



Global Monitoring Center, Inc.

14 March 2026

Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Concerns Regarding S.4063 and Related Legislative Efforts Targeting the Polisario Front

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The Global Monitoring Center respectfully writes to express serious concerns regarding S.4063, a recently introduced bill proposing sanctions against the Polisario Front if it cooperates with an Iranian-affiliated terrorist organization. While the stated objective of addressing potential security threats is understandable, the introduction of this legislation raises significant policy and factual concerns when considered alongside H.R. 4119, a separate bill introduced in the House of Representatives that seeks to designate the Polisario Front as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Taken together, these two legislative initiatives highlight a troubling inconsistency that merits careful scrutiny.

H.R. 4119 is premised on claims that the Polisario Front is already cooperating with Iran and Hezbollah, while S.4063 proposes sanctions only if such cooperation were to occur in the future. The coexistence of these two legislative approaches suggests that the underlying allegations have not been clearly established through credible evidence.

Given the seriousness of terrorism accusations and the far-reaching consequences of sanctions or terrorist designations, Congress should exercise caution before advancing legislation based on claims that remain unverified.

Global Monitoring Center
The Chrysler Building, 405 Lexington Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10174
info@GlobalMonitoringCenter.org | (212) 810 – 2041

Background: As the Global Monitoring Center noted in its previous letter to the House Foreign Affairs Committee regarding H.R. 4119, the Polisario Front has long been recognized internationally as the political representative of the Sahrawi people in the dispute over Western Sahara. It has participated in United Nations-led diplomatic processes for decades and has not been designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, or the United States government.

Reference | *Global Monitoring Center, Letter Opposing Terrorist Designation of the Polisario Front (H.R. 4119) July 1, 2025. Available at: www.GlobalMonitoringCenter.org/institutional-engagement*

The conflict over Western Sahara remains one of the longest unresolved territorial disputes on the United Nations agenda. Since 1991, the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has overseen efforts to reach a peaceful political solution that allows the Sahrawi people to exercise their right to self-determination.

Legislative proposals that risk redefining one party to this conflict as a terrorist organization — without clear and credible evidence — threaten to undermine these longstanding diplomatic efforts.

- **Unsubstantiated Allegations of Iranian Cooperation:** Public claims that the Polisario Front is working with Iran or Hezbollah have been repeatedly circulated in political discourse surrounding the Western Sahara conflict. However, these allegations have not been substantiated by credible international investigations or by official designations from recognized international bodies.

Serious accusations involving terrorism must be supported by verifiable intelligence and transparent evidence. Without such evidence, legislative efforts based on these claims risk politicizing counterterrorism policy and weakening the credibility of U.S. sanctions mechanisms.

The introduction of S.4063 itself implicitly acknowledges that such cooperation has not been conclusively demonstrated. By proposing sanctions only if cooperation occurs, the bill suggests that the alleged relationship remains hypothetical rather than established.

This stands in direct contrast to the premise underlying H.R. 4119.

- **Policy Risks of Advancing These Legislative Proposals:** Advancing legislative measures based on unverified allegations could have significant consequences for U.S. foreign policy and regional stability.

First, designating or sanctioning a party involved in a United Nations-mediated political process risks undermining diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the Western Sahara conflict. Such a step would complicate the ability of international mediators to facilitate negotiations between the parties.

Second, labeling a recognized national liberation movement as a terrorist organization without credible evidence would set a troubling precedent in international affairs. Terrorism designations carry profound legal and humanitarian consequences and must be reserved for organizations that clearly meet established legal criteria.

Third, such legislation could harm humanitarian operations in the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria, where international aid organizations operate to support displaced civilians who have lived in exile for decades.

Finally, inconsistent legislative approaches — such as the contradiction between H.R. 4119 and S.4063 — risk sending confusing signals regarding U.S. policy toward Western Sahara and the broader region.

- **The Need for Evidence-Based Policymaking:** Counterterrorism legislation must be grounded in clear evidence and consistent legal standards. Allegations of cooperation between armed groups and terrorist organizations require careful verification through credible intelligence and international investigation. Absent such evidence, legislative actions based on speculative claims risk undermining the integrity of counterterrorism policy and eroding trust in U.S. decision-making.

Particularly concerning is the waiver structure contained in H.R. 4119, which allows the President to waive potential designations and sanctions if the Polisario Front engages in negotiations aimed at implementing Morocco's 2007 autonomy proposal within a framework of Moroccan sovereignty. While waiver provisions are common in sanctions legislation, conditioning relief from sanctions on progress toward a specific political framework risk creating the perception that U.S. counterterrorism authorities are being used to incentivize a predetermined outcome in the Western Sahara dispute.

The United States has historically taken a more principled position. The late Senators **Edward M. Kennedy** and **James M. Inhofe**, though from different political parties, were among the most prominent voices in Congress supporting the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination. Senator Inhofe frequently emphasized this principle, stating that,

“The Sahrawi people deserve the right to freely choose their own destiny.”

Their bipartisan leadership reflected a longstanding American understanding that the future of Western Sahara must ultimately be determined through the free and genuine expression of the will of the Sahrawi people.

Western Sahara remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory under international law. Spain remains the de jure administering power, while Morocco exercises control over much of the territory as an occupying power. The right to self-determination must therefore be exercised through the long-promised referendum in which verified Sahrawi voters—including Sahrawis residing in

Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, in the refugee camps, and in the parts of Western Sahara outside Moroccan occupation—are able to participate in determining their political future.

Verification of the electorate remains essential given longstanding concerns regarding demographic engineering and the movement of large numbers of Moroccan citizens into the occupied territory in ways that risk altering the composition of the population prior to the exercise of self-determination.

In this context, legislative initiatives must be approached with caution. Measures that risk politicizing counterterrorism authorities or creating the perception that sanctions policy is intended to shape the outcome of a final-status dispute could complicate diplomatic efforts and undermine confidence in the impartial application of U.S. law.

The Global Monitoring Center therefore respectfully urges Congress to exercise careful judgment in considering S.4063 and to ensure that U.S. policy continues to support a lawful and peaceful resolution to the Western Sahara conflict consistent with international law and the Sahrawi people's right to determine their own future.

Sincerely,



Agron Pali, Executive Director
On behalf of the Global Monitoring Center, Inc.
apali@globalmonitoringcenter.org

CC:

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State
Chairman and Members, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Chairman and Members, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Chairman and Members, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
Chairman and Members, Senate Committee on Armed Services
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs