THE MOROCCAN WALL IN WESTERN SAHARA

The wall of shame, the wall of death

Context

Western Sahara is a disputed territory. It was invaded by Spain in 1884-1885, then split between Morocco and Mauritania with support from Madrid and other western powers. The Sahrawis, the legitimate people of these lands, were displaced, with a bloody war breaking out in 1975. Morocco currently occupies illegally most of the Western Sahara territory, and its most important control weapon is the world's longest military wall, the wall of shame.

Structure of the wall

Armored support. 4 km from each base there is a post occupied by a fast, mobile unit (with armored vehicles tanks, etc.)

Military telecomms. The Moroccan army has fixed and mobile radar units with 60-80 km reach around the wall.

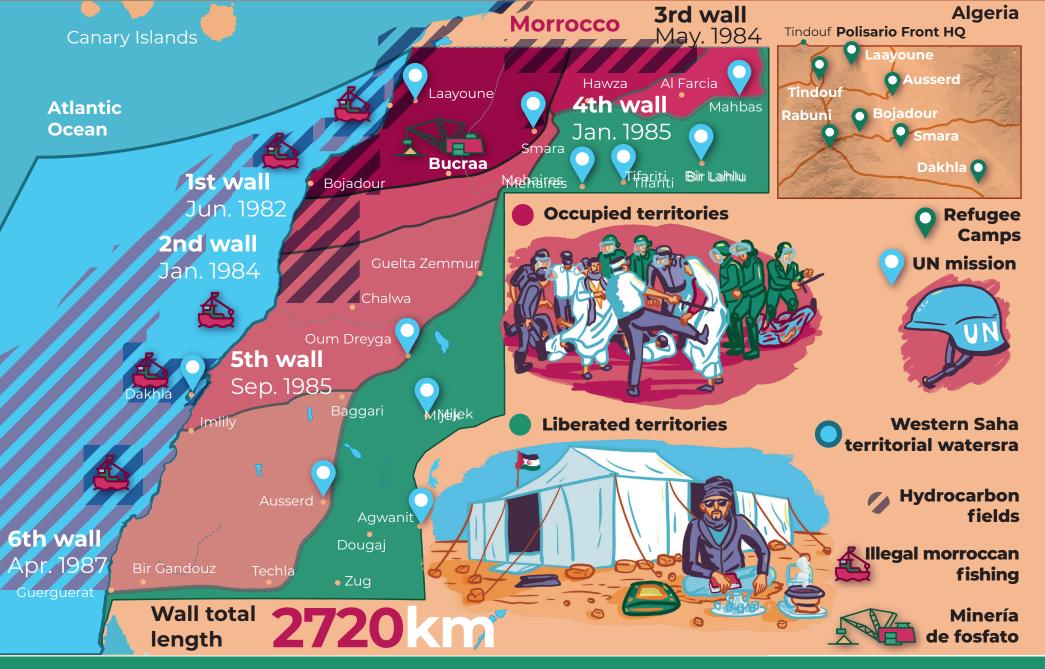
Military personnel and

equipment. Protected by bunkers, trenches, parapets, ditches and electronic surveillance. Some 180,000 soldiers man the wall, as well as combat airplanes and tanks.

Wall costs. The morroccan regime invests around 4.6% of it's GDP for it's maintanance. US \$2 million a day and rising.

Minefields. An area with 7 million anti-personnel mines runs along a 2 km strip alongside the wall.

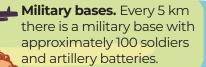
Algeria





Wall construction

During the war, in spite of large numerical and weapon advantages, the Moroccan army suffered a string of military setbacks. As a result, King Hassan II of Morrocco, with Israeli support and French and American advice, begins the construction of the wall. It was buil in six stages, the first starts in 1982 and the last in 1987.



Natural resources

The main purpose of the Moroccan occupation is control over the phosphate mine in Bucraa, Western Sahara's maritime waters, with its vast fishing opportunities, as well as other resources such as uranium, lead, natural gas, oil, zinc, titanium, gold and agricultural areas. The exploitation of these resources is what allows the Moroccan regime to bear the high maintenance costs of the wall.

The consequences of the wall

Environmental impact It affects the natural river flow, worsening the desertification of the area, affecting animals and plants, as well as unleashing long term consequences in the regional ecosystems.

Security impact

Some sources denounce that the Moroccan military has engaged in smuggling contraband and dug trafficking, while illegal immigration to and from occupied territories also cause instability in the region.



Sources

Interviews made in Tindouf refugee camps. http://removethewall.org/es/ https://fanack.com/morocco/history-past-to-present/the-end-of-spanish-rule-in-the-sahara/

