



New York, 14 November 2014

Dear Mr. Executive Director,

I am writing you on the communiqué entitled "Morocco: Human Rights Gatherings Blocked", published by HRW on 7 November 2014, in which your Organization that condemns what it considers as "impeding the peaceful activities of the country's independent human rights groups".

In this regard, you will find attached a letter addressed to you, in this regard, by M. Mahjoub El Haiba, Interministerial Delegate for Human Rights of the Kingdom of Morocco, containing the response of the Moroccan authorities to this communiqué.

Please accept, Mr. Executif Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

The Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Omar Hilale



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Following the publication by HRW, on 7th of November 2014, of a communiqué entitled "Morocco: Human Rights Gatherings Blocked" in which your organization condemns what it considers "impeding the peaceful activities of the country's independent human rights groups," Moroccan authorities would like to provide the following clarifications:

- During the first 10 months of the current year, **1,159,540 activities have been organized by NGOs, including 4800 activities organized by NGOs working in the field of human rights.**
- As far as bans go, hardly 20 activities have been banned during the same period, and it was mainly for **non-respect of pertinent legal provisions**, particularly the provisions of law n°76-00 of 23 July 2002, relating to public gatherings.
- Public authorities act, in this regard, in utmost respect of the provisions of the laws in force, and can ban meetings or gatherings in a very exceptional cases where there is non-respect of the notification formalities stipulated by the law.

Moroccan authorities also wish to point out that freedom of association and peaceful assembly, the guarantees of which have been widely enhanced in the new Constitution, is now the subject of a broad public debate. This debate aims at upgrading the relevant legal framework in such a manner as to keep the necessary balance between the exercise of rights and freedoms and respect for the legislation in force, in order to ensure compliance to the obligations of the international law of human rights without infringing public order and the rights of others in a democratic society.