

PUBLIC

AI Inde

19 October 2004

Further Information on UA 284/04 (AFR 38/003/2004, 8 October 2004) and follow-up (AFR 38/004/2004, 14 October 2004) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention, prisoners of conscience

MAURITANIA Abderrahmane Ould Mini (m)
 Moustafa Ould Cheibany (m)
 Cheikh Ould Abdallahi (m)
 Dahanna Ould Sidi Mahmoud Ould Salah (m)
 Amar Ould Amar Jowda (m)
 Saleh Ould Hannena (m)
 Ahmedou Ould Mbareck (m)
 At least ten others

Released: **Jemil Ould Mansour (m)**
 Cheikh Mohamed El Hacem Ould Dedew (m), imam (religious leader)
 El Moctar Ould Mohamed Moussa (m), former ambassador

Jemil Ould Mansour, Cheikh Mohamed El Hacem Ould Dedew and El Moctar Ould Mohamed Moussa were released without charge on 16 October. They had been arrested on 10 October and detained incommunicado at the Police training school (*Ecole de police*) in the capital, Nouakchott. No reasons were given for their release.

None of them was tortured, but during questioning they were confronted with three detainees who appeared to have been beaten, and who appeared exhausted. The police did not deny that the three men had been beaten.

Abderrahmane Ould Mini and Saleh Ould Hannena were shown to journalists on 14 October, apparently to counter rumours that the men were dead. The journalists were not allowed to speak to them: both were handcuffed, and one was apparently wearing leg-irons.

There are unconfirmed reports that several other detainees have been released. Amnesty International has not received confirmation that the seven people named above are among those released.

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

- welcoming the release of Jemil Ould Mansour, Cheikh Mohamed El Hacem Ould Dedew and El Moctar Ould Mohamed Moussa;
- expressing concern for the safety of the remaining detainees named above, and at least ten others, who have been detained incommunicado since the alleged coup attempt in September 2004;
- seeking assurances that the detainees will not be tortured or ill-treated, especially following reports that Abderrahmane Ould Mini has allegedly been tortured;
- calling for all these detainees to be released if they are not to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence for which there is substantiating evidence;
- calling for them to be given regular access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention they may need;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all Mauritanian law enforcement agencies respect internationally agreed procedures for arrest and detention, and that they give lawyers and human rights organisations

access to all places of detention, and to take immediate action against any member of the security forces suspected of human rights abuses.

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

Attorney General

Procureur Général près de la Cour suprême

M. Abdelrahman Ould Abdi

Palais de Justice

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Fax: + 222 525 5194

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur Général / Dear Attorney General

President of the Republic

Président de la République

Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya

Présidence de la République

B.P. 184

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. Mohamed Ghaly Ould Chérif Ahmed

B.P. 195

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice

Ministre de la Justice

M. Diabira Bakary

B.P. 350

Nouakchott, Mauritania

Fax: + 222 525 7002 (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

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 30 November 2004