



PRESS RELEASE

POLISARIO SECURES UN COMMITMENT TO POLITICAL PROCESS, REDEPLOYS FORCES IN GUERGUERAT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, 28 April 2017 –Ahead of today’s renewal of UN Security Council mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the Frente POLISARIO decided to redeploy its forces in Guerguerat after securing commitments from the United Nations.

After the adoption, Mr. Ahmed Boukhari, Representative of the Frente POLISARIO to the United Nations, said, “After securing assurances from the United Nations that a new political process will be launched, that the UN will ensure a permanent presence of MINURSO in the Guerguerat area, and that the crisis in Guerguerat raises fundamental questions related on the ceasefire and related agreements, such as Military Agreement No.1 that the Secretary-General must address, the Frente POLISARIO has decided to redeploy its forces in Guerguerat.”

The Frente POLISARIO’s decision to redeploy its forces in Guerguerat demonstrates its commitment to work with the UN towards a resolution to the conflict in Western Sahara. Guerguerat is an integral part of the Territory of Western Sahara and the POLISARIO’s redeployment of its troops from Guerguerat does not alter the status of the Territory. Western Sahara is a Non-Self-Governing Territory awaiting a process of decolonization to which UN doctrine and practice relating to decolonization must be applied.

“The Saharawi people have an inalienable right to self-determination and independence that must be exercised in a democratic referendum,” Mr. Ahmehd Boukhari said. “Regardless of the resolution adopted today, the Security Council has an obligation to advance a free and fair vote among the Saharawi population – it is the only means to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict.”

For additional comment contact:

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