

Scania AB
SE-151 87 Södertälje
Sweden

Att: CEO Mr. Christian Levin

Berlin/Stockholm, 14.06.2023

REGARDING SCANIA AB OPERATIONS IN OCCUPIED WESTERN SAHARA

Dear Mr. Levin

Western Sahara Resource Watch (WSRW) and Artikel2 (formerly Emmaus Stockholm) are privileged to write to you. Our two associations write in relation to Scania AB's operations in occupied Western Sahara, hoping for your clarifications on the matter, as WSRW is planning to write a story on its website www.wsrw.org.

The United Nations consider Western Sahara to be a Non-Self-Governing Territory without an administering power in place. As stipulated by the International Court of Justice and repeated in six consecutive rulings by the European Court of Justice, Morocco has no sovereignty over or international mandate to administer the territory. Nevertheless, Morocco continues to militarily control three-quarters of the territory.

Incentivized by its exploitation of the territory's resources, Morocco has little interest to genuinely take part in the UN-mediated peace process. Meanwhile, the lingering conflict continues to have a high human and humanitarian cost: over 170,000 Saharawis live in refugee camps in neighbouring Algeria, surviving in harsh desert conditions and dwindling humanitarian aid. Saharawis who live under the yoke of Morocco's occupation are victims of serious human rights violations that have been reported by the UN Human Rights Committee, in addition to credible international organisations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and others.

Morocco is upholding the occupation through the illegal exports of natural resources plundered in the territory, and by illegally moving settlers into the Western Sahara. The latter is facilitated by construction of various infrastructure.

We observe on Scania's website that it has enlisted a sort of office in El Aaiún in Western Sahara.
<https://www.scania.com/ma/fr/home/admin/misc/dealer/dealer-details.html?dealer=af6994do-45ae-4caa-8921-26cf616e2eed>

Scania has also repeatedly published on social media a service telephone number in Dakhla, occupied Western Sahara. See for instance Facebook, 24 May 2023
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=723515826240321&set=a.549761986949040>

Or LinkedIn, 24 May 2023 https://www.linkedin.com/posts/scaniamaroc_obtenevez-jusqu%C3%A0-40-de-r%C3%A9duction-sur-une-activité-7067050645270192128-XSyE/

Based on this, WSRW and Artikel2 have the following questions to your company:

1. What is the nature of Scania's operations or services today in the part of Western Sahara that is under occupation?
2. Does Scania have staff present in the territory?
3. Are there any limitations as to what sort of activities its clients can use the trucks for in occupied Western Sahara?
4. Is Scania aware of the usage of the trucks to transport natural resources from Western Sahara across the international borders into Morocco or Mauritania?
5. Is Scania aware of the usage of the trucks for the purpose of aiding Moroccan government's infrastructure projects that are built in violation of IHL?
6. Has Scania obtained permit from the legal representative of the Saharawi people to operate in the territory?
7. On Scania's website, there is a map of Western Sahara that is not in line with the one of the United Nations, suggesting that Western Sahara is an integral part of Morocco. Will Scania rectify this map, introducing an international border between the two territories, in line with the position of the UN? <https://www.scania.com/ma/fr/home/admin/misc/dealer/dealer-details.html?dealer=af6994d0-45ae-4caa-8921-26cf616e2eed>

Western Sahara Resource Watch is convinced that it is not in the interest of Scania or Volkswagen to become associated with the continued colonization and occupation of Western Sahara. Aiding in the construction of infrastructure in Western Sahara on behalf of the Government of Morocco risks to help legitimize the Moroccan military occupation of the territory, and will thus hinder the UN-mediated peace process.

We appreciate a response before 25 June 2023, as an article on the matter is under preparation. Looking forward to hearing from you,

A copy of this email is sent to Volkswagen.

Kind regards

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