



NGO input to “Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers”

Report presented by: Maat association for Peace, Development and Human Rights (in Special Consultative Status since 2016)

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Submitted in respect of: the preparation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/1 on the “Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers”

About the NGO: Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Maat was established in 2005 as a non-partisan, non-profit civil society organization, the Foundation is registered at the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity under the number 3166 of 2008 amended to 7829 of 2010. Maat is in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council, is the Northern Africa Coordinator in the NGO Major Group for Africa affiliated to UNDESA, the Foundation was the Head of National Network of the Euro-Mediterranean Anna Lindh for the Dialogue Between Cultures, as well as being a founder and member of a broad number of local, international and regional networks. Moreover, Maat is a member in the General Assembly of the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council. Maat's vision is " A citizen aware of his rights, a homeland based on human rights respect and good governance practices, and a genuine global partnership for peace and sustainable development."

Maat has five main working fields:

1. Decentralization and Good Local Governance.
2. Social Peace and Marginalized Groups Development.
3. International Mechanisms to Protect Human Rights.
4. Elections and Supporting Democracy.
5. International Cultural Dialogue and Solidarity for Peace and Development.



Preamble

Mauritania's ethnic diversity is a reflection of the country's location, between the Arab Maghreb and West Africa. The population comprises the Arab-Berbers who make up thirty percent of the population; and black Mauritians, who make up seventy percent.¹ The black Mauritians are subdivided into two groups, the Haratines or Black Maures and Negro-Africans, made up of Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof, and Bambara speakers. The Haratines make up forty percent and the Negro-Africans, make up thirty percent.² Both black Mauritians and Arab-Berbers are Muslim. Although Mauritania is multi-racial and multi-lingual, it is one hundred percent Muslim. However, the differences in skin color has been the basis for slavery and racial discrimination in the country.³

The focus of this report is on the Black Mauritians or the Haratin ethnic group. The Haratin were historically enslaved in Mauritania and continue to deal with the legacy of slavery and discriminations in different forms. As afore mentioned, while the group constitutes between 40 to 60% of the total Mauritanian population, they are not adequately represented at the political level, accounting for only 7.5% of Members of Parliament.⁴ Also, tentative efforts to encourage greater participation in government service under President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz have been nearly entirely reversed since the election of President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani in 2019. The elections were reportedly characterized by systematic efforts to exclude Haratin from engaging on an equal basis in Mauritanian political life and to repress any who sought to engage.⁵ Beyond political participation, land ownership remains highly unequal considering the struggle for slaves to obtain rights to good and productive land.⁶ A lack of access to official documents, including identity documents presents a major barrier to resolving the underlying injustices in Mauritanian society.⁷ Thus in socio-economic terms, it is extremely difficult for Haratines to escape the illegal but established practice of slavery.

This report focuses on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

¹ Tandia, B. (2001). The plight of black Mauritians. *Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire*, 3(3), 172+. Available online at <https://go.gale.com/ps/anonymous?id=GALE%7CA81826821&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&isn=10893148&p=LitRC&sw=w> (accessed 29 November, 2020)

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). "The Haratin of Mauritania", a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). "The Haratin of Mauritania", a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: *Islamic Republic of Mauritania*. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020))

Specific Questions raised in the call for contribution

1. *Measures taken to identify, address, reform and remedy systems, institutions, structures, mechanisms, legislation, policies and/or practices that give rise to, perpetuate, entrench and/or reinforce systemic racism, racial discrimination and associated human rights violations against Africans and people of African descent, including those resulting from historical legacies, as relevant.*
 - Slavery was formally abolished in Mauritania in 1981. It was criminalized in 2007⁸ and made a crime against humanity in 2012 through constitutional reforms.⁹ These developments were followed by the adoption of a more vigorous law against slavery¹⁰ and a decree establishing three special courts for the fight against slavery in 2015.¹¹ This law includes sanctions against denigrating a person as a slave; an insult punishable by 6 to 22 months in prison.¹²
 - However, these legislations have been poorly implemented. Before the adoption of the 2015 legislation, only one conviction for the crime of slavery had been made, and the culprit was sentenced to only two years in prison despite the legal minimum being five years.¹³ Furthermore only a few cases have resulted into actually convictions compared to the number of perpetrators of slavery and slave like practices.
 - The National Assembly in Mauritania passed an anti-discrimination law on 18 January 2018.¹⁴ However according to human rights defenders, the law which contains repressive and vague provisions has had a counter-productive effect as it creates more problems than it resolves.¹⁵ For instance, human rights defenders who denounce social inequalities and discrimination are liable to prosecution under this law if the authorities judge that their comments are “inciting racism” or “promoting national disunity”.¹⁶

