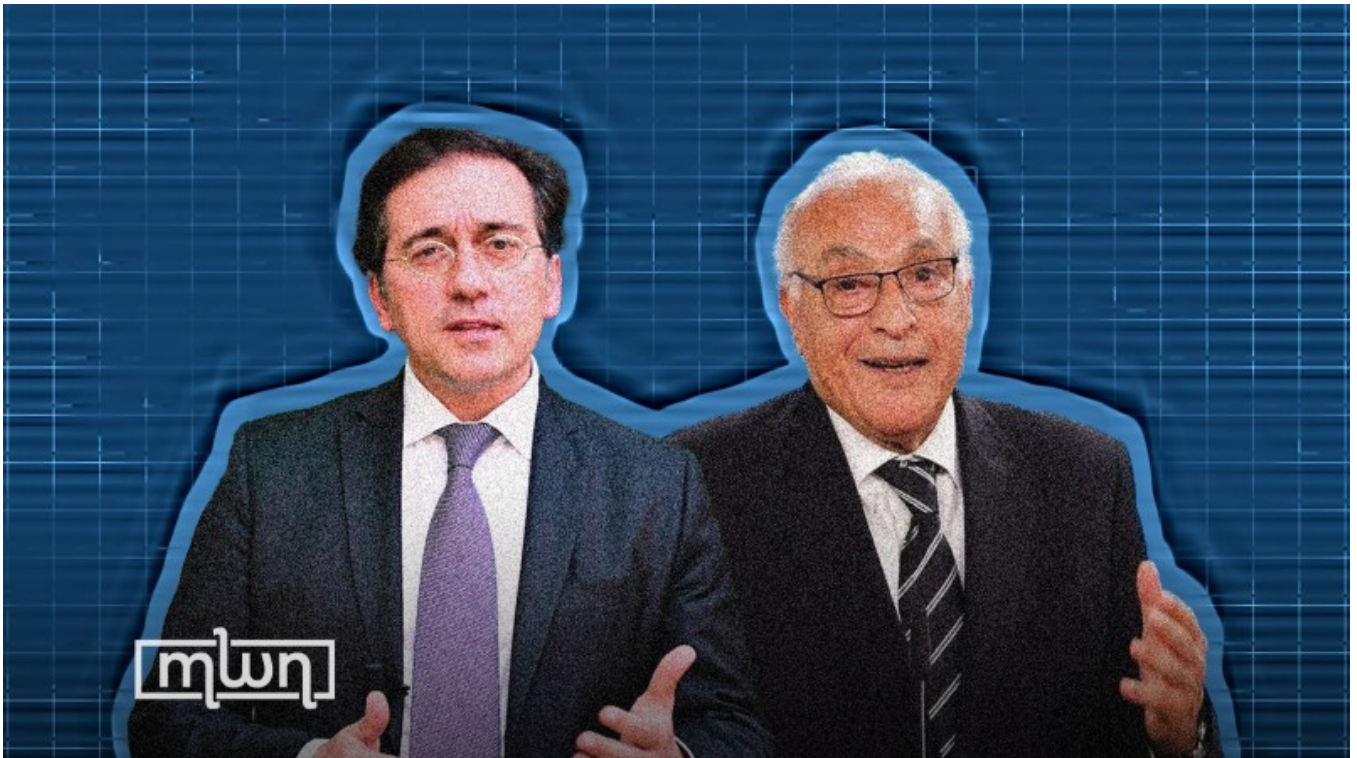


Algerian FM Claims Spain Has Changed Position on Western Sahara



Spanish FM Jose Manuel Albares renewed his country's support for Morocco's Autonomy Plan just earlier this month.

Rabat - Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Attaf has renewed claims that have repeatedly been debunked by Spain's government regarding Madrid's position on the Western Sahara dispute.

In an interview with Al Jazeera's Atheer, Attaf claimed that Spain has "changed" its position with regards to the Western Sahara dispute, suggesting that Madrid has reversed its positive stance in favor of Morocco's territorial integrity.

"What gave the green light to the reassessment of our relations with Spain is the speech delivered by Pedro Sanchez at the United Nations General

Assembly, and he changed his position," Attaf claimed.

He continued to add that the Spanish position is in line with that of the EU, supporting the UN-led political process to find a lasting political, sustainable, and an agreed upon solution to end the dispute.

The remarks came as Algeria seeks a reconciliation with Spain after tensions due to Madrid's new position in support of Morocco's territorial integrity.

In June 2022, just three months after Spain embraced the Moroccan autonomy plan, Algeria attempted to blackmail the Spanish government into reconsidering its decision by suspending a "Friendship Treaty" that had governed relations between the two countries for twenty years.

The country also recalled its ambassador for consultations.

In an attempt to deny tensions, Attaf said that he "could never label Spain as an enemy country."

"We have a political problem... We recalled our ambassador because the political issue that led to this outcome is very important to us," he said, referencing Spain's support for Morocco's territorial integrity.

Spain has consistently rejected the Algerian's regime blackmail tactics, debunking its claims and attempts to pressure Madrid to reverse its position on the [Western Sahara](#) dispute.

Attaf remarks on Spain's alleged changed position came just a few weeks following an official working trip made by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jose Manuel Albares.

During his visit to Morocco, Albares [reiterated](#) his country's unwavering position, saying that Morocco's [Autonomy Plan](#) is the "most serious, realistic, and credible" basis to end the dispute.

“The position of Spain regarding the issue of the Sahara has not changed. It is the same as already expressed in the Joint Declaration adopted on April 7, 2022, and the Declaration concluding the 12th session of the High-Level meeting Morocco-Spain in February 2023,” Albares said.

Attaf’s claims during his Al Jazeera interview are in line with Algeria’s hostile approach towards Morocco’s territorial integrity.

Algeria hosts, finances, arms, and supports the Polisario Front, a separatist group claiming independence in Western Sahara to undermine Morocco’s territorial integrity and sovereignty over its southern provinces.

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