

**To: The Editors
Condé Nast Traveler
Condé Nast S.L.
Spain**

Date: 02 June 2025

Subject: Misrepresentation of Dakhla as a Moroccan City

Dear Editors,

I am writing on behalf of **Adala UK**, a London-based non-governmental organisation that documents and raises awareness about human rights violations committed by the Moroccan authorities in **Western Sahara**, a non-self-governing territory under illegal Moroccan occupation.

We were extremely concerned to read your recent article published on 2 June 2025, titled “*Qué ver en Dakhla, Marruecos: el paraíso del kitesurf*”, in which Dakhla is repeatedly described as being located in *the south of Morocco*. This is inaccurate and misleading. Dakhla is not in Morocco. It is situated in **Western Sahara**, a territory that the United Nations classifies as **non-self-governing** and whose final status is yet to be determined through a process of self-determination for the Saharawi people.

The **European Court of Justice (ECJ)** has issued multiple rulings (notably in 2016, 2018 and 2021) stating unequivocally that Western Sahara is *separate and distinct* from Morocco, and that any agreements involving the territory—be they economic, political, or cultural—require the **explicit consent** of the Saharawi people, who are represented internationally by the **Polisario Front**.

Your article overlooks these legal and political facts. While promoting tourism in Dakhla, you do not inform your readers that the city lies in **occupied territory**. Such misrepresentation not only legitimises Morocco’s illegal presence in Western Sahara, but also risks aligning your publication with the propaganda efforts of an occupying power that stands accused of severe and ongoing human rights abuses.

At Adala UK, we work with victims and witnesses of these abuses and have collected hundreds of testimonies from Saharawi civilians subjected to torture, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and discrimination under Moroccan rule. Further information can be found on our website: [www.adalauk.org].

To be clear, **Western Sahara does not fall under Moroccan sovereignty or jurisdiction under international law**. The territory is subject to a prolonged and unlawful occupation, and no state or international court recognises Morocco’s claim over it. As such, any reference to Dakhla as being in “southern Morocco” is both factually incorrect and politically problematic. We urge *Condé Nast Traveler* to reflect the territory’s correct status in all current and future reporting.

As an organisation that values journalistic integrity and international law, we trust you will take appropriate steps to amend this article and reconsider how you report on Western Sahara in future publications.

Sincerely,

Sidi Ahmed Fadel
Chair
Adala UK
Info@adala.uk.org
+447831909109