

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to express our concern with the current U.S. policy on Morocco and the Kingdom's claims to the Western Sahara. In December 2020, the previous Administration officially recognized Morocco's claims of sovereignty over the Western Sahara, despite the fact that for decades both Republican and Democrat administrations have refused to recognize Morocco's claims of sovereignty over the territory.

As a result of this policy reversal, the United States is now the only country to officially recognize Morocco's claims in contravention of international law and the internationally-recognized right to self-determination. The International Court of Justice and the E.U. Court of Justice have issued multiple landmark rulings upholding the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination and concluding that Morocco has no valid claim to the territory.

We are particularly concerned about the arms package that the Biden Administration has agreed to enter into with Morocco. In December of last year, the previous Administration notified Congress of \$1 billion in weapons sales to Morocco, including four MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones and Hellfire, Paveway and JDAM precision-guided munitions, and this deal is set to move forward under this Administration. Without assurances from Morocco otherwise, we are concerned that these weapons may be used in an offensive manner against the Sahrawi people or may otherwise facilitate Morocco's illegal occupation of the territory.

Finally, while we were heartened by the recent appointment of Staffan de Mistura as the UN Secretary General's new Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, we are concerned that the United States has not made a clear commitment to signifying to the United Nations that Washington supports a peaceful and lasting settlement between Morocco and the Sahrawis' recognized government representatives.

Therefore, we urge the Administration not to proceed with any significant or offensive weapons sales with Morocco. Such sales would be highly inappropriate in light of recent escalating violence between Morocco's security forces and the Polisario, the lack of assurances from Morocco that such weapons will not be used against the Sahrawi people, and the lack of progress

towards a political referendum and a final peace agreement with Western Sahara. We also request a briefing for the undersigned members on the arms package and the Administration's recent policy review towards both Western Sahara and Morocco, including the short- and long-term consequences of recognizing Morocco's territorial claims on the prospects for peace.

The United States has a critical role to play in this prolonged dispute. We hope it can be one that ensures the Sahrawi people are able to live in freedom, dignity, and peace, and can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. We thank you for your urgent attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Colin Allred  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

/s/  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

CC:  
Gregory Meeks  
Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Antony Blinken, Secretary  
U.S. Department of State