



PRAYING THROUGH THE WINDOW 7

Political & Spiritual Leaders

WESTERN SAHARA

Leader: President Mohamed Abdelaziz (government in exile)

When Spain withdrew from Western Sahara in 1975, Morocco jumped on the chance to annex the territory, and did so fully by 1979. The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, the authority set up by the Polisario Front, has been engaged in devastating guerrilla warfare, fighting for independence for Western Sahara until 1991 when the UN brokered a ceasefire. Unfortunately, Morocco refuses to accept any loss of sovereignty, so Western Sahara still waits for the UN to help ensure its plan for the self-determination for the Sahrawi people. Just last month, South African President Thabo Mbeki urged Africans to support self-determination for Western Sahara.

As the disputed territory of Western Sahara still falls under Moroccan rule, it must abide by Moroccan laws like the new one called "Mudawana," which is a new family code in Morocco giving women rights for divorce in order to protect the Islamic Moroccan woman. However, the Sahrawi women, although Muslims, have a much more elevated position and say in their own society, and feel this new law is an insult and affront to them as it forces them to publicly address what is already done within their private family circles.

Prayer points:

🌐 Pray for an end of the fighting and that a UN resolution for the independence of Western Sahara would soon be reached.

🌐 Praise God that the Sahrawi woman is respected.

Thank You, LORD for directing the South African President to recognize Western Sahara as a country. Use this stand to cause many countries to endorse Western Sahara. Work in the heart of the king of Morocco to let go of this territory so both his country and the land of Western Sahara can have peace. We praise You for the work you've already done in the land, opening people's hearts to the value of women. We rejoice that the Sahrawi women are respected and enjoyed. We thank You for their work in the refugee camps but they still have the greatest of all needs. They need to embrace You as their God. Open their eyes and their hearts to the Gospel, we ask in the name of Jesus.