

*The CODESA secretariat,
El Aaiun, Western Sahara
June 17th, 2008*

A Violent Attack Against the Sahrawi prominent Human Rights Defender, Dadach Sidi Mohamed

Sidi Mohamed Dadach (51 years old), the prominent human rights defender and Rafto Award owner in 2002, and the president of the Support Committee to the Sahrawi people's self-determination, was subjected to a brutal aggression in the early morning of June 17th, 2008. As soon as Mr. Dadach went out of a human rights defender's house in Ezzamla neighbourhood in El aaiun, he was surprised by a group of Moroccan police agents in plainclothes who attacked him and tortured him altogether in public street. Dadach was in a house where he and many other Sahrawis were preparing for the reception of the human rights defender, Brahim Essabar after his release the same day.

Sidi M. Dadach claims that he about 15 police agents participated in his torture and mistreatment (on the face and other parts of the body), which led to his falling down on earth before he was violently pulled by a police officer who looked into his pockets kicked him. Then Mr. Dadach was followed by the police agents throwing stones on him while he was fleeing away from them.

Mr. Dadach now is suffering from serious pain on his right ear, left arm, back and backbone.

The secretariat of the CODESA, observing with worry and anxiety, the continuous process of the aggression of the Sahrawi population in general, and the human rights defenders in particular, by the Moroccan police agents, -declares its unconditioned solidarity with the Sahrawi human rights defender, Sidi Mohamed Dadach and all the other victims who were banned to see Brahim Essabar after his release.

- condemns the brutal attack against the Sahrawi citizens and their deprivation of expressing their joy for the release of their sons from prison.
- calls the Moroccan state to respect human rights in the Western Sahara and stop the harassment and torture of the Sahrawi human rights defenders and all the Sahrawi population.
- urges the Moroccan authorities to release all the Sahrawi political prisoners without any condition.