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## Two Fridays marked by fire in the history of the Sahara



**Sources:** [Image: Saharawi soldiers patrol the desert near the separation wall with Morocco. Image: EFE]

*November ends. In this eleventh month of the year, there are two anniversaries marked in fire – literally and never better said – in the recent history of Western Sahara. There are two Fridays that, in the measure of each one, constitute a turning point in the history of this strip of desert burned by the sun and aridity – in its east – and bathed by the waves of the Atlantic – in its west.*

We are talking about Friday, November 14, 1975, and Friday, November 13, 2020. **The first is a Black Friday, a fateful day when the squawking of crows and the flapping of vultures, on the horizon, portends destruction and death.** A day that the Saharawi

people and all Spaniards! – except for those who are part of the government of the day who, apparently, as soon as they take office, experience a sudden change of morality – commemorate with the most absolute condemnation, expressing their hatred of debasement and making clear their rage at the injustice committed on November 14, 1975. That Friday, as acting Head of State, as Franco lay dying on his deathbed) Prince Juan Carlos of Bourbon – let us not forget that in the Franco era, the Head of State has the last word – and president of the Government **Carlos Arias Navarro**; was signed at the Palace of the Zarzuela the infamous tripartite agreement of Madrid, by which Spain, handed over to Morocco and Mauritania the hitherto declared in 1958 years after Spain's entry into the UN – **province 53 of the State Spanish**. Spain had sold – or rather given away, because in return it did not get any absolutely nothing – a territory whose extension (266,000 square kilometers) equivalent to half of the surface area of Spain. In the transaction, as if cattle in question, it also included an entire people (the rightful owner of the territory). Very Soon, the invaders would find that what was apparently a "herd of "docile" that Spain sold them, they are, in reality, ferocious lions ready to devour anyone who dares to approach his abode.

The disastrous agreement that was signed that day at the Zarzuela violated manifestly the Charter of the United Nations and international law; and Aware of this, the signatories, out of embarrassment, decided to write, under the Title of secret, most of its clauses.

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In In this agreement between three, the cake was divided into only two pieces: the most appetizing portion (northern part of the territory) went to Morocco; to Mauritania (whose presence was merely testimonial, if not almost non-existent) He got the least tempting piece of the pie (the poorest part of the territory); and Spain, which sponsored "the party" and provided the cake – as it always happens to him when he negotiates with the Makhzen – he only took the indignity and dishonor. That's the only thing Spain got in return for its betrayal, in addition to pettiness and international disrepute.

And To make matters worse, from that moment on, **Spain would be designated for always, in the eyes of the Alawi dictatorship, as a weak rival to whom it could overwhelm whenever it pleases**. Hasan II (father of the current king of Morocco) had opened a crack in the sovereignty of Spain, and his son – clad in the *Makhzen* – will spare no effort to continue widening it, as we are seeing today, with its unscrupulous claim to

Ceuta and Melilla, and even the Canary Islands; So, in short, the Prince Juan Carlos de Borbón and the President of the Government Carlos Arias Navarro, by signing that shameful agreement, not only betrayed the But also Spain, by condemning it to ignominy and permanent serfdom of Rabat.

Months before the signing of the ill-fated agreement, Hassan II, aware that Franco, now dying, he was off the political chessboard and his demise was imminent; and even knowing that if he died, his successor – Juan Carlos I – would be unable to do so On the other hand, it redoubled the pressure on the Spanish Sahara, infiltrating Laayoune agents (under the command of Colonel Ahmed Dlimi) who commit various terrorist attacks; and cantoning, in the south of the kingdom, units of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) that penetrated into Saharawi territory, where they carry out incursions and confront the army Spanish in sporadic skirmishes. Before returning to their bases, the brigades of the FAR, they plant all the mines they can in Saharawi territory. On the 24th In June, an artillery vehicle was blown up when it stepped on one of the these mines. A lieutenant, a sergeant and three soldiers lost their lives Saharan. The Spanish dead were buried almost clandestinely by order of the government of Arias Navarro.

