

1st July 2022

Your Excellency Mrs Wassane Zailachi
Ambassador of Morocco
9 Terrigal Crescent, O'Malley
ACT 2606
Australia

STATEMENT OF CONDEMNATION FOR THE KILLINGS OF AFRICAN MIGRANTS BY MOROCCO

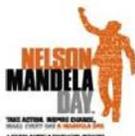
The Nelson Mandela Day Australia (NMDA) condemns in the strongest possible terms the barbaric killings of unarmed innocent 37 young African migrants by the Moroccan security forces on June 24th, 2022. The violent attack occurred when about 2000 African migrants attempted a mass border crossing by climbing the iron border fence separating Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Melilla. The widely published dreadful footage shows African bodies piled up at the foot of the fence, many lifeless, while others were savagely beaten by Moroccan Security Forces. As the NMDA, we believe that the call by Moussa Faki Mahamat, the Chairperson of the African Union (AU), for an immediate investigation, should additionally be a fully transparent international inquiry.

The NMDA also notes that the AU Chairperson reminds countries of their obligations under international law to treat all migrants with dignity and prioritize their safety and human rights. We echo Nelson Mandela's call to respect the dignity and equality of all people both within and between nations, regardless of race, nationality, or belief. These universal values are enshrined in the UN Charter and Human Rights treaties. Morocco has an obligation as a signatory to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (Part 1 Article 2) to ensure that every individual is entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the present Charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth, or any status. Morocco must urgently abide by these calls.

[Mochekeo Stephen Rametse, PhD.](#)
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