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Ms Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President  
of the European Commission

Brussels, 28 March 2018

Dear Federica,

I would like to draw your attention to two comprehensive reports (please find them enclosed) prepared by Ms Isabel Lourenço, on behalf of *Fundación Sahara Occidental*, on the human rights situation of the group of Saharawi political prisoners in Morocco, known as Gdeim Izik prisoners.

Ms Isabel Lourenço has been a dedicated member of team of international observers who have followed the trials in Morocco of these Saharawi prisoners. They have been exposed to torture, ill treatment and harassment and their human rights have been continuously violated. The members of the group have not been granted to the status of political prisoners either.

Morocco is, therefore, not respecting its international commitments, such as the 4th Geneva Convention and the Optional Protocol against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment. These concerns - together with others on human rights, namely the failure of courts trying politically charged cases to scrutinize the veracity of contested "confessions" to the police - have been also identified at Morocco's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) whose outcomes were presented in September 2017 during the 36th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). The next UPR will be in a period of four to five years and the European Union will have the leverage during that period to raise a number of human rights issues and to monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the outcomes of the previous reports on human rights.

I ask you to demand from the Moroccan authorities the liberation of these prisoners and that the Moroccan authorities behave according to their obligations. I reiterate my concern that the EU-Morocco relations, as they are being currently developed, are neglecting the compliance of human rights. While economic and trade links are important for both the EU and Morocco, the overall EU-Morocco relations cannot continue to neglect the respect of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Best regards,  
Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes  
Member of the European Parliament

# Gdeim Izik

Current status of the prisoners known as Gdeim Izik  
Group

9th March 2018

by Isabel Lourenço, human rights activist member of  
Fundación Sahara Occidental and collaborator of  
[porunsaharalibre.org](http://porunsaharalibre.org)

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The group of 19 Saharawi Political Prisoners known as Gdeim Izik was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison on July 19th 2017. On September 16th the group was broken up in several small groups and two of the activists were left alone, in 7 different prisons in the Moroccan Kingdom (Ait Melloul; Bouzakarn; Tiflet 1; Tiflet 2; Ain Sbaa 1 - Okasha Casablanca; El Arjat and Kenitra).

The prisoners are exposed to the ill treatment and harassment of the prison authorities and **torture**. Their status of Political Prisoners is not granted.

They were missing for over 24 hours before their families were informed about their whereabouts in short phone calls (1 - 3 minutes) from the prisoners from the prison phones.

The prisoners were maintained in solitary confinement for 22 hours per day or longer for over 3 months, now some of them are over 20 hours in confinement and other still 22h.

According to the former special rapporteur of the UN on Torture, Mr. Juan Mendez “any imposition of solitary confinement beyond 15 days constitutes torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, depending on the circumstances.

UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisons (2015 Rev) ('Mandela Rules')

Rule 44

For the purpose of these rules, solitary confinement shall refer to the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact. Prolonged solitary confinement shall refer to solitary confinement for a time period in excess of 15 consecutive days.

Mr. Abdallahi Abbahah and Mr. Ahmed Sbaai were put in isolation on the 4th of December until the 13th of December, in two

## 4th Geneva Convention

*Article 76. Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein. They shall, if possible, be separated from other detainees and shall enjoy conditions of food and hygiene which will be sufficient to keep them in good health, and which will be at least equal to those obtaining in prisons in the occupied country.*

*They shall receive the medical attention required by their state of health....*

*Protected persons who are detained shall have the right to be visited by delegates of the Protecting Power and of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in accordance with the provisions of Article 143.*

minuscule bathrooms, without blankets, in midst of urine, faeces and garbage, with the lights on 24h/24h for 10 days, in confinement the whole time and being insulted, harassed, and menaced and undergoing psychological torture. They engaged on a open hunger strike on 4th of December until the 14th, their health situation is very critical and Ahmed Sbaai has pre-existing cardiovascular disease.

On the 25th of December 2017 Mr. Mbarek Lefkir Mbarek Lefkir was humiliated and tortured. He was brutally beaten, with heavy blows to the head until he lost his consciousness. The guards ripped all his clothes off and told him that he was POLISARIO and therefore they would never let him pass an exam or allow him to study. This happened inside the prison whilst he was in a room where he should have taken university exams. He was then moved back to his cell naked in front everyone.

12th February Mr. Naama Asfari was punished with 30 days isolation, he was put in the "coffin", after he presented a written complaint (in the proper form) to the Prison Administration. On February 27 he started a hunger strike since then no information was given to the family.

Mr. Abdel Jalil Laaroussi suffers from rectorragia and faeces incontinence, asthma, severe heart disease and extremely high blood pressure. He has without human contact during all day (except the insults and ill treatments of the guards) since 16th September. His cell, as well as the cells in Kenitra has green mold on the walls and drip's water, which aggravated his fragile health and he developed asthma an condition he did not have previous to this transfer. He is also prevented from study since his books were not returned after the transfer and he has scheduled university exams on the 26th of February.

Mr. Mohamed Tahlil has been transferred several times to the hospital due to his peril health condition. His visitation rights are not respected so he entered a hunger strike that ended on the 7th of March after the prison director of Bouzakarn assured him that from now the rules regarding visits would be respected.

**The prisoners of Kenitra prison were informed on March 8th by the prison director that those who would enter a hunger strike on the 9th of March would be put in solitary confinement to retaliate/punish they detainees for their protest. Even if in some cases prisons allege that hunger-striking detainees should be put in isolation when "medically advisable." In this case the detainees were placed in solitary confinement immediately after having declared hunger strike, although they hadn't yet had an opportunity to miss a single meal. On the 9th of March at 8h00 (8am) they were put in isolation, being allowed to bring with them only 5 liters of drinkable water they were prevented to take any sugar with them.**

Also on the 9th of March the prisoners of Ait Melloul, Mr. Sidahmed Lemjeyid, Mr. Mohamed Bani, Mr. Mbarek Lefkir and Mr. Brahim Ismaili started a hunger strike.

The demands of both groups are that the most basic of their rights are respected (visitation rights, adequate nourishment, yard time, etc) and they reaffirm their status as political prisoners declaring that they are detained outside their homeland and unjustly convicted. The group of Kenitra denounces that although they have sent numerous complaints to the Moroccan authorities and Human Rights Council their situation did not improve and no answer was given to them.

Mr. Naama Asfari entered a hunger strike on the 27th of February since he was put in solitary confinement as punishment for presenting a written complaint. Since then the family does not have any information of his situation.

The information herein was recollected from the family members, after their contact with the prisoners. The prisoners have a guard next to them listening to everything they say during the phone calls. Due to the distance of the prisons from Western Sahara and since visits are difficult, short and sometimes denied and the fact that prison phone calls are monitored the information flow is very difficult. The prisoners are aware that their complaints can lead to more reprisals but nevertheless they want to denounce their situation. The visits are heavily guarded.

During transfer some of them were ill-treated and all their belongings were taken away by the Moroccan authorities. Also all medication they need daily was taken.

Since their transfer almost all prisoners entered a hunger strike in protest against the conditions they were held, sleeping on the floor, without proper blankets, no minimal hygiene in the cells (rats, vermin no ventilation), some of them were given their medication back, but not all, some of the cells were cleaned and part of the belongings given back. After a over a month of Hunger strike three prisoners were transferred to other prisons as they demanded (Mr. Ismaili to Ait Melloul to be nearer to his family and Mr. Dah and Mr. Banga to Kenitra , where most of the group is detained now). Mr. Khadda and Mr. Haddi were promised to be also transferred to Kenitra, but the prison administration did so far not transfer them, which led to more protests and 2 warning hunger strikes in January 2017.

Morocco signed and adhered to the 4th Geneva Convention and has therefore to respect Article 76. In accordance with the same article the ICRC should visit the prisoners.

Morocco also ratified the OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) in 2014, three years have passed and the report of Morocco has still to be submitted and Morocco does not comply with the OPCAT and even refuses to admit in court any memorandum or pleadings that mention a decision of CAT (UN Committee against Torture).

