

I would like to express my deep concern about the torture or other ill treatment occurred on 17 September in Laayoune Local Prison, Western Sahara. Seven Sahrawi men, Mohamed Baber, Abdessalam Loumadi, Abdelmoutaleb Sarir, Mahmoud El Haissan, Aaliayne El Moussaoui, Abdelkrim Bouchalga and Abdelfattah Dallal, were handcuffed, severely beaten in the prison courtyard in front of other detainees, and verbally abused. They have sustained significant bruising and injuries to their wrists from handcuffs, while other detainee's left arm is fractured, and another detainee is limping due to a leg injury. They have gone on hunger strike in protest.

I therefore urge you to ensure that Mohamed Baber, Abdessalam Loumadi, Abdelmoutaleb Sarir, Mahmoud El Haissan, Aaliayne El Moussaoui, Abdelkrim Bouchalga and Abdelfattah Dallal are treated humanely and protected from further torture and other ill-treatment and have access to their families and lawyers.

You would be asked to ensure that all seven detainees have immediate access to any medical care they may require and that no punitive measures are taken against them for going on hunger strike.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention.

Sincerely yours,