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Sumar and BNG demand that the Government rectify and renew Aminetu Haidar's residence permit in Spain



- Sumar asked the Government if it questioned the medical reasons why the Saharawi activist was granted residency 16 years ago and that the refusal left Aminetu unprotected in the face of the health problems she suffers and the harsh reprisals she has suffered
- The BNG states that the government's decision has caused "repulsion, indignation and incomprehension" and point out that the activist is recognized for her extensive career as a defender of an independent Sahara, having suffered repression, torture, arbitrary detentions and even an enforced disappearance.

Alfonso Lafarga.-

Sumar, the government's partner with the PSOE, and the BNG, which voted in favour of the investiture of **Pedro Sánchez** as president, demand that the government **rectify and renew** the residence permit that the Saharawi human rights activist Aminetu **Haidar** had enjoyed for 16 years for humanitarian reasons.

The government's delegate in Madrid, **Francisco Martín**, said on December 21 that the [regulations were complied](#) with, that if the people who apply for the permit do not comply with it, "**there is no choice** but to deny that application" and **that** it is the same procedure as in any other case.

According to Aminetu's lawyer, **Fatma El Galia**, there is a [political decision](#) in the denial of the permit "because the grounds used **lack any legal logic**: there is no reason that justifies the refusal, they argue that it has been requested after the deadline and this is not the case", so she announced an appeal through the courts.

On behalf of Sumar, **Enrique Santiago**, from IU, and **Tesh Sidi**, the Saharawi deputy of Más Madrid, have asked the Government in writing the reasons why the Executive has not renewed Aminetu Haidar's permit and ask whether it doubts the **medical reasons** for which the residency was granted.

For Sumar, the coalition led by Vice President **Yolanda Díaz**, the government's decision is "shameful", since the situation of the Saharawi activist has not changed since the first permit was granted 16 years ago and the refusal leaves Aminetu **unprotected**, given the health problems she suffers and the **harsh reprisals** that it has suffered at the hands of the occupying force of Western Sahara, Morocco, the same that it exercises over the Saharawi population, a situation that is repeated in other similar cases.

When he was 20 years old, Haidar spent four years in a secret prison, where he was tortured. Subsequently, she was sentenced by the Moroccan justice system to 7 months in the Black Prison of El Aaiún and the trial was denounced for irregularities by **Amnesty International** and **members of the [European Parliament](#)**, who demanded her release; After a month in jail she was released.

In November and December 2009 she staged a 32-day hunger strike at Lanzarote airport, where she was expelled from Laayoune, the capital of Western Sahara, with the connivance of the Spanish government, presided over by **José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**, **who went so far as to offer her Spanish nationality and housing to stop the strike, which she rejected. Morocco gave in to international pressure and managed to return**

to its homeland. At the airport she was visited, among other personalities, by the Nobel Prize for Literature **José Saramago.**

The Galician Nationalist Bloc, for its part, has registered parliamentary initiatives in the Congress and Senate to ask the Government to **rectify** the denial of permission to Aminetu and to redirect its policy towards Western Sahara.

BNG parliamentarians **Néstor Rego** and **Carme da Silva** say that the government's decision has caused "repulsion, indignation and incomprehension in society as a whole". They point out that the Saharawi activist is recognized for her extensive career as a defender of the cause of an independent Sahara, having personally suffered repression, torture, arbitrary detentions and even an enforced disappearance.

Reactions to the denial of the residence permit have followed one another on Twitter (X). IU MEP **Manu Pineda** considers it unacceptable and considers that Aminetu Haidar "is a **social and political reference** persecuted by Morocco for defending the freedom of its people".

"Denying the residence permit with which he receives medical treatment in our country is a sign of **support and complicity** with the Moroccan occupation regime. We are in this government to defend human rights and the interests of the social majority, and this goes in the opposite direction. We demand immediate rectification," says Pineda.

Izquierda Unida highlights that Haidar is a Saharawi activist **persecuted and tortured** by Morocco and that "the withdrawal of the residence permit by the government **endangers her life**".

The Progressive Union of Prosecutors denounces "this outrageous and unjust decision", states that "**it is immoral** from every point of view" and shows its solidarity with Aminetu Haidar.

For journalist **David Bollero**, Pedro Sánchez's government continues to do **Morocco's dirty work** and "the vendetta against Haidar is reflected in opacity and excuses on the part of a government at the dictate of Rabat.