



17 July 2026

Ms Mirjana Spoljaric Egger

President

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: Urgent Humanitarian Intervention Concerning Mr Naâma Asfari and the Gdeim Izik Sahrawi Detainees

Dear President Spoljaric,

We write on behalf of **Adala UK**, a United Kingdom-based non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara.

Adala UK documents and verifies allegations of human rights violations affecting the Sahrawi people and provides independent, evidence-based information to policymakers, international organisations and United Nations human rights mechanisms. Since their arrest in 2010, our organisation has closely monitored the cases of the Sahrawi prisoners of the **Gdeim Izik Group** and the conditions under which they continue to be detained.

We are compelled to write to you in light of the grave deterioration in the health of **Mr Naâma Asfari**, a prominent Sahrawi human rights defender, whose life is now at serious risk following his ongoing hunger strike, which began on **8 June 2026**.

Mr Asfari has now spent more than fifteen years in detention and is serving a thirty-year sentence following proceedings that have been widely criticised by United Nations human rights mechanisms because of allegations of torture, the use of coerced confessions and serious deficiencies in due process.

According to information received by our organisation, Mr Asfari's health has deteriorated to a critical condition while he remains detained in Kenitra Central Prison without access to the specialised medical care his condition urgently requires. We are also deeply concerned that his wife, the French human rights defender **Claude Mangin**, has reportedly been prevented from visiting him for the past eight years.

The humanitarian concerns extend beyond Mr Asfari's individual case. Other members of the **Gdeim Izik Group**, detained in various Moroccan prisons, have also undertaken hunger strikes in solidarity with him while continuing to report serious concerns regarding their conditions of detention, prolonged isolation, restrictions on family contact and access to appropriate healthcare.

Given the International Committee of the Red Cross's unique humanitarian mandate to protect the life and dignity of persons deprived of their liberty, we respectfully request that the ICRC give urgent consideration to this situation and, insofar as its mandate permits:



- seeking immediate humanitarian access to Mr Naâma Asfari and the other Sahrawi detainees of the Gdeim Izik Group;
- assessing Mr Asfari's medical condition and advocating for his immediate access to independent and specialised medical treatment;
- facilitating regular contact between the detainees and their families, particularly in Mr Asfari's case;
- monitoring the humanitarian conditions of detention and encouraging compliance with internationally recognised standards governing the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty; and
- maintaining a confidential humanitarian dialogue with the Moroccan authorities with a view to preventing any further deterioration in the health and wellbeing of the detainees.

The urgency of Mr Asfari's situation cannot be overstated. His continued hunger strike, combined with his reportedly deteriorating physical condition, gives rise to serious humanitarian concerns that warrant immediate attention. We respectfully believe that timely humanitarian engagement by the ICRC could play an important role in safeguarding his life and dignity, as well as those of the other Sahrawi detainees.

We would be grateful for your urgent consideration of this matter and remain at your disposal should the ICRC require any further information or documentation concerning these cases.

Yours sincerely,

Adala UK

A UK-based non-governmental organisation dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara

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