

Here is a letter sent by the Danish NGO Afrika Kontakt to the Danish Ambassador to Morocco. (19.01.2011)

Fra:

Reply-To: peter@afrika.dk

Emne: Questions concerning the embassies praise of development in Western Sahara and its cooperation with Moroccan parties 19.01.2011

Til: rbaamb@um.dk

Dear Ambassador,

According to news reports yesterday, Councillor of Denmark's Embassy to Rabat, Michael Bennett Jensen Monday praised the development projects carried out in Laayoune in the occupied territories of Western Sahara. Bennett also met with representatives of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), after which he said he was "impressed with the level of development witnessed in Laayoune."

Based on the aforesaid, we would like you to answer the following questions:

- Since when has the Danish Embassy in Rabat started to cooperate with Moroccan parties, especially ones that are trying to undermine the legitimate attempts to bring about a UN-sanctioned referendum on the status of Western Sahara (see

http://www.map.ma/eng/sections/politics/danish_diplomat_comm/view)?

(An example of which is Mohamed Reguibi from the Authenticity and Modernity Party saying last year that if PAM's support grows enough here, the Polisario leadership would be forced to reach a compromise with Morocco?)

- Has such cooperation officially permitted or authorized by the Danish government?

- Given the situation in Tunisia, that could easily spread to its neighbours, how come the Danish Embassy apparently has a close relationship with a party that according to media reports is an attempt by the Moroccan King to increase his power in parliament (the founder of the party has been friends with the King since childhood)?

- Do nott the abovementioned facts conflict with the Danish government's proclamation of wanting to work for a solution to the Western Saharan conflict through the UN? Especially given that the Danish Foreign Minister, Lene Espersen, in a letter to Africa Contact on December 15 2010 stated that she was deeply concerned about the situation in Western Sahara?

(<http://www.afrika.dk/sites/afrika1.antenna.nl/files/Lene%20Espersen-Vestsahara.pdf>)

- Laayoune lies in an area that is internationally recognised, also by Denmark, as being in an occupied territory. Should not the Danish embassy therefore be a little more careful in issuing positive statements about the alleged development of the area? In particular when it is a well known fact that Morocco uses any positive statement about its occupied territories in its propaganda to have Western

Sahara formally included in a greater Morocco.

We look forward to receiving your answers to these questions.

Sincerely,

Morten Nielsen and Peter Kenworthy, Africa Contact

Danish diplomat meets with royalist Moroccan party in occupied Western Sahara

<http://www.sydafrika.dk/danish-diplomat-meets-royalist-moroccan-party-occupied-western-sahara>

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<http://stiffkitten.wordpress.com/2011/01/19/danish-diplomat-meets-with-royalist-moroccan-party-in-occupied-western-sahara/>