



Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.

ContiTech Conveying Solutions
Hannes Friederichsen
Executive Vice President
Head of ContiTech Conveying Solutions
(per mail)

Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.
c/o Gunther Hilliges
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- Vorstand -

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TRANSLATION

Bremen, 16.03.2020

Open letter: **Maintenance contract of conveyor belt in occupied Western Sahara**

Dear Mr Friederichsen,

I am writing to you on behalf of the organisations listed below and my association "Freiheit für die Westsahara". We ask you to take the expiry of your company's maintenance contract with Moroccan state-owned phosphate company OCP on 20 June 2020 as an opportunity to limit your business activities to those within the internationally recognized borders of Morocco and to exclude the territory of occupied Western Sahara.

We urge you **not** to sign any contracts for future maintenance of the conveyor belt used by OCP to transport phosphate rock from the Bou Craa mine to the coast. The mine and the conveyor belt are located exclusively in the territory of occupied Western Sahara.

Western Sahara is Africa's last colony and has been recognised by the UN as a non-self-governing territory since 1963. Since the withdrawal of Spain in 1975, large parts of Western Sahara have been under Moroccan occupation. The annexation of the territory by Morocco is not officially recognized by any state in the world. Furthermore, the International Court of Justice and numerous UN resolutions have confirmed the right to self-determination of the Saharawi people.

An essential aspect of the right to self-determination guaranteed by the UN Charter and both human rights covenants is the unrestricted sovereignty of a state or people over its natural resources. This applies to occupied territories in particular. As an occupying power, Morocco has no legitimate right to control the resources of Western Sahara.

Vorstand:
Tanja Brodtmann (Vorsitzende)
Regina Dietzold
Constanze Erler (Schatzmeisterin)
Gunther Hilliges, Senatsrat a.D.
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Dr. Wolf-Dieter Seiwert
Dr. Judit Tavakoli

Vereinsregistereintrag:
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Economic activities in occupied Western Sahara would only be in line with international law if the Saharawi people benefited from it **and** if they, or their UN-recognized representative Polisario Front, gave their explicit consent to it.

However, Polisario Front has never approved Continental's contracts with the OCP Group.

The recent European Court of Justice rulings on the EU-Morocco trade agreements confirmed that the occupied territories of Western Sahara must be considered distinct from Morocco within the legal framework of the EU.

We therefore appeal to you as a German company to fulfil your corporate responsibility by not providing economic support to the occupation of parts of Western Sahara by Morocco in violation of international law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Tanja Brodtmann

-Chairwoman-

This letter is supported by:

- Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt e.V.
- Dachverband der Kritischen Aktionärinnen und Aktionäre e.V.
- European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH)
- medico international
- terre des hommes, Deutschland
- Western Sahara Resource Watch Germany
- Zentrum für Europäische und Orientalische Kultur e.V.

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Kuratorium: Prof. Dr. Manfred O. Hinz (Sprecher), Alfred Berger, Herbert Brückner, Sevim Dagdelen, Bernd Eichner, Dr. Ingunde Fühlau, Dr. Kambiz Ghawami, Frank Heinrich, Gunther Hilliges, Gyde Jensen, Margot Keßler, Katja Keul, Markus Meckel, Dr. Henrike Müller, Norbert Neuser, Prof. Dr. Werner Ruf, Dr. h.c. Herbert Schmalstieg, Dr. Joachim Schuster, Prof. Dr. Dieter Senghaas, Barbara Simons, Kerstin Tack.

Schirmherrschaft: Antje Grotheer – Vize-Präsidentin der Bremischen Bürgerschaft

2012-2019: Christian Weber - Präsident der Bremischen Bürgerschaft (†)