

4 November 2014



His Excellency Ambassador Keiichi Katakami
Ambassador of Japan to the European Union
The Mission of Japan to the European Union
5 – 6 Square de Meeus
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Ambassador Katakami:

Illegal fishing by Japanese vessels in the coastal waters of occupied Western Sahara

It is again a signal privilege to present the compliments of Western Sahara Resource Watch to you.

This letter is intended in respectful follow-up to ours of this October 17 in the subject matter. As we write, four Japanese registered commercial vessels continue to fish for tuna in the coastal waters of Western Sahara.

The present fishing is, as we have noted, a matter of grave concern. That is because tuna stocks in the Eastern Atlantic area face overharvesting pressures and because the Saharawi people of Western Sahara are seeing what is the taking of their ocean resource.

We anticipate you may be delayed in your reply because you need further information to assess the matter. An updated article about the illegal Japanese fisheries was published on our website today, <http://www.wsrw.org/a105x3022>. We hope that article can be of some clarification.

Please do not hesitate to call upon us for any information or further references in the matter.

We again look forward to your reply to our letter of this October 17.

I have the honour to convey to you, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Erik Hagen
Chair of the Board
Western Sahara Resource Watch

c: His Excellency Ambassador Christopher Ross,
Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Western Sahara

c: Dr. José Graziano da Silva
Director General, UN Food & Agriculture Organization