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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the Chairman of the Algeria Caucus, I write to express my concern regarding a provision in the 2017 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill which would undermine our country's relationship with the Republic of Algeria and violate longstanding U.S. government policy.

Specifically, Sec. 7041(g), regarding U.S. funding for Morocco, would require the Secretary of State to seek the cooperation of the Government of Algeria for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to conduct a census of the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria. This provision is an inappropriate attempt to assess the demography of a vulnerable refugee population that is being sheltered within Algeria's sovereign borders through an appropriations measure regarding Morocco.

The retention of this provision in the final spending bill would damage Washington's relationship with Algiers which has been an important security partner in the region and give the wrong impression that the United States no longer supports the U.N.-led mediation effort regarding the future of the Western Sahara. Accordingly, I respectfully ask that this provision be removed from the legislation during full committee consideration on July 12th.

Sincerely,


Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

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