The two French defence lawyer of the Gdeim Izik group (Maître Olfa Ouled and Maître Ingrid Metton) were detained on the 12th of February 2018 at the airport of Casablanca during 18 hours and prevented to enter Morocco and visit their clients as was their intention and which they previously informed the Moroccan authorities. On the 13th of February they were expelled to France. This is a clear violation of the right to defence and a violation of article 161 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/RoleOfLawyers.aspx>

**List of the prisoners of Gdeim Izik, current location and status:**

**Prison Tifelt 1**

**Khouna Babeit, detention number 4977 (sentence 25 years)**

He was temporarily transferred in January to Bouzakarn prison to attend his university exams.

**Abdallahi Toubali, detention number 4978 (sentence 25 years)**

Made a 48h-warning hunger strike on 4th October demanding to be treated in accordance with his status as political prisoner and against the current conditions

Medication: Ulcer and breathing difficulties

**Prison Tifelt 2**

**El Bachir Khadda, detention number 1897 (sentence 20 years)**

Went on hunger strike since 19th of September and anew on 6th of November demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) , he ended the hunger strike after **32 days** on the 8th of December, after negotiations with the prison administration that promised to relocate him to El Arjat or Kenitra where he could continue his studies. He is still in Tiflet 2, and therefore made two warning hunger strikes

**Mohamed Lamin Haddi, detention number 1896 (sentence 25 years)**

Made 3 hunger strikes demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) , Went on hunger strike since 18th of November demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) , he ended the hunger strike after **20 days** on the 8th of December, after negotiations with the prison administration that promised to relocate him to El Arjat or Kenitra where he could continue his studies. Until this moment he is still in Tiflet 2, and therefore made two warning hunger strikes. On the 19th of January Mohamed Ali Lamin brother of Haddi Mohamed Lamin was not allowed to visit his brother, the excuse was that the prison director was on holidays

Medication: Ulcer

**Prison Ait Melloul**

**Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir, detention number 6329 (sentence 25 years)**

**Three Hunger strikes in October and November demanding** to be transferred to a prison in his home land, Western Sahara.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

Medication: asthma

**Mohamed Bani, detention number 6330 (life sentence)**

Kidney problems and headaches, ulcers and allergic dermatological allergy throughout the body. During his transfer on September 16th 2017 he was beaten and cannot walk upright, his hands are injured from the handcuffs.

On hunger strike for several days in September, October and November 2017

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

Medication: Coversyl (Perindopril arginina); Hemofast (hemorrhoid cream); Profenid (Cetoprofeno) Spasfon (Lyophilisat); Nazair; Maxidrol (Dexamethasone, Neomycine sulfate, Polymyxine B sulfate)

**Sidahmed Lemjeyid, detention number 6328 (life sentence)**

Suffers from kidney disease and pain at the level of the spine, sensitivity of the eyes and the inability to move normally because of the pain located in his right foot. His hand and feet are extremely swollen. He has been victim of ill treatment and racism. On May 22nd, 2013 he took a x-ray of the spine but was not informed about the diagnosis. He suffers from intense pain in his back and spine caused by the injuries suffered during torture as well in his feet and one hand.

On hunger strike for 27 days from 19th of September to October 12 and since then made two warning hunger strikes.

His medicines were taken away and until now all were returned to him, he has two blankets one on the floor and one to cover himself. Each Monday is allowed to call his family for 5min and on Fridays he has a 15min visit from the family that has to wait three hours to see him. During the visit he is handcuffed and surrounded by guards. He is not married nor has any children his nephews are the ones that could visit him more frequently, but the prison administration doesn't allow the visits

Medication: kidneys and rheumatism

Although his younger sister died in January he was not allowed to attend the funeral. Since his arrest he lost two siblings and his mother without being allowed to attend the funerals like all prisoners of this group.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

This group of prisoners has been allowed one phone call per week, one visit per week, the food that they have been given has not the necessary nutrients, the cells are not according to the international minimum standards and have no hygienic conditions, no health care and they exit the cell only one time per day.

**Brahim Ismaili, detention number 8801 (life sentence)**

Mr. Brahim Ismaili entered two protest hunger strike starting the second on November 1st . On the 2nd of November the family informed that he was sent to a psychiatric ward inside the prison as reprisal for his protest. This method of intimidation and pressure is well known and used frequently against Saharawi Political prisoners. He demands to be treated according to the status of political prisoner, adequate health care and transfer to a prison in his homeland (Western Sahara). On December 8th he ended the hunger strike after **32 days**, after being brought to urgently to the hospital and negotiations with the prison administration that promised to relocate him to Ait Melloul or Bouzakarn and allowed to be given food according to his medical condition. Until this moment he is still in Tiflet 2 and in very bad health condition.

He suffers from Pain in the kidneys, eyes, legs, right thigh and haemorrhoids, severe stomach problems. On April 25th 2014 he was transported to Ibn Sina hospital in Rabat to make an x-ray, he was told that he has tumour in his thigh.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

Medication: for rheumatism

### **Prison Bouzakarn**

#### **Mohamed Tahlil, detention number 3331 (sentence 20 years)**

Made two hunger strikes

On 2nd November 2017 it was known that Mohamed Tahlil was brought to the regional Hospital nearest to Bouzakarn Prison, he suffers from extreme headaches and problems with his sight. There is no information regarding this prisoner since his family does not reside neither in Western Sahara nor in the Kingdom of Morocco, it is urgent that he is relocated to a prison where other detainees of the Gdeim Izik group are.

### **Prison El Arjat**

**Naama Asfari, detention number 767 (sentence 30 years).** His condition is stable but his wife, who is a French national was prohibited to enter Morocco after the CAT decision on Mr. Asfari was published, she doesn't see her husband for 18 month. He was put in a 30 days punishment in isolation on the 12th of February after presenting written complaint about his prison conditions. His brother was prevented from visiting him. On 27th February he entered a hungerstrike.

### **Prison Ain Sbaa 1 Okacha, Casablanca**

#### **Abdel Jalil Laaroussi, new detention number 79696 (life sentence)**

Suffered extreme torture: Extreme Health situation - He has daily rectorragia (bleeding from the anus) and epistaxis (bleeding from the nose), extremely high blood pressure (18/27; 17/25) and a heart condition and needs to use diapers since he has faeces incontinence, he developed asthma due to the extreme humidity in the cell where he is locked over 22 hour per day and has green mould on the walls.. Mr. Laaroussi needs the assistance of his follow group members to monitor his health and help him, but he was separated from the group and is currently alone in Okasha prison in Casablanca

He was on a 48h hunger strike, due to his continued protest an extreme peril to his health he has gotten his medicines back.



Mr. Laaroussi also explained to his family that the former chief of the guards of Sale Prison, Mr. Youness Bouzizi, is now in Okasha Prison. Mr. Laaroussi and the other members of Gdeim Izik Group presented several complaints against Mr. Bouzizi in Sale, Prison due to the ill treatment and torture they suffered at his hands.

Mr. Laaroussi said that Mr. Bouzizi continued to ill treat him in Okasha Prison as well other prison guards, until the family presented a complaint and made a protest in front of the Moroccan prison authorities in Rabat, together with the families of other detainees, Mr. Bouzizi order the guards to beat Mr. Laaroussi almost daily, on one occasion he brought 4 guards to brutally beat Laaroussi.

Mr. Laaroussi is completely isolated, has no human contact beside the guards that insult him and the two phone calls per week. His family after travelling hundreds of km's to visit him is only allowed 15 min a week and the last time his mother visited him, she was forced to wait for several hours and her visit was cut short, although they saw that the other families who visited Moroccan prisoners had up to two hours visits.

His nephew was prevented from visiting him on 16th of February.

In January he was prevented from taking his University exams. On the 26th February he has again scheduled university exams but could not prepare since the prison does not give him his books.

