



INDEPENDENT DIPLOMAT

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Tuesday November 16th will be an important day at the UN Security Council for the Frente POLISARIO, the representatives of the people of the Western Sahara, and the Government of Southern Sudan, both clients of Independent Diplomat.

Western Sahara

Today the Security Council will be briefed on concerning [reports](#) of serious violence in the Western Sahara. About a week ago, Moroccan troops and police closed down by force camps of unarmed Sahrawi civilians, who were protesting their unacceptable living conditions in the territory, occupied by Morocco since 1975. Morocco has denied access to the area not only to the UN, but also humanitarian agencies and the international press. There is still no hard information about the violence, which some reports suggest may have resulted in the death of over thirty Sahrawi protesters and injuries to hundreds more.

There is an urgent requirement for access to the area to ascertain the facts and assess the needs of the Sahrawi people. The Frente POLISARIO has [demanded](#) a UN investigation as well as the mandating of [MINURSO](#), the UN peacekeeping force in the territory, to monitor and report on the human rights of the population. A 2006 [recommendation](#) from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the UN to monitor the human rights situation has so far not been implemented. In general, the violence underlines the urgent need for a political – and peaceful – resolution to this dispute, where the people of the Western Sahara have lived under occupation since 1975, and 150,000 Sahrawi refugees remain in desert camps in the Sahara awaiting the long promised referendum on self-determination for their land (you can see more on this story [here](#)).

Southern Sudan

On the same day, there will be a landmark formal meeting of the UN Security Council on Sudan, chaired by the British Foreign Secretary William Hague – the UK is this month's President of the UN Security Council. This meeting underlines the very close attention that the international community is paying to the forthcoming referendums due to be held in January 2011, required under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 (CPA), which ended a decades-long civil war between North and South Sudan. There are some worrying signals of deliberate obstruction to impede and disrupt the referendums, as well as a lack of progress in reaching final agreements on key issues of the North/South relationship post-referendum.

The Security Council President has for the first time invited the Government of Southern Sudan to attend the UN Security Council in its own right in order to present its views on the forthcoming process. The Security Council meeting will likely agree a statement demanding that all parties stick to their CPA commitments, and facilitate

the timely and peaceful holding of the referendums - which most observers believe will result in a clear vote for the establishment of a new state in the South.

Looking Ahead

Independent Diplomat supports the Frente POLISARIO and the Government of Southern Sudan, among others, to enhance their access and participation in international discussion and negotiation of their countries' futures. You can learn more about our work at our [website](#). For regular updates and news clips on ID's projects, follow us on [Facebook](#).



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