

Egypt's reception of Polisario delegation raises questions on position in Sahara Conflict

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Egypt welcomed a delegation from the separatist Polisario Front, sent to Cairo by the African Union Commission, to monitor the Egyptian presidential elections held between December 10th and 12th. This prompted many to question Egypt's true position on the Sahara conflict.

Hespress AR reached out to the Egyptian embassy in Cairo for more clarification, but the embassy declined to respond.

The same source noted that the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sameh Choukri will be having a state visit to Morocco on December 19th

to participate in the 6th session of the Arab-Russian Forum in Marrakech.

The Egyptian official is expected to engage in discussions with its Moroccan counterpart to address various issues, including Egypt's stance on the conflict, added the same source.

"The Polisario hiding within the African Union Commission's delegation monitoring Egyptian presidential elections reflects the front's disappointments, setbacks, and lack of responsibility within the African body," Abdel Fattah Al Fatihi, the director of the Sahara and Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

He added that the claims are an attempt to overcome regional rejection experienced by the group, in a statement to Hespress Ar.

The separatist front seeks to create a rift between countries and within African Union institutions and politicize coordination efforts with international bodies concerning organizational and administrative issues.

Al Fatihi emphasized that the African Union Commission is far from engaging in the deviant behavior of the Polisario Front, which has caused a lot of political embarrassment on several occasions around the world.

He added, "The Kingdom of Morocco trusts the Egyptian wisdom expressed within Arab forums, with clear support for Morocco's sovereignty over its southern territories."

The director of the Sahara and Africa Center for Strategic Studies suggested that what the Polisario promotes is mere media propaganda, given its declining separatist stance and its endorsement of terrorist acts that target innocent civilians.

"As a result, it is working hard today to restore its tarnished image and regain prominence," concluded Al Fatihi in an interview with Hespress Ar.

In November, an Egyptian military delegation attended, in the presence of the separatists, the "North African Command Center Exercise", held in Algeria.

In May 2022, a similar military meeting was held under the "North Africa Capacity", a body associated with the African Union.

However, Mauritania and Tunisia were absent in these meetings despite being members of said organization.

In a previous statement to Hespress, the Egyptian ambassador in Morocco confirmed that Cairo does not recognize the Polisario and maintains no relations with it.