

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER THREATENED, LIFE AT RISK

**Human rights defender Aminetou Mint El Moctar's safety is at risk following death threats made against her by a leader of a radical Islamist group in Mauritania. No action has been taken by the authorities to ensure her safety and that of her organization.**

**Aminetou Mint El Moctar**, President of the Women's Association of Heads of Household (Association des femmes chefs de familles, **AFCF**), is facing a fatwa with death threats issued by Yehdhih Ould Dahi, leader of a radical Islamist group Ahbab Errassoul (Friends of the Prophet). In an interview published by local media, Aminetou Mint El Moctar asked for a fair trial for Cheikh Ould Mkheitir, a 28-year-old man charged with apostasy and currently being held in the Nouadhibou Prison, northern Mauritania. "Whoever kills her or rips out both her eyes will be rewarded by Allah", says the fatwa, published online on 5 June, shortly after the publication of the article. Her contact details, those of her association and the number plate of her car were also subsequently made public.

Aminetou Mint El Moctar tried to file a complaint on 6 June concerning this call for murder. The police authority refused, advising her instead to discuss it with Yehdhih Ould Dahi.

The authorities have not condemned the fatwa so far and no action has been taken to ensure her safety or that of her association. No measures have been taken against those who originated the threats.

### **Please write immediately in French, Arabic or your own language:**

- Expressing your concern regarding the death threats made against Aminetou Mint El Moctar, leader of AFCF;
- Expressing concern that no protection measures have been taken by the authorities in favour of Aminetou Mint El Moctar and her organization; or against those who threatened her physical integrity;
- Calling on the authorities to condemn the death threats made against her and urge them to take immediate measure to ensure her protection and that of the members of her association.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 AUGUST 2014 TO:**

President of the Islamic Republic of  
Mauritania

Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz,  
Ministère du Secrétariat Général à la  
Présidence,  
B.P.184  
Nouakchott,  
Mauritanie  
Fax : 00 222 525 85 52  
**Salutation: Dear President**

Commissioner for Human rights,  
Humanitarian action and relations with  
civil society

Ms Aichetou Mint M'Haiham  
Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme,  
à l'Action humanitaire et aux Relations  
avec la société civile  
B.P. 1258  
Nouakchott  
Mauritanie

Fax : 00 222 45 29 21 55

**Salutation: Dear Commissioner**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER THREATENED, LIFE AT RISK

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The AFCF is a human rights organization created in 1999 that works in favour of women and children, particularly with regard to the fight against slavery. Aminetou Mint El Moctar was awarded the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic in 2006. In 2010, she received an award for her fight against modern slavery from the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

On 21 June, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was re-elected for another term with 81.89% of the vote at the presidential election which had been boycotted by several opposition parties. President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz is currently heading the African Union.

Name: Aminetou Mint El Moctar, AFCF

Gender m/f: f

UA: 163/14 Index: AFR 38/002/2014 Issue Date: 24 June 2014