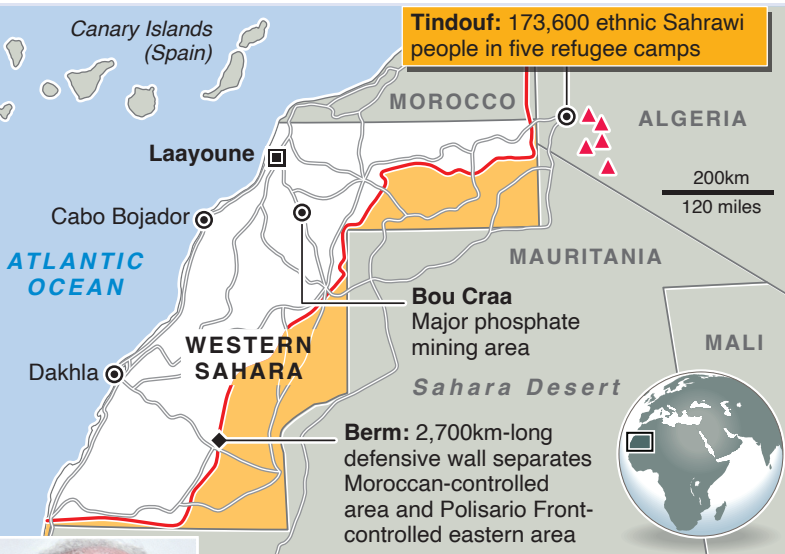


France shifts Western Sahara position

France recognised Morocco's sovereignty over the Western Sahara, dealing a blow to the Algeria-backed Polisario Front that claims the disputed territory as an independent state



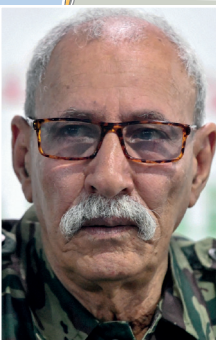
HISTORY OF WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT

■ **1975:** Morocco takes control of most of Western Sahara as colonial power Spain withdraws

■ **1975-1991:** *Polisario Front* fights 16-year-long guerrilla war against Moroccan forces

■ **1991-2000s:** UN-brokered ceasefire ends war. Polisario Front controls about third of territory – rest controlled by Morocco

■ **Jul 2016:** *Brahim Ghali* (left) elected leader of Polisario Front and president of *Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic – SADR*



■ **Dec 2020:** U.S. recognises full Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in exchange for Morocco establishing relations with Israel

■ **Jul 30, 2024:** France's President *Emmanuel Macron* writes: "*The present and future of Western Sahara fall within the framework of Moroccan sovereignty.*" Algeria withdraws ambassador to France