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By Ali Salem Iselmu
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The Moroccan lobby in the European Parliament



Sources: Naiz

The case of activist Sultana Jaya, who lived 557 days under house arrest, beaten and raped, who lost an eye in a demonstration at the hands of Moroccan police, makes clear Europe's performance when it comes to Western Sahara.

For many years I experienced the eternal frustration that the only UN mission in the world that has no competence in human rights is the mission present in Western Sahara since 1991. There were many attempts to endow that mission with a human rights mechanism. From the proposal of former US Secretary of State John Kerry to the repeated attempts of the former UN envoy, Christopher Ross. This blockade and violation of human rights are clear when in the European Parliament the Socialist Group votes for the candidate of Vox

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to the Sakharov prize, Jeanine Añez, to block the candidacy of the Saharawi activist Sultana Jaya. All this happens in 2021 when the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) presents the candidacy of the Saharawi activist.

Not to mention the case of Aminetu Haidar in 2010, a Saharawi human rights activist who was expelled from her city, her home and separated from her children by Morocco. Her strike at Lanzarote airport took her to the front pages of the main media worldwide. However, his candidacy for the Sakharov Prize was not awarded. The prize went to the Cuban Guillermo Fariñas.

And what about the burning of the Gdeim Izik camp by Morocco in 2010, the year in which France threatened the right of veto in the Security Council of the United Nations Organization and blocked any condemnation of Morocco.

I always believed that Europe had a deep-rooted tradition of defending human rights, the separation of powers and the independence of justice. When I saw how Morocco moved its lobbies in the European Parliament, it won a vote on the fisheries agreement in which the territory of Western Sahara was included against the judgment of the European Court of Justice. There I became convinced of the lack of ethical and moral values of that institution that has taken measures against Qatar to veto its presence in the European Parliament.

However, it recently voted against investigating corruption carried out by Morocco through its former ambassador to Poland, Abderrahim Atmoun, who currently serves as a deputy of a political party close to the Alawite Royal House. The Moroccan diplomat had bribed MEPs to avoid condemnation of his country on the issue of human rights.

The corruption plot involving Italian MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri, decorated by Morocco with the Wissam al-Mohammadi, splashes the European Socialist Group. Group that has blocked several resolutions and voted against any issue related to Western Sahara. When the UN rapporteur herself, Mary Lawlor, publicly acknowledged the violence that Morocco exercises against Saharawi human rights defenders.

It should be remembered that Panzeri chaired the Maghreb and human rights subcommittee in the European Parliament and has been received by Morocco several times in gratitude for the work he did for that country from the European institutions.

What strikes me most about all this corruption plot that the Belgian prosecutor's office is investigating and the newspaper "Le Soir" has picked up, is the impunity with which Morocco acts, constantly violating international law and refusing to respect the most elementary rights in Western Sahara.

The case of activist Sultana Jaya, who lived 557 days under house arrest, beaten and raped, who lost an eye in a demonstration at the hands of Moroccan police, makes clear Europe's performance when it comes to Western Sahara. It seems that human rights make more sense to defend them in Ukraine, Cuba, Qatar or Iran.

The struggle of the Saharawi people for their dignity goes beyond the farce and hypocrisy with which some political groups in the European Parliament use the Sakharov prizes according to the interests of lobbies representing third countries.

The late US diplomat, Frank Rudy, rejected the bribe offered to him by King Hassan II when he was working as vice president of the UN mission in Western Sahara, his testimony is the evident proof of Morocco's blackmail in its policy of buying people and institutions to continue torturing and condemning the Saharawi people to an exile of 48 years.

Source: <https://www.naiz.eus/es/iritzia/articulos/el-lobby-marroqui-en-el-parlamento-europeo>

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