

12/03/2015

Please find attached Aide-Memoire issued by POLISARIO Front on December 2015 on the holding of the annual session of Crans Montana Forum in the occupied Western Sahara on 17 – 22 March 2016.

AIDE-MEMOIRE

ON THE HOLDING OF THE ANNUAL SESSION OF CRANS MONTANA FORUM IN THE OCCUPIED CITY OF DAJLA IN WESTERN SAHARA

The Swiss owned and managed organisation, the Crans Montana Forum, based in the Principality of Monaco, is planning to hold for the second time its annual session in the city of Dajla (Dakhla) in the Moroccan-occupied territories of Western Sahara on 17-22 March 2016.

The decision taken by the Crans Montana Forum to hold again its annual session in the occupied city of Dajla is clearly contrary to the rights and interests of the Sahrawi people and to the relevant principles of international law applicable to Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

The Sahrawi Government and the leadership of the Frente POLISARIO have officially expressed once again to the Crans Montana Forum their deep concern about the planned meeting, which is a provocative move that may have adverse consequences on the current developments of the question of Western Sahara.

Following press reports of an alleged high-level United Nations presence in the 2015 meeting in Dajla, the spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General issued a note to correspondents on 14 March 2014 indicating that the Secretary-General had not delegated anyone to represent him or the United Nations in that meeting. He further noted that the definitive status of Western Sahara was the object of a negotiating process being conducted under the auspices of the Secretary-General in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Regards,

Abba Malainin

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Western Sahara (VESTSAHARA)

Africa's last colony

In 1963, the United Nations (UN) included Western Sahara in the list of countries to be decolonized and asserted the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination. In 1966 the UN, for the first time, passed a resolution calling for this self-determination to be exercised by a referendum. On 31 October 1975, Morocco and Mauritania invaded Western Sahara as Spain (the former colonial power) looked on. The Saharawi people were expelled from their homes by force, including the use of napalm. In 1991 the United Nations brokered a ceasefire and agreed to organize a referendum in which the Saharawi people could vote on the future of Western Sahara. Morocco still refuses to allow UN sponsored referendum to take place.