

## Western Sahara – Referendum NOW! International Meeting of Experts – Promoting the Political Process

After a significant decline in international solidarity with Western Sahara during the last 20 years, the support from both parliaments and civil society in several European countries is raising again.

Currently, there are hardly networks which create common initiatives to influence policy makers in the EU and European countries to enforce the international law and implement decolonization of the last colony in Africa.

The aim of this two-days international conference is to build an appropriate common strategy. Let's break the complicity with oppression through silence in order to strengthen the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi and to realise the Referendum NOW!

**Participation fee 25 €**

### Accommodation

At A&O Hotel / Hostel Berlin Hauptbahnhof single room: 43,65 €, double room: 54,90 €, shared rooms: 19,70 €. Prices include breakfast. Not included is tax: 1,69 €/night. (booking by participants on their own!)

Photos: Projektgruppe Westsahara, Andoni Labaki / Demotix

### Information and Registration

Please inscribe online until **December 1 (!)**, 2014  
[www.freie-westsahara.eu](http://www.freie-westsahara.eu)

### Organiser

Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.  
c/o Björn Wehrs, Kimmstr. 10, 28757 Bremen  
+49 (0) 157 – 84893924  
[conference@freie-westsahara.eu](mailto:conference@freie-westsahara.eu)

### Venue

A&O Hotel and Hostel Berlin Hauptbahnhof  
Lehrter Straße 12, 10557 Berlin, Germany  
+49 30 322 920 4200  
[www.aohostels.com/de/berlin/berlin-hauptbahnhof/](http://www.aohostels.com/de/berlin/berlin-hauptbahnhof/)

### Partners

Zentrum für Europäische und  
Orientalische Kultur e.V.



European Association of  
Lawyers for Democracy and  
World Human Rights



Schweizerisches Unterstützungs-  
komitee für die Saharaouis



### Sponsors



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# WESTERN SAHARA REFERENDUM NOW!

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF EXPERTS //  
// PROMOTING THE POLITICAL PROCESS

**12.-13.12.2014 IN BERLIN**



*»If you are neutral in  
situations of injustice,  
you have chosen the  
side of the oppressor.«*

**DESMOND TUTU**



## Preliminary Program I Friday, 12.12.14

Conference language: English

### 15:00 – 16:00 I Arrival and Registration

### 16:00 – 16.30 I Conference Opening

**Moderation: Gunther Hilliges**, Senatsrat rtd.

**Prof. Dr. Manfred Hinz**, Spokesperson of the Advisory Board of „Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.“

**Christian Weber**, President of the parliament of Bremen (federal state) and patron of the board of trustees of „Freiheit für die Westsahara e.V.“

### 16:30 – 17:00 I Greetings and Statements

**Mohamed Sidati**, POLISARIO Representative to the EU Parliament

**Representative of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (invited)

### 17:00 – 18:00

**Representative of the African Union Commission** (invited)

*"What influence can the EU and Europe play to implement decolonization in Western Sahara from the perspective of the AU?"*

- Opening discussion -

### 18:30 – 19:30

**Santiago A. Canton**, Executive Director of the RFK Partners for Human Rights program at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

*"What influence can the EU and Europe play to implement decolonization in Western Sahara from an us-american perspective?"*

- Opening discussion -

### 19:30 – 20:30

**Aminatou Haidar**, President of the Saharawi Human Rights Association "Codesa", laureate (i.a.) of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and of the Bremen Solidarity Prize 2013

*"Importance of international civil society engagement in the occupied Western Sahara".*

- Opening discussion -

### 20:30

Joint dinner and tour of Berlin city center afterwards (optional)

## Saturday, 13.12.2014

### 9:00 – 10:00

**Moderation: Prof. em. Dr. Werner Ruf**, University of Kassel

**Norbert Neuser**, previous spokesperson of Western Sahara within the European Parliament

*"Current developments and actors in the EU policy on the Western Sahara issue from the perspective of Western Sahara Intergroup within the European Parliament"*

- Opening discussion -

### 10:00 – 10:30

**Kerstin Tack**, Member of the German Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag, SPD)

*"The Case of Western Sahara in the German Parliament"*

### 10:30 – 11:00

**Representative of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Western Sahara, House of Commons (UK)** (invited)

*"Impacts of the delegation to the Occupied Territory of Western Sahara in February 2014"*

### 11:00 – 13:30 I Workshops

Group 1: *How to bring back the referendum to the International Community Agenda?*

(Moderation: Prof. Dr. Manfred Hinz, University of Bremen and Windhoek)

Group 2: *How to stop the illegal exploitations of Western Sahara's natural resources?*

(Moderation: Axel Goldau & Joanna Allan, Western Sahara Ressource Watch)

Group 3: *How to install an international mechanism of human rights monitoring in occupied Western Sahara* (Moderation: n.n.)

Group 4: *What kind of network structures do we need and how they can be developed?*

(Moderation: Barbara Simons, former MEP)

Group 5: *'stability' - a paradigm for a constructive foreign policy?*

(Moderation: Prof. em. Dr. Werner Ruf, University of Kassel)

### 13:00 – 15:15 I Lunch

### 15:15 – 18:00 I Closing Plenary Session

**Moderation: Gunther Hilliges**, Senatsrat rtd.

Presentation of workshop results.

Plan of action: adoption.

Update: 11.11.2014