Medication: 3 pills daily for the high blood pressure and 1 for the heart disease. In the second week of February new medicamentation was introduced for asthma and he was given two inhalers and two boxes of pills.

Mr. Laaroussi has been allowed two phone calls per week, one visit per week, the food has not the necessary nutrients, no health care and exits the cell only one time per day.

The prison administration does not allow Mr. Laaroussi to receive the diapers he need for his personal hygiene although the Family delivers them to the prison since his transfer. He is so forced to live constantly in a humiliating situation and wash himself and his clothes over and over during the day and night.

### **Prison Kenitra**

**El Bachir Boutanguiza, new detention number 29791 (life sentence)** suffers from several illnesses, he was informed by the prison doctor that they want to perform a surgery on his knee, Mr. Boutanguiza does not trust the Moroccan authorities and believes that the surgery is to erase the obvious signs of torture. surgery in the last few years).

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

### **Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, new detention number 29795 (life sentence)**

When his sister visited him in prison she could only be around fifteen minutes with him in a room and the guard was sitting next to them so they could not even whisper.

He has intense pain in all his body due to rheumatism and the torture he has undergone since his detention in 2010.

Mr. Abdallahi Abbahah was put in isolation on the 4th of December until the 13th of December, in a minuscule bathroom, without blankets, in midst of urine, faeces and garbage, with the lights on 24h/24h for 10 days, in confinement the whole time and being insulted, harassed, and menaced and undergoing psychological torture.

He engaged on an open hunger strike on 4th of December until the 14th.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

**Houssein Zawi, new detention number 29792 (sentence 25 years)**

He is suffering from repeated asthma attacks since the cold of the cell is worsening his health situation.

Medication: asthma

**Abdallahi Lakfawni, new detention number 29721 (life sentence)** no further information available, he only spoke with his elderly mother on the phone and does not want to upset her.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

**Ahmed Sbaai, new detention number 29794 (life sentence) Currently temporarily transferred to Bouzakarn prison for 60 days**

Has a pre existing heart disease. During the military trial he told in his statement that the torture stopped when he was detained because the doctor that was present told the Moroccan torturers that he would die if they continued.

Mr. Ahmed Sbaai was put in isolation on the 4th of December until the 13th of December, in a minuscule bathroom, without blankets, in midst of urine, faeces and garbage, with the lights on 24h/24h for 10 days, in confinement the whole time and being insulted, harassed, and menaced and undergoing psychological torture. He engaged on an open hunger strike on 4th of December until 14th, his health situation is very critical which is aggravated due to his pre-existing cardiovascular disease.

Medication: heart disease

**Mohamed Bouryal new detention number 29793 (sentence 30 years)**

Has stomach problems and pain all over the body due to the humidity and cold as well as the torture he was subjected to since his arrest in 2010.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

**Cheik Banga, new detention number 29812 (sentence 30 years)**

Hunger strike since 19th of September until 7th of October when he was transferred from Tiflet to Kenitra prison.

**Hassan Dah, detention number 29882 (sentence 25 years)**

Hunger strike since 19th of September for 19 days and 38 days in November-December

Hassan Dah entered his second hunger strike on the 1st of November demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) he ended the hunger strike after 38 days on the 8th of December, after being brought to urgently to the hospital and after negotiations with the prison administration and immediate relocation to Kenitra prison, where the majority of the group is held.

## Gdeim Izik



On the 19th and 20th September the group in Kenitra made a warning 48h hunger strike, on September 21st the vice procurator of the King in Kenitra visited them to know their demands. On October 4th they entered again in a 48h-warning hunger strike. On October 10th they entered again in a warning hunger strike since none of their demands were met. On the 8th and 9th November they made anew a protest strike. On the 4th of December Abdallahi Abbahah and Ahmed Sbaai engaged in an open hunger strike which they maintain until now.

Currently some of their belongings were returned. On total they made 8 hunger strikes (4 the whole group, 4 part of the group) demanding that their status as political prisoners is respected, against the unfair trial and the demand to be transferred to a prison in their home land, Western Sahara. This group of prisoners has been allowed one phone call per week, one visit per week, the food that they have been given has not the necessary nutrients, the cells are not according to the international minimum standards, no health care and they exit the cell only twice per day, they are in confinement for over 22 hours each day.

Isabel Maria Gonçalves da Silva Tavares Lourenço,  
9 of March 2018

Contact:  
[estaempaz@gmail.com](mailto:estaempaz@gmail.com)

TIMELINE Gdeim Izik since 16th September 2017 until 9th of March 2018

<p>16th September 2017</p>	<p>All prisoners except Naama Asfari were transferred from El Arjat Prison to other prisons inside the Moroccan Kingdom, in separate groups without the knowledge of the Families or Lawyers.</p> <p>During the day the families could locate:</p> <p><b>El Arjat, Prison:</b> Naama Asfari</p> <p>Okacha prison in Casablanca: Abdel Jalil Laaroussi</p> <p><b>Kenitra prison:</b> Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah Houssein Zawi Abdallahi Lakfawni Ahmed Sbaai Mohamed Bourial El Bachir Boutanguiza</p> <p>The whereabouts of the remaining 11 prisoners was unknown</p> <p><b>During the transfer they were beaten and ill treated</b></p> <p>All their belongings stayed in El Arjat, not even their medicines were given to</p>
<p>17th September 2017</p>	<p>over 24h after the transfer the location of all prisoners was known and also the fact that some of them started a hunger strike on the day of the transfer (16 September)</p> <p><b>Tifelt 1 prison:</b> El Bachir Khadda - In hunger strike Hassan Dah - hunger strike Brahim Ismaili - hunger strike Cheik Banga - Hunger strike</p> <p>The prison director of Tiflet 1 menaced them with death, and told Hassan Dah "Alife or dead you are nothing"</p> <p><b>Tifelt 2 prison:</b> Mohamed Lamin Haddi - hunger strike Khouna Babeit Toubali Abdallahi -</p>



	<p><b>Bouzakarn prison:</b> Mohamed Tahlil Khouna Babeit</p> <p><b>Ait Melloul prison:</b> Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir Mohamed Bani Sidahmed Lemjeyid</p> <p><b>El Arjat prison:</b> Naama Asfari</p> <p><b>Okacha prison, Casablanca:</b> Abdel Jalil Laaroussi</p> <p><b>Kenitra prison:</b> El Bachir Boutanguiza Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah Houssein Zawi Abdallahi Lakfawni Ahmed Sbaai Mohamed Bourial</p>
<p>18th of September 2017</p>	<p>The families informed that:</p> <p><b>Ait Melloul :</b> Brahim Ismaili began a hunger strike - bad hygienic conditions of the cell, sleeping on the concrete floor, no medicines</p> <p><b>Tiflet 1 and 2:</b> El Bachir Khadda - hunger strike Hassan Dah - hunger strike Brahim Ismaili - hunger strike Cheik Banga - hunger strike Mohamed Lamin Haddi - hunger strike Khouna Babeit Toubali Abdallahi</p> <p>were put in cells next to inmates sentenced due to criminal offenses</p> <p>Toubali Abdallahi announced that he would start a hunger strike on the 21st of September</p> <p><b>Kenitra:</b> El Bachir Boutanguiza Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah</p>

