

## **ENGLISH - UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

### **Slavery Act No. 2007-048 of 3 September 2007 criminalizing slavery and slavery-like practices**

The National Assembly and the Senate have deliberated and adopted,  
The President of the Republic, chief of the State, enacts the law worded as follows:

#### **Chapter 1: General provisions**

**Article 1:** Based on the values of Islam and its objectives intended to liberate man and ensure his dignity, and in accordance with constitutional principles prescribed in the constitution and with relevant international conventions and, with a view to embodying the freedom of man from birth to death, this Act is established to define, criminalize and punish slavery practices.

**Article 2:** Slavery is the exercise of all or any ownership powers over one or several persons.

The slave is the person, man or woman, adult or minor, over whom the powers defined above are exercised.

**Article 3:** Discrimination in any form against an alleged slave is forbidden.

#### **Chapter 2: On crime and offences of slavery**

##### **Section 1: On the crime of slavery**

**Article 4:** Any person who reduces another person, or a person under their care or responsibility, to slavery or incites them to forfeit their liberty or dignity for the purpose of enslaving them is punishable by five (5) to ten (10) years' imprisonment and a fine of five hundred thousand ouguiyas (500,000 UM) to one million ouguiyas (1,000,000 UM).

The provisions of article 54 of ordinance no. 2005-015 on the judicial protection of the child apply to anyone who abducts a child with the view to exploiting them as a slave.

An attempt to commit the crime of slavery is punishable by half of the sentence imposed for the offence committed.

##### **Section 2: The offences of slavery**

**Article 5:** Any person who violates the bodily integrity of an alleged slave is punishable by six (6) months to three (3) years' imprisonment and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000 UM) to two hundred thousand ouguiyas (200,000 UM).

**Article 6:** Any person who appropriates goods, earnings and revenue resulting from the labour of an alleged slave or extorts their assets is punishable by six (6) months to two (2) years' imprisonment and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000 UM) to two hundred thousand ouguiyas (200,000 UM).

**Article 7:** Any person who deprives a child who is an alleged slave of access to education is punishable by a six (6) months to two (2) years' imprisonment and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000 UM) to two hundred thousand ouguiyas (200,000 UM).

**Article 8:** Any person who fraudulently deprives an alleged slave of inheritance is punishable by six (6) months to two (2) years' imprisonment and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000 UM) to two hundred thousand ouguiyas (200,000 UM) or by one of these two penalties.

**Article 9:** Any person who marries, forces to marry, or prevents from marrying, a woman who is an alleged slave against her will is punishable by one (1) year to three (3) years' imprisonment and a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000 UM) to five hundred thousand ouguiyas (500,000 UM), or one of these two penalties.

If the marriage is consummated, the spouse is entitled to a double dowry and can demand the dissolution of the marriage. The parenthood of the children is established with regard to the husband.

The provisions of article 309 of the penal code are applicable to anyone who rapes a woman who is an alleged slave.

**Article 10:** The author of a cultural or artistic production defending slavery is punishable by six (6) months to two (2) years' imprisonment and a fine of fifty thousand (50,000 UM) to two hundred thousand ouguiyas (200,000 UM) or by one of these two penalties. The production is seized and destroyed and the fine is raised to five million ouguiyas (5,000,000 UM) if the production is created or disseminated by a legal entity (*une personne morale*).

The reproduction or dissemination of said production are punishable by the same penalty.

**Article 11:** Any individual (*une personne physique*) guilty of discriminatory acts against an alleged slave is punishable by a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000 UM) to three hundred thousand ouguiyas (300,000 UM).

Any legal entity (*une personne morale*) guilty of discriminatory acts against an alleged slave is punishable by a fine of five hundred thousand (500,000 UM) to two million ouguiyas (2,000,000 UM).

**Article 12:** Any *wali, hakem*, district chief or judicial police officer or agent who fails to investigate allegations of slavery practices that are brought to his attention is punishable by two (2) to five (5) years' imprisonment and a fine of two hundred thousand ouguiyas (200,000 UM) to five hundred thousand ouguiyas (500,000 UM).

**Article 13:** Any person who uses an offensive language against an alleged slave in public is punishable by eleven (11) days to one (1) month' imprisonment and a fine of five thousand (5,000 UM) to one hundred thousand ouguiyas (100,000 UM) or by one of these two penalties.

### **Chapter 3: Common dispositions**

**Article 14:** The complicity and the repetition of the offences covered by this law shall be punished in conformity with the provisions of the penal code.

**Article 15:** Any legally recognised human rights association is entitled to report violations of this law and to assist victims of such offences.

As soon as the information is brought to his attention and on pain of being penalized, any competent judge must take urgently and without prejudice all appropriate precautionary measures against the offences covered by this law.

### **Chapter 4: Final dispositions**

**Article 16:** All previous provisions contrary to this law are hereby repealed, in particular the provisions of article 2 of ordinance no. 81-234 of 9 November 1981.

**Article 17:** This law shall be published according to the procedure of urgency and enforced as a law of the State.

Nouakchott,  
Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi  
Prime Minister Zeine Ould Zidane

Minister of Islamic Affairs and of Traditional Education  
Interim Minister of Justice Ahmed Vall Ould Saleh