



- TRENDING** [Gaza War 2023 \(/tag/gaza-war-2023\)](#) [Jabalia camp \(/tag/jabalia-camp\)](#) [Diaa al-Kahlout \(/tag/diaa-al-kahlout\)](#) [Red Sea \(/tag/red-sea\)](#)

advertisement







News (/news) > MENA (/news/mena)

Morocco demands W.Sahara deal 'based exclusively' on its plan

MENA(/taxonomy/term/14) 2 min read

The New Arab Staff & Agencies (/taxonomy/term/67001) | 09 September, 2023

UN envoy for Western Sahara Staffan de Mistura was told by Morocco's Foreign Minister that the only settlement acceptable for Rabat was autonomy within Morocco.

-  (/#facebook)
-  (/#x)
-  (/#whatsapp)
-  (/#reddit)
-  (/#flipboard)
-  (<https://www.addtoany.com/share#url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newarab.com%2Fnews%2Fmorocco-demands-wsahara-deal-based-exclusively-its-plan&title=Morocco%20demands%20W.Sahara%20>)



(<https://www.newarab.com/sites/default/files/media/images/E2A47778-C7C7-4220-9751-3FC96A07803D.jpg>)

United Nations envoy for Western Sahara visited the disputed area on Friday.(Getty)

Morocco's top diplomat told the [United Nations envoy for Western Sahara](https://www.newarab.com/news/un-envoy-de-mistura-visits-disputed-w-sahara-first-time) (<https://www.newarab.com/news/un-envoy-de-mistura-visits-disputed-w-sahara-first-time>)Friday that any settlement of the decades-old dispute must be "based exclusively" on its autonomy plan.

UN envoy Staffan de Mistura had travelled to the former Spanish colony on Monday for his first visit since taking office and met elected officials, and dignitaries and tribal chiefs.

His visit to the government-controlled cities of Laayoune and Dakhla saw him hold talks with independence activists as well as supporters of union with Morocco, Moroccan media reported.

Morocco (<https://www.newarab.com/news/morocco-says-it-has-dominican-republic-support-over-western-sahara>) has been emboldened by US recognition of its annexation of the territory, granted by the Donald Trump administration in late 2020 in return for its normalisation of relations with Israel.

In his talks with the UN envoy on Friday, Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita insisted that the only settlement Rabat would accept for the contested territory was autonomy within Morocco, not the independence the Algerian-backed Polisario Front has been pushing for since the last years of Spanish rule in the 1970s.

RELATED

[Israel, Morocco & Western Sahara: The price of normalisation](https://www.newarab.com/opinion/israel-morocco-western-sahara-price-normalisation) (<https://www.newarab.com/opinion/israel-morocco-western-sahara-price-normalisation>)

 Abdelkader Cherif

Bourita's delegation called for "a political solution based exclusively on the Moroccan autonomy plan, in the framework of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the kingdom", a foreign ministry statement said.

A UN mission has been deployed in Western Sahara since 1991, tasked with organising a referendum on the territory's future provided for by a ceasefire agreement between Morocco and the Polisario that year.

The referendum has never taken place, and in late 2020 the [Polisario](https://www.newarab.com/news/polisario-says-israels-western-sahara-move-null-and-void) (<https://www.newarab.com/news/polisario-says-israels-western-sahara-move-null-and-void>)announced it was resuming fighting.

Most Viewed ^

Morocco controls around 80 percent of Western Sahara, including all its main resources and population centres, while the Polisario controls a swathe of the desert interior.



Tags:

Morocco (/tag/morocco) Western Sahara (/tag/western-sahara) United Nations (/tag/united-nations)

More In News

Sports(/taxonomy/term/18)



[Messi vs. Ronaldo to happen in Saudi Arabia on February 1 \(/news/messi-vs-ronaldo-happen-saudi-arabia-february-1\)](/news/messi-vs-ronaldo-happen-saudi-arabia-february-1)

The New Arab Staff & Agencies

World(/taxonomy/term/70145)



[Austrian national accused in UK over Iran TV 'terror plot' \(/news/austrian-national-accused-uk-over-iran-tv-terror-plot\)](/news/austrian-national-accused-uk-over-iran-tv-terror-plot)

The New Arab Staff & Agencies

MENA(/taxonomy/term/14)



[US sanctions two former Afghan officials for corruption \(/news/us-sanctions-two-former-afghan-officials-corruption\)](/news/us-sanctions-two-former-afghan-officials-corruption)

The New Arab Staff & Agencies

Most Viewed ^



.().

advertisement

Get The New Arab's newsletters straight to your inbox

Sign up



© 2023 The New Arab