SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

ACCRA COLLECTIVE

9th November, 2026.

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) reaffirms its full and unwavering solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, with the Frente POLISARIO and with the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in their struggle for national liberation and sovereignty. We issue this statement at a critical moment, when powerful states are working openly to close the question of Western Sahara without the consent of its people and in defiance of the principles on which the decolonisation of Africa was built.

On 30 October 2026, the United Nations Security Council failed to renew the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), which was established in 1991 under the UN-OAU Settlement Plan to organise a referendum in which the Sahrawi people would choose between independence and integration with Morocco. The draft resolution tabled by the United States would have removed the word "Referendum" from the mission's name and made Morocco's so-called autonomy plan the sole basis for any settlement. When that draft was blocked, a simple one-year technical renewal was put to the vote, and the United States voted against it. As a result, MINURSO began winding down its operations on 1 November 2026, after 35 years on the ground.

During the debate, the United States delegate dismissed the veto as an effort to preserve a single letter in the mission's name. The SMG rejects this contempt. The referendum is not a matter of wording, it is the commitment the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity made to the Sahrawi people in 1991, and which Morocco has obstructed ever since. The right of a colonised people to decide their own future was not granted by the Security Council, and it cannot be withdrawn by renaming a mission. Even the UN Secretary-General has acknowledged that the departure of MINURSO does not cancel the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination.

The meaning of MINURSO's closure

The Moroccan royal palace has welcomed the end of the mission as a step towards removing Western Sahara from the agenda of the Security Council. This confirms

what the Sahrawi people and their allies have long understood, namely that the objective of the occupying power and its backers is to settle the question without a vote, without a referendum and without the participation of the people whose land is at stake.

The closure also carries serious risks. There is now no United Nations presence monitoring the buffer strip, where armed hostilities resumed in November 2020 after Moroccan forces violated the ceasefire at Guerguerat, and the Secretary-General has himself warned of the danger of escalation. There are reports that UN assets in occupied Laayoune are being handed over to Moroccan authorities. Sahrawi activists in the occupied territories, who already face arrest, abuse and constant surveillance, will now have even less international protection.

These developments did not begin in October this year. In October 2025, Security Council Resolution 2797 shifted the Council's position towards Morocco's autonomy plan as the basis for negotiations, and in the year since, Morocco has used trade agreements, investment and diplomatic pressure to win over government after government. The failed resolution of 30 October was the culmination of that campaign. The Sahrawi people, however, have responded firmly. The Frente POLISARIO has reaffirmed that their right to freedom and sovereignty is inalienable and non-negotiable, and the President of the UN General Assembly has convened a formal meeting on the use of the veto, bringing the matter before the wider membership of the United Nations.

SMG's consistent position

The SMG has stood with the Sahrawi people from the beginning, and our position has not changed. We have consistently held that Western Sahara remains the only colony on the African continent, and we have repeatedly called on African governments, the African Union, ECOWAS and the United Nations to compel Morocco to respect the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination. We have warned that Morocco's alliances with the United States, NATO and Israel serve to deepen foreign influence on the continent, and we have demanded, through our congresses and public statements, the full implementation of UN resolutions recognising the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination and independence.

The events of the past weeks have confirmed the need for those warnings. The attempt to impose the autonomy plan through the Security Council shows clearly that the aim is not a negotiated settlement but the legalisation of occupation. As Kwame Nkrumah taught, our independence is meaningless unless it is linked with the total liberation of Africa, and that liberation remains incomplete for as long as Western Sahara is occupied.

Our demands

The Socialist Movement of Ghana therefore calls on:

1. **The African Union** to defend the sovereignty of its member state, to place the situation in Western Sahara urgently before its Peace and Security Council, and to insist that a free and fair referendum remains the only legitimate path to decolonisation.
2. **The United Nations** to reaffirm that Western Sahara is a Non-Self-Governing Territory whose final status can only be decided by the Sahrawi people, and to maintain an independent presence capable of monitoring the ceasefire line and the human rights situation.
3. **The Kingdom of Morocco** to end its occupation of Western Sahara, halt the repression of Sahrawi activists, and release all Sahrawi political prisoners, including the Gdeim Izik group.
4. **The European Union** to comply with the rulings of its own Court of Justice, which has held that its trade agreements with Morocco cannot apply to Western Sahara without the consent of the Sahrawi people, and to end its part in the exploitation of Sahrawi phosphates and fisheries.
5. **Workers, students, trade unions and progressive organisations** in Ghana and across Africa to raise the question of Western Sahara in their organisations and on public platforms, and to mobilise in support of the Sahrawi people.

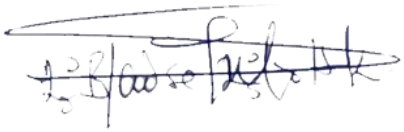
To the Sahrawi people in the refugee camps, in the liberated territories, in the occupied cities and in the diaspora, the SMG affirms that you do not stand alone. Fifty years of exile, war and repression have not ended your struggle, and the failure of the Security Council will not end it either. The SMG will continue to stand with you until

Western Sahara is free and the Sahrawi people exercise full sovereignty over their land.

Western Sahara will be free!

Down with colonialism! Down with imperialism!

A luta continua!



Blaise Tulo
Convener