

The two bombed Algerian trucks were going through a militarized zone



By Natasha Kumar
NOV 10, 2021



November 10, 2021



A patrol from the Polisario Front circulates west of the Sahara equipped with an anti-aircraft machine gun. / reuters

The UN points out that the vehicles were in an area controlled by the Polisario Front for unknown reasons, while Morocco warns that it will not have economic relations with countries that question its authority over the Sahara

M. P.

Saturday, 6 November 2021, 23:49

The investigation launched this week by the United Nations into the alleged Moroccan bombing of two Algerian trucks – with the result of the three occupants of the vehicles killed – begins to give some results. The UN confirmed this Saturday that the transports were in a militarized zone, although it warned that it must still collect more details about the conditions in which the attack took place and its motive.

However, the Algerian authorities maintain their accusation to Rabat of exercising “state terrorism” for this aggression, while the Moroccan Government continues to maintain an hermetic silence and has not confirmed its alleged participation. The only thing that cannot be doubted is the tension that the bombing has added to the already very complicated relations between the two countries.

This Saturday night, in a televised speech on the occasion of the commemoration of the 46th anniversary of the so-called Green March, King Mohamed VI avoided referring directly to his conflict with his Algerian neighbor, although he did warn that he would not maintain “economic or commercial” relations with countries that have “vague or ambivalent positions” on the Moroccan character of Western Sahara. “Both today and in the past, the ‘Moroccanness’ of the Sahara will never be on the agenda of any transaction,” the Moroccan monarch stressed.

The trucks were in transit between the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, and the Algerian city of Uargla. They had dumped cement in the first and were coming back when they were apparently hit by missiles, apparently of the ‘Hellfire’ type, launched from a drone. A Moroccan spokesman declared, without revealing his identity, that the vehicles were able to cross “a minefield with military material for the Polisario Front”, although the Algerian experts are convinced of the intervention of a properly armed drone.

Circulation prohibited

The United Nations mission in the area (MINURSO) arrived in the area on Wednesday, a day after the incident, to study what had happened. “We can confirm that the place of the attack is in eastern Western Sahara, near Bir Lehlu,” the deputy spokesman for the UN General Secretariat, Farhan Haq, explained this Saturday. The enclave is located east of the Moroccan Wall, in the territories controlled by the Polisario Front and is considered a militarized area, where circulation is prohibited.

“The mission observed two trucks with Algerian license plates parked parallel to each other. Both suffered extensive damage and burns, “continued his account Farhan Haq, who, however, admitted that he had” no explanation as to why the trucks are where they are. It is a question that we are studying ». Some sources have suggested that the attack could be due to a confusion that would have led to the identification of the trucks with armed vehicles.

Meanwhile, and in the midst of the crisis, the United States and Morocco are preparing to hold large-scale maneuvers, known as the ‘African Lion’, which in its previous edition already involved a large mobilization of troops on African soil. Washington considers the Alawite kingdom as its main ally in the region, especially to combat jihadism.



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By [Natasha Kumar](#)

Natasha Kumar has been a reporter on the news desk since 2018. Before that she wrote about young adolescence and family dynamics for Styles and was the legal affairs correspondent for the Metro desk. Before joining The Times Hub, Natasha Kumar worked as a staff writer at the Village Voice and a freelancer for Newsday, The Wall Street Journal, GQ and Mirabella. To get in touch, contact me through my