	<p>Housein Zawi Abdallahi Lakfawni Ahmed Sbaai Mohamed Bourial</p> <p>were put in cells next to inmates sentenced due to criminal offenses</p> <p>Announced that they would make a hunger strike on the 19th and 20th of September</p> <p>Okacha prison, Casablanca: Abdel Jalil Laaroussi</p> <p>Family continue without any information on his health status</p>
19th and 20th September 2017	<p>Kenitra all prisoners in a 48h hunger strike:</p> <p>El Bachir Boutanguiza Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah Housein Zawi Abdallahi Lakfawni Ahmed Sbaai Mohamed Bourial</p> <p>They met with the Attorney General of Kenitra</p>
20th of September 2017	Sidahmed Lemjeyid - detained in Ait Melloul started a hunger strike
21st of September 2017	Mohamed Tahlil - detained in Bouzakarn started a hunger strike
31st October/1st November 2017	Mohamed Bani, Sidahmed Lemjeyid and Mbarek Lefkir in 48h hunger strike
1st November 2017	<p>Hassan Dah and Brahim Ismaili are in hunger strike (it lasted 38 days)</p> <p>Brahim Ismaili was transferred to a psychiatric ward as punishment</p> <p>Mohamed Tahlil was transferred to the Hospital due to health problems</p>
5th of November 2017	El Bachir Khadda started a hunger strike (it lasted 33 days)
10th of November 2017	<p>The prisoners of Kenitra denounce that a extremely dangerous criminal offender was put in their cell block next to El Bashir Boutanguiza, Abdallahi Lakfawni and Housein Zawi</p> <p>The prisoners made a joint statement where they held the prison administration responsible for anything that would happen to them</p>

11th November 2017	Amnesty International launches a campaign for the Gdeim Izik Prisoners highlighting the situation of Mr. Laaroussi ( <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/.../MDE2975112017ENGLISH.pdf">https://www.amnesty.org/.../MDE2975112017ENGLISH.pdf</a> )
20th November 2017	Lamin Haddi started an hunger strike
4th until 13th of December 2017	Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah and Ahmed Sbaai were put in two "toilets" as punishment. 24h with the lights on, without any hygiene, with vermin, insulted and ill-treated. They started immediately an hunger strike Ahmed Sbaai had repeatedly asthma attacks without being given any medication
9th December 2017	Brahim Ismaili, El Bachir Khadda y Hassan Dah ended their hunger strike  Hassan Dah was transferred to the Hospital and then to Kenitra prison
13th of December 2017	Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah and Ahmed Sbaai were taken out of the toilets, both in very dire health condition
19th of December 2017	Abdel Jalil Laaroussi starts a hunger strike (10 days)
20th of December 2017	Brahim Ismaili was transferred to Ait Melloul Prison
25th of December 2017	Mbarek Lefkir was humiliated and tortured. He was brutally beaten, with heavy blows to the head until he lost his consciousness. The guards ripped all his clothes off and told him that he was POLISARIO and therefore they would never let him pass an exam or allow him to study.
29th of December 2017	Abdel Jalil Laaroussi end his hunger strike
10th of January 2018	Mohamed Lamin Haddi and El Bachir Khadda on a 48h Hunger strike since the administration of the Prison did not transfer them to another prison as promised when the ended the over 30 days long hunger strike
19th January 2018	Mohamed Ali Lamin brother of Haddi Mohamed Lamin was not allowed to visit his brother, the excuse was that the prison director was on holidays
1st February 2018	Mohamed Tahlil was brought to the hospital but received no treatment and was brought again to Bouzakarn prison
12th February 2018	Naama Asfari was put in an isolation cell according to his brothers information and started a 48h hunger strike
12th February 2018	The two French defence lawyer of the Gdeim Izik group (Maître Olfa Ouled and Maître Ingrid Metton) were detained at the airport of Casablanca during 18 hours and prevented to enter Morocco and

	visit their clients as was their intention and which they previously informed the Moroccan authorities. On the 13th of February they were expelled to France.
13th February 2018	The brother of Naama Asfari tried to visit him in El Arjat prison but he was not allowed The guards gave the excuse that the prison director wasn't in the prison.
14th February 2018	The prisoners of Kenitra were all moved to the first floor (before they were divided in two floors of the same module).
16th February 2018	Mr. Abdel Jalil Laaroussi's nephew Mr. Abderrahman tried to visit him in Casablanca prison but he was not allowed. The guards gave the excuse that the prison director wasn't in the prison after he waited in the prison since 10h30 until the afternoon.
27th February 2018	Mr. Naama Asfari started an open hunger strike
1st of March 2018	The prisoners in Kenitra make a 24h hunger strike and informed that they would enter a open hunger strike on the 9th of March.
2nd of March	The sister and wife of Mr. Abdel Jalil Laaroussi went to visit him at El Arjat prison where he was temporarily transferred to attend his university exams, but were subjected to harassment by the guards and long delay to enter the visitation room, they were only given ten minutes with Mr. Laaroussi.
5th of March 2018	Ahmed Sbaai was taken by the guards at 04h00 from his cell to an unknown location. Neither his lawyers nor family were informed about his whereabouts. In the afternoon of the 5th of March the family informed that he arrived at Bouzakarn prison, according to the penitentiary administration in answer to the request to see his father who was not able to visit him at Kenitra. The prison administration said that this was a temporary transfer for 60 days which means Mr. Sbaai would be send back to Kenitra on the 4th of May 2018
7th of March 2018	Mr. Mohamed Tahlil ended an hunger strike after the prison director assured him that his visitation rights would be respected from now on.
8th of March 2018	At noon the director of Kenitra Prison informed Mr. Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, Mr. El Bachir Boutanguiza, Mr. Abdallahi Lakfawni and Mr. Mohamed Bourial that if they entered a hunger strike on the 9th of March they would be put in isolation as punishment
9th of March 2018	Mr. Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, Mr. El Bachir Boutanguiza, Mr. Abdallahi Lakfawni and Mr. Mohamed Bourial detained in Kenitra Prison started a hunger strike, At 8h00 (8am) they were put in isolation and were only allowed to bring with them 5 liters of water and no sugar.
9th of March 2018	Mr. Brahim Ismaili, Mr. Sidahmed Lemjeyid, Mr..Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir and Mr. Mohamed Bani detained in Ait Melloul Prison started a hunger strike.



# Gdeim Izik

Current status of the prisoners known as Gdeim Izik  
Group

25th March 2018

by Isabel Lourenço, human rights activist member of  
Fundación Sahara Occidental and collaborator of  
[porunsaharalibre.org](http://porunsaharalibre.org)

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The group of 19 Saharawi Political Prisoners known as Gdeim Izik was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison on July 19th 2017. On September 16th the group was broken up in several small groups and two of the activists were left alone, in 7 different prisons in the Moroccan Kingdom (Ait Melloul; Bouzakarn; Tiflet 1; Tiflet 2; Ain Sbaa 1 - Okasha Casablanca; El Arjat and Kenitra).

The prisoners are exposed to the ill treatment and harassment of the prison authorities and **torture**. Their status of Political Prisoners is not granted.

They were missing for over 24 hours before their families were informed about their whereabouts in short phone calls (1 - 3 minutes) from the prisoners from the prison phones.

The prisoners were maintained in solitary confinement for 22 hours per day or longer for over 3 months, now some of them are over 20 hours in confinement and other still 22h.

According to the former special rapporteur of the UN on Torture, Mr. Juan Mendez “any imposition of solitary confinement beyond 15 days constitutes torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, depending on the circumstances.

UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisons (2015 Rev) ('Mandela Rules')

Rule 44

For the purpose of these rules, solitary confinement shall refer to the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact. Prolonged solitary confinement shall refer to solitary confinement for a time period in excess of 15 consecutive days.

**Mr. Abdallahi Abbahah and Mr. Ahmed Sbaai were put in isolation on the 4th of December until the 13th of December, in two minuscule bathrooms, without blankets, in midst of urine, faeces and garbage,**

## 4th Geneva Convention

*Article 76. Protected persons accused of offences shall be detained in the occupied country, and if convicted they shall serve their sentences therein. They shall, if possible, be separated from other detainees and shall enjoy conditions of food and hygiene which will be sufficient to keep them in good health, and which will be at least equal to those obtaining in prisons in the occupied country.*

*They shall receive the medical attention required by their state of health.....*

*Protected persons who are detained shall have the right to be visited by delegates of the Protecting Power and of the International Committee of the Red Cross, in accordance with the provisions of Article 143.*

with the lights on 24h/24h for 10 days, in confinement the whole time and being insulted, harassed, and menaced and undergoing psychological torture. They engaged on a open hunger strike on 4th of December until the 14th, their health situation is very critical and Ahmed Sbaai has pre-existing cardiovascular disease.

