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02 February 2006

MRT100994.FE

Mauritania: The party called the People's Front (Front populaire, FP) and the Mauritanian government's attitude toward its members (February 2006)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Information on the party called the People's Front (Front populaire, FP) was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

The president of the FP is Mohamed Lemine Ch'bih Ould Cheikh Melainine (*Horizons* 8 Sept. 2005). According to an article published by Radio France Internationale (RFI), in September 2005, he met with Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, the president of the Military Council for Justice and Democracy (Conseil militaire pour la justice et la démocratie, CMJD), a group of military officers that overthrew former Mauritanian president Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya in a coup d'état on 3 August 2005 (28 Oct. 2005; *Le Monde diplomatique* Nov. 2005).

During his interview with Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, Mohamed Lemine Ch'bih Ould Cheikh Melainine stated that he was [translation] "very happy with the change and optimistic" about the future (RFI 28 Oct. 2005). In an article published on the Web site Jeuneafrique.com, Mohamed Lemine Ch'bih Ould Cheikh Melainine confirmed that he was happy with the [translation] "objectives of the CMJD, which was trying to implement a truly democratic process" (AFP 4 Aug. 2005). Referring to the coup d'état of 3 August 2005 during an interview with *Horizons*, he stated that, in his opinion, [translation] "there was no coup d'état, but rather a revolution even though that word is no longer part of the current political lexicon" (8 Sept. 2005).

A 12 January 2006 article indicates that the FP, along with other Mauritanian political parties, has expressed its opposition to [translation] "independent candidates running in the upcoming municipal elections" in Mauritania (Panapress 12 Jan. 2006).

No information on the Mauritanian government's attitude toward members of the FP could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

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