



Date: April 9, 2025

## URGENT COMMUNIQUÉ

**From: Africa Watch - Sahrawi NGO Alliance - Defenders for Human Rights**  
**To: United Nations Special Procedures – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**(Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on torture)**

**Subject: Urgent Appeal Regarding the Execution of Sahrawi Civilians by Algerian Forces in the Tindouf Camps.**

### **Situation Summary:**

We, the undersigned Sahrawi civil society organizations, urgently address this communiqué to the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council to draw attention to a recurring and serious pattern of extrajudicial violence committed by the Algerian People's National Army (ANP) against Sahrawi civilians living in the Tindouf camps, particularly those engaged in artisanal gold mining activities.

On April 9, 2025, in the early hours of the morning, a tragic incident occurred south of the Daira of Argoub, in the Dakhla camp. Sahrawi gold prospectors were surprised by an Algerian army patrol that pursued them towards the camp, resulting in the death of two civilians and injuring nine others, three of whom are in critical condition.

The deceased victims are:

- Sidi Ahmed Ould Ghoulam Ould Balali, originating from the Dakhla camp (in Tindouf)
- Najem Ould Mahmoud Ould Fendou, from the Daira of Aguenit, Aousserd camp (in Tindouf)

This tragic event is unfortunately not an isolated case. In 2022, two young Sahrawis engaged in artisanal gold mining were burned alive in their underground shelters after Algerian soldiers set them on fire. No one has been prosecuted, and the persistent impunity encourages the repetition of these acts. These facts clearly constitute extrajudicial executions, in total violation of international law.

## **Legal Qualification:**

These acts constitute a blatant violation of the right to life, as guaranteed by Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Algeria. The intentional killing of unarmed civilians, as well as the practice of lethal burns in enclosed spaces, amount to summary executions and acts of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, prohibited notably by Article 7 of the ICCPR and the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

Furthermore, Algeria fails to meet its international obligations under the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law, particularly concerning civilian populations living under its effective, albeit denied, authority.

## **Urgent Requests:**

We respectfully call upon the United Nations Special Rapporteurs to:

1. Address an urgent communication to the Algerian authorities, requesting explanations on the events of April 9, 2025, as well as on previous incidents, notably the burnings of 2022;
2. Demand the immediate, independent, and transparent opening of investigations into these acts and the judicial prosecution of those responsible;
3. Send a fact-finding mission on the human rights situation of the Sahrawis in the Tindouf camps;
4. Publicly condemn the use of lethal force against unarmed civilians, as well as the economic repression exercised against those who attempt to provide for their needs by peaceful means.

We remain at your full disposal to provide any documents, testimonies, or contact with the victims' families. It is urgent and imperative that the United Nations system intervenes to prevent further unjustifiable human losses.

Respectfully,

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