

UNITED NATIONS
United Nations Mission for the
Referendum in
Western Sahara



NATIONS UNIES
Mission des Nations Unies pour
l'organisation d'un référendum au
Sahara occidental

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**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION
FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA**

Lâayoune, 15 August 2003

Press Release

The Frente POLISARIO announced on 14 August its decision to release 243 Moroccan prisoners of war following the request of Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, and the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1495 (2003). The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) welcomes this announcement, and expresses its hope for an early release of all remaining prisoners of war in full compliance with international humanitarian law. The mission also calls on the parties to continue to cooperate with the efforts of the ICRC to resolve the fate of all those unaccounted for since the beginning of the conflict.