

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 207/91 (AFR 38/06/91, 13 June 1991) - Legal concern

MAURITANIA:

Moustapha Ould Bedredine, leader of the Mouvement national démocratique (MND), National Democratic Movement

Ladji Traoré, leader of the Patriotes pour l'unité et la démocratie, Patriots for Unity and Democracy, and former prisoner of conscience

Massaoud Ould Boulkeïr, leader of the El Hor movement Béchir El Hassen, leader of the Mouvement des démocrates indépendants, Independent Democrats' Movement

Diop Amadou Mamadou, leader of the Initiative pour le rassemblement démocratique, Movement for Democratic Rally, former government minister

Abderamane Ould Yessa, leader of the independent democrats

Adrami Ould Khatri, leader of the centrist democrats and former Minister of Education

The seven political leaders who were arrested on 5 June 1991, and placed under house arrest in remote areas of Mauritania have been released. They have benefitted from a measure of amnesty announced by President Ould Taya on 29 July 1991.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The draft constitution, issued on 11 June 1991, was submitted to a referendum on 12 July 1991. The constitution, which provides for a multiparty system, was adopted by more than 95% according to official results. However, opposition groups have expressed strong reservations as to the validity of results.

The Government still has not accounted for the 300 prisoners arrested since November 1990 who are believed to have died in detention as a result of torture or extrajudicial execution. These outstanding concerns will be taken up by other forms of action.

Urgent Action participants are requested to take no further action in this case. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on their behalf.