

# *Morocco begins new round of talks over status of Western Sahara*

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United Nations, March 23 (RHC)-- The United Nations has convened a new round of talks between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Western Saharan liberation movement known as the Polisario Front, aimed at resolving the 43-year-old conflict.

Morocco has occupied Western Sahara since 1975, and no other country on Earth recognizes its sovereignty over the territory. Thousands of Western Sahara's indigenous people -- the Sahrawi -- have since been tortured, imprisoned, killed and disappeared while resisting the Moroccan occupation.

Earlier this week, Moroccan authorities assaulted a peaceful assembly of women in the streets of the Western Saharan capital Laayoune as they demonstrated in favor of a referendum on the status of the territory.

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