On the 25th of December 2017 Mr. Mbarek Lefkir Mbarek Lefkir was humiliated and tortured. He was brutally beaten, with heavy blows to the head until he lost his consciousness. The guards ripped all his clothes off and told him that he was POLISARIO and therefore they would never let him pass an exam or allow him to study. This happened inside the prison whilst he was in a room where he should have taken university exams. He was then moved back to his cell naked in front everyone.

On 12th February Mr. Naama Asfari was punished with 30 days isolation, he was put in the "coffin", after he presented a written complaint (in the proper form) to the Prison Administration. He had announced that he would start a hunger strike on February since then no information was given to the family. On March 15th his wife had the first phone contact with him since 7th of February. He informed her that he had been transferred that day (15th of March) to Kenitra Prison that he had suspended his hunger strike in February since the prison administration had presented him transfer papers to sign and his main demand was to be transferred to a prison in Western Sahara. Ending his 30 days isolation period he was taken to Kenitra prison over 1200km away from Western Sahara. He also informed that he was extremely worried with the 4 Saharawi political prisoners in hunger strike and isolation in Kenitra (Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, El Bachir Boutanguiza, Abdallahi Lakfawni and Mohamed Bourial) since no one had information on them in Kenitra.

Mr. Abdel Jalil Laaroussi suffers from rectorragia and faeces incontinence, asthma, severe heart disease and extremely high blood pressure. He his without human contact during all day (except the insults and ill treatments of the guards) since 16th September. Mr. Laaroussi needs to use diapers, but although the family delivers them to the prison the prison administration does not give them to him, which is a form to humiliate the political prisoner. His cell, as well as the cells in Kenitra has green mold on the walls and drip's water, which aggravated his fragile health and he developed asthma a condition he did not have previous to this transfer. He is also prevented from study since his books were not returned after the transfer and he has scheduled university exams on the 26th of February. He was temporarily transferred to El Arjat prison to take his exams.

Mr. Mohamed Tahlil has been transferred several times to the hospital due to his peril health condition. His visitation rights are not respected so he entered a hunger strike that ended on the 7h of March after the prison director of Bouzakarn assured him that from now on the rules regarding visits would be respected.

The prisoners of Ait Melloul and Kenitra prison were informed on March 8th by the prison director that those who would enter a hunger strike on the 9th of March would be put in solitary confinement to retaliate/punish they detainees for their protest. Even if in some cases prisons allege that hunger-striking detainees should be put in isolation when "medically advisable." In this case the detainees of Kenitra were placed in solitary confinement immediately after having declared hunger strike, although they hadn't yet had an opportunity to miss a single meal. On the 9th of March at 8hoo (8am) they were put in isolation, being allowed to bring with them only 5 litres of drinkable water they were prevented to take any sugar with them.

During 11 days the families and lawyers did not receive any information about the situation of the prisoners in hunger strike and isolation in Kenitra, on the 21st March, two lawyers of the defence team (Mr. Boukhaled and Mr. Erguibi) visited Kenitra Prison and after 9 hours were allowed to see the prisoner, which according to the lawyers were very debilitated and extremely cold. On the 23rd of March, two families (Boutanguiza and

Abbahah) were informed through a letter that the prisoners were in hunger strike and in very serious health conditions. No letter arrived until now for Mr. Mohamed Bourial and Mr. Abdallahi Lakfawni.

Also on the 9th of March the prisoners of Ait Melloul, Mr. Sidahmed Lemjeyid, Mr. Mohamed Bani, Mr. Mbarek Lefkir and Mr. Brahim Ismaili started a hunger strike. **On the 12th of March , Mr. Mohamed Bani and Mr. Brahim Ismaili where put in small isolation cell called "Coffins" without any drinkable water. The daughter of Mr. Ismaili informed that he was told by the Director of the prisons of Agadir and the prison director of Ait Melloul 2 that they would give him a injection as soon as he would fall in a coma and so "get rid of him and the problems he causes".**

Mr. Sidahmed Lemjeyid and Mr. Mbarek Lefkir suspended the hunger strike on the 12th of March.

Mr. Mohamed Bani, was on hunger strike for 14 days, he ended his protest on the 22nd of March after a meeting with the Regional Director of Penitentiaries and Reintegration who promised him a transfer to Bouzakarn prison and authorization for his family to visit 4 days a week and two weekly phone calls. In a telephone call with his wife, Bani said that he is very sick.

The demands of both groups are that the most basic of their rights are respected (visitation rights, adequate nourishment, yard time, etc) and they reaffirm their status as political prisoners declaring that they are detained outside their homeland and unjustly convicted. The group of Kenitra denounces that although they have sent numerous complaints to the Moroccan authorities and Human Rights Council their situation did not improve and no answer was given to them.

Mr. Cheik Banga and Mr. Abdallahi Toubali were transferred on the 13th of March to Bouzakarn prison.

The information herein was recollected from the family members, after their contact with the prisoners. The prisoners have a guard next to them listening to everything they say during the phone calls. Due to the distance of the prisons from Western Sahara and since visits are difficult, short and sometimes denied and the fact that prison phone calls are monitored the information flow is very difficult. The prisoners are aware that their complaints can lead to more reprisals but nevertheless they want to denounce their situation. The visits are heavily guarded.

During transfer some of them were ill-treated and all their belongings where taken away by the Moroccan authorities. Also all medication they need daily was taken.

Since their transfer almost all prisoners entered a hunger strike in protest against the conditions they were held, sleeping on the floor, without proper blankets, no minimal hygiene in the cells (rats, vermin no ventilation), some of them were given their medication back, but not all, some of the cells were cleaned and part of the belongings given back.

Mr. Khadda and Mr. Haddi were promised transfer to Kenitra, but the prison administration did so far not transfer them, which led to more protests and 2 warning hunger strikes in January 2017.

Morocco signed and adhered to the 4th Geneva Convention and has therefore to respect Article 76. In accordance with the same article the ICRC should visit the prisoners.



Morocco also ratified the OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) in 2014, three years have passed and the report of Morocco has still to be submitted and Morocco does not comply with the OPCAT and even refuses to admit in court any memorandum or pleadings that mention a decision of CAT (UN Committee against Torture).

The two French defence lawyer of the Gdeim Izik group (Maître Olfa Ouled and Maître Ingrid Metton) were detained on the 12th of February 2018 at the airport of Casablanca during 18 hours and prevented to enter Morocco and visit their clients as was their intention and which they previously informed the Moroccan authorities. On the 13th of February they were expelled to France. This is a clear violation of the right to defence and a violation of article 161 of the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyer.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/RoleOfLawyers.aspx>

**List of the prisoners of Gdeim Izik, current location and status:**

**Prison Tifelt 1**

**Khouna Babeit, detention number 4977 (sentence 25 years)**

He was temporarily transferred in January to **Bouzakarn prison** to attend his university exams.

**Prison Tifelt 2**

**El Bachir Khadda, detention number 1897 (sentence 20 years)**

Went on hunger strike since 19th of September and anew on 6th of November demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) , he ended the hunger strike after **32 days** on the 8th of December, after negotiations with the prison administration that promised to relocate him to El Arjat or Kenitra where he could continue his studies. He is still in Tiflet 2, and therefore made two warning hunger strikes

**Mohamed Lamin Haddi, detention number 1896 (sentence 25 years)**

Made 3 hunger strikes demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) , Went on hunger strike since 18th of November demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) , he ended the hunger strike after **20 days** on the 8th of December, after negotiations with the prison administration that promised to relocate him to El Arjat or Kenitra where he could continue his studies. Until this moment he is still in Tiflet 2, and therefore made two warning hunger strikes. On the 19th of January Mohamed Ali Lamin brother of Haddi Mohamed Lamin was not allowed to visit his brother, the excuse was that the prison director was on holidays

Medication: Ulcer

**Prison Ait Melloul**

**Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir, detention number 6329 (sentence 25 years)**

**Three Hunger strikes in October and November demanding** to be transferred to a prison in his homeland, Western Sahara.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018 and suspended it on February 12th after the transfer of Mr. Ismaili and Mr. Bani to the coffin cells (solation) and death threats.

