

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 16, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

We are writing to urge you to make the resolution of the Western Sahara stalemate a U.S. foreign policy priority for North Africa.

We are very concerned about the mounting evidence of growing instability in North Africa. Terrorist activities are increasing and countries in the region are under substantial pressure from a growing and restless youth population and a precarious economic base. United States leadership in close cooperation with our allies in Europe and the region can help stabilize the situation and reverse these worrisome trends. We should begin with a more sustained American attention to one of the region's most pressing political issues, the Western Sahara.

Indeed, a report released on March 31, 2009, by a panel that included former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former NATO Supreme Allied Commander General Wesley Clark, and former Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, argued that “the U.S. must work diligently with its friends to resolve the stalemate over the Western Sahara.”

We agree with you that the proposal introduced by Morocco in 2007 – based on broad autonomy for the Western Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty – is serious and credible. As you acknowledged in your remarks in Morocco last November, it has been the policy of the United States to support a resolution of this conflict based on this formula since the Administration of President Clinton. We support this bipartisan U.S. policy and the efforts of the United Nations to bring all parties together to resolve this matter peacefully at the negotiating table.

The challenges in North Africa for the United States and its allies are clear, and our leadership can make a significant difference for the better in promoting greater coordination to diminish and eliminate terrorist threats, in encouraging regional integration that will facilitate economic growth and prosperity, and in resolving the Western Sahara to remove the major obstacle to stability in the region.

We look forward to working with you towards the success of this policy.

Sincerely,

List of Signers for the March 16, 2010 Senate Letter

- 1) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
- 2) Sen. Kit Bond (R-MO)
- 3) Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
- 4) Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ)
- 5) Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN)
- 6) Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- 7) Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)
- 8) Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH)
- 9) Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA)
- 10) Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)
- 11) Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
- 12) Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)
- 13) Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)
- 14) Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ)
- 15) Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
- 16) Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
- 17) Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS)
- 18) Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)
- 19) Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA)
- 20) Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)
- 21) Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
- 22) Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
- 23) Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
- 24) Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT)
- 25) Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE)
- 26) Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
- 27) Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)
- 28) Sen. Bob Bennett (R-UT)
- 29) Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)
- 30) Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO)
- 31) Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH)
- 32) Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI)
- 33) Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- 34) Sen. George LeMieux (R-FL)
- 35) Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL)
- 36) Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
- 37) Sen. Jim Bunning (R-KY)
- 38) Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL)
- 39) Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
- 40) Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
- 41) Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)
- 42) Sen. John Thune (R-SD)
- 43) Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
- 44) Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE)
- 45) Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY)
- 46) Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
- 47) Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
- 48) Sen. John D. Rockefeller, IV (D-WV)
- 49) Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
- 50) Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)
- 51) Sen. Joseph Lieberman (ID-CT)
- 52) Sen. Edward Kaufman (D-DE)
- 53) Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE)
- 54) Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)