



Crystal Mountain Sel Sahara, S.A.
Attn: Vice President, Mr. John Wickens
3345 Bee Cave Rd., Suite 201
Austin, Texas, USA 78746

Oslo, 21 Nov 2012

Dear Mr. Wickens

From your website, www.selsahara.com, we read that your company carries out production of salt in "Tarfaya Province, Morocco". The salt is said to be used for "use in the de-icing, agriculture, and fish packing industries."

However, from what we understand from local sources on the ground, the production in fact takes place in Western Sahara, not in Morocco. Western Sahara Resource Watch (WSRW), an international organisation represented in over 40 countries, kindly asks Crystal Mountain Sel Sahara, S.A. to exactly define the coordinates where your company is carrying out their activities of production of salt.

WSRW has followed the issues relating to natural resource exploitation in Western Sahara since 2004. We are concerned by the rights of the Saharawi people when it comes to natural resource exploitation in the territory of Western Sahara, and the violations of international law related to such activity. See our web page (www.wsrw.org) for more information.

As you may know, Western Sahara is treated by the UN as a so-called Non-Self Governing Territory, a colony. The International Court of Justice has rejected all Moroccan claims of sovereignty over the territory. The Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara has been condemned by the UN, and no state recognises the Moroccan claims.

In 2001, the UN Security Council asked its Legal Counsel to assess the legality of an oil exploration programme offshore Western Sahara. In its answer, the Legal Counsel clearly stated that further oil programmes in Western Sahara would be illegal under international law: "if further exploration and exploitation activities were to proceed in disregard of the interests and wishes of the people of Western Sahara, they would be in violation of the principles of international law", the Counsel stated. See the legal opinion here: www.arso.org/Olaeng.pdf. The same assessment has been applied to other resources on the occupied territory. The principle remains the same: such industries cannot take place in disregard of the interests or wishes of the territory's people.

The Saharawis in exile, and in the occupied territories, as well as their internationally recognised representative, Polisario Front, have expressed their opposition to the exploitation of the natural resources in the territory. The Saharawis gain no other benefit from the exploitation, than violence and oppression from Moroccan authorities.

It is our opinion that the activities of foreign businesses in Western Sahara, working in partnership with Morocco - contribute to undermine the UN peace process.

Western Sahara Resource Watch would like to have clarified from you the exact location of your production of salt in Western Sahara. Thank you for specifying the exact coordinates.

Should you require any further information about Western Sahara, please do not hesitate to make contact with us.

Thank you for confirming the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

(sign.)

Erik Hagen
Chair,
Western Sahara Resource Watch
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www.wsrw.org