

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 360/94 (AFR 38/03/94, 30 September 1994) - Fear of torture / Legal concern

MAURITANIA Mohamed Cheick Ould Sidi Yahya, Imam of Sebkha mosque, President of "Umma", unofficial Islamist political party  
Aboubekrin Ould Ahmed, former Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation  
Hassan Ould Moulay Ely, municipal councillor, member of the *Union des Forces Démocratiques* (UFD)  
Abdallah Ould Reggad, appeal court judge  
El Hadj Abdelazziz Sy, Imam of El Mina mosque, Vice-President of "Umma"  
Mohamed Moctar Ould Gaguih, former director of Islamic Orientation at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Orientation  
Jemil Ould Mansour, journalist  
Mohamed Ould Ragel, municipal councillor, and UFD member  
Vall Ould Wreg  
and at least 25 others

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Amnesty International is seeking confirmation that all the islamist activists arrested on or around the 25 September 1994 have been released. This is believed to be the case in view of reports that the detainees were granted a presidential pardon after 10 of them apparently confessed to belonging to secret islamic organizations, such as the *Organisation du Jihad en Mauritanie*, Mauritanian Organization for Jihad, whose aim was reportedly to take over power. Some of those detained are believed to have been subjected to torture.

More than 60 islamist activists, including some foreign nationals, were detained and held incommunicado for up to 16 days. Amnesty International believes that at least some had no prior involvement in using or advocating violence and were therefore prisoners of conscience.

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested at present. Thank you to all who sent appeals.