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Constitutional Act No. 2012-015, amending the constitution, March 20, 2012. replaced Act No. 2007-048; Human Rights Watch Report, "Global Report 2019 - Mauritania 'Events of 2018'. Available online at: <https://www.hrw.org/fr/world-report/2019/country-chapters/325588>. (accessed, November 29, 2020).

¹⁰ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). ‘*The Haratin of Mauritania*’, a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

¹¹ Mauritanie: Esclave, 'injurer qu'il faut désormais éviter, *Le Point Afrique*, 24 April 2018. Available online at: https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/mauritanie-esclave-l-injurer-qu-il-faut-desormais-eviter-24-04-2018-2213015_3826.php. (accessed on November 28, 2020).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). ‘*The Haratin of Mauritania*’, a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

¹⁴ Front Line Defenders (2020). UPR Submission-Mauritania 2020. *Submission to the 37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review, January 2021*. Available online at <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/statement-report/upr-submission-mauritania-2020> (accessed on November 29, 2020).

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

2. *Information regarding specific incidents of alleged violations of international human rights law against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies, especially those incidents that resulted in the death of George Floyd and other Africans and people of African descent.*

- On June 21, 2020 photos emerged of two police officers in fatigues restrain a man lying prostrate on the edge of the road.¹⁷ The incident occurred in El-Minaa, a suburb located to the southwest of the capital, Nouakchott, when officers arrived at around 11am to arrest one Mr Diop, a 26-year-old man suspected of theft.¹⁸ When he tried to evade arrest, he was restrained by two officers. In the photos of the incident seen online, one officer is seen kneeling on the man's shoulder, while the other is kneeling on his neck,¹⁹ reminiscent of the hold that led to the death of Floyd on 25 May that sparked huge and continuous protests in the United States and several other countries.
- On June 3, 2020, it was reported that Abbas Diallo, a Black Mauritanian, was fatally shot in the chest by security forces near the Senegalese border.²⁰ The father of six had tried to make easy money by driving merchandise over the border to Senegal in violation of coronavirus restrictions. Security forces sighted the car and fired shots in the air, bringing it to a screeching halt. They approached the vehicle as Diallo desperately tried to explain himself, but fired again, this time into his chest, and killed him.²¹

3. *Measures taken to ensure accountability, remedy and redress and address any impunity for human rights violations against Africans and people of African descent, particularly by law enforcement agencies, and the outcomes and effectiveness of such measures. Please also share information about the functioning of accountability mechanisms and associated decision-making processes addressing human rights violations and identify any patterns or trends in the outcomes of these mechanisms and processes that show or suggest differential experience of Africans and people of African descent with respect to accountability for violations suffered by them. Please also identify or include related public reports in this regard.*

- Before the adoption of the antislavery law in 2015, only one conviction had been made for the crime of slavery; and despite the legal minimum being 5 years, the culprit was

¹⁷ Middle East Eye. "Mauritanias police accused of racism after kneeling on neck of Black man". 22 June, 2020. Available online at <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/mauritania-police-accused-racism-george-floyd-kneeling> (accessed November 29, 2020).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Focus on Africa. "Mauritania: State Police Kills Another Innocent Black Citizen". 3 June 2020. Available online at <https://www.focusonafrika.info/en/mauritania-state-police-kills-another-innocent-black-citizen/> (accessed on November 29, 2020)

²¹ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). 'The Haratin of Mauritania', a *Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania*. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

only been sentenced to 2 years in prison,²² In subsequent years, there have been a few more convictions. For example, In March 2018, in the country's harshest anti-slavery ruling yet, a court handed down 10 and 20 years in prison sentences to two slave-owners. The two cases were brought by former slaves in the city of Nouadhibou seven years to the day of the conviction.²³ Although one of the slaver owners who was sentenced to 20 years could not be found, but a woman sentenced to 10 years was taken to prison.²⁴

