

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001049/25
to the Commission
Nicolas Bay (ECR), Laurence Trochu (ECR), Guillaume Peltier (ECR)
(11 March 2025)**

Subject: Women's rights violations in the Tindouf camps in Algeria

While we celebrate International Women's Day, the Polisario Front armed militia continues to seriously undermine the rights and fundamental freedoms of Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria. The women living in these camps, in particular, are deprived of their most basic rights (such as their right to come and go) and suffer unacceptable violence (sexual abuse, slavery, servitude, etc.).

These inhumane practices are able to continue because of the lack of registration and recording of these populations, which Algeria still refuses to do, disregarding its obligations as a host country and completely ignoring the calls of the United Nations Security Council in its resolutions since 2011.

1. Will the Commission take measures to sanction the Polisario Front and condemn these actions?
2. What specific steps will it take to persuade Algeria to accept that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees swiftly registers and conducts a census of the populations of the Tindouf camps in due form and in accordance with international standards?

Submitted: 11.3.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 May 2025)**

The EU is one of the most important and long-standing humanitarian donors helping the refugee population in five camps near Tindouf in Algeria without any interruption since 1993.

The EU is committed to addressing both the humanitarian needs and human rights of the Sahrawi refugees in the camps near Tindouf. Ensuring the protection of all civilians, without any discrimination on gender, or any other grounds, is at the heart of the EU's humanitarian support.

The EU strictly adheres to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, as laid out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid ⁽¹⁾.

The EU reaches out to all people in need, without discrimination. EU partners in the camps pay particular attention to upholding these principles and to the protection of refugees, in particular to those most at risk.

The EU also supports the Security Council Resolution 2756 ⁽²⁾ and the mandate of the United Nations Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura.

The respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are key element of EU-Algeria relations, and the EU addresses human rights in the framework of the EU-Algeria Association Agreement ⁽³⁾.

In accordance with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy ⁽⁴⁾, the EU advocates for a human rights-based approach that focuses on persons in vulnerable situations, and works to strengthen the capacity of states, civil society and United Nations partners to implement this approach.

⁽¹⁾ Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission, OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1-12, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A42008X0130%2801%29>

⁽²⁾ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2756>

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/accord_association_fr.pdf

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_action_plan_on_human_rights_and_democracy_2020-2024.pdf