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**Moroccan Settler Attacks Sultana Khaya
and Issues Death Threats to American Tourists in Western Sahara**

WASHINGTON, D.C./Boujdour, Western Sahara – On, April 8, 2022, and Ramadan 6, 1443, at approximately six o'clock in the evening, a Moroccan settler attacked Sultana Khaya in Boujdour, Western Sahara. He shouted insults and curses. He spit on Sultana when she came to the door and struck her in the face. He threatened to kill and liquefy everyone in the house, especially Sultana Khaya and her American tourist guests. Moroccan agents who have had the house under a siege for more than 500 days, did nothing but merely observe this aggression.



Ruth McDonough, one of the American guests, said, “one day of this treatment would be unacceptable, but the Khaya family have endured it for more than 500 days. It is long overdue for Moroccan forces to end the siege and violent home invasions of the Khaya sisters. We call for the international community to launch an independent investigation of abuses to the Khaya family as soon as possible.”

Moroccan agents first put the Khaya house under arbitrary detention in November 2020. They subjected the family to human rights abuses that included home invasions, destroying and removing all furnishings, pouring noxious chemicals on the walls, beatings, sexual violence, and injections of unknown substances. The Khaya sisters have been raped by Moroccan security forces in front of their 84-year-old mother who was bound and forced to watch. Furthermore, their water has been poisoned, furniture and property destroyed, and electricity and water cut-off. On March 16, 2022, international unarmed civilian protectors were able to enter the Khaya home, bringing a reprieve of the siege and the rapes.

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