- Similarly, in April 2018 a court handed down the maximum sentence in addition to a fine of 600 euros for moral damage to three defendants of insulting them as slaves.²⁵
- In November 2019, Oumar Ould Aydeh was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and a fine of 5 million ouguiyas for slavery practices by a Specialized Court of Nema. Similarly, Ahmed Sheikh Ould Siam and Inge Ould Sebti were each sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of 5 million ouguiyas.²⁶
- However, despite these particular cases, slavery or slave-like practices still continue throughout the country. The judicial system is reportedly partial.²⁷ This prevents adequate responses to reported cases of exploitation. The Néma court, for example, has been criticized for delays in adjudicating cases and also for inappropriate application of the law by handing down lesser sentences than the maximum sentences approved for the crime in question.²⁸ Furthermore, culprits are rarely detained because they either flee to Mali or Senegal or because they are dead.²⁹

4. *Information concerning laws, regulations, policies and other measures taken to prevent and address alleged human rights violations by law enforcement officials against Africans and people of African descent, as well as contribute to accountability, remedy and redress, and the outcomes and effectiveness of such measures.*

²² Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2018 Country Report Mauritania. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2018. Available online at https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1427375/488301_en.pdf (accessed on November 28, 2020)

²³ <https://www.voanews.com/africa/mauritania-jails-slave-owner-20-years-countrys-harshest-ruling> (accessed on November 29, 2020)

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Mauritanie: Esclave, l'injure qu'il faut désormais éviter , *Le Point Afrique*, 24 April 2018. Available at: https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/mauritanie-esclave-l-injure-qu-il-faut-desormais-eviter-24-04-2018-2213015_3826.php. (accessed on November 29, 2020)

²⁶ Moustapha Sidiya, 'Mauritanie: condamnation des esclavagistes à Néma', *Senalioune*, 26 November 2019. Available online at: <https://senalioune.com/mauritanie-condamnation-des-esclavagistes-a-nema/>. (accessed on November 29, 2020)

²⁷ Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organisation. "Haratin: Black Mauritians Protest US Racial Injustice". 15 June, 2020. Available online at <https://unpo.org/article/21936> (accessed on November 29, 2020)

²⁸ El Kory Sneiba, 'Journée nationale de lutte contre l'esclavage : Quand la politique s'en mêle...', *Le Calame*, 22 March 2018. Available online at: lecalame.info/?q=node/7011. See also: El Kory Sneiba, "Droits humains: Manipulations, intimidations et (non) respect des recommandations," *Le Calame*, 10 May 2018. Available online at: <http://lecalame.info/?q=node/7250>. (accessed on November 29, 2020)

²⁹ Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organisation. "Haratin: Black Mauritians Protest US Racial Injustice". 15 June, 2020. Available online at <https://unpo.org/article/21936> (accessed on November 29, 2020)

- Mauritania has shown commitment to the international human rights system by ratifying major human rights treaties, adopting domestic laws to protect human rights, and engaging with the United Nations and African human rights systems.
 - It has also provided frequent, though not unrestricted, access for international rights groups. For example, Human Rights Watch visited twice in 2017 without obstacles; officials met with the delegation, permitted visits to prisons, and provided a written response to questions.³⁰
 - However, these positive steps are undermined by the continuous repression of Black Mauritians (Haratines) and local activists. It has been reported that the police do not receive the complaints and sometimes intimidated the complainant. For example, On February 5, 2020, an 8-year-old boy Beibbeu Ould Cheikhof escaped from his “master”. The child who had been born a slave was subjected to daily forced labor and corporal punishment by his master. The Haratin boy who has no documents of identification and no formal education, escaped his master’s house. However, he was eventually apprehended by the police and placed in the same cell with his master. The chief warrant officer questioned the child without a lawyer present. Eventually, the Minister of Justice Haimoud Ould Ramdhane, refused to investigate the case.³¹
 - Furthermore, securing access to justice is complicated for the Haratines since many of them do not have any documentation for identification.³²
5. *Information concerning Government responses to anti-racism peaceful protests, within the meaning of resolution 43/1, including the alleged use of excessive force against protesters, bystanders and journalists, as well as applicable laws, regulations, policies, practices and other measures, and their impact and effectiveness.*
- On June 28, 2019, videos emerged of police beating unarmed Black Mauritanian protesters in the streets, while suppressing nationwide protests following presidential elections which some Black Mauritians rejected the results.³³
 - The Haratin and anti-slavery human rights defenders are subject to increasing repression in Mauritania. Indeed, the authorities use a series of repressive means against them such as the banning of peaceful demonstrations and the excessive use of force against demonstrators, the banning of certain organizations and the interference of the authorities in their activities, arbitrary arrest and detention. Blogger Mohamed Mkhaitir was sentenced to death in January 2014 for apostasy for publishing a message criticizing the use of religion to justify slavery and discrimination.³⁴ Although the

