

Week 5 Seminar Lesson plan REVISED

Before your seminar, please read (the first reading is very short, and the second one is relatively easy-to-follow):

1) Vivian Solana, "An Invisible War in Western Sahara," *Middle East Report* 298 (Spring 2021), available at <https://merip.org/2021/04/an-invisible-war-in-western-sahara/>

2) This Cornell Law School and Caen University (2015) report on rights violations:
https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CESCR/Shared%20Documents/MAR/INT_CESCR_CSS_MAR_21582_E.pdf

With regards to the Cornell and Caen report, make some brief notes of examples of rights abuses that signal authoritarian traits.

3) Please also watch this documentary on You Tube by Democracy Now. You might be asked to sign in to You Tube to confirm you are over 18, but it is free to watch: [Four Days in Occupied Western Sahara—A Rare Look Inside Africa's Last Colony](#) Listen out for why the Western Sahara conflict is so unknown, according to the documentary makers/presenter.

In class

Activity 1: Joanna will give you an overview of the history of the Western Sahara conflict.

Activity 2: Based on your notes from the film, the MERIP article, and your notes from the longer report, discuss the following questions in threes or fours, and nominate one person to report back:

- Why is the Western Sahara conflict invisible?
- Based on what you have read and seen so far about Western Sahara, would you describe the Moroccan regime ruling occupied Western Sahara as authoritarian? Why?