

23 March 2015

Joint submission for the Universal Periodic Review of Mauritania, 23rd Session, November 2015

Anti-Slavery International, Minority Rights Group International (MRG), SOS-Esclaves & L'Initiative pour la Résurgence du mouvement Abolitionniste (IRA)

Anti-Slavery International: Anti-Slavery International, founded in 1839, is committed to eliminating all forms of slavery throughout the world. Slavery, servitude and forced labour are violations of individual freedoms, which deny millions of people their basic dignity and fundamental human rights. Anti-Slavery International works at local, national and international levels around the world to eradicate slavery, for example by undertaking research on slavery practices; lobbying governments and intergovernmental agencies to take action to end and prevent the practice; and supporting local organisations that work to eradicate slavery through awareness-raising, advocacy and assistance to victims of slavery. Anti-Slavery International has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). <http://www.antislavery.org/english/>

MRG: MRG is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which has been working for over 40 years to secure the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities worldwide, and to promote cooperation and understanding between communities. MRG has consultative status with ECOSOC, and observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. MRG is a registered charity in the United Kingdom. <http://www.minorityrights.org/>

SOS-Esclaves (SOS-Slaves): SOS-Esclaves has been leading in the fight against slavery in Mauritania for over 14 years. It seeks to expose the realities of the practice, challenge its widespread acceptance and defend the rights of those seeking to escape slavery. It also works to end discrimination faced by people of slave descent. <http://www.sosesclaves.org/>

IRA: IRA has been working for the eradication of slavery and the vestiges of slavery in Mauritania for seven years. The organisation demands that the Mauritanian government rigorously apply the law 2007/048, which criminalises slavery and slavery-like practices. IRA also defends the rights of marginalised social groups in Mauritania and has received widespread international recognition, including the 2013 UN Award for Rights. Despite this, the Mauritanian authorities refuse to recognise the organisation and regularly arrest and imprison its members. <http://www.iramauritanie.org/>

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