



## The Saharawis : a forgotten people ?

Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, was invaded by Morocco and Mauritania in 1975, during the Green March.

The Saharawis who managed to flee settled down in refugee camps near Tindouf, in the South West of the Algerian desert while the others live and suffer under Moroccan occupation.

After a 15-year long war, the United Nations proposed a Peace Plan agreed on by Morocco and the Polisario Front in September 1991.

A cease-fire is then implemented but the referendum of self-determination agreed on is constantly postponed, which deprives the Saharawi people of their rights.

Every year since 1980 120 Saharawi children spend their summer holidays in France as guests to cities and various organisations. There are 8000 of them invited in Spain and 500 in Italy.

Mohamed Daddach, the oldest Saharawi political POW –prisoner of war– was liberated on November 10. 2001. He was awarded the Rafto Prize in 2002.

The Rafto Prize was created in 1986 by the foundation of Norwegian Professor Therolf Rafto, who dedicated most of his life to defending human rights.

The Saharawi students organized at the University of Agadir three days of conferences on Human Rights in Western Sahara from January 16 to January 18 2003, with Mohamed Daddach as their guest.

On December 4. 2003, the town of Gonfreville l'Orcher will celebrate ten years of solidarity with the refugee population of J'refia: exchanges, the release of a book, a concert, an exhibition, internet connections and support to the Saharawi people will be the main events of those celebrations.

## Saharawi Music

with

**Mariem Hassan, Nayim Alal**

**and the group of Leyoad women**

**On a tour of France**

**From 4 to 19 december 2003**

- 4. december Gonfreville l'Orchers (ECPC)
- 6. december Le Mans (Palais des Congrès et de la Culture)
- 7. december Vitry-sur-Seine (Gymnase Paul Eluard)
- from 8 december to 18 december (to be confirmed)  
Maromme, Achères, Bègles, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Lyon...
- 19. december Limoges (Théâtre Jean Gagnant)



# 29<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Solidarity with the Saharawi People

## 5, 6 and 7 december 2003

**EUCOCO 2003 • NANTERRE • PARIS • VITRY SUR SEINE**



29th edition of the meeting between Europeans and Saharawis, a meeting held every year in a European city.

This 29th edition has a double importance : **political support to the Polisario Front and humanitarian solidarity to the Saharawi people.**

Each year these conferences gather from 200 and 300 people, **solidary citizens, activists and local authorities** who coordinate the various initiatives and projects in order to inform, warn and above all commit the whole international community into facing their responsibilities.

300 people, siding with the Saharawi people who have been struggling for 30 years to have their right to self determination and independence recognized.

**A conference to promote peace and stability in the Maghreb while respecting the rights of their people.**

**Western Sahara, a problem of decolonisation with a painful human toll.**

- ➔ **37 years of UNO resolutions** recommending the Saharawi people's right to self-determination.
- ➔ **27 years of military, economic and administrative occupation** of 2/3 of the Western Sahara territory.
- ➔ **11 years of unsuccessful efforts of the MINURSO** (Mission des Nations Unies pour l'Organisation du Référendum au Sahara Occidental)
- ➔ **180 000 Saharawi refugees** and separated families for 30 years.
- ➔ **1250 Moroccan POWs**, among whom the oldest POWs in the world.
- ➔ **510 Saharawis who have disappeared in the Occupied Territories.**

In France, **political and humanitarian solidarity** has been expressed for 30 years, thus contributing to give a different image of our country traditionally **befriended and allied to Morocco.**

## **EUCOCO 2003 Programme**

### **Friday 5. December : NANTERRE** **Solidary Actors and Citizens' Day**

➔ **12:00 to 13:00** ➔ **Registering** ➔

➔ **14:00 to 18:30** ➔ **General Meeting at 'Palais des Congrès'** ➔

Saharawi people's Right to Self-determination

Parlementary Action / Human rights

Natural resources / Right to Humanitarian Solidarity

*With Representatives of the Polisario Front, lawyers, political representatives and activists.*

➔ **18:00 to 21:00** ➔ **Reception** ➔

### **Saturday 6. December : HAUTEFEUILLE**

*(Hautefeuille is a Nanterre's Holiday Camp)*

**Solidary Actors' Day at Hautefeuille**

➔ **9:00 to 21:00** ➔ **Workshops**

The different workshops will develop themes debated at the General Assembly.

**22:30 ➔ Concert and Dancing with Marc Perrone and Marie-Odile Chantran**

### **Saturday 6. December : PARIS**

**Solidary Citizens' Day**

➔ **14:00 to 17:00** ➔

**Information and Solidarity with the Saharawi People Conferences and Films**

### **Sunday 7. December : VITRY-SUR-SEINE**

**Solidary Actors and Citizens' Day**

➔ **10:00 to 13:00** ➔ **General Assembly at the Town Hall** ➔

Workshop conclusions / Resolutions and votes

genral conclusions

Speeches by Committee members and Political Representatives

➔ **13:00 to 15:00** ➔ **Reception** ➔

**16:00 ➔ Final Saharawi Concert with Mariem hassan, Nayim Alal and the group of Leyoad Women**

### **Solidary Citizen Ticket**

Open to every citizen who wishes to be informed about the situation.

Cost : 40 € / Supporting price : 90 €

- ➔ Documents for the conference
  - ➔ Attendance to the General Meeting on Friday in Nanterre
  - ➔ Attendance to the Conference on Saturday in Paris 14:00 to 17:00
- Information and Solidarity to the Saharawi People's Day**  
Conferences and Films.

➔ Attendance to the General Meeting on Sunday morning

This ticket also gives access to the receptions on Friday evening in Nanterre and Sunday lunchtime in Vitry, And to the Saharawi Concert on Sunday in Vitry

*Those who do not live in Paris must organize their own accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights (a list of overnight possibilities will be provided with when registering).*

### **Solidary Actor Ticket**

Open to regular actors involved in political and humanitarian solidarity

Cost : 250

(ticket : 150 € food and lodging – Hautefeuille : 100 €)

- ➔ Documents for the conference
- ➔ Attendance to the General Meeting on Friday in Nanterre
- ➔ Attendance to the General Meeting on Sunday morning
- ➔ Attendance to the various workshops on Saturday at Hautefeuille

**Number of tickets limited to 180 people**

This fully-inclusive ticket also give access to the receptions on Friday evening in Nanterre and Sunday lunchtime in Vitry.

It includes food and full accommodation at Hautefeuille (Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning)

It includes access to the concert with Marc Perrone Saturday night And the shuttle buses.

Pre-registering form as a **Solidary Citizen** or **Solidary Actor**

First name ..... Sumame .....

address .....

.....

.....

Area Code ..... Town / City .....

Country .....

email address .....

Committee / Organization .....

For further information : [bur.aarasd@wanadoo.fr](mailto:bur.aarasd@wanadoo.fr)

Please, fill in the form and send it to :

**Association des Amis de la RASD BP 251 75227 Paris CEDEX 05**

*I acknowledge having read the conditions of my registration and enclose a cheque of 40 € for my participation to the 29 th EUCOCO Conference.*