Medication: asthma

**Mohamed Bani, detention number 6330 (life sentence)**

Kidney problems and headaches, ulcers and allergic dermatological allergy throughout the body. During his transfer on September 16th 2017 he was beaten and cannot walk upright, his hands are injured from the handcuffs.

On hunger strike for several days in September, October and November 2017

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018 on February 12th he was put in isolation without drinking water, he ended the hunger strike on March 22nd after being promised to be transferred to Bouzakarn and increase the visitation rights and phone calls of the family.

Medication: Coversyl (Perindopril arginina); Hemofast (haemorrhoid cream); Profenid (Cetoprofeno) Spasfon (Lyophilisat); Nazair; Maxidrol (Dexamethasone, Neomcyne sulfate, Polymyxine B sulfate)

**Sidahmed Lemjeyid, detention number 6328 (life sentence)**

Suffers from kidney disease and pain at the level of the spine, sensitivity of the eyes and the inability to move normally because of the pain located in his right foot. His hand and feet are extremely swollen. He has been victim of ill treatment and racism. On May 22nd, 2013 he took a x-ray of the spine but was not informed about the diagnosis. He suffers from intense pain in his back and spine caused by the injuries suffered during torture as well in his feet and one hand.

On hunger strike for 27 days from 19th of September to October 12 and since then made two warning hunger strikes.

His medicines were taken away and until now all were returned to him, he has two blankets one on the floor and one to cover himself. Each Monday is allowed to call his family for 5min and on Fridays he has a 15min visit from the family that has to wait three hours to see him. During the visit he is handcuffed and surrounded by guards. He is not married nor has any children his nephews are the ones that could visit him more frequently, but the prison administration doesn't allow the visits

Medication: kidneys and rheumatism

Although his younger sister died in January he was not allowed to attend the funeral. Since his arrest he lost two siblings and his mother without being allowed to attend the funerals like all prisoners of this group.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018 and suspended it on February 12th after the transfer of Mr. Ismaili and Mr. Bani to the coffin cells (Isolation) and death threats.

**Brahim Ismaili, detention number 8801 (life sentence)**

Mr. Brahim Ismaili entered two protest hunger strike starting the second on November 1st . On the 2nd of November the family informed that he was sent to a psychiatric ward inside the prison as reprisal for his protest. This method of intimidation and pressure is well known and used frequently against Saharawi Political prisoners. He demands to be treated according to the status of political prisoner, adequate health care and transfer to a prison in his homeland (Western Sahara). On December 8th he ended the hunger strike after **32 days**, after being brought to urgently to the hospital and negotiations with the prison administration that promised to relocate him to Ait Melloul or Bouzakarn and allowed to be given food according to his medical condition. Until this moment he is still in Tiflet 2 and in very bad health condition.

He suffers from Pain in the kidneys, eyes, legs, right thigh and haemorrhoids, severe stomach problems. On April 25th 2014 he was transported to Ibn Sina hospital in Rabat to make an x-ray, he was told that he has tumour in his thigh.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018 on February 12th he was put in isolation without drinking water. He was threatened by the Director of the prisons of Agadir and the director of Ait Melloul to be given an injection to "get rid of him" in case he will fall into coma.

Medication: for rheumatism

This group of prisoners has been allowed one phone call per week, one visit per week, the food that they have been given has not the necessary nutrients, the cells are not according to the international minimum standards and have no hygienic conditions, no health care and they exit the cell only one time per day. The Prisoners complained to the families that they have hunger.

### **Prison Bouzakarn**

#### **Mohamed Tahlil, detention number 3331 (sentence 20 years)**

Made two hunger strikes

On 2nd November 2017 it was known that Mohamed Tahlil was brought to the regional Hospital nearest to Bouzakarn Prison, he suffers from extreme headaches and problems with his sight. There is no information regarding this prisoner since his family does not reside neither in Western Sahara nor in the Kingdom of Morocco, it is urgent that he is relocated to a prison where other detainees of the Gdeim Izik group are.

#### **Abdallahi Toubali, detention number 3768 (sentence 25 years)**

Made a 48h-warning hunger strike on 4th October demanding to be treated in accordance with his status as political prisoner and against the current conditions

He was transferred from Tiflet prison to Bouzakarn on the 13th of March 2018.

Medication: Ulcer and breathing difficulties

#### **Cheik Banga, detention number 3767 (sentence 30 years)**

Hunger strike since 19th of September until 7th of October when he was transferred from Tiflet<sup>1</sup> to Kenitra prison.

He was transferred from Kenitra prison to Bouzakarn on the 13th of March 2018.

#### **Khouna Babeit, detention number 4977 (sentence 25 years)**

He was temporarily transferred in January to **Bouzakarn prison** to attend his university exams.

### **Prison Ain Sbaa 1 Okacha, Casablanca**

#### **Abdel Jalil Laaroussi, detention number 79696 (life sentence)**

Suffered extreme torture: Extreme Health situation - He has daily rectorrhagia (bleeding from the anus) and epistaxis (bleeding from the nose), extremely high blood pressure (18/27; 17/25) and a heart condition and needs to use diapers since he has faeces incontinence, he developed asthma due to the extreme humidity in the cell where he is locked over 22 hour per day and has green mould on the walls.. Mr. Laaroussi needs the assistance of his follow group members to monitor his health and help him, but he was separated from the group and is currently alone in Okasha prison in Casablanca

He was on a 48h hunger strike, due to his continued protest an extreme peril to his health he has gotten his medicines back.



Mr. Laaroussi also explained to his family that the former chief of the guards of Sale Prison, Mr. Youness Bouzizi, is now in Okasha Prison. Mr. Laaroussi and the other members of Gdeim Izik Group presented several complaints against Mr. Bouzizi in Sale, Prison due to the ill treatment and torture they suffered at his hands.

Mr. Laaroussi said that Mr. Bouzizi continued to ill treat him in Okasha Prison as well other prison guards, until the family presented a complaint and made a protest in front of the Moroccan prison authorities in Rabat, together with the families of other detainees, Mr. Bouzizi order the guards to beat Mr. Laaroussi almost daily, on one occasion he brought 4 guards to brutally beat Laaroussi.

Mr. Laaroussi is completely isolated, has no human contact beside the guards that insult him and the two phone calls per week. His family after travelling hundreds of km's to visit him is only allowed 15 min a week and the last time his mother visited him, she was forced to wait for several hours and her visit was cut short, although they saw that the other families who visited Moroccan prisoners had up to two hours visits.

His nephew was prevented form visiting him on 16th of February.

In January he was prevented from taking his University exams. On the 26th February he has again scheduled university exams but could not prepare since the prison does not give him his books.

Medication: 3 pills daily for the high blood pressure and 1 for the heart disease. In the second week of February new medication was introduced for asthma and he was given two inhalers and two boxes of pills.

Mr. Laaroussi has been allowed two phone calls per week, one visit per week, the food has not the necessary nutrients, no health care and exits the cell only one time per day.

The prison administration does not allow Mr. Laaroussi to receive the diapers he need for his personal hygiene although the Family delivers them to the prison since his transfer. He is so forced to live constantly in a humiliating situation and wash himself and his clothes over and over during the day and night.

### **Prison Kenitra**

**El Bachir Boutanguiza, detention number 29791 (life sentence)** suffers from several illnesses, he was informed by the prison doctor that they want to perform a surgery on his knee, Mr. Boutanguiza does not trust the Moroccan authorities and believes that the surgery is to erase the obvious signs of torture. Surgery in the last few years).

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

### **Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, detention number 29795 (life sentence)**

When his sister visited him in prison she could only be around fifteen minutes with him in a room and the guard was sitting next to them so they could not even whisper.

He has intense pain in all his body due to rheumatism and the torture he has undergone since his detention in 2010.

