

Algeria criticises Israel recognition of Morocco sovereignty over Western Sahara

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Algeria, on Thursday, strongly criticised Israel's recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the disputed Western Sahara region, saying the move is a violation of international law, *Reuters* reports.

Morocco considers Western Sahara its own territory, but the Algerian-backed Polisario Front wants an independent state there.

In 2020, then-US President Donald Trump recognised Morocco's claim to the territory in return for Morocco's resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel.

Israel, on Monday, recognised Morocco's sovereignty.

"The decision ... can in no way legitimise sovereignty over occupied Sahara lands," the Algerian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Algeria cut diplomatic ties with Morocco in 2021, citing what it said were "hostile acts". Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, said this year that relations between the two countries had reached "a point of no return".

The two North African countries, which share a long border, have been locked in a bitter rivalry for decades over Western Sahara.

Earlier on Wednesday, a State Department spokesperson told reporters that the US recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara remains unchanged.

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