



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

6 April 2016

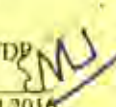
Dear Ms. Bolduc,

I wish to thank you for your outstanding support on the occasion of my recent visit to Tindouf, Rabouni and Bir Lahlou on 5 March 2016. I am grateful for the excellent work and commitment demonstrated by you and your team. Your role and great efforts in ensuring a useful trip, particularly given the challenging context and time constraints, were indispensable. I would like to thank, in particular, Force Commander Major General Muhammad Tayyab Azam, Lieutenant Colonel Emmerich Ahr, Lieutenant Colonel Nadeem Ahsan, Mr. Yusef Jedian and Mr. Fabrizio Scarpa for their valuable contributions.

I remain personally deeply moved by my visit. The frustration, anger and disillusion I witnessed among the Sahrawi men, women and children who greeted me in the Smara refugee camp has strengthened my resolve to ensure that the United Nations spares no effort to find a political solution to the Western Sahara conflict. In parallel, I also intend to do my utmost during the remainder of my mandate to improve the living conditions of the Sahrawi refugees.

As conveyed to you during our telephone conversation on 18 March 2016, I am most saddened at the withdrawal of support to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) by Morocco in response to my visit. I admire your swift reaction to these most unfortunate developments and commend the steadfast leadership of MINURSO in the present challenging context.

Ms. Kim Bolduc
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Western Sahara and Head of the United Nations
Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)
Laayoune

SG to SRSG Bolduc
(MINURSO)
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Approved by: 
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Please extend my heartfelt thanks and solidarity to all members of the Mission and of the larger United Nations presence in these particularly difficult circumstances. I wish to reassure you all that we are working hard to seek a solution to the present stalemate, which would see MINURSO return to its full capacity as soon as possible. I remain proud of their continuous commitment, tireless dedication and professionalism in carrying out the mission of the United Nations in Western Sahara and Tindouf in such challenging conditions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN Ki-moon