



PRESS RELEASE

WAHRDN CALLS TO RELEASE BIRAM DAH ABEID

The **West African Human Rights Defenders Network (WAHRDN)** is deeply concerned by the arbitrary arrest and detention of **Mr. Biram Dah ABEID**, President of the Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement in Mauritania (**IRA-Mauritania**), and candidate in the parliamentary elections of September 1st.

Indeed, it appears from the information received that on Tuesday, August 07, 2018, police officers arrested and drove to the police station **Mr. Biram Dah ABEID**, following "a complaint filed by a journalist for threats."

On Monday, August 13, 2018, he is tried and charged for inciting hatred and violence. **WAHRDN** notes with astonishment the blatant difference between the reasons for the arrest of the President of **IRA-Mauritania** and the charges brought by the Mauritanian authorities against him in violation of the international human rights conventions to which the country is gone.

As a reminder, in June 2016, 13 members of the same organization, including leaders had been arrested, tried and sentenced. Upon leaving prison, some of these people claimed to have been tortured during their detention.

WAHRDN denounces a relentless Mauritanian power aimed at undermining the dynamism of the **IRA-Mauritania** movement and depriving candidate **Biram Dah ABEID** of the enjoyment of his civil and political rights in contradiction with the provisions of Article 2 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Concerned with the preservation of democratic principles and social peace in Mauritania, the **West African Human Rights' Defenders Network (WAHRDN)** calls on the Mauritanian authorities to release **Mr Biram Dah ABEID**.

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