

Stealth Maritime Corp SA
Att: Nicolas H. Vafias, President

Athens/Oslo, 25 April 2020

REGARDING STEALTH CORP'S TRANSPORT OF GAS TO OCCUPIED WESTERN SAHARA

Western Sahara Resource Watch Greece and the Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara are privileged to present you with our compliments. We are writing to enquire about your company's shipment of gas from Kårstø, Norway, to the occupied Western Sahara.

The vessel *Gas Cerberus* (IMO 9507740), which you operate, arrived the city of El Aaiún in occupied Western Sahara with butane gas from Kårstø on 20 April.

We are highly concerned about the incident.

As you perhaps know, Morocco illegally annexed the territory by military force in 1975 in violation of the basic right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. This military invasion was condemned by the United Nations General Assembly and to this day, Western Sahara remains listed by the UN as a Non-Self Governing Territory, pending a decolonization process. On international rankings, such as by Freedom House, Western Sahara scores lowest in the world on political freedoms. Leading human rights defenders from Western Sahara, including the general-secretary of the association that would normally take part in monitoring foreign involvement on their land, are currently serving life-time sentences in Moroccan jails.

In line with the International Court of Justice, the Court of Justice of the European Union has outlined, in four separate rulings, that the Government of Morocco does not have any legal basis, sovereignty or international mandate to administer the territory. The recent court rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union have also made it clear that in the event of an entity undertaking business in Western Sahara, consent must be obtained from the people of Western Sahara. It stated that the two territories of Morocco and Western Sahara 'separate and distinct'.

Through contributing with gas supplies to Moroccan interests in Western Sahara, Stealth Corp has contributed to entrenching the Moroccan approach to the conflict through critical Moroccan industries on the ground.

The exporter, Equinor, on 24 April 2020, in a letter to the Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara expressed regret that the incident took place, and guaranteed it would not happen again. https://vest-sahara.s3.amazonaws.com/skvs/feature-images/File/104/5ea2dfce782a_Equinor-SKVS_24.04.2020.pdf

It is important to us to know that the same will not be repeated by Stealth Corp in the future.

We would appreciate an immediate response to the following two questions:

- 1. As a corollary of the internationally recognized right to self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, and given the legal requirement of obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of the people of Western Sahara with regard to activities or projects in their land – as put forth by several UN Treaty bodies and the EU Court of Justice – what steps, if any, has Stealth Corp taken to obtain the consent of the people of Western Sahara to transport gas into the territory?*
- 2. Will Stealth Corp make steps to guarantee that no such transports are carried out into the occupied territory until a solution to the conflict has been found or until consent has been achieved from representatives of the people of the territory?*

We are convinced that it is not in the interest of Stealth to become associated with the continued colonization and occupation of Western Sahara, and urge you to immediately clarify that you have no intention of continuing such transports.

A copy of this mail is sent to:

- Mr. Tor Martin Anfinnsen, SVP Marketing & Trading, Equinor
- Mr. Manan Goel, Joint Managing Director, GP Global Group

Sincerely,

Sotiris Maragos-Aouomouti
Western Sahara Resource Watch Greece
sotiris@wsrw.org

Erik Hagen
Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara
erik@vest-sahara.no