

In the Case of Nowal Sadawi:

November 6, 1981

His Excellency Muhammed Hosni Mubarak
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
Cairo
Egypt

Dear Mr. President:

I write with urgency to request your attention to a matter of great concern to many scholars and writers.

Members of this Association and scholars everywhere are saddened to learn of the recent imprisonment of Nowal Sadawi. Ms. Sadawi is widely esteemed for her important and inspiring work. Her spirit has enhanced the causes of freedom and progress in our time. We believe that her release from prison would have a similar effect and ardently solicit your personal attention to this plea.

With great respect, I am

Yours sincerely,
Richard Sklar

In the Case of "Bantustans," the western Sahara and maps:

Dear Sir:

The Board of Directors of the African Studies Association has noted that major publishers of maps are misrepresenting two situations in Africa.

First, a few so-called "Homelands" within the Republic of South Africa have been portrayed in maps as if they were independent of South Africa. We wish to emphasize that no government, other than the apartheid regime of South Africa itself, has ever recognized the independence of these territories. An application of the normal color scheme for showing independence to the boundaries of these territories has the lamentable effect of misleading non-specialist teachers, students, and the public in general. We urge map publishers to devise a method of accurate representation which would not give credence to the principles of South Africa's racialist policy.

Second, the Western Sahara is often portrayed in maps as if it were a possession of the Kingdom of Morocco. Moroccan claims to this country have been repudiated by the International Court of Justice, the United Nations, and the Organization of African Unity. It is widely and reliably reported that some eighty percent of the country is actually controlled by forces of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. It is surely misleading to portray this territory as if it were an integral part of Morocco.

The African Studies Association is a nonpolitical, professional, and scholarly membership organization. In this matter, our sole concern is the truthful and accurate representation of geographical and political realities in Africa. The information contained in standard maps passes quickly into textbooks, newspaper articles, and other forms of mass communication. The South African and Saharan situations have resulted