

NIGERIAN MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF WESTERN SAHARA

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Our Ref _____

Your Ref _____

Date _____

15th August, 2022

His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR,
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Presidential Villa,
State House,
Abuja

Your Excellency,

THE NIGERIA/MOROCCO TRANS-ATLANTIC GAS PIPELINE PROJECT.

The Nigerian Movement for the Liberation of Western Sahara, NMLWS, with due and profound respect for Your Excellency, here conveys our compliments to Your Excellency.

The Movement is a coalition of Nigerian mass organisations of repute including the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, TUC, the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, the Joint Action Front, JAF, Women Advancement for Economic and Leadership Empowerment, WAELE AFRICA, Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, CDHR, Amilcar Cabral Ideological School- Movement, ACIS-M, Students Associations and Civil Society Organisations. All the aforementioned organizations are bound together by a commitment to ensuring the end of the historically, politically and morally unacceptable colonial rule in Western Sahara, the last colony on the African continent.

The Federal Executive Council, FEC on June 1, 2022 gave approval for the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC to enter into an agreement with the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS for the construction of the Nigeria-Morocco Trans-Atlantic Gas Pipeline project. This gas pipeline, according to the announcement, is to pipe natural gas to fifteen West African countries and Morocco, and through Morocco to Spain in Europe.

The pipeline will be 5660 km (3517miles) long and built in phases over twenty-five years. Even though the project is at an infant stage, we know there are issues involved that are bound to embarrass the government and people of Nigeria.

Your Excellency, the proposed gas pipeline after traversing the entire coastline of West Africa (ECOWAS, Mauritania), would pass through the coastal waters of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic also known as Western Sahara (80 per-cent of it under Moroccan military occupation since 1975) before reaching the coastline of the Kingdom of Morocco. This is a deliberate ploy by the Moroccan occupier-state to compromise the principled position of Nigeria, the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the European Court of Justice on the Western Sahara conflict.

We assert with all emphasis and convinced that if the project is implemented, there will be certain clearly avoidable damage and, needless embarrassment and disgrace to the government and people of Nigeria. This is particularly important in view of the role that Nigeria played in the National liberation of African people at the most crucial stage.

Your Excellency, we recall, with an indelible memory, the role played by our country, Nigeria, by virtue of its principled defense of the rights of peoples in places like Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Namibia, Angola and South Africa to self-determination, gained a lot of respect universally. Our country's contribution to the struggle of the people of Western Sahara for independence, was in 1984, at its highest and most principled stage when you were the Head of the Nigerian State. This earned our country tremendous respect all over the world and guaranteed Nigeria's place in the history of African Liberation and the emancipation of colonized peoples in the world.

However, this universal respect is being called to question because of recent developments in our country. There is growing conviction and evidence that the Kingdom of Morocco is determined to undermine and ridicule the Nigerian Government and people through its quest to join the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), having killed the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) by its belligerent and expansionist actions towards its neighbours.

The aim of this letter to Your Excellency is to urge you to STOP the Nigeria/Morocco Trans-Atlantic Gas Pipeline Project, for it violates the sovereignty of the Saharawi people and is a trap that would irretrievably embarrass the people and government of Nigeria. It will call to question whether our country truly believes in the total liberation of Africa from colonial rule. Also, it will be a betrayal of the Saharawi people and Africa.

In view of these, we are pleading with you in the interest of the Nigerian people and Africa to STOP the proposed Nigeria/Morocco gas pipeline project. This position will be perfectly in tune with your role as leader of the country that stood firm and so noble in the struggle of the African people to put an end to colonial rule in Africa.

Your Excellency, this call is to urge you not to let Nigeria betray or even seem to betray the Saharawi people in putting to an end colonial rule in Africa. FREEDOM FOR THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN SAHARA IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY. This is the only path of human and historical justice. On this we stand.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of the highest regard of the Nigerian Movement for the Liberation of Western Sahara (NMLWS).

Prof. Adele Jinadu 

Deputy President – NMLWS

Dr. Oladipo Fashina 

Coordinator- NMLWS

Dr. Otunba Basirat Nahibi..... 

Co-Coordinator NMLWS

Prof. Nuhu Yaqub..... 

Ex- Officio Member NMLWS

Cde. Owei Lakemfa..... 

Ex-Officio Member NMLWS

Cde. Chris Uyot..... 

Ex- Officio Member NMLWS

Cde. Nuhu Toro..... 

Ex- Officio Member NMLWS

Cc: Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs

Honourable Minister of Defence

Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources

Chief of Staff to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation