

## The Murder of Two Sahrawi university students at the bus station in Agadir, Morocco

On December 01<sup>st</sup>, 2008, at 20:00, two Sahrawi university students were murdered at the major bus station in Agadir, Morocco by a Moroccan bus driver. The Sahrawi students are called Baba Khaya (22 years old, a student at the third year - Economics - at the Faculty of Judicial, Economic and Social Sciences, Ibnou Zohr university, Agadir) and Elhoucine Lektif (20 years old, student at the first year - Sociology - at the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences, Ibnou Zohr University, Agadir).

Other Sahrawi students were seriously injured, Belqadi Mbarek (left hand broken), Abouh Elkharrachi (23 years old, seriously injured on the waist and fractures of the nibs; he is in coma in Hassan II Hospital in Agadir, Morocco).

According to the students who were at the sit-in in Agadir, a number of Sahrawi students organized a sit-in in front of the bus station, at 19:30 of December 1<sup>st</sup>, protesting against the bus company non-commitment of providing enough seats to the Sahrawi students going on the occasion of Eid Al Adha to their families in the Western Sahara and South of Morocco.

While the Moroccan police and Auxiliary Forces were violently dispersing the demonstrators, a bus holding the number 6687- : approached the Sahrawi students very rapidly and, its driver being determined

to fulfill the murder deliberately, hit the students and caused the death of the two Sahrawi demonstrators mentioned above.

The Morocan authorities has arrested three other Sahrawi students up to now, Braihma Elhadef, El Aasla Ahmed Salem and Mustapha Bentaleb.

The Executive Board of the CODESA, while denouncing this criminal act against the Sahrawi students, declares the following. It

- 1. expresses its solidarity with the two martyrs' families and with the other victims of this criminal act.
- 2.charges the Moroccan state of the responsibility of their death and the other Sahrawi students' injury.
- 3.calls the Moroccan state to start a fair and transparent investigation of this incident.
- 4. appeals to the international community to protect the Sahrawi citizens in the Western Sahara, South of Morocco and at the Moroccan universities.

The Executive Board of the CODESA,
El Aaiun, Western Sahara,
December 02 <sup>nd</sup>, 2008.