

**IWMF**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MEDIA FOUNDATION

November 30, 2012

– Press Release –

IWMF to Lead Reporting Trip to Western Sahara

The International Women's Media Foundation will lead an unprecedented reporting trip of six women journalists to Laayoune, Western Sahara.

This first of two trips planned to Western Sahara as part of the IWMF's international reporting fellowship program, is scheduled to take place December 3-7, 2012, and will enable participating journalists to cover a range of underreported issues, including economic development activities in the region.

Participating journalists include:

Eliza Barclay, NPR

Kristin Chick, *The Christian Science Monitor*

Larisa Epatko, PBS Newshour

Celeste Hicks, Freelance (BBC, *The Guardian*)

Edythe McNamee, CNN.com

Kristen McTighe, Freelance (*International Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times*)

In Western Sahara, the IWMF group will meet with experts and government officials, exchange knowledge with local journalists, and gain first-hand insight into the region's culture and economic development.

Giving foreign journalists open access to Western Sahara marks an important step for press freedom for Morocco, which controls the territory.

The IWMF has a track record of offering opportunities for journalists – both women and men – to report on issues of global significance, and training them to seek out new angles for unbiased, independent news coverage. Similar programs include an Environmental Reporting Fellowship in the Philippines and an HIV/AIDS Reporting Fellowship in South Africa.

For more information, please contact Anna Schiller, aschiller@iwmf.org, (202) 603 0008, visit iwmf.org, and follow @IWMF on Twitter.

About the IWMF

Founded in 1990 by a group of prominent U.S. women journalists, the International Women's Media Foundation is a Washington-based organization that is dedicated to strengthening the role of women journalists worldwide. The IWMF empowers women with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to serve as a prominent voice on global issues. The IWMF's programs provide training, support, and advancement for women journalists worldwide. At the core of the IWMF's mission is the belief that no press is truly free unless women have an equal voice.

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