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Mauritania: The activities of the movement called the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (Forces de libération africaines de Mauritanie, FLAM) in the late 1980s, particularly crimes committed by FLAM members between 1987 and 1990

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Information on the activities of the movement called the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (Forces de libération africaines de Mauritanie, FLAM) in the late 1980s, or specifically on crimes committed by FLAM members between 1987 and 1990, could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

An article published in June 1988 on the website of the United States (US) Library of Congress provides the following information:

In 1987, the most visible political organization among Mauritania’s blacks was the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (Forces Libération Africaine de Mauritanie-FLAM). Founded in 1983 and outlawed in 1984, the group has developed a complex and clandestine organization based in Dakar, Senegal. . . . FLAM members have claimed responsibility for distributing a highly articulate, fifty-page pamphlet entitled “Le Manifesto du Négro-Mauritanien Opprimé” (The Manifesto of the Oppressed Black Mauritanian), documenting alleged examples of officially sanctioned discrimination. . . . FLAM adherents were also charged with instigating a series of attacks in September and October 1986 against a fish-processing facility in Nouadhibou, a pharmacy and gas station in Nouakchott, and three government vehicles. Although damage from the attacks was minimal, they were the first such acts of sabotage in Mauritania and thus represented a dramatic escalation in political violence. On September 4 and 5, 1986, army and police units arrested between thirty and forty suspected FLAM members. . . . FLAM’s activities through the first half of 1987 diminished considerably.

The above information could not be corroborated among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

According to an article published by Jeune Afrique, the [translation] “main leaders of the movement” were arrested after FLAM’s Manifesto was published in 1986 (26 Feb.-4 Mar. 2006).

A 1 October 1990 Amnesty International (AI) report provides the following information. In 1989, armed raids into Mauritanian territory were conducted by opposition groups, such as FLAM. Members of FLAM are known for their Manifesto.
of the Oppressed Black Mauritanian, a document censured by the government. According to AI, several FLAM members and supporters were imprisoned between 1986 and 1990. The report did not provide any further information on the FLAM members who were arrested.

According to an article published by the University of Bordeaux, during the late 1990s, FLAM [translation] “used the marginalization of Black Mauritansians to justify their armed actions” (n.d.a). A chronology of political activities in Mauritania published on the same website indicates that, in October 1987, [translation] “a conspiracy of Black FLAM officers was thwarted” (n.d.b; see also Jeune Afrique 26 Feb.-4 Mar. 2006).

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


Additional Sources Consulted

**Internet sites, including:** Agence France-Presse (AFP), African Elections Database, Afrik.com, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Crisis Group (ICG), San Diego State University.
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