

PUBLIC

AI Inde

27 October 2004

Further Information on UA 284/04 (AFR 38/003/2004, 8 October 2004) and follow-ups (AFR 38/004/2004, 14 October 2004; AFR 38/005/2004, 19 October 2004) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment/incommunicado detention

MAURITANIA Abderrahmane Ould Mini (m)
 Moustafa Ould Cheibany (m)
 Cheikh Ould Abdallahi (m)
 Amar Ould Amar Jowda (m)
 Saleh Ould Hannena (m)
 Ahmedou Ould Mbareck (m)
 At least four others, names not known

**Released: Dahanna Ould Sidi Mahmoud Ould Salah (m)
 At least six others, names not known**

Dahanna Ould Sidi Mahmoud Ould Salah was released without charge on 16 or 17 October, along with at least six of the other detainees. Mauritanian newspapers reported that a total of 26 military officers were released, including several of the officers arrested after the alleged August coup attempt.

Cheikh Ould Abdallahi is apparently still detained incommunicado at the police training school (*Ecole de police*) in the capital, Nouakchott. The five other men named above have been charged with offences that carry the death penalty, and some have allegedly been tortured.

The five were moved to Ouad Naga detention centre, about 50km from Nouakchott, on 21 October. They have reportedly been charged with treason, conspiracy against constitutional order and sabotage ("*trahison, complot contre l'ordre constitutionnel et actes de sabotages*"), which are capital offences. Their lawyers were allowed to speak to them on 26 October, after several unsuccessful attempts. Some of the detainees complained that they had been tortured by police officers while they were held at the police training school. One said that he had been beaten while strung from an iron bar by his hands and feet, and had lost the feeling in his hands as a result. These detainees apparently have not received adequate medical treatment and their families are still not allowed to see them.

Saleh Ould Hannena and Abderrahmane Ould Mini are reportedly in solitary confinement, and kept in handcuffs and leg-irons 24 hours a day.

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

- welcoming the release of Dahanna Ould Sidi Mahmoud Ould Salah and the other detainees;
- expressing concern for the safety of Cheikh Ould Abdallahi, who has been detained incommunicado since the alleged coup attempt in September 2004;
- expressing concern that several of the detainees have allegedly been tortured by police, and asking the authorities to order a thorough investigation and bring those responsible to justice;
- expressing concern for the health of the detainees now held in Ouad Naga prison, and calling for them to be given regular access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention they may need;

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 8 December 2004.