

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 347/90 Extrajudicial Execution/"Disappearance" 3 September 1990

**MAURITANIA: Silèye Lam, aged 30, married, with two children
 Thierno N'Gom, aged 21**

The two people named above, both from Ganki village, near Boghé, south Mauritania, are reported to have been arrested on 13 June 1990 by members of the National Guard in the village of Ganki near Boghé. Silèye Lam was executed extrajudicially soon afterwards and the whereabouts of Thierno N'Gom are unknown. Details of these incidents have reached Amnesty International recently.

Silèye Lam was arrested when he was leaving a house next to his own in the village shortly before a nightly curfew came into force. The curfew has been in force for the past year and prohibits villagers from leaving their houses between early evening and dawn. Members of the National Guard insisted on taking him outside the village to question him about his movements. Other villagers who witnessed the scene intervened and tried in vain to persuade the guards to release their prisoner. Eventually the guardsmen agreed that another villager, Thierno N'Gom, should accompany Silèye Lam in order to reassure him and be a witness. Soon after the guardsmen and the two men in their custody left, the villagers heard gun-shots. However, they could not go out as the curfew was already in force. The following morning, they found the body of Silèye Lam. Despite requests addressed to local government officials of Boghé by his relatives, the whereabouts of Thierno N'Gom remain unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned at the frequency of extrajudicial executions of villagers in southern Mauritania. It appears to be the result of a deliberate policy of executing unarmed civilians and prisoners selected on account of their ethnic origin. Members of the Hal-pulaar ethnic group have been the targets of government forces since April 1989. More than 70,000 have been summarily expelled from Mauritania to the neighbouring countries of Senegal and Mali. Others have fled from arbitrary arrests, torture and extrajudicial executions which have reached an alarming level. In a number of cases reported to Amnesty International this year, prisoners have "disappeared" after their arrest; although not known to have been executed, they have not been released and the authorities have not divulged any information about their fate. It is feared that some may have been killed.

Amnesty International is also concerned at the apparent impunity of members of armed and security forces who commit human rights violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/telegrams/airmail letters, in French or Arabic if possible:

- expressing concern at reports that Silèye Lam from Ganki was extrajudicially executed on 13 June 1990 and that Thierno Ngom, who was arrested at the same time, has "disappeared";

- urging the authorities to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Silèye Lam in order to establish if he was killed unlawfully and, if so, to ensure the prosecution of those responsible;

- urging the authorities to investigate the "disappearance" of Thierno N'Gom, to clarify his whereabouts and to order his release if he is not being charged with an offence;

- appealing to the authorities to issue clear orders to all members of the armed forces, National Guard and other branches of the security forces to emphasize that killings of prisoners are extrajudicial executions and are prohibited by both Mauritania's own laws and by international law in all circumstances.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel
Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed TAYA
Président du Comité militaire de
salut national, et Chef de l'Etat
La Présidence
B.P. 184, Nouakchott
République Islamique de Mauritanie

Monsieur Isselmou Ould Abdel
KHADRE
Gouverneur du Brakna
Aleg
République Islamique de
Mauritanie

Telegrams: President Ould Taya
Mauritanie Mauritanie
Telexes: 580 PRIM MTN

Telegrams: Gouverneur Brakna, Nouakchott,

Son Excellence Monsieur Hasni
Ould DIDI
Ministre des affaires étrangères
Ministère des affaires étrangères
B.P. 230, Nouakchott
République Islamique de Mauritanie

Son Excellence Monsieur le
Commandant Cheikh Sid' Ahmed
Ould BABA
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
B.P. 195, Nouakchott
République Islamique de
Mauritanie

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires
Nouakchott, Mauritanie
Telexes: 585 MINAF MTN

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Etrangères,
Nouakchott, Mauritanie

COPIES TO:

- Mauritanie Demain, BP 4070, Nouakchott, République Islamique de Mauritanie
- Le Cafard libéré, BP 7292, Dakar, Sénégal

and to diplomatic representatives of Mauritania in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the international Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 October 1990.

