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Algeria accuses Morocco of “targeted assassinations” after drone attack in Western Sahara

Algeria accuses Morocco of having carried out “targeted assassinations” which caused three civilian victims in the part of Western Sahara controlled by the Polisario. The attack took place not far from the Mauritanian border.

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Demonstration of in-flight refueling by the Moroccan Air Force. (Illustrative image) RFI/Olivier Fourt

By : **RFI** Follow

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The attack took place early Sunday morning following two Moroccan drone strikes. The first targeted an Algerian truck, causing minor injuries. The other hit a convoy of civilian cars, just a few hundred meters from the Aïn Ben Tili border post, located in the far north of Mauritania.

Not far from this security post is a mosque. Sahrawi witnesses say that the attacked convoy had just left the building. The toll of civilian victims would amount to three deaths and several injured: Sahrawi civilians, including a woman, all belonging to the same family. Known traders in Mauritania.

On the evening of April 13, Mohamed Melainine Ould Eyih, spokesperson for the Mauritanian government, acknowledged that two Mauritanian nationals were killed on Sunday. “ *The incident took place outside our national territory* ,” he adds, without giving further details. According to our information, it is a woman and her daughter.

A well-informed Mauritanian source affirms that it was the Mauritanian army which recovered the victims. For its part, Algiers mentions three victims “ *from three countries in the region* ”, without further details. In a press release, the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs points the finger at Morocco, denouncing “ *warlike practices which are akin to repetitive acts of state terrorism and take on the characteristics of extrajudicial executions* ”. Algiers finally warns of “ *serious risks of potentially dangerous regional deviations* ”.

Unlike Algiers, Rabat and Nouakchott remain silent about this new attack. This type of incident on the border of Mauritania is increasing. Last November, three Algerian truckers were killed in this same area of Western Sahara and Algeria had promised to avenge them. In January, Mauritanian gold miners were killed in this area following Moroccan drone strikes.