

Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz  
President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
Office of the president  
BP 184  
Nouakchott, Mauritania

Your Excellency,

I welcome the release of bloggers **Cheikh Ould Jiddou** and **Abderrahmane Weddady** who were freed on bail on 3 June.

The two bloggers were arbitrarily arrested on 22 March by the economic crimes police in Nouakchott. This is after they posted comments on Facebook condemning corruption. Their comments came after media articles were published alleging that some Mauritanian officials had acquired wealth illegally and stashed it abroad.

They were detained by the economic crimes police until 27 March, when they were taken to the prosecutor of West Nouakchott for questioning. Afterwards, they were transferred to the Central prison of Nouakchott.

Despite their release, the two bloggers are still facing the charge of 'malicious accusation'. Also, the economic crimes police are holding on to their travel documents and national identification cards which they confiscated on 7 March.

I urge you to ensure that:

- The charges against Cheikh Ould Jiddou and Abderrahmane Weddady are dropped as they stem solely from the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression;
- Their travel and identification documents be returned to them;
- The right to freedom of expression is fully respected, protected and fulfilled in Mauritania.

Yours sincerely,