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). “The Haratin of Mauritania”, a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

³² Ibid.

³³ Middle East Eye. “Mauritanian authorities brutally crackdown on post-election protests, videos show. 28 June, 2020. Available at <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/mauritanian-authorities-brutally-crack-down-post-election-protests-videos-show> (accessed November 26, 2020)

³⁴ IRA-Mauritania, Alert note: “La Mauritanie bascule dans le tourbillon de l’extrémisme religieux”, 22 November 2017. Available online at : Available online at: <http://www.iramauritanie.org/2017/11/la-mauritanie-basculer-dans-le-tourbillon-de-l-extremisme-religieux/>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

Nouadhibou Court of Appeal overturned Mohamed Cheik Ould Mkhaitir's death sentence in November 2017, he remained the victim of a major smear campaign.³⁵ Targeted by death threats and calls for racial and religious hatred, he remained in police custody without the right to see his lawyers or relatives.³⁶

- Furthermore, with regard to impunity and lack of judicial response, to date, calls for justice for the victims of the acts of torture and murders committed between 1 January 1989 and 18 April 1992 remain unanswered. This is mainly because of the Amnesty Act No. 93-23 of 14 July 1993, which prevents Mauritanian military agents and armed forced representatives from being tried for the crime.³⁷ However, a bill to repeal the Amnesty Law No. 93-23 of 14 July 1993 was proposed by MP Anissa Ba of the Mauritanian opposition party Tawassoul, to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, taking into consideration the human rights violations during the years 1989-90.³⁸

6. *Information regarding systems of collection by State authorities of disaggregated data based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, and processes for the analysis of such data. In relation to the above-mentioned areas, please provide data disaggregated by race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, as well as additionally by sex, age, economic and social situation, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity, incarceration and other status, where available. Where such information is not available, please indicate reasons why.*

- It has been reported that the Government does not collect statistics on the number of Haratin and Afro- Mauritanian people living in Mauritania.³⁹ The data on imbalances between communities in health or education are also not updated.⁴⁰ This not only deepens ethno-racial divisions and socio-political tensions but also slows down the integration of marginalized groups⁴¹

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Amnesty International Report, 'Une épée au-dessus de notre tête : la répression des militants qui dénoncent la discrimination et l'esclavage en Mauritanie', 2018. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR3878122018FRENCH.PDF>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

³⁷ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). 'The Haratin of Mauritania', a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Report of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty on his mission to Mauritania, A/HRC/5/26/Add.1, 8 March 2017. Available online at: <https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/053/81/PDF/G1705381.pdf?OpenElement>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁴⁰ In violation of Article 2 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Available online at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁴¹ World Bank Group, "Islamic Republic of Mauritania: turning challenges into opportunities for ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity – Systemic country diagnostic", 2017, para. 41. Available online at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/27997>. (accessed November 26, 2020)



7. *Mechanisms in place to ensure that Africans and people of African descent and their representatives are appropriately, adequately and sufficiently represented in processes to identify, remove and reform any structures, policies and practices of racial discrimination in institutions of law enforcement and the related administration of criminal justice.*

