

## Sahrawi: A people abandoned by Spain and the UN

By Juan José Pfeifauf

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*His interest in the problem of the Saharawi refugee camps in the Western Sahara began after watching the Spanish film "Sons of the Clouds" produced by Alvaro Longoria and Javier Bardem. After that, as a journalist, he interviewed Alvaro, who gave him all the information about the situation and the details of the film. These photographs were taken in 2012.*



*The Western Sahara was under Spanish rule between 1885 and 1975, when, under pressure from the United Nations, Spain left the territory. Immediately afterwards, this African region was occupied by the Moroccan army. Thousands of Sahrawis fled to the border with Algeria and built Refugee Camps. Today, about 200,000 survive in one of the most inhospitable areas of the planet, waiting for the UN to help find solutions for their plight.*



*The Spanish Alvaro Longoria documentary "Sons of the Clouds" provided some insight into the situation of the Saharawi People in the desert, forgotten by much of the world. They live in makeshift tents with no running water or electricity and camels remain the main means of transportation. Meat and vegetables are scarce and the most important food is goat milk. Some of them received money from the Spanish Government, as a small salary for having served in the military during the years of occupation.*



*The Western Sahara is divided by a 2600-mile-long wall. On one side are the Sahrawis who could not escape in 1975 and remain under Moroccan control. On the other side, near Algeria, are the refugee camps with no more protection than the Polisario Front, a nationalist guerrilla group fighting to regain territory usurped by Morocco.*