

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 38/011/2003

19 November 2003

Further Information on UA 333/03 (AFR 38/010/2003, 14 November 2003) Fear of torture or ill-treatment/ Incommunicado detention/Absence of medical treatment

MAURITANIA **Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla (m)**
Sidi Mohamed Ould Haidalla (m) - his son
Habba Ould Mohamed Vall (m)
Mohamed Yehdhi Ould Breideleil (m)
Ismaël Oud Amar (m)
And eight others

New Names: **Sid'Ahmed Ould Haidalla (m)**
Cheikh Sidi El Moctar Ould Horma (m)
Cheikh Bikou (m)
Said Ould Zergane (m)

Released: **Mahmoudy Ould Slama (m)**

Mahmoudy Ould Slama, who was detained on suspicion of planning a coup d'Etat along with a group of ex-presidential candidate Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla's supporters, has reportedly been released without charge on 17 November. He was apparently not ill-treated. He had been detained in Ksar II police station in the capital, Nouakchott since his arrest on 10 November 2003.

On 16 November, Sidi Mohamed Ould Haidalla who was held in incommunicado detention at Nouakchott central police station and five others, who were detained at Ksar II police station, were transferred to Beyla prison, which is also in Nouakchott. Lawyers, families and doctors have still not been granted access to any of the detainees held at Beyla prison.

Habba Ould Mohamed Vall, Mohamed Yehdhi Ould Breideleil and Ismaël Oud Amar, who are also held in Beyla prison, are reportedly all suffering from diabetes. Attempts by their relatives to bring them food appropriate to their medical condition have been unsuccessful. Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla also reportedly requires medical treatment, as he is said to be severely fatigued and suffering from gastric problems.

Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla's second son Sid'Ahmed Ould Haidalla was arrested prior to the elections, on 5 November. He was first detained incommunicado at Nouakchott central police station, before being transferred on 11 November to Aleg, which is about 350 km south east of Nouakchott. He is reportedly being subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment amounting to torture at Aleg prison as his feet are said to be constantly tied up, which would not only restrict his movement but also cause pain. No charges have apparently been brought against him, though he may have been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the alleged plans for a coup d'Etat.

On 16 November, Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla's deputy campaign director, Cheikh Sidi El Moctar Ould Horma, was arrested after apparently being summoned to the Public Prosecutor's Office. He too is being held at Beyla prison. Cheikh Bikou and Said Ould Zergane, who were involved in Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla's electoral campaign, were arrested on 17 November and are believed to be held by the police in Nouakchott.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in French or Arabic or your own language:

- expressing concern at the cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment amounting to torture inflicted on Sid'Ahmed Ould Haidalla who is being held at Aleg prison;
- requesting that all the detainees are protected from torture and ill-treatment and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment whilst in detention;
- expressing concern at the incommunicado detention of Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla and at least 15 people close to him who were arrested around the 7 November presidential elections;
- calling for all the detainees to be given regular access to family and lawyers and any medical assistance they may require;
- requesting that Mohamed Khouna Ould Haidalla, Habba Ould Mohamed Vall, Ismaël Oud Amar and Mohamed Yehdhi Ould Breideleil are given the medical attention they require for their known medical conditions;
- urging the authorities to release the detainees immediately, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- if they are not released, asking for details of the charges against them and any subsequent trial proceedings to be made public.

APPEALS TO: (It may be very difficult to send faxes to Mauritania.)

President of the Republic

Président de la République
Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya
Présidence de la République
B.P. 184

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Telegram: President de la Republique, Nouakchott, Mauritania

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear Mr President

Minister for the Interior, Post and Telecommunications

Ministre de l'Intérieur, des Postes et Télécommunications
M. Kaba Ould Aléwa
B.P. 195

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Telegram: Ministre de l'Interieur, des Postes et Telecommunications, Nouakchott, Mauritania

Fax : + 222 525 36 61

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Ministre de la Justice
M. Diabira Bakary
B.P. 350

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Telegram: Ministre de la Justice, Nouakchott, Mauritania

**Fax: + 222 525 70 02 (if someone answers, say "je voudrais envoyer un fax, s'il vous plaît
I'd like to send a fax, please")**

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES 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 31 December 2003.