

Is Western Sahara a self-governing territory?

Officially, Western Sahara is recognised as a "Non-Self-Governing Territory", yet many countries have acted in breach of this status, with nations like Comoros and United Arab Emirates accepting Morocco's invitation to establish consulates in Western Sahara.

Is Morocco an occupying power in Western Sahara?

According to international law as well as the UN General Assembly, the AU and the CJEU's advocate general opinion (C-266/16), Morocco's presence in Western Sahara is that of an occupying power beholden to international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.

Why should a new UN Special Envoy be appointed to Western Sahara?

The disputed nature of Western Sahara has cost lives, frayed relations and disrupted the international progress of peace. A new UN Special Envoy to Western Sahara must be appointed, and bilateral talks reinstated immediately to dissuade an increase in the recent violence.

Will Western Sahara destabilise North Africa?

Many experts feel that the issue of Western Sahara, and the aggressive stance that Morocco has taken on it, threatens to destabilise the North African region, as ties between Morocco and Algeria, and now Tunisia as well have been profoundly impacted by the question of Western Sahara's sovereignty.

Does Western Sahara have a 'right to self-determination and independence'?

However, to avoid any confusion by trying to say that 'independence' should be achieved through the integration of Western Sahara into another country, the organs of the United Nations expressly recognized that the people of Western Sahara have a 'right to self-determination and independence'.

How long has Western Sahara been colonised?

Western Sahara has had a long history of colonisation. From 1884 to the mid-1900s, Spain was the resident colonial power. The UN began campaigning for the decolonisation of Western Sahara in 1965, though these requests were ignored by Spain until the 1970s when political turmoil and violence in the area increased.

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A diplomatic solution to the Western Sahara conflict is possible - one that can preserve each side's core interests and fulfil the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination in ...

The conflict irresolution of Western Sahara speaks powerfully to the push-pull dynamic between the state and the international institution--one of the classic, overarching debates in international relations for many decades.

In April 2022, Madrid recognized autonomy as the appropriate solution to the conflict. Paris officially announced at the end of July 2024 that autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty is the most appropriate and unique solution to the Western Sahara conflict, however, that had always been its tacit policy approach for decades.

Having been largely forgotten, the Western Sahara conflict appeared to be heating up again in early 2012 when the German multinational, Siemens, landed an order for the construction and ...

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The resolution of the conflict in Western Sahara will open a new era in international relations. Any solution that violates the legitimate rights of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence will only lead to more conflicts and deprive the whole North African region and Africa from tremendous opportunities of ...

Receding prospects for a negotiated solution will convince the Western Sahara national liberation movement that diplomacy and international law have failed it, and that an intensification...

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On October 31, 2024, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2756, extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until October 2025. The renewal sparked a polarized response, highlighting the deep divisions among member states on Western Sahara's contested political status and the rights ...

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