The fight for freedom in the last African colony is in a critical situation. West Sahara is an area in the African north that’s claimed as a self-administered area. A third of West Sahara is controlled by Morocco, the grab for power is rated illegitimate by the UN. Morocco is backed by the economic relations with Europe, the independent state in the West Sahara is now only recognized by 46 nations.

The area in the West Sahara was under the colonial reign of Spain until 1975 until Spain handed the area over to Morocco and Mauretania. When their troops arrived, the residents had to flee to Algeria. Until today 172,000 Saharawis live in refugee camps.

The fight for independence in West Sahara

The already 1973 founded freedom movement Frente Polisario fought for the self-administering rights of the Saharawi population and proclaimed the Democratic Arabic Republic of Sahara (DARS). The attempts of Frente Polisario to get hold of the area with military support were only partly successful. Mauretania was completely forced out of West Sahara, in total they were able to bring two thirds of the area under their control.

After they reached a truce they tried to get an agreement on the democratic way. The UN recognized Frente Polisario as the rightful representative of the Saharawi and under there guidance they agreed on an independence referendum but as the negotiations went on it became clear that Morocco only wanted to have the referendum take place under their conditions. That was unacceptable for Frente Polisario. The by the UN declared and by Frente Polisario accepted voterlists have to be the foundation for the independence referendum.
The political economy behind the crimes

Behind the human rights violations and the up to today illegitimate occupation of West Sahara by Morocco are economic interests. The biggest phosphorus reserves of the world and the biggest fishing harbor under the control of Morocco are located in Western Sahara. European fishermen are huge profiteers of the occupation. The french economy is also closely tied to businesses in the african north through their colonial past. That’s why mainly spanish and french delegates to the european parliament are in favour of fishing- and tradetreaties with Morocco.

The european court of justice has rated the fishing treaty between the EU and Morocco as a violation of international law. Just one year later in february 2019 the european parliament decided to vote for the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with Morocoo. It explicitly mentions that the sea areas of Westsahara have to be acceisable to european fishery. The European Union that always holds the values of democracy and the rule of law up high, drops these values as soon as big companies see the chance of profits. Our fight for Justice knows no borders! We have to support Frente Polisarios fight for independence. Only the solidarity of the european workers movement is able to break the international rule of capitalism.

That’s why the IUSY Congress will fight for:

- The recognition for the Democratic Arabic Rebublic Sahara (DARS) as a sovereign state and a stop of the illegitimate occupation of Westsahara by Morocco that should be reached by economic pressure.
- A stop to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) and a stop to the activities of all in the european registered companies in Westsahara.
ALL OVER THE WORLD TO CHANGE IT!

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH