

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 38/04/95

13 November 1995

Further information on UA 247/95 (AFR 38/03/95, 26 October 1995) - Fear of ill-treatment / legal concern and new concerns: Torture / Fear of unfair trial

MAURITANIA Memed Ould Ahmed
 Mohamed Yehdih Ould Breidelil
 Hamada Ould Beddy
 Mohamed Ould Bowba

New names: Cheikh Ould Ouda'a
 Cheikh Ould Bouasria
 Abdellahi Ould M'Haimed
 Bah Ould Bah
 Issa Ould Bellal
 El Arbi Ould Moulaye Zeine
 Ahmed Ould Mohamed Brahim
 Didi Ould Weissat
 Baba Ould Ahmed Legraa
 Cheikhna Ould Sakrhawi
 Nahi Ould Nahi

Released: Mohamed Ould Hamady
 Abdellahi Ould Mohamedou

Fifty-two of the people arrested since 24 October 1995, including one woman and seven military officers, have been charged with membership of an illegal association and creating a new political movement contrary to the law. The more serious charge of providing information to a foreign power has been dropped. They are due to appear before the *Cour correctionnelle* (Correctional court) imminently.

The defendants' lawyers have been denied access to the legal dossiers. Some of the accused, including the 11 new names added above, have made statements that they were tortured during their interrogation. The lawyers have demanded a medical examination of the accused, which has been accepted by the authorities, but has not yet been carried out. After interrogation some of those arrested were released.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or Arabic or in your own language:

- urging that those facing trial are given a fair trial, in particular:
 - defence lawyers should be given adequate access to their clients and to their dossiers;
 - allegations of torture must be thoroughly investigated in court and no confessions which may have been extracted as a result of torture should be accepted in evidence;
 - the hearings should be held in public.
- urging the authorities to allow a thorough and independent medical examination of the defendants;
- expressing concern that the defendants appear to have been charged solely because of their non-violent political activities and urging that, if this is the case, they be immediately and unconditionally released.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence
Monsieur Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya
Président de la République
La Présidence - BP 184
NOUAKCHOTT - Mauritania
Telegrams: Le President, Nouakchott, Mauritania
Telexes: 5580 PRIM MTN
Faxes: +222 2 52636
Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear Mr President

Monsieur Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould Dah
Ministre de l'Intérieur, des Postes et des Télécommunications
Ministère de l'Intérieur, des Postes et des Télécommunications
BP 195
NOUAKCHOTT - Mauritania
Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur, Nouakchott, Mauritania
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Monsieur Ethmane Sid'Ahmed Yassa
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
NOUAKCHOTT
Mauritania
Telegrams: Minstre de la Justice, Nouakchott, Mauritania
Faxes: +222 2 52860
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Monsieur le Rédacteur en chef, Mauritanie Nouvelles, BP 3901, Nouakchott,
Mauritania

Agence Mauritanienne d'Information, BP 371, Nouakchott, Mauritania

and to diplomatic representatives of Mauritania accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 December 1995.