

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 38/01/96

25 January 1996

Further information on UA 247/95 (AFR 38/03/95, 26 October 1995) and follow-up (AFR 38/04/95, 13 November 1995) - Fear of ill-treatment / Legal concern / Torture / Fear of unfair trial

MAURITANIA
Memed Ould Ahmed
Mohamed Yehdih Ould Breidelil
Hamada Ould Beddy
Mohamed Ould Bowba

Cheikh Ould Ouda'a
Cheikh Ould Bouasria
Abdellahi Ould M'Haimed
Bah Ould Bah
Issa Ould Bellal
El Arbi Ould Moulaye Zeine
Ahmed Ould Mohamed Brahim
Didi Ould Weissat
Baba Ould Ahmed Legraa
Cheikhna Ould Sakrhawi
Nahi Ould Nahi
and others

All 52 people arrested in October 1995, charged with membership of an illegal organisation and creating a political movement contrary to the law on the formation of political parties, have been acquitted and released.

Twenty-nine of the defendants were acquitted after appearing before the *Tribunal correctionnelle* (Correctional court) in December 1995. The remaining 23 were acquitted after an appeal court hearing in January 1996 where 10 prison sentences (of either six months or a year) and 13 suspended sentences handed out in December were overturned on the grounds of insufficient evidence. The appeal court hearing had been requested by the *Procureur de la République* (public prosecutor) because he considered that the sentences pronounced in December had been too lenient. Defence lawyers had also called for an appeal, saying that the *Tribunal correctionnelle* had prevented them from delivering their full defence speeches.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all the UA network members who worked so effectively on these cases. Your support is much appreciated.