

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 38/002/2001

27 April 2001

Further information on UA 96/01 (AFR 38/001/2001, 12 April 2001) - Incommunicado detention / fear for safety

**MAURITANIA** Mohamed Lemine Shbih Ould Cheikh Melainine, president of the *Front populaire mauritanien (FPM)*

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Mohamed Lemine Shbih Ould Cheikh Melainine was moved to Nouakachout's civilian prison on 12 April. He has now been allowed access to his family and lawyers, and he is no longer believed to be at risk of ill-treatment.

He was charged on 12 April with being caught in the act of criminal conspiracy (*association de malfaiteurs*) and preparing to commit acts of violence. The basis for these accusations is not clear. The State Prosecutor's Office is continuing to investigate the charges and a date for the trial has not been set.

Two other men, Moktar Ould Haïbetna and Bouha Ould El Hassen, have also been charged and are detained in the central prison. Both Mohamed Lemine Shbih Ould Cheikh Melainine and his party, the *Front populaire mauritanien (FPM)*, Popular Mauritanien Front, have denied any connection with the men.

Two other FPM representatives were briefly detained on 19 April after a public protest against the detention of Mr Shbih. On 25 April another protest was broken up by the police. One demonstrator was reportedly hospitalized.

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to monitor his case. If possible, please send a final round of telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/ airmail letters in French, Arabic or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Mohamed Lemine Shbih Ould Cheikh Melainine appears to have been detained solely because of his non-violent political activities, and calling for him to be released unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Please note that you may experience problems in sending faxes.**

President of the Republic

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Président Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya

Président de la République

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**Salutation: Son Excellence / Your Excellency**

Minister of the Interior

Monsieur Dah Ould Abdel Jelil

Ministre de l'Intérieur, des Postes et des Télécommunications

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**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice

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**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

Public Prosecutor

Mohamed Yeslem Ould Jidimou  
Procureur de la République  
Palais de Justice  
Nouakchott, Mauritania

**Telegrams: Procureur République, Nouakchott, Mauritania**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur de la République / Dear Mr Ould Jidimou**

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Mauritania

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