The pressure of the Alawi regime – in those days – reached its peak when the International Court of Justice issued its opinion – on 16 October – concluding, on the one hand, that Western Sahara was not a land without a master (*terra nullius*) at the time of colonisation by the Kingdom of Spain and, on the other, the non-existence of ties of territorial sovereignty between Western Sahara, Western Sahara, Western Sahara, Western Sahara neither with the Kingdom of Morocco, nor with the Mauritanian Ensemble.

Hassan II, seeing that he had lost the legal battle, decided to take the law into his own hands; and, on the same day (16 October) with the help of the US and Saudi Arabia, he began preparations to invade Western Sahara with a starving human mass of 350,000 people. For 12 days, the members of this mob – most of whom were poor peasants recruited from across the kingdom – were transported on 10 trains a day to **Marrakesh**. From there they were transported in 7,813 trucks, first to Agadir and then to Tarfaya (a town located on the southern border of Morocco, bordering Western Sahara). **The tide of the dispossessed (in which the regular forces and agents of Colonel Ahmed Dlimi had camouflaged themselves)**, struck by misfortune and inflamed by the flames of their wicked king (who wished to divert the attention of his people from the serious social and political crises that were eating away at his kingdom and to turn the army away from it, to avoid being dethroned, since – on 10 July 1971 and 16 August 1972 – he suffered two

consecutive coups d'état, from which he miraculously emerged unscathed) entered Saharawi territory on 6 November.

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The Tension at the border was at its highest. The Spanish soldiers stationed in the They were in a fighting position, and in their excitement they longed for their commanders to give them a better answer. to give the order to intervene. An order that would never come, simply because, for weeks, the Spanish government, in collusion with Hassan II and, at the same time, the backs of the Saharawi people, the army stationed in the Sahara and the Spain's ambassador to the UN, Mr. Jaime de Piniés, was negotiating in the handover of the Spanish Sahara to Morocco.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kurt Waldheim, seeing that Spain was unable to resist the pressure of the Alawite regime (and this is something that very few you know) offered to take charge of the territory and take it to the self-determination. Kurt Waldheim just needed Spain to let him, provisionally, a military contingent of 10,000 legionnaires who would be under the banner of the UN, to maintain order in the territory. He would take care of the rest.

**Jaime of Piniés** (who thought this proposal was a magnificent exit to the order launched by Hasan II) transmits –on 13 November as a matter of urgency – to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a document with all the details of the plan; but the government does not lend to him no attention. The next day, the betrayal was consummated. **Kurt Waldheim** had given Juan Carlos I an unparalleled opportunity to to begin his reign with a decision that magnified Spain and elevated him to the highest level of power. him as king, while reinforcing the recognition of the Crown, dissipating, in a way, the mists that envelop his designation (by Franco) and his A princely past closely linked to this one.

Unfortunately Juan Carlos I did not have the courage and the loftiness of vision that are needed at that time. moment to have this approach and, paralyzed by the fear of losing the Crown – as it's happening to Sanchez (albeit in a very different context) these days who, in order to retain power, is capable of selling his soul as he did (*Raphaël de Valentin*) Honoré de Balzac's character in *The Skin of Zapa* – chose to betray a brotherly people, provoking their genocide and leading him to an unequal war that he continues to wage to this day, in order to to recover the land that he – illegally – handed over to the invading and tyrannical regime Alawi.

In On the other hand, the third anniversary of the other Friday (November 13, 2020) is a anniversary—adorned with the green of hope that that day We recover and the golden glow of a new dawn – we salute and We celebrate with joy, reaffirming our solemn commitment to continue, with the constancy and self-denial that are natural to us, the armed struggle to the point of liberation of the last span of **Saguia Elhamra and Río de Oro**. With commemorating this special day, the **Secretary General of the Front Polisario and SADR President Brahim Ghali** inaugurated the inauguration of the (on November 13th) the 13th of November Military Base, valuing in its fair The significance of this date, which was for our people, was A new beginning.

The November 13, 2020, we take up arms again and restart the war that (erroneously) we had paused – in June 1991 – when we already had it Won. That summer of 1991, Hassan II tasted the bitter taste of defeat at the end of the year. see that, in each of the deadly attacks by the FSLA (Liberation Army Saharawi Popular) their armies were in retreat, abandoning their dead and wounded in the middle of the desert; and came to the conclusion that his calculations had utterly failed to underestimate the capabilities of the Saharawis. whereas they were only a handful of helpless nomads that their army would reduce in a week.

