



INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT

THE DIPLOMATIC ADVISORY GROUP

Communiqué: May 2010

Western Sahara

Throughout April, Independent Diplomat was active in New York helping its client, the Frente POLISARIO, to build a coalition of support within the UN Security Council during the annual debate on a resolution to extend the mandate of MINURSO, the UN mission in Western Sahara.

MINURSO was established in 1991 to monitor a ceasefire between the POLISARIO and Morocco and to organise a referendum of the people of Western Sahara in order to allow them to determine their own future.

Due to Moroccan obstructions, the referendum is yet to materialise, but the POLISARIO's primary goal this April was to ensure that the Security Council's resolution established a UN mechanism to monitor the quickly deteriorating human rights situation in Western Sahara, the last colony in Africa. MINURSO is the only UN mission on the African continent operating without such a capacity.

After a minor success last year in securing a reference in Resolution 1871 to the "human dimension" of the 35-year-long dispute, ID worked assiduously with the delegations of Uganda, Nigeria, Mexico and Austria to ensure that this year's resolution reflected our client's concerns on human rights, the illegal exploitation of Western Sahara's natural resources, and the importance of holding a referendum.

With ID's assistance, the POLISARIO and its allies forced a week-long battle in the Council, which was elevated to the Ambassadorial level on 30 April. Like last year, France was isolated, laying bare President Sarkozy's commitment to act as a proxy for Morocco in the Council, and to avoid subjecting Morocco to international monitoring at any cost.

The end result - recognition in Security Council Resolution 1920 that the status quo in Western Sahara is "not acceptable", and the need for the parties to "adhere to their obligations" – constitutes some progress, but it is not enough. Over 100,000 Saharawis languish in desert refugee camps in Algeria; Saharawi human rights defenders suffer arbitrary detention and torture in the occupied territory; and we are no closer to the referendum promised by the UN to the Saharawi people nearly twenty years ago.

At the very least, however, Morocco now knows that the world's eyes are upon it.

Click [here](#) to read the Washington Post's report on the debate in the Security Council.

Employment and Internship Opportunities

Executive Assistant to the Executive Director - temporary - New York

Independent Diplomat is seeking a highly energetic, professional, and detail oriented assistant to work closely with the Executive Director, including maintaining his schedule, making travel arrangements, interacting with staff and key stakeholders, managing the small and fast-paced office in New York, and other special projects. For more details please click [here](#). Application deadline: *20 May 2010*.

Internship - New York

Independent Diplomat is seeking an intern to assist with policy research and general office administration in its New York office, starting early July. The successful candidates will have a strong knowledge and demonstrated interest in international affairs and diplomatic relations, especially the United Nations and other international institutions. Candidates must be willing to undertake a wide range of tasks, including political research, the production of reports and media summaries within tight deadlines, and general administrative tasks. For more details please click [here](#). *Application deadline: 31 May 2010*.

Internship - Washington, DC

Independent Diplomat is seeking an intern to assist with policy research and general office administration in its Washington, DC office, starting in June. The successful candidates will have a strong knowledge and demonstrated interest in international affairs and diplomatic relations, especially the United Nations and other international institutions. S/he should also be familiar with the Washington political scene and the workings of Congress. Candidates must be willing to undertake a wide range of tasks, including political research, the production of reports and media summaries within tight deadlines, and general administrative tasks. For more details please click [here](#). *Application deadline: 21 May 2010*.



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