



Rail and Maritime Transport Union Lyttelton Port Branch

The Ship's Master
M.V. Federal Crimson

8th December 2019

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that the Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU), being an affiliate of the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (CTU), and representing members employed by and at the Lyttelton Port Company, wishes to register our protest at the importation of phosphate into New Zealand from occupied Western Sahara.

This is in accordance with the following resolution passed at the CTU biennial conference in October 2019.

That the NZCTU

(a) Notes that:

- a. Morocco has occupied Western Sahara since 1975,*
 - b. The UN efforts to accomplish the decolonisation process in Western Sahara have not been accomplished yet,*
 - c. Over 173,000 Saharawis have been living in refugee camps in South West of Algeria for the past 43 years in dire conditions, waiting to return to their homeland which is occupied by Morocco,*
 - d. The only just, legal and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara, is to end the Moroccan illegal occupation and allow the Sahara people to exercise their right to self-determination, in accordance with the UN resolution and decolonisation doctrine,*
 - e. That The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Parliament, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have all called on the UN to extend the mandate of its mission in Western Sahara to monitor human rights,*
 - f. The European Union Court of Justice and the High Court of South Africa have that Morocco has no right to exploit Western Sahara resources;*
- (b) Strongly supports the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and independence;*
- (c) Calls on the UN to proceed without further delay with the organisation of the long overdue referendum of self-determination;*
- (d) Condemns the gross violations of human rights in the occupied territories of Western Sahara and calls for the immediate release all Saharawi political detainees;*
- (e) Urges the UN to expand the mandate to its mission in Western Sahara to include human rights monitoring;*

- (f) *Expresses concern about the exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara without the consent of the Saharawi people and their representatives;*
- (g) *Urges Government to:*
- a. *Support the right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and the holding of the long-delayed referendum in accordance with UN and AU (African Union) Peace Plan;*
 - b. *Urge the UN to include human rights monitoring in the mandate of the UN mission in Western Sahara (MINURSO);*
 - c. *To ensure New Zealand companies halt imports of phosphates from the occupied areas of Western Sahara until the legal status of the Territory is determined and the Saharawi people are allowed to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and Peace Plan of 1991"*

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andy Kelly', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy Kelly
Branch President
RMTU Lyttelton Port Branch