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30 August 2004

ZZZ42947.FE

Mauritania/Senegal: Update to MRT33018.F of 16 November 1999 on the treatment of members of the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM) in Mauritania; the attitude of the Senegalese government toward FLAM refugees in Senegal

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Limited information on the treatment of members of the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (Forces de libération africaine de Mauritanie, FLAM) in Mauritania or in Senegal could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints for this Response.

A Maghreb Arabe Presse (MAP) article indicated that, following several meetings with members of the Mauritanian Refugees League, a group close to the FLAM, the Mauritanian government had apparently agreed to repatriate many Mauritians who had fled to camps in Senegal (30 Sept. 2003). The MAP also reported that the Mauritanian president, Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, had met with several FLAM members during his recent visit to France (30 Sept. 2003).

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.

Reference

Maghreb Arabe Presse [Rabat, in Arabic]. 30 September 2003. "Authorities to Allow Mauritanian Refugees in Senegal to Return Home." (BBC International Reports/Dialog)

Additional Sources Consulted

Attempts to reach the Association mauritanienne des droits de l'homme (AMDH), the Forces de libération africaine de Mauritanie (FLAM), the Front arabo-africain de salut contre l'esclavage, le racisme et le tribalisme (FAAS) and the Organisation nationale des droits de l'homme (ONDH) in Senegal were unsuccessful.

Publications: *Political Handbook of the World 2000-2002*, *Yearbook of International Organizations 2004-2005*.

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), BBC Africa, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Forces de libération africaine de Mauritanie (FLAM), Freedom House, Front arabo-africain de salut contre l'esclavage, le racisme et le tribalisme (FAAS), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), *Le Messager* [Dakar], Radio Free Europe, Sahara Media, *Le Soleil* [Dakar], United States Department of State, *Walfadjri* [Dakar], World News Connection (WNC).

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