborhoods, are made unexpectedly and in every fashion: the people who search break everything, tear up everything. Moroccan authorities find ever greater pleasure in terrorizing the population.

At School?

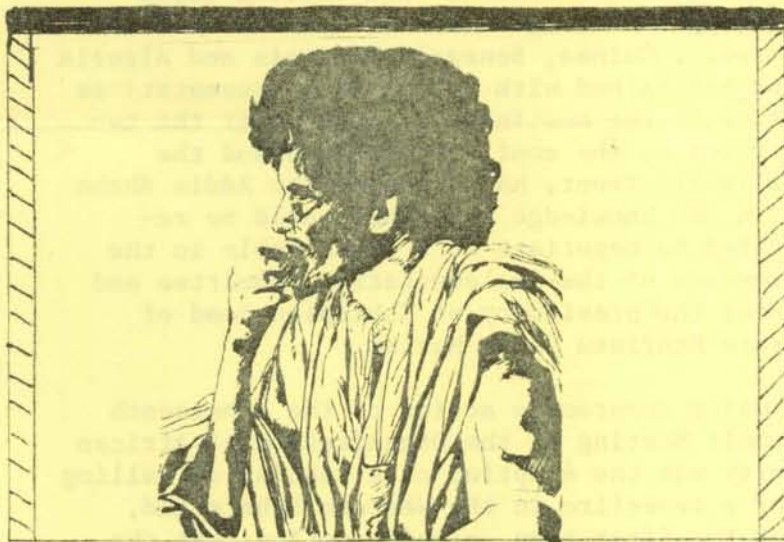
Grade and high school students---students who can continue their studies at the university

are very rare---are acquainted with intimidation and humiliation as are the other Saharawis. At the least pretext they are expelled. At the slightest protest they are arrested and put in prison. If their parents protest they are charged with complicity and undergo the same fate.

At Home

Practically every family has a member or a relative in the Polisario Front. Because of this they are immediately suspect.

\$\$\$ To be continued in future issues \$\$\$\$\$\$



KING HASSAN DECLARES POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS UNTIL AFTER REFERENDUM ON WESTERN SAHARA

July 8 King Hassan II announced that he had decided to postpone until after the referendum on the Western Sahara the elections that were to take place in September. He indicated further that even if the majority of voters elected independence as the option, nothing would oblige him to turn over the Western Sahara to the Polisario Front on a gold platter.

Morocco is currently undergoing stricter austerity measures. Among those foreseen are a reduction of 20,000 civil servants, a reduction of governmental expenses by 12%, an increase in the direct taxes (national solidarity) to about 30 days of salary per year, and increases in other taxes.

Morocco continues to consider the Western Sahara as part of Morocco and in August signed an agreement with Spain regarding fishing rights. Polisario spokesmen noted they could not guarantee the safety of Spanish fishermen in S.A.D.R. waters.

WAR CONTINUES AS MOROCCO REFUSES MEETING WITH SAHARAWI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC REPS

Attempts at negotiations between the Polisario Front (S.A.D.R.) and Morocco broke off on September 22, after two sessions in the Ethiopian capital which was the site of the negotiations. Reason for the breakoff of the talks was Morocco's refusal to sit at the negotiating table with Polisario representatives. Peter Onu, interim Secretary General of the O.A.U., the O.A.U. implementation committee was surprised at the refusal because of the agreement at the O.A.U. 19th Summit Meeting and because he had visited (with Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde) Morocco, Guinea, Senegal, Tanzania and Algeria and had talked with Polisario representatives prior to the meeting. He noted that the two parties to the conflict, Morocco and the Polisario Front, had travelled to Addis Ababa with the knowledge that they would be required to negotiate at a round table in the presence of the implementation committee and under the presidency of Ethiopian Head of State Mengistu Haile Mariam.

A major compromise action of the Nineteenth Summit Meeting of the Organization of African Unity was the adoption of a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Western Sahara and, for the first time, clearly noting that the belligerents in the Western Sahara conflict are Morocco and the Polisario Front. This resolution was a result of O.A.U. and Polisario deliberations which ended in the Polisario Front voluntarily withdrawing from the O.A.U. meeting so that the Nineteenth Summit could take place. (Morocco and its allies had blocked the quorum (2/3 members) because of the presence of the Polisario Front admitted as members to the O.A.U. in 1982.)

An implementation committee made up of Ethiopia, Mali, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Sudan was put in place to set up the negotiations with the presidency of that group going to the current O.A.U. chair, Mengistu Haile Mariam, and organizational details going to the interim Secretary General in conjunction with the members of the committee. The meeting, set for September in Addis Ababa, ended abruptly after efforts to bring Morocco to the negotiating table failed. The meeting was to set up a ceasefire and the procedures necessary for establishing an independent, O.A.U./O.N.U. referendum.

During efforts to have the meeting continue, Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Touré, who hopes

to host the 20th Summit of the O.A.U., proposed calling the Polisario and Moroccan delegates to the meeting room separately. This proposal was not acceptable to members of the meeting. It appears that a peaceful solution to the Saharan conflict and to the crisis of the O.A.U. is in jeopardy.

Morocco's conflict with the Polisario Front and its refusal to negotiate with Polisario has weakened the O.A.U. in the past several years. The Nineteenth O.A.U. Summit twice did not open in Tripoli, Libya. The Polisario Front has twice voluntarily withdrawn from an O.A.U. Summit meeting so that the meeting might take place. Some observers see Morocco's refusal to let negotiations move forward to end the conflict in Western Sahara as the action that may finally tear apart the organization that exists. Some O.A.U. members, exasperated by Morocco's resistance to cooperating in agreements it has made at O.A.U. meetings, have stated that they will not attend another O.A.U. meeting unless the S.A.D.R. (the Polisario Front) sits at the meeting.

FILM ON POLISARIO STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE
MADE BY MEMBER OF FRONT

10 YEARS POLISARIO, a film by Abidin Kaid Saleh, is the first film of the conflict produced, shot and edited by a Saharawi. A combatant himself, Saleh was the sole Saharawi to have a camera in the desert at the time of the beginning of the conflict with Morocco and Mauritania. He was named head of audio-visual for the Polisario and began filming the military actions in which he took part.

The film documents the armed struggle and life in the refugee camps. The commentary, linked to the visual images, explains the different aspects of the war in the Sahara and its international implications.

The film is eleven minutes in length and was completed in 1982. The last battles were shot in 1981. It can be purchased from Avise, Maasstraat 59, 1078 HD Amsterdam, Holland. The price is \$850. The film is available on video tape or band and on 16 mm film. Commentary is available in French, English or Spanish.