Mr. Abdallahi Abbahah was put in isolation on the 4th of December until the 13th of December, in a minuscule bathroom, without blankets, in midst of urine, faeces and garbage, with the lights on 24h/24h for 10 days, in confinement the whole time and being insulted, harassed, and menaced and undergoing psychological torture.



He engaged on an open hunger strike on 4th of December until the 14th.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

**Houssein Zawi, new detention number 29792 (sentence 25 years)**

He is suffering from repeated asthma attacks since the cold of the cell is worsening his health situation.

Medication: asthma

**Abdallahi Lakfawni, detention number 29721 (life sentence)** no further information available, when he speaks with his elderly mother on the phone he does not want to upset her.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

**Ahmed Sbaai, new detention number 29794 (life sentence) Currently temporarily transferred to Bouzakarn prison for 60 days**

Has a pre existing heart disease. During the military trial he told in his statement that the torture stopped when he was detained because the doctor that was present told the Moroccan torturers that he would die if they continued.

Mr. Ahmed Sbaai was put in isolation on the 4th of December until the 13th of December, in a minuscule bathroom, without blankets, in midst of urine, faeces and garbage, with the lights on 24h/24h for 10 days, in confinement the whole time and being insulted, harassed, and menaced and undergoing psychological torture. He engaged on an open hunger strike on 4th of December until 14th, his health situation is very critical which is aggravated due to his pre-existing cardiovascular disease.

Medication: heart disease

**Mohamed Bourial detention number 29793 (sentence 30 years)**

Has stomach problems and pain all over the body due to the humidity and cold as well as the torture he was subjected to since his arrest in 2010.

Started a new hunger strike on March 9th 2018

**Hassan Dah, detention number 29882 (sentence 25 years)**

Hunger strike since 19th of September for 19 days and 38 days in November-December

Hassan Dah entered his second hunger strike on the 1st of November demanding his right to continue to study and transfer to a prison in his home land (Western Sahara) he ended the hunger strike after 38 days on the 8th of December, after being brought to urgently to the hospital and after negotiations with the prison administration and immediate relocation to Kenitra prison, where the majority of the group is held.

**Naama Asfari, detention number 30035 (sentence 30 years).** His condition is stable but his wife, who is a French national was prohibited to enter Morocco after the CAT decision on Mr. Asfari was published, she doesn't see her husband for 18 month. He was put in a 30 days punishment in isolation on the 12th of February after presenting written complaint about his prison conditions. His brother was prevented from visiting him. On

March 15th he was transferred from El Arjat Prison to Kenitra. . No information on his health status has been given to his lawyers or family during the 30 days isolation.

On the 19th and 20th September the group in Kenitra made a warning 48h hunger strike, on September 21st the vice procurator of the King in Kenitra visited them to know their demands. On October 4th they entered again in a 48h-warning hunger strike. On October 10th they entered again in a warning hunger strike since none of their demands were met. On the 8th and 9th November they made anew a protest strike. On the 4th of December Abdallahi Abbahah and Ahmed Sbaai engaged in an open hunger strike which they maintain until now.

On the 9th of March 4 of the prisoners were put in isolation when they started a hunger strike.

Currently some of their belongings were returned on total they made 8 hunger strikes (4 the whole group, 4 part of the group) demanding that their status as political prisoners is respected, against the unfair trial and the demand to be transferred to a prison in their home land, Western Sahara. This group of prisoners has been allowed one phone call per week, one visit per week, the food that they have been given has not the necessary nutrients, the cells are not according to the international minimum standards, no health care and they exit the cell only twice per day, they are in confinement for over 22 hours each day.

Isabel Maria Gonçalves da Silva Tavares Lourenço,  
25 of March 2018

Contact:  
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TIMELINE Gdeim Izik since 16th September 2017 until 25th of March 2018

<p>16th September 2017</p>	<p>All prisoners except Naama Asfari were transferred from El Arjat Prison to other prisons inside the Moroccan Kingdom, in separate groups without the knowledge of the Families or Lawyers.</p> <p>During the day the families could locate:</p> <p><b>El Arjat, Prison:</b> Naama Asfari</p> <p>Okacha prison in Casablanca: Abdel Jalil Laaroussi</p> <p><b>Kenitra prison:</b> Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah Houssein Zawi Abdallahi Lakfawni Ahmed Sbaai Mohamed Bourial El Bachir Boutanguiza</p> <p>The whereabouts of the remaining 11 prisoners was unknown</p> <p><b>During the transfer they were beaten and ill treated</b></p> <p>All their belongings stayed in El Arjat, not even their medicines were given to</p>
<p>17th September 2017</p>	<p>Over 24h after the transfer the location of all prisoners was known and also the fact that some of them started a hunger strike on the day of the transfer (16 September)</p> <p><b>Tifelt 1 prison:</b> El Bachir Khadda - In hunger strike Hassan Dah - hunger strike Brahim Ismaili - hunger strike Cheik Banga - Hunger strike</p> <p>The prison director of Tiflet 1 menaced them with death, and told Hassan Dah "Alive or dead you are nothing"</p> <p><b>Tifelt 2 prison:</b></p>

	<p>Mohamed Lamin Haddi - hunger strike          Khouna Babeit          Toubali Abdallahi -</p> <p><b>Bouzakarn prison:</b>          Mohamed Tahlil          Khouna Babeit</p> <p><b>Ait Melloul prison:</b>          Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir          Mohamed Bani          Sidahmed Lemjeyid</p> <p><b>El Arjat prison:</b>          Naama Asfari</p> <p><b>Okacha prison, Casablanca:</b>          Abdel Jalil Laaroussi</p> <p><b>Kenitra prison:</b>          El Bachir Boutanguiza          Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah          Houcein Zawi          Abdallahi Lakfawni          Ahmed Sbaai          Mohamed Bourial</p>
<p>18th of September 2017</p>	<p>The families informed that:</p> <p><b>Ait Melloul:</b> Brahim Ismaili began a hunger strike - bad hygienic conditions of the cell, sleeping on the concrete floor, no medicines</p> <p><b>Tiflet 1 and 2:</b>          El Bachir Khadda - hunger strike          Hassan Dah - hunger strike          Brahim Ismaili - hunger strike          Cheik Banga - hunger strike          Mohamed Lamin Haddi - hunger strike          Khouna Babeit          Toubali Abdallahi</p> <p>were put in cells next to inmates sentenced due to criminal offenses</p> <p>Toubali Abdallahi announced that he would start a hunger strike on the 21st of September</p>

	<p><b>Kenitra:</b>  El Bachir Boutanguiza  Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah  Houssein Zawi  Abdallahi Lakfawni  Ahmed Sbaai  Mohamed Bourial</p> <p>were put in cells next to inmates sentenced due to criminal offenses</p> <p>Announced that they would make a hunger strike on the 19th and 20th of September</p> <p>Okacha prison, Casablanca:  Abdel Jalil Laaroussi</p> <p>Family continues without any information on his health status</p>
91th and 20th September 2017	<p>Kenitra all prisoners in a 48h hunger strike:</p> <p>El Bachir Boutanguiza  Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah  Houssein Zawi  Abdallahi Lakfawni  Ahmed Sbaai  Mohamed Bourial</p> <p>They met with the Attorney General of Kenitra</p>
20th of September 2017	Sidahmed Lemjeyid - detained in Ait Melloul started a hunger strike
21st of September 2017	Mohamed Tahlil - detained in Bouzakarn started a hunger strike
24th of October 2017	The United Nations Subcommittee against Torture met with representatives of the families of the prisoners (Mr. Machdoufi, family members of Lemjeyid, Hassan Dah, Laaroussi and Sbaai) in Rabat during it's visit to Morocco. The SPT did not visit the Saharawi Prisoners.
31st October/1st November 2017	Mohamed Bani, Sidahmed Lemjeyid and Mbarek Lefkir in 48h hunger strike
1st November 2017	<p>Hassan Dah and Brahim Ismaili are in hunger strike (it lasted 38 days)</p> <p>Brahim Ismaili was transferred to a psychiatric ward as punishment</p>

