

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

رجل: لمغاربة مشاوا حتي هم طلبتهم يقرأوا في كوبا. الكوبيين كانوا واعين بالصراع منبينا و و اعاونوا و نذرو الصحراويين في المدارس الي لاهي يقسوها هادو لمغاربة الجايين يقرأوا و لكن هم كانوا يديرونا تأثيرات و يديرونا يعني يسبوننا مشاكل في الجامعات معنا. يلبسوننا مثلا لباس عليه خريطة المغرب و الصحراء خالطة، يعني ذا النوع من provocations كانوا يجو علينا و في النهاية الكوبيين ستاطعو عنهم يسطرو علي الوضع. لان المغرب انزيد من الناحية السياسية كان يضغط علي كوبا. المغرب اواجهه متعددة في الموضوع، كان يوقف في الكونغرس و البرلمان الاوروبي و الصحافة و يقول عانا نحن محبوسين في كوبا و عن ذا الي كافحو و ذا الي حاربو في الصراع الا الجزائر و كوبا. يغير من جهة ثانية كانوا ينادو الخارجية الكوبية دايمًا و يطلبها بفتح العلاقات ما بين البلدين و فتح سفارات و هذا كانت، الكوبيين كانوا يرحبو بسفارة مغربية بدون أي شروط لكن لمغاربة كانوا يقدمو لهم شروط واحد منهم هي أنهم يقفلو سفارة الصحراء الغربية و ينحو إستعرا فهم بجهة البوليساريو و المغرب يفتح سفارته في La Havana. زيادة علي ذلك كانوا لاهي ساعدهم في التصويت في الامم المتحدة و في المصالح الكوبية علي مستوى دولي و كانوا لاهي يشرو منعدهم مثلا سكرهم و كامل الانتاج كانوا لا يتحملو، يعودو زبين رقم واحد في المنتج السكر الكوبي. و هذا الكوبيين ردا عليهم في عدة مرات من وزارة الخارجية انهم، هذا كوبا ما تبدل مباديها في الحال التجاري ولا واحد سياسي و أنها مع الشعب الصحراوي و هذا هو مبادها و هذا هو موقفها، و أنهم الا عادو باعين يفتحو سفارتهم في زر سفارة البوليساريو رايتهم يشيرو، مرحبة و يالا عادو ماهم باعين الا لا يجو.

English translation:

Man: There were Moroccan students in Cuba as well. The Cubans were aware of the conflict between Morocco and Western Sahara. And the Cubans made the Saharawi students aware about the universities that have Moroccan students but the Moroccan students always provoked us and caused us problems at the universities. For example, they would wear shirts that have a map of Morocco and [Western] Sahara joined, I mean – they did these kinds... aaa... of provocations. But, in the end... aaa... the Cubans managed to control these kinds of situations. In addition, Morocco always pressured Cuba politically when it came to this issue. Morocco had different stands on this situation. For example, they would speak before the American Congress, the European Parliament and the media and say that we [Saharawi students] are imprisoned in Cuba. And that the actual conflicting parties are only Algeria and Cuba. On the other hand, however, they always pressure... aaa... the Cuban foreign ministry to start the political relationship between the two countries and to open embassies. The Cubans... aaa... always welcomed a Moroccan embassy without any conditions but the Moroccans always had conditions and one of them is for the Cubans to close... aaa... the Saharawi embassy and to give up their recognition of the Polisario Front¹ so that Morocco can open its embassy in Havana. In addition to that, they were willing to help them... aaa... to vote in the United Nations and with... aaa... the Cuban interest internationally. And they were going to buy from them... aaa... for example, all their sugar; they wanted to be... aaa...

¹ POLISARIO Front: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia Al-Hamra and Rio de Oro is the liberation movement in Western Sahara and the political representative for the Saharawi people in exile.

the customer number one in buying the... aaa... the Cuban sugar. And the Cuban foreign ministry has replied to this several times and that... aaa... Cuba would never change its principles even if it means political or economic interest, and that they are with the Saharawi people and that this is their principle and their position. They also made it clear if they [Moroccans] want to open their embassy together with the Saharawi embassy, both with their flags, they are more than welcome; but if they don't want to, then they should not come.

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