Morocco faces new setback, assures Sahrawi diplomat

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Brussels, 22 January 2022 (SPS) -The Moroccan occupation, which continues lies and tendentious propaganda, is facing a new setback internationally, said the Polisario Front Representative for Europe and the European Union (EU), Oubi Bouchraya Bashir, warning the United Nations (UN) Security Council that the persistence of Morocco's policy towards the Sahrawi issue could lead the UN envoy for Western Sahara to throw in the towel.

In a statement to APS, Bouchraya Bashir said that "the refutation, by the Spokesman of the UN Secretary-General, Stephane Dujarric, of all the lies relayed by the media of the Makhzen on the alleged presence of child soldiers during the visit of the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf, is a new setback for the Moroccan occupation."

"Even if the EU and international human rights organizations constantly denies all the Moroccan tendentious propaganda, the hysteria of the Makhzen will not stop because colonization is a scourge based on lies and falsification," said the Saharawi diplomat.

Regarding the first tour of Staffan de Mistura in the region and his visit to the Sahrawi refugee camps, the Sahrawi official said it aimed to establish direct contact with the two parties to the conflict and the two neighboring countries. "It is a procedural step more than anything else," he said.

"The visit was an opportunity for the UN envoy to inquire about the experience of the Sahrawi people in struggle and the reality of the institutions of the Sahrawi Republic, by going directly to meet with Sahrawi officials and people to listen to their expectations without any intermediary.

The Polisario Front, the only legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people, "has not submitted any proposal to the UN Envoy Staffan de Mistura, but has reaffirmed its constant position in a context marked by a new deal since November 13, 2020, with the return of war in Western Sahara, following the violation by Morocco of the Ceasefire Agreement after more than 30 years of disregard for the international community and UN decolonization efforts," said Bouchraya Bashir.

"We must not waste time looking for a solution because it already exists and it is the UN-AU (African Union) Settlement Plan of 1991 and its complementary agreements signed in Houston in 1997. These are the only agreements signed between the two parties and their implementation depends on the political will of the occupying state and the UN Security Council," he continued.

In response to a question on the ability of the UN envoy to give impetus to the peace process against the backdrop of the violation of international law by Morocco, Bouchraya said that "it depends on the Security Council which has adopted a biased approach in managing the conflict for 30 years instead of solving it and leans in favor of Morocco."

"De Mistura is a seasoned diplomat but he risks, like all other former UN envoys, to give up if no radical and real change is made at the Security Council in the treatment of the issue," he continued.

The Sahrawi diplomat warned against attempts by Morocco to bog Algeria down in the conflict, saying that "the position of Algeria on the decolonization of Western Sahara is in line with the UN resolutions that consider it as a neighboring observer country in the settlement process, just like Mauritania, no more and no less."