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Western Sahara: Judicial harassment continues against woman human rights defender Jamila Mojahid as court session is delayed for the sixth time in a row

On 5 December 2022, the court hearing in the case of **Jamila Mojahid** was postponed for the sixth time in a row, and rescheduled to take place on 26 December 2022. The judicial harassment against the Sahrawi woman human rights defender has been ongoing since 9 May 2022. Jamila Mojahid is facing the charge of “insulting public officials while performing their duties”.

[Jamila Mojahid](#) is a Sahrawi woman human rights defender whose work focuses on promoting the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi people. She is the vice-president of the Laâyoune section of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH). She is also a member of the Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders Association in Western Sahara (CODESA). Jamila Mojahid has been facing different forms of harassment by the Moroccan security forces due to her human rights work, including detention and judicial harassment.

On 5 December 2022, the Court of First Instance in Laâyoune postponed the court hearing in the case of the Sahrawi woman human rights defender Jamila Mojahid to 26 December 2022. The postponement was due to the non-attendance of the Moroccan police officer who is named as a prosecution’s witness in the case. This is the sixth postponement in a row of the court hearings in Jamila Mojahid’s case. The same court hearing was supposed to take place on 16 May 2022.

On 9 May 2022, Jamila Mojahid was released on bail for MAD 3,000 (approximately EUR 270). The woman human rights defender and her father, who were both arrested on 3 May 2022, were brought to the Laâyoune Police Department where a police interrogation report was issued on the charge of “insulting public officials while performing their duties”. They were both released on the evening of the same day, however, Jamila Mojahid was summoned to appear before the same police department on 9 May 2022. On 9 May 2022, the woman human rights defender found out that court proceedings were initiated against her based on the same charge. Jamila Mojahid was detained and brought before the Court of First Instance in Laâyoune. She was granted provisional release upon payment of bail on the same day.

Jamila Mojahid was arrested and detained on 3 May 2022 after Moroccan security forces attacked her along with another Sahrawi woman human rights defender, Alrokby Alkhalifa, and her 6-year-old child. The security forces reportedly chased and stopped the transport vehicle they were on, proceeded to break the windshields, and violently arrested Jamila Mojahid. The security forces had attempted to arrest the 6-year-old child, who is also the son of another Sahrawi human rights defender [Ali Salem Tamek](#). Jamila Mojahid’s father, Al-Hussein Mojahid, was arrested later on the same day.

Woman human rights defender Jamila Mojahid has reportedly been repeatedly harassed due to her legitimate work in the promotion of the human rights of the Sahrawi people. There have been several reports of threats, attacks and harassment of Sahrawi women and men human rights defenders, members of AMDH-Laayoune and CODESA, as well as their families, which have been an ongoing effort by the Moroccan security forces to intimidate them and inhibit their human rights work

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned about the targeted harassment of woman human rights defender Jamila Mojahid and believes that it is solely motivated by her peaceful and legitimate human rights work.

Front Line Defenders urges the Moroccan authorities to:

1. Immediately drop all charges against Jamila Mojahid;
2. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the violent attack of the woman human rights defender Jamila Mojahid on 3 May 2022, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Western Sahara are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.