



THE AMBASSADOR

السفير

June 24, 2016

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations

Dear Congresswoman:

I write to express my deep disappointment and concern with the draft fiscal year 2017 spending bill for State Department and Foreign Operations programs that was issued on Wednesday by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.

Consistent with the last few fiscal years, the Subcommittee has unfortunately included a provision in the draft 2017 spending bill that would allow U.S. foreign assistance to Morocco to be used in the illegally occupied territory of the Western Sahara.¹ The application of U.S. assistance in this manner would undermine decades of U.S. policy, including its commitment at the United Nations to both the Saharawi people's right to self-determination and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara ("MINURSO") process, which was established to guarantee that right through a free and fair referendum.

In addition, and more importantly, the Subcommittee has inserted a new section in the draft 2017 spending bill that would require the Secretary of State to "take all practicable steps to secure the cooperation of the Government of Algeria for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to conduct a census of the refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria."² This new section seeks to impose requirements that are completely outside the purview of the normative appropriations process and, accordingly, are not germane to federal spending law.

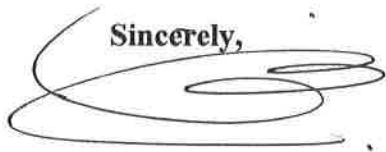
¹ *State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, 2017*, pages 163-164. U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. June 22, 2016.

²Ibid.

The Embassy of Algeria does not understand nor does it accept this undue reference to Algeria in the context of an issue to which it is not a party. I respectfully draw your attention to the seriousness and the consequences of such an unwarranted and objectionable provision.

I again respectfully request that the House Appropriations Committee remove, from this draft, the provision concerning Algeria inasmuch as it is not at all party to an assistance issue involving the US and Morocco only.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned to the left of the typed name.

Madjid Bouguerra
Ambassador of Algeria to the United States

Cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Appropriations