



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

The Board		12 December 2006
About the Board	MRT102207.FE	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	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	
Employment	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	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.	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division		
Immigration Division	An article published in June 1988 on the website of the United States (US) Library of Congress provides the following information:	
Immigration Appeal Division		
Decisions	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 Nègro-Mauritanien Opprime" (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.	
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News	The above information could not be corroborated among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Information Sheets	According to an article published by <i>Jeune Afrique</i> , the [translation] "main leaders of the movement" were arrested after FLAM's Manifesto was published in 1986 (26 Feb.-4 Mar. 2006).	
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure		
	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 censored 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 Mauritians 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

Amnesty International (AI). 1 October 1990. "Mauritania: Human Rights Violations in the Senegal River Valley." (AFR 38/10/1990)
<<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAFR380101990?open&of=ENG-310>> [Accessed 11 Dec. 2006]

Jeune Afrique [Paris]. 26 February - 4 March 2006. No. 2355. Abdallah Ben Ali. "Retour du FLAM."

United States (US). June 1988. Library of Congress. "Mauritania."
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?cstdy:1:./temp/~frd_yLJh::> [Accessed 11 Dec. 2006]

Université de Bordeaux. N.d.a. Political Science. "Mauritanie : situation institutionnelle."
<<http://www.etat.sciencespobordeaux.fr/chronologie/mauritanie.html>> [Accessed 11 Dec. 2006]

_____. N.d.b. Political Science. "Mauritanie : repères événementiels."
<<http://www.etat.sciencespobordeaux.fr/institutionnel/mauritanie.html>> [Accessed 11 Dec. 2006]

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.

The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.