



Timeline of Events

21 June 2014 – IRA-Mauritanie Leader Presidential Runner Up: Biram Dah Abeid comes second in the Mauritanian presidential elections, receiving a total of 8.67 percent of the votes in elections marred by allegations of corruption.

1 November 2014 – First Arrest: Sabber Hussein is arrested following his public denouncement the day before.

3 November 2014 - Three More Arrests: IRA-Mauritania members Brahim Jiddou, Baba Traoré and Yacoub Inalla are arrested after publicly defending the IRA at a mosque in Nouakchott.

7 November 2014 – *La Caravane de la Liberté* Is Relunched: IRA-Mauritanie re-relaunches its successful *La Caravane de la Liberté* with the objective of raising awareness of the exploitation of the Haratin and other marginalised sections of society from landowners.

11 November 2014 – 9 Arrests, Including Mr Abeid: Biram Dah Abeid, Brahim Bilal Ramdhane, Khattri Rahel, Cheikh Vall, Dah Boushab, Abidine Matalla, Samba Diagana, Hassane Mahmoud, and Djiby Sow are arrested in Chgara. All belong to IRA-Mauritanie, except Sow, who is president of anti-slavery NGO Kawtal. IRA-Mauritanie's office closed.

12 November 2014 – 2 Arrests: Chedad Mohamed and Mohamed Vadoua, are arrested in Nouakchott, amid protests.

13 November 2014 – Rosso Protests: A non-violent protest occurs in Rosso and Nouakchott calling for the release of recently arrested activists.

14 November 2014 – Charges Presented: the activists arrested on 11 November 2014, are charged with various crimes, including 'working in an unauthorised organisation', 'violating public order', 'inciting violence' and 'offending the authorities'.

19 November 2014 – Fine Issued: The two activists arrested on 12 November 2014 are referred to the prosecution and put on probation. They are ordered to pay a fine of 20,000 Mauritanian Ouguiya each (roughly 55 Euros).

20 November 2014 – Bail Denied: The Investigative Judge denies bail to Mr Abeid without explanation.

27 November 2014 – Arrest: Yacoub Moussa arrested.

4 December 2014 – EP Urgent Parliamentary Question: MEPs Charles Tannock and Mark Demesmaeker issue an Urgent European Parliamentary Question.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+WQ+P-2014-010225+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=en>

11 December 2014 – UK Parliamentary Question: Angus Robertson, UK MP for the Scottish National Party, submits a Parliamentary Questions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-11/218364/>

12 December 2014 – OHCHR Report: a preliminary fact-finding mission by the OHCHR noted that *"in general, the conditions of detention in the places that were visited do not comply with the minimum international standards, most particularly the detention units and their ventilation."*

12 December 2014 – Dutch Parliamentary Question: Eric Smaling and Mr Harry van Bommel (both members of the Socialist Party) issue Parliamentary Question.

18 December 2014 – EU Parliamentary Resolution: is passed almost unanimously.
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+MOTION+P8-RC-2014-0382+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

23 December 2014 – Mauritanian Parliament Issues Resolution: condemning the EU Parliamentary Resolution.
http://fr.ami.mr/index.php?page=Depeche&id_depeche=29596

24 December 2014 – Court Cases Begins, US Issues Statement: calling for a transparent, fair and open trial.
http://mauritania.usembassy.gov/pr_122414.html

31 December 2014 – Trial Ends: but the activists must wait a further 2 weeks for the verdict.

15 January 2015 – Two Year Sentences handed down: to Biram Abeid, Brahim Bilal Ramdhane and Djibi Sow. Protests begin immediately, with allegations of violence used against protestors.

15 January 2015 – UK Parliamentary Resolution/Early Day Motion: Jeremy Corbyn, UK MP (Labour), sponsors an Early Day Motion condemning the verdict of the trial.
<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/701>

16 January 2015 – US Department of State: expressing its concern over the two year prison sentence and called for a fair, transparent and impartial review of the verdict and committed itself to continuing to support the struggle against slavery in the country.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/01/236079.htm>

19 January 2015 – Chair of EU Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights Chair Issues Statement: the Chair Ms Elena Valenciano, releases a press statement condemning the imprisonment of the three activists
<http://www.polcms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/b1607821-930b-4f0e-ae97-040d4c2044d0/Press%20Statement%20Mauritania.pdf>

20 January 2015 – EU Delegation issues statement: raising its concern regarding the heavy sentence imposed on the anti-slavery human rights defenders.
http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/mauritania/press_corner/all_news/news/2015/150120_01_fr.htm

3 February 2015 – HR Defenders Begin Hungerstrike: including Dr Saad Louleyd, Mariem Mint Cheikh Dieng, Yacoub Ould Moussa, Yacoub Inalla, Saber Houssein, Brahim Ould Jiddou and Baba Traoré.

5 February 2015 – Nouackchott Trial Begins: The trail against Dr Saad Louleyd, the spokesperson of IRA-Mauritania who had been arrested on 11 November 2014, Mariem Mint Cheikh Dieng and Yacoub Ould Moussa starts in the regional court in Nouakchott.

12 February 2015 – Further Nouackchott Protests: several hundred people protest the detention of the anti-slavery human rights defenders.

13 February 2015 – Defense lawyers Stage Walk-Out: after having their questioning of the prosecution cut short.

25 February 2015 – Verdict Postponed: The announcement of the trial verdict of Mariem Mint Cheikh Dieng, Dr Saad Louleyd and Yacoub Ould Moussa is postponed to 12 March 2015.