



UNHCR

The UN Refugee Agency

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Wednesday 14 September 2011

First Seminar on the Saharawi Hassaniya Culture takes place in Madeira, Portugal

In the context of the UNHCR confidence building measures plan of action and in conformity with the UN Security Council resolutions, UNHCR today inaugurated the first Seminar on the Saharawi Hassaniya culture in Madeira, Portugal. 34 participants, Saharawi refugees from the Tindouf camps in Algeria and Saharaoui people from the territory are meeting together for 4 days with an objective to sensitize both sides and build confidence which may complement UN ongoing efforts to find a political solution to a dispute that has been dividing the community for the last 36 years.

UNHCR would like to thank the Portuguese government for allowing it to hold the seminar in Madeira. We also thank the two parties, the Moroccan government and the Frente Polisario, the two neighbouring countries Algeria and Mauritania, and the Secretary General's personal Envoy, for their continued cooperation and support, without which this seminar would have not been organized.

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