With such as not acknowledging defeat (the red line whose ego does not allow him to He appealed to the UN for a ceasefire. The Saharawis, unsurpassed on the battlefield, but little fought in the struggles of the diplomatic jungle; trusted the UN and acceded to their request, falling out of their minds. into the trap of the "peace plan," which, in reality, was a plan of attrition that would plunge them into a soporific lethargy (which would last 29 years) and from which they would not They would wake up until the blessed Friday, November 13, 2020.

To From that day on, that is to say, for three years, the enemy's positions at a along the length of the wall – 2720 km long (reinforced with barbed wire and planted with mines of all kinds) with which it has encircled the occupied areas of the Sahara They are being subjected to heavy bombardment day and night.

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Morocco It does not recognize the material losses it suffers and hides the casualties it suffers place among their ranks, treating (secretly) the wounded in hospitals and burying the soldiers in the middle of the darkness of the night, to prevent anyone from seeing

them, committing a double towards them Crime: throwing them into an unjust war and denying them a dignified burial.

the *Makhzen* merely kills Israeli drones Sahrawi, Algerian or Mauritanian civilians passing through the desert, and downplays the Saharawi attacks and/or directly (through their propaganda machine) denies the existence of war. A war that is wearing down and that is now impossible to hide, because the bombardments of the SPAs are breaching the wall, hitting military bases that were believed to be except behind it, and even reaching strategic locations such as the airports in Smara and Mahbes, where Israeli drones depart.

The media, overshadowed by Alawi propaganda and by the ironclad and the permanent blockade of information in Morocco, as well as the numerous disinformation media in the pay of the *Makhzen*; They qualify the war of the Sahara as a "low-intensity war". **The Saharawis, with patience that characterizes the natural children of the desert, they are not in a hurry.** They're long-distance runners, and they know that, in the end, this denial of war and This theory (of "low-intensity warfare") that the Makhzen has nurtured, is he will turn against him; as they are silently suffering the unbearable consequences of a war that is wearing him down.

For To understand what we are saying, it is enough to make a simple reasoning: Yes Morocco, led by Hassan II – whose Machiavellian charisma he had international projection, he was surrounded by the circles of global power, and survived (as we have quoted) two bloody coups d'état in a row. was unable to bear the enormous human and material losses inflicted by the SPLA and lost the war in 1991, how can anyone think that Morocco, commanded by his obtuse son – who lives in total oblivion to the reality, not of the kingdom, but of the world at large – is going to reap another result other than the most absolute defeat? What's more, his inept son, if he doesn't If he withdraws from the contest in time, he will probably end up losing the throne.

And To give you an idea, just the maintenance of the wall that winds through north to south through Western Sahara, costs the Alawi regime three million dollars, in addition to the incalculable cost of deploying the more than 100,000 soldiers entrenched along it. If this were to Add to that the daily bombardments that harass it – day and night – and there will be a At this time, neither the plundering of the natural resources of the Sahara, nor the debt astronomical contract, nor the millions it gets from Europe (supposedly to contain emigration); will be enough to pay for this well bottomless that swallows up, not just the lives of the soldiers who are buried furtively in the middle of the night, but also hopes and

illusions of all the Moroccan people, who are plunged into such extremes of poverty, to the point of being forced to flee en masse – in suicidal conditions – to the European coasts. Beside It should be noted that the living conditions of the troops stationed at the wall will always They have been deplorable. More than soldiers, they look like scrawny zombies dressed in rags, living in crowded holes dug in the middle of the desert, emulating the characters of the apocalyptic world of George's films Miller. For some time now, the wall has become an oppressive prison in suicides have become commonplace, and soldiers who do not resort to desertion, they only abandon it to go directly to the insane asylum. Now, with The return to war, the trenches dug by the soldiers in this prison oppressive, they have become their own grave.

This It is the other side of the wall, which the world ignores. The real face of the wall that Morocco presents itself as the prototype of defensive positions, it is nothing but An expensive and filthy mousetrap in which, ironically, they are trapped thousands of soldiers.

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Source: <https://www.elindependiente.com/opinion/2023/12/07/dos-viernes-marcados-a-fuego-en-la-historia-del-sahara/>

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