



**INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (IHRDA)
OPEN SOCIETY JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLICATION ON MAURITANIA

The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) and the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) would like to invite interested Mauritians to contribute to an edited book on Mauritania.

Background

In 2000, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights issued a landmark decision of international law, based on 37 cases brought against Mauritania that found Mauritania in violation of 13 of the 26 articles guaranteeing rights in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. IHRDA served as legal counsel for one of these complainants, *Le Collectif des Veuves et Ayants Droit*.

The cases were brought following the serious and massive human rights violations that occurred between 1986-1992. These included slavery, torture, extra-judicial executions, purging of Black Mauritians from the military, civil service and Senegal River Valley through emptying of whole villages. These events brought Senegal and Mauritania to a near war.

The African Commission's decision is of historical and legal significance for its breadth and especially for the specificity of the remedies that it mandated including:

- Repatriation of the thousands expelled and recognition of their citizenship and property rights;
- Prosecuting perpetrators of the condemned acts;
- Reinstatement of dismissed civil servants and military officers;
- Effective enforcement of anti-slavery laws.

This decision has been followed by a decade of struggle for its implementation. IHRDA/OSJI have been actively advocated and supported efforts for implementation of the decision by the African Commission and Mauritanian and Senegalese civil society, including extensive work with African Commission Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants.

In 2007, Mauritania passed a new law criminalising slavery. In November of the same year, it signed an agreement with Senegal and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the repatriation of the expellees in dignity. IHRDA/OSJI have monitored the repatriation process and supported refugee communities to meet and explain their concerns to the involved governments and UNHCR.

For further information on IHRDA/OSJI's continued work in Mauritania, please visit our 'Mauritania Advocacy' page at www.ihrda.org

Aim of the book

The work of Mauritanian civil society and international NGOs on implementation is a model of how the decisions of international tribunals can animate advocacy for justice and social change.

The book, *Mauritanie: L'identité, la justice et les expulsions de 1989*, will recount the socio-political movements in Mauritania that led to this tragic phase in its history. It will offer a critical assessment of the efforts to seek justice, how these resulted in a landmark decision in international law and the subsequent struggle to implement this decision, which included political and social change. Its authorship will ensure a balance in gender and the socio-cultural diversities of Mauritania.

Each author will write a chapter. Chapter length will be 5000 words and submission can be made in either English or French.

IHRDA/OSJI would thus like to invite qualified Mauritanians to submit abstracts, proposing contributions of chapters in the following areas:

PART I: FORMENTING DISCONTENT (1960-1989)

CHAPTER 1 - Socio-political background of Mauritania

CHAPTER 2 - Slavery and Social Marginalisation in Mauritania

CHAPTER 3 - Mauritania's identity crisis and inequality in society/relations between Berbers-Haratinés and Negro-Mauritanians

PART II: THE VIOLATION AND AFTERMATH (1989-2005)

CHAPTER 5- National politico-legal struggle for justice after the expulsions and related human rights violations (Cases presented, judgements thereof, the amnesty law)

PART III: THE RETURN (1995-2008)

CHAPTER 8 - Decision Implementation under Ould Taya, CMJD and Ould Abdellahi governments, and the politics that underlay the different approaches

CHAPTER 10 - The Repatriation under the 1995 Mauritania-Senegal bilateral agreement and the 2007 Tripartite Agreement

CHAPTER 11 - Challenges of repatriation on the vulnerable, especially women and children

Please note that the following chapters have already been allocated authors:

CHAPTER 4 - The Events of 1989-1992 (expulsions, and the related events)

CHAPTER 6 - Legal action at the African Human Rights System

CHAPTER 7 - Non-legal engagement of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants

CHAPTER 9 - Repatriation in Dignity: From ideal to reality

EPILOGUE

We encourage interested contributors to send abstracts of proposed chapters on the relevant chapters as well as any other areas of concern that may have been left out.

Abstracts should be sent to ihrda@ihrda.org by 31st January 2010 and should include a short biography of the writer.

Successful writers will be notified by 28th February 2010, and will be expected to submit full chapters by 30th April 2010.

Authors will receive an honorarium and two (2) complimentary copies of the published book.

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