

Statement on preventing the holding of the first national conference of the Collective of Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders in Western Sahara

CODESA



On **October 21, 2023**, the Moroccan occupation force confiscated the right to assembly of Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders in Western Sahara CODESA preventing them from holding their first conference at the home of prisoner of conscience and Sahrawi human rights defender **Ali Salem Tamek** in occupied Laayoune.

This prevention, which is contrary to international humanitarian law and international human rights law, came after a complete besiege by the various intelligence services of the Moroccan occupation force of this house and all the alleys and streets surrounding the Al-Mustaqbal district in the center of the occupied city of Laayoune.

The repressive practices of the Moroccan occupation force led to targeting, prevention, and physical attacks of dozens of human rights defenders and Sahrawi media bloggers, including members and adherents of the organization's administrative committee and executive office, in addition to Sahrawi people standing in solidarity with us. We now have a preliminary list that includes: “**Ali Salem Al-Tamek**,” “**Atiqu Bray**,” “**Jamila Al-Mujahid**,” and “**Said Haddad**” (handicapped) and finally “**Fatima Zahraa Akrafi (Boukerfa)**, who was targeted with razor blades on her hand.

CODESA, being an organization that brings together Sahrawi human rights Defenders in Western Sahara was scheduling its first national conference, which was prevented by the Moroccan occupation force, it is supposed to be a conference of the student, kidnapped and Sahrawi martyr “**Lahassan Tamek**” under the slogan “**Together, for the implementation of international Humanitarian law in Western Sahara and ensuring the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources**” after the Preparatory Committee completed its work in preparing the moral and material report for this conference.



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الجمعية المغربية
COLLECTIVE OF SAHRAWI
COLLECTIF DE DEFENSEURS
COLLETTIVO DEI DIFENSORI SAHARINI DEI DIRITTI UMANI DEL SAHARA OCCIDENTALE

On this basis, and since the organization brings together Sahrawi human rights defenders in the Sahara Western CODESA, it:

- Emphasizes its tenacity to fully exercising its just and legitimate rights to expression , assembly , organization and renewal of its structures based on Article 9 of the Organization’s bulaws.
- Recalls the previous prevention on the work of its founding conference on October 7 2007 in occupied Laayoune.
- This prevention is considered a manifestation of the occupation situation and the continuation of the occupying power in imposing the military, media and human rights siege imposed on Western Sahara since October 31, 1975, and based on that CODESA declares the following:
 - ❖ Its absolute and unconditional solidarity with all Sahrawi activists, human rights defenders and media professionals, who have been subjected to prevention and repression.
 - ❖ Its condemnation of the Moroccan occupation force’s continued confiscation of the right to organization, assembly, freedom of expression, and their practices of various forms of restrictions.
 - ❖ It strongly denounces the ban and confiscation of the right to organize that has affected it for the second time.
 - ❖ Its tenacity to enjoy full basic rights in practicing their work and human rights and struggle activities in within the framework of continuous organization right as an organization defending the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources in Western Sahara.
 - ❖ Appealing to the international community and all international human rights organizations and bodies to support the organization due to the prevention and restrictions which is constantly exposed to in light of the occupation situation.

Occupied Laayoune on: October 21, 2023

Executive Office of the Collective of Sahrawi

Human Rights Defenders in Western Sahara

CODESA