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***"I will forever warmly remember  
my historical visit to Saharawi Republic"***

**July 1988**

**Oliver Tambo**

## **DECLARATION OF OLIVER TAMBO**

### **President of the ANC**

The warmth of the popular welcome from the Saharawi people, is different from all the other welcomes we received anywhere else in the world. We were received very warmly by President Mohamed Abdel-Aziz, by the political direction, by the people and by the children.

We have witnessed many things with fundamental importance to our movement and for the struggle which we lead for the liberation of our country and our people. We have been greatly informed about the Saharawi People and their struggle for independence and the liberation of their land.

We were also very surprised by the similarity of the nature of the struggle of the Saharawi People, and the struggle of the South African. The visit to Saharawi Republic had a concrete confirmation of realities of which we were vaguely aware, one important thing we observed, was the respect and support of the Saharawi peoples towards the struggle of the South African and Namibian people for national independence.

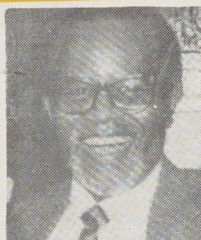
What was also confirmed, is the resistance of the Saharawi people and the continuity of their struggle will bring the Saharawi Republic to achieve its independence soon.

We from the ANC are extremely grateful to the Saharawi Government and the Polisario Front for the arsenal of military equipment, arms and ammunition which was put at our disposal and handed over to the ANC and SWAPO. Remembering that these arms was supplied to Morocco by the apartheid regime to commit genocide and ethnic cleansing against the Saharawi people.

We, the ANC, will continue to support your struggle by all means necessary, in order for both our just causes to triumph.

22 July 1988





**Pres. O. Tambo**



**JOINT STATEMENT OF MR OLIVER TAMBO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE ANC AND MOHAMED  
ABDEL-AZIZ, PRESIDENT OF SAHARAWI  
REPUBLIC AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
POLISARIO FRONT.**

On the 21 July 1988, Mr Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, lead an important delegation on a friendly visit to Saharawi Republic on invitation from the Polisario Front.

During the stay of the delegation among the Saharawi people and Saharawi Freedom Fighters, the ANC delegation visited the liberated territories and the social and economical institutions in Saharawi Republic. After a visit to all the relevant institutions, Pres. Oliver Tambo and his delegation held very important discussions with a Saharawi delegation lead by Mohamed Abdel-Aziz, President of Saharawi Republic and Secretary-General of the Polisario Front.

During the discussions, the two parties reviewed their experiences. Thereafter both delegations congratulated the South African and Saharawi People for their successful achievements in their struggles for national liberation under their respective leaderships, the ANC and the Polisario Front.

On this occasion both parties, the ANC and the Polisario Front, paid a warm tribute to the Freedom Fighters of South Africa and Saharawi Republic for their valiant and determined fight against the racist regime of South Africa and the expansionist Moroccans. These Freedom Fighters have proven by their invincible determination that victory is certain.

Both parties also paid a vibrant tribute to Nelson Mandela - a symbol of resistance against apartheid, who is languishing for twenty-six years in the prisons of the illegal regime of Pretoria. They congratulated him on his 70th birthday, wished him courage and a long life. They demanded for his immediate and unconditional release as well as the release of his fellow companions suffering in detention.

Both parties honoured the memory of the martyrs from the two countries. A warm tribute was also paid to the people of their respective countries who were suffering in the prisons and enduring the agony of the oppressive system of apartheid and colonial occupation.

Both parties paid tribute to the civilians in South Africa and to the civilians in the occupied territories in Saharawi Republic, for their heroic resistance against intimidation and all kinds of oppression coming from





**Pres M. Abdel-Aziz**



the racist regime and the authority of the colonial occupation. Humanity must not forget the massacres suffered by people in Soweto, South Africa, and the massacre suffered by the Saharawi people in Zemla, Western Sahara.

Both delegations stigmatized and condemned the policy of apartheid and its authors for the abominable oppression against the people of South Africa and Namibia and it was strongly condemned. It was resolved at this meeting to intensify their efforts to mobilize the international community to dismantle apartheid and to condemn it as a crime against humanity.

The ANC and the Polisario Front denounced and condemned the apartheid regime for their aggression and cross-border attacks against the front-line states, as well as the illegal occupation of the South of Angola. Both delegations strongly condemned the collusion between the apartheid regime in Pretoria and the expansionist regime in Rabat. This collusion is reflected by the multifaceted co-operation, militarily, politically and intelligence. The ANC delegation visited an exhibition of arms captured from the Moroccan Army by the Polisario Front. Many of these arms were manufactured and supplied to Morocco by South Africa. Both delegations strongly called upon the international community to force Morocco to respect and implement the decisions of the O.A.U., U.N., of NAM on Western Sahara. In the same way they call upon South Africa to respect the resolution of the U.N. on Namibia; Resolution 435 of the Security Council.

The Polisario and the ANC calls upon countries and freedom loving forces to implement sanctions, mainly economic, against South Africa, in order to force South Africa to consider the legitimate demands of the people of South Africa and Namibia and their representatives, the ANC and SWAPO.

Both parties reaffirmed their solidarity for the front line states, as well as for all other people in struggles... People of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, Palestine under the leadership of the PLO, in Salvador under the leadership of Front Farabundo-Marti and in Nicaragua under the leadership of Sandinista Front and the Government of Managua.

Both parties resolved to intensify a permanent relation, co-operation and solidarity between the people of South Africa and Saharawi and their vanguards, the ANC and the Polisario for the triumph of their cause of freedom

**OLIVER TAMBO**  
*President of the ANC*

**MOHAMED ABDEL-AZIZ**  
*President of Saharawi Republic*  
*Secretary General of*  
*The Polisario Front*