

**Press release for immediate release**

**Copenhagen, 5 November 2018**

**The Moroccan Forum of Denmark calls on the Danes to support the Moroccan Sahara autonomy initiative**

**A Moroccan initiative to stop terror in Europe.**

The Dansk Marokkansk Forum and the Association of Moroccan Investors, composed of several Moroccan associations in Denmark, call on the Danish civil society to support the Sahara autonomy initiative proposed by Morocco in 2006. The resolution of this conflict which seems far from Denmark's interests, would have direct impacts on the country. For example, with autonomous Sahara under Morocco's sovereignty, a gateway to this region, or even to Africa, would be wide open to Danish investors.

***National Security***

It is also important to understand how the current instability of the Tindouf camps in south-western Algeria leads to the proliferation of terrorist groups, drug trafficking, and other mafia operations in this zone. The repercussions on Denmark in terms of national security and the country's contribution to the European Union's security policy must be addressed by our politicians.

To understand the history of the links between the Sahara and Morocco, and the contents of the royal initiative for the Sahara autonomy, the population and the politicians are invited to celebrate the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Green March, this 6<sup>th</sup> November. This March which took place in Morocco on November 6, 1975 at the initiative of King Hassan II is a symbol of the Kingdom's peaceful unity with its Sahara.

This peaceful March led to the recovery of the Sahara provinces, just after the confirmation by the International Court of Justice in The Hague of the existence of legal ties of allegiance between the Sultans of Morocco and the Sahrawi tribes.

The world remembers how Moroccans responded spontaneously to the call for the March, as the lists of female and male volunteers exceeded by far the planned figure of 350,000 participants. The aim was to force Spain to hand over the colonized Sahara territory back to

Morocco. Some people describe the March as *the miracle of the century*; others as *the most striking peaceful march in human history*.

It is through this celebration that the Moroccan Forum and the Moroccan investors wish to exchange with civil society actors and politicians, in order to refute the pro-Polisario propaganda circulating in Denmark, but above all to demonstrate the urgency to work together.

According to Mustapha Tayibi, President of the Dansk Marokkansk Forum, "*the Moroccan community, which is made up mostly of Danish-Moroccans, is part of Danish society and this dual identity means that we have the interests of both countries at heart. Therefore, together, we have the willingness and the responsibility to see to Europe's security and respect for human rights that are currently violated in the Tindouf camps. We ask Denmark's civil society and politicians to come and meet us on November 6, to understand the proposal of Morocco. Community and unity are very important for us, and more than ever in 2018. Much attention is unfortunately focused on what divides the world. On November 6, Moroccan associations would like to celebrate what unites Morocco and Denmark, the same as Morocco and the Sahara*".

### ***An important message***

The event will highlight not only the impact of this conflict on Denmark, but will also raise awareness of the plight of refugees in the Tindouf camps. As Ahmed Elhamss, member of the Moroccan Council for Moroccans Abroad said, "*In south-western Algeria, there are nowadays, in 2018 and right now, human beings who are victims of torture, sequestered, and deprived of medical care, because of the embezzlement of humanitarian aid, and the list goes on. We have evidence to support that, and Human Rights Watch already released an alarming report on the suffering of these refugees. It is therefore imperative to stop playing the role of a mere spectator of these atrocities. Now, the Tindouf refugees deserve a peaceful and consensual solution, such as the autonomy plan proposed by Morocco*".

The program of the November 6th event will be as follows:

- Address: Gammel Køge lande vej 117, 2500 Valby
- Starting from 5 p.m.: Screening of a short documentary on the Green March
- Speech of the organizers, exchanges and discussions with guests.
- Conclusion of the ceremony with a meal.

We thank the public and the media for making this event a success.

Any interview request can be sent to:

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