Mostly desert and hardly populated, Western Sahara is a disputed territory in northwest Africa. It was a Spanish territory until 1975, when the Spanish government signed an agreement with neighboring Morocco and Mauritania regarding control of the region. Since then, the issue of sovereignty has been unresolved, and the US government considers the political status of the territory to be “undetermined.”

In the meantime, the Saharawi people have sought self-determination but have had to do so from exile in refugee camps. As a result, much of the Saharawi population has spent the last forty years displaced, living in tent cities.

Shelley Booth is a US volunteer who has worked closely with this vulnerable population. She is dedicated to educating people about the Saharawis’ struggle and to raising funds for this important human rights issue. She recently ran a marathon in the Sahara Desert as a fundraising effort. Booth will speak about her experiences in the region and her efforts to educate people here in the US of the conflict that has forced 200,000 into desert camps for forty years.

at right: Booth in February 2016 after completing the marathon near Tindouf, Algeria

WESTERN SAHARA
#40yearsenough

March 15, 2016 at 4:00 PM - UC Theater, WCU

Questions? Contact Dr. Lori Oxford in the Dept. of World Languages at 227-2769 or lfoxford@wcu.edu.