- Despite advances in the law, tentative reforms enacted under the prior Presidency of Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz to encourage greater participation of Haratin and other groups in government service have been significantly reversed with very few new open positions going to such candidates.⁴² Thus, the Haratin remain marginalized and under-represented in public and political institutions such as the High Constitutional Council, the High Islamic Council, High Judicial Council and the National Chamber of Commerce.⁴³
- Haratins occupy only 5 seats out of 95 in the National Assembly. In addition, of the 56 senators, only 1 is Haratin; of the 13 regional governors, only two are Haratin; and of the 53 prefects, only 3 are Haratin.⁴⁴ Furthermore, although there are 105 officially recognized political parties in Mauritania, entities associated with the anti-slavery cause such as the Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA and the Progressive Forces for Change (FPC) have been waiting for official recognition for years.⁴⁵
- Discrimination also exists with regard to scholarships. In February 2020, the oil company BP had awarded nine out of ten scholarships to Arab-Berber students, further contributing to denying Mauritanian cultural diversity.⁴⁶

8. *Specific information pertaining to all other aspects of the mandate set out in resolution 43/1, including regarding the situation and perspectives of African women and children and of women and children of African descent, as well as other relevant gender and intersectional dimensions, including discrimination based on colour, sex/gender, economic and social status, disability, or other status.*

⁴² In violation of Article 5 CERD. Available online at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁴³ Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mutuma Ruteere, A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, 3 June 2014. Available online at: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/26/49/Add.1>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁴⁴ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). ‘The Haratin of Mauritania’, a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁴⁵ Mauritania: il y a pléthore de partis politiques’, *Le 360 Afrique*, 16 July 2018. Available online at: <http://afrique.le360.ma/mauritanie/politique/2018/07/15/21891-mauritanie-il-y-plethore-de-partis-politiques-21891>. (accessed November 26, 2020)

⁴⁶ Middle East Eye. ‘Oil giant BP accused of racism in Mauritania after overlooking black students’. 18 February, 2020. Available online at: <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/bp-accused-racism-mauritania-after-failing-award-scholarships-black-students> (accessed November 26, 2020)



- Along with slavery, there is the persistence of gender-based violence and marginalization of women and girls in Mauritania, especially from the Haratin community.
- On April 12, 2020, Kadjetou Oumar Sow, a woman reportedly in her thirties, was found dead, showing signs of sexual assault.⁴⁷ This case is set in a context of series of sexual assaults and killings of young girls and women., Penda Sogué, aged 20, Kadi Touré, aged 6, Zineb mint Abdellahi, aged 10 and Roughya mint Ahmed, aged 8, were all raped and killed between March 27, 2013 and February 2016.⁴⁸
- Attempts to pass a law on gender-based violence have been consistently withdrawn by the government; first in 2016 and a second time in 2018 following some observations and criticisms by the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers approved a revised draft in May 2020.⁴⁹
- Nevertheless, the amendments to the draft result in less protection for women. For example, article 2, which defines rape, only includes rape outside marriage. Thus, marital rape is not punishable by law, and neither is the rape of boys.⁵⁰

Recommendations

Following the afore-mentioned human rights situation in the Islamic republic of Mauritania, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights calls on the Government of Mauritania to:

- Put an end to the continuing discrimination and repression of the Haratin community by revising discrimination legislation to ensure that it contains a specific definition of racial discrimination,
- Criminalize the worst forms of discrimination and adequate legal protection against discriminatory practices, in line with the international provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- investigate and prosecute promptly and effectively all instances of slavery and slave-like practices in Mauritania, as well as prosecuting any public officials engaged in efforts to frustrate the judicial process
- guarantee equal participation of the Haratin community in public life including imposing legal obligations on executive and judicial bodies to guarantee equal

⁴⁷Statement of Condolence Kadjetou Oumar Sow victim of barbarism', *Ira-Mauritania*, 13 April 2020. Available at: <http://www.iramauritanie.org/2020/04/communique-de-condoleance-kadjetou-oumar-sow-victime-de-la-barbarie/> (accessed November 26, 2020).

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Cheikh Aïdara, 'Violences basées sur le genre : les barbus montent de nouveau au créneau', *Thaqafa*, 13 May 2020. Available online at: <https://aidara.mondoblog.org/2020/05/13/loi-sur-les-vbg-rebelote-et-deja-les-barbus-montent-au-creneau/>.

⁵⁰ Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization UNPO & Initiative for the Resurgence of Abolitionist Movement IRA (2020). 'The Haratin of Mauritania', a Joint submission to the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UPR, 37: Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Available online at <https://unpo.org/downloads/2622.pdf> (accessed November 26, 2020)



representation at all levels in public service and free participation in elections for public office.