	Mohamed Tahlil was transferred to the Hospital due to health problems
5th of November 2017	El Bachir Khadda started a hunger strike (it lasted 33 days)
10th of November 2017	The prisoners of Kenitra denounce that a extremely dangerous criminal offender was put in their cell block next to El Bashir Boutanguiza, Abdallahi Lakfawni and Houcein Zawi The prisoners made a joint statement where they held the prison administration responsible for anything that would happen to them
11th November 2017	Amnesty International launches a campaign for the Gdeim Izik Prisoners highlighting the situation of Mr. Laaroussi <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde29/7511/2017/en/">https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde29/7511/2017/en/</a>
20th November 2017	Lamin Haddi started an hunger strike
4th until 13th of December 2017	Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah and Ahmed Sbaai were put in two "toilets" as punishment. 24h with the lights on, without any hygiene, with vermin, insulted and ill-treated. They started immediately an hunger strike Ahmed Sbaai had repeatedly asthma attacks without being given any medication
9th December 2017	Brahim Ismaili, El Bachir Khadda y Hassan Dah ended their hunger strike  Hassan Dah was transferred to the Hospital and then to Kenitra prison
13th of December 2017	Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah and Ahmed Sbaai were taken out of the toilets, both in very dire health condition
19th of December 2017	Abdel Jalil Laaroussi starts a hunger strike (10 days)
20th of December 2017	Brahim Ismaili was transferred to Ait Melloul Prison
25th of December 2017	Mbarek Lefkir was humiliated and tortured. He was brutally beaten, with heavy blows to the head until he lost his consciousness. The guards ripped all his clothes off and told him that he was POLISARIO and therefore they would never let him pass an exam or allow him to study.
29th of December 2017	Abdel Jalil Laaroussi end his hunger strike
10th of January 2018	Mohamed Lamin Haddi and El Bachir Khadda on a 48h Hunger strike since the administration of the Prison did not transfer them to another prison as promised when the ended the over 30 days long

	hunger strike
19th January 2018	Mohamed Ali Lamin brother of Haddi Mohamed Lamin was not allowed to visit his brother, the excuse was that the prison director was on holidays
1st February 2018	Mohamed Tahlil was brought to the hospital but received no treatment and was brought again to Bouzakarn prison
12th February 2018	Naama Asfari was put in an isolation cell according to his brothers information and started a 48h hunger strike
12th February 2018	The two French defence lawyer of the Gdeim Izik group (Maître Olfa Ouled and Maître Ingrid Metton) were detained at the airport of Casablanca during 18 hours and prevented to enter Morocco and visit their clients as was their intention and which they previously informed the Moroccan authorities. On the 13th of February they were expelled to France.
13th February 2018	The brother of Naama Asfari tried to visit him in El Arjat prison but he was not allowed The guards gave the excuse that the prison director wasn't in the prison.
14th February 2018	The prisoners of Kenitra were all moved to the first floor (before they were divided in two floors of the same module.
16th February 2018	Mr. Abdel Jalil Laaroussi's nephew Mr. Abderrahman tried to visit him in Casablanca prison but he was not allowed. The guards gave the excuse that the prison director wasn't in the prison after he waited in the prison since 10h30 until the afternoon.
27th February 2018	Mr. Naama Asfari started an open hunger strike (on March 15th he informed his wife that he had not made this hunger strike, but since the Prison did not give any information to his family his wife was convinced that he was in hunger strike during his isolation as he had announced)
1st of March 2018	The prisoners in Kenitra make a 24h hunger strike and informed that they would enter a open hunger strike on the 9th of March.
2nd of March	The sister and wife of Mr. Abdel Jalil Laaroussi went to visit him at El Arjat prison where he was temporarily transferred to attend his university exams, but were subjected to harassment by the guards and long delay to enter the visitation room, they were only given ten minutes with Mr. Laaroussi.
5th of March 2018	The guards at 04h00 took Ahmed Sbaai from his cell to an unknown location. Neither his lawyers nor family were informed about his



	whereabouts. In the afternoon of the 5th of March the family informed that he arrived at Bouzakarn prison, according to the penitentiary administration in answer to the request to see his father who was not able to visit him at Kenitra. The prison administration said that this was a temporary transfer for 60 days which means Mr. Sbaai would be send back to Kenitra on the 4th of May 2018
7th of March 2018	Mr. Mohamed Tahlil ended an hunger strike after the prison director assured him that his visitation rights would be respected from now on.
8th of March 2018	At noon the director of Kenitra Prison informed Mr. Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, Mr. El Bachir Boutanguiza, Mr. Abdallahi Lakfawni and Mr. Mohamed Bourial that if they entered a hunger strike on the 9th of March they would be put in isolation as punishment
9th of March 2018	Mr. Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, Mr. El Bachir Boutanguiza, Mr. Abdallahi Lakfawni and Mr. Mohamed Bourial detained in Kenitra Prison started a hunger strike, At 8h00 (8am) they were put in isolation and were only allowed to bring with them 5 litres of water and no sugar.
9th of March 2018	Mr. Brahim Ismaili, Mr. Sidahmed Lemjeyid, Mr. Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir and Mr. Mohamed Bani detained in Ait Melloul Prison started a hunger strike.
9th of March 2018	Maître Ouled, lawyer of the Gdeim Izik group sent an urgent fax inquiring about the reason of the isolation to the Ministry of Justice, General Attorney, Prison director of Kenitra, CNDH and other Moroccan entities as the General Administration of Penitentiaries, Human Rights Minister without receiving any answer
12th of March 2018	Mr. Brahim Ismaili, Mr. Mohamed Bani were put in isolation in cells known as "coffin cells" without drinkable water in Ait Melloul Prison. According to the statement of the daughter of Mr. Ismaili the Regional Director of the Prisons of Agadir and the Prison Director of Ait Melloul 2 told Mr. Ismaili that if he would fall into a coma they would give him an injection to get rid of him definitively and put an end to the troubles.
12th of March 2018	Mr. Sidahmed Lemjeyid and Mr. Mohamed Mbarek Lefkir suspended their hunger strike after the life threats made by the prison director and the transfer of Mr. Ismaili and Mr. Bani to the "coffins"
13th of March 2018	Mr. Cheikh Banga was transferred without notice and information to his family or lawyers from Kenitra to Bouzakarn prison.

13th of March 2018	Mr. Abdallahi Toubali was transferred without notice and information to his family or lawyers from Tiflet 1 to Bouzakarn prison.
15th of March 2018	Mr. Naama Asfari was transferred without notice and information to his family or lawyers from El Arjat to Kenitra prison and contacted his wife for only a few minutes on the phone informing that he was transferred, that he did not pursue the hunger strike because he was presented with transfer papers to sign, but on the 15th he was not transferred to a prison to Western Sahara as he demanded but to Kenitra that is even farther away from Western Sahara than El Arjat. He also informed that there were no news in Kenitra prison about the 4 prisoners in isolation and hunger strike.
21st of March 2018	Two lawyers of the defence team (Mr. Boukhaled and Mr. Erguibi) visited Kenitra Prison and after 9 hours were allowed to see the prisoners in hunger strike (Sidi Abdallahi Abbahah, Abdallahi Lakfawni, El Bachi Boutanguiza and Mohamed Bourial), which according to the lawyers were very debilitated and extremely cold.
22nd of March 2018	Mr. Mohamed Bani, ended his hunger strike after 14 days on the 22nd of March after a meeting with the Regional Director of Penitentiaries and Reintegration who promised him a transfer to Bouzakarn prison and authorization for his family to visit 4 days a week and two weekly phone calls. In a telephone call with his wife, Bani said that he is very sick.
23rd of March 2018	Two families (Boutanguiza and Abbahah) of the 4 prisoners in hunger strike and isolation in Kenitra prison were informed through a letter that the prisoners were in hunger strike and in very dire health condition. No letter arrived until now for Mr. Bourial and Mr. Lakfawni.