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الجبهة الشعبية لتحرير الساقية الحمراء  
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## Briefing on the Situation in Guerguerat, Southwestern Western Sahara

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- The ongoing UN-supervised ceasefire in Western Sahara remains an integral part of **the UN-OAU Settlement Plan** that was accepted by both parties, the Frente POLISARIO and Morocco, on 30 August 1988, which provided for “**a cease-fire and the holding of a referendum** without military or administrative constraints to enable the people of Western Sahara, in the exercise of their right to self-determination, to choose between independence and integration with Morocco” (S/21360; para 1).
- To this end, in its resolution 690 (1991), the UN Security Council established, under its authority, the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) on 29 April 1991 to supervise the ceasefire and conduct the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara.
- As a supplementary agreement to the ceasefire, a **Military Agreement no. 1** was signed between MINURSO and the Frente POLISARIO in December 1997, and between MINURSO and Morocco in January 1998. The Agreement establishes **two Restricted Areas (RA)** of 25 km South and East and 30 km North and West of the 2700 km Moroccan military wall, respectively. Firing of weapons, redeployment or movement of troops, entry of arms and ammunition and improvement to defence infrastructure are not permitted in the RA.
- Military Agreement no. 1 also establishes a **5 km wide Buffer Strip (BS)** to the South and East of the Moroccan military wall, where the entry of the troops or equipment of both parties, by ground or air, and the firing of weapons in or over this area, is prohibited at all times and is a violation. The agreement further defines all violations which are not only violations to the Agreement itself but are also contrary to the spirit of the peace plan.
- The existing **illegal breach that the Moroccan army opened in its military wall across the Buffer Strip in Guerguerat in southwestern Western Sahara** did not exist at the time of the entry into force of the ceasefire on 6 September 1991. It did not exist when Military Agreement no. 1 was signed between MINURSO and the Frente POLISARIO in 1997, and between MINURSO and Morocco in 1998. **None of the two agreements provided for opening breaches for “civilian”, “commercial” or other activities along the Moroccan military wall.**
- This is why when the Moroccan military authorities sought to construct an asphalted road across the Buffer Strip in Guerguerat towards the borders between Western Sahara and Mauritania in March 2001, **the United Nations was firm in its opposition to this enterprise**, and warned Morocco that its proposed road “involved activities that could be in violation of the ceasefire agreement” (S/2001/398; para. 5). The United Nations then did not raise any issue concerning any “commercial and civilian traffic” in the area, a phrase that began to appear in the Secretary-General’s reports only since April 2017.

