

**Modern Endangered Archives Program**  
**MEAP-6-0133: Sahrawi Archives**  
**Ministry of Information Survey**

*Note: For Planning Grants with multiple collection sites, please complete this form for each site. This may include only a subset of your intended collection.*

**Title of Collection:** Ministry of Information Archives

**Date of survey:** October 19, 2024

**Surveyor(s):** Sarah Ponichtera, Joseph Huddleston

**Creator or Owner of Collection:** Ministry of Information, Others

**Collection Dates:** 1975-present

**Signed Grant of Permission (Agreement to Digitize and make content openly accessible):**  
**Contingent on Ministry review**

**Collection Summary:**

*Give a brief account of the types of materials included and the topics covered. Include the importance and uniqueness of the collection.*

Collection originated in 1982 as the archives of the television and radio station, and contains recordings, photographs, notes and internal records of the station, and other materials contributed for research. The archives of the “Free Sahara” newspaper and the “Voice of the Free Sahara” radio station are stored here. Topics include Sahrawi history and political struggle, as well as culture and education. These materials are an irreplaceable repository of the Sahrawi people’s lived experience throughout their time in exile. In photos and audio, they bring Sahrawi voices to life vividly, preserving personal experiences captured in interviews, performances such as dances and festivals, and photographs documenting key moments in the political struggle.

**Restrictions to Collection or Sensitive Material:**

*Note any restrictions in place or sensitive material identified by the donor or during the survey (e.g., Social Security numbers, student records, etc.).*

Selected materials have political sensitivities; some photos depict violent events.

**Extent:**

*Note size of collection and explain any unusual circumstances.*

#215	Linear feet		
#646	Number of records cartons	#1 map case	Number of oversized boxes
#	Number of volumes (unboxed)		
#31,500	Number of items (unboxed) – loose documents		
#	Oversized material (in flat files or otherwise unboxed)		

Notes:

**Location(s) of Collection: Ministry of Information Archives, Rabouni**

**Languages in the Collection: Arabic, Spanish, French, English**

**Existing Intellectual Access or Description:**

*Be sure to note whether or not any of the information is publicly available.*

<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Print or online guide (finding aid)
<input type="checkbox"/> Accession record	<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog record
<input type="checkbox"/> Donor/Control file	<input type="checkbox"/> Box/folder level inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one of these documents is publicly accessible

Notes: The inventory is not yet publicly accessible.

**Special Formats:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Architectural drawings	<input type="checkbox"/> General oversized - maps
<input type="checkbox"/> Art originals	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer storage units – 4-5 TB of data

<input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts	<input type="checkbox"/> Film (negative, slide, microfilm, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual material	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Specimens	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographs
<input type="checkbox"/> Botanical specimens	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Notes: The AV materials are in poor condition due to harsh conditions and inadequate storage. Some repairs and cleaning will have to be done prior to digitization.

Totals:

- 4-5 TB of digitized materials, including 110 Arabic issues of the May 20 magazine, 10 Spanish issues, and 4 French issues.
- 111 16 mm tapes
- 2257 audio tapes, of which 60% were already digitized

### Conservation and Preservation:

*Note any issues relating to conservation and preservation. Note whether the collection appears stable or if it requires immediate attention.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Mold	<input type="checkbox"/> Tape
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent pest damage	<input type="checkbox"/> Thermofax paper
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive dirt/dust	<input type="checkbox"/> Damaged binding(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Brittle paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers
<input type="checkbox"/> Metal fasteners	<input type="checkbox"/> Water damage
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorating film base (nitrate or other)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Notes: Collection is stable; however materials have been damaged to being stored with improper supplies, or a complete lack of supplies. Materials will have to be cleaned and some pages will have to be flattened prior to digitization.

## Digitization Planning

### Proposed Digital Format:

*What might be the best digital format for making this collection accessible online? Check all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> JPG Image Files	<input type="checkbox"/> PDF Paginated Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Files	<input type="checkbox"/> Video Files
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

Notes:

### Accessibility

*Consider additional needs for making materials accessible online? Will this collection require any of the following? Note where these processes would add meaning but may not be required.*

<input type="checkbox"/> OCR	<input type="checkbox"/> Color or other correction
<input type="checkbox"/> Translation	

Notes: Although these would be nice I do not think they are necessary at this stage.

### Supply needs:

*Add notes on all supplies needed to digitize this collection. Are there preservation needs first? Will your team need a camera and lights or a slide scanner? Review the [UCLA Library Toolkit](#) for a recommendation.*

Digitizing the audio and video recordings will require specialized equipment, including a video converter suite and VHS splicing equipment for repairs. Film reels will be required to rehouse the film, and splice tape and cleaning equipment to repair damaged films. The recordings should all be rehoused in clean archival housings to protect them from the elements.

Paper materials will have to be rehoused (or housed for the first time) and some materials will need to be flattened. Paper materials are mostly standard sized but there are some oversize materials that will require oversize folders. There are already map cases on site that can be used for permanent storage for these materials.

**Additional Notes:**

*Highlight things about the collection that make it difficult to use or understand in its current state.*

Currently the collection is almost completely inaccessible, with no digital description and often no analog description available to researchers.

**Sample Images:**

*Include sample images that represent the collection.*