



association for the prevention of torture  
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asociación para la prevención de la tortura

# Mauritania

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## **OPCAT status**

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**OPCAT Ratification** : October 3, 2012

**UNCAT Ratification** : November 17, 2004

**SPT Member** : Mr. Haimoud Ramdan

**NPM Designated** :

National Preventive Mechanism

**NPM Type** :

New Specialised Institution

**NPM Legal Framework** :

[Law N° 2015-034](#) of 30 September 2015

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## **Information**

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## Quick Links

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**CAT:** [Concluding observations](#) (September 2018)

**Communication to the SPT:** [Official correspondence](#) from Mauritania (May 2014)

**SPT:** Visit (24-28 October 2016) - [Press release](#)

**UN Special Rapporteur on Torture:** [Country visit report](#) (December 2016)

Documents relating to other UN human rights mechanisms are available [here](#)

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## OPCAT Situation

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Mauritania ratified the OPCAT in October 2012 and in September 2015 it adopted a law establishing a new specialised institution as National Preventive Mechanism.

The 12 members of the NPM were appointed by the President in April 2016, following a selection procedure, including a [public call](#), carried out by the Selection Commission of the National Preventive Mechanism appointed in January of the same year by [Ministerial Decision N°052](#).

The SPT carried out a visit to Mauritania in October 2016. The report of the visit is not public yet.

The SPT member who is the SPT Focal Point for Mauritania is available [here](#).

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## OPCAT Ratification



## Process

### 2008-2010

On the occasion of its visit to Mauritania in March 2008, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention encouraged Mauritania to accede to the OPCAT.

In its report to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, Mauritania referred to the accession to the OPCAT and announced that *"the country's current priority was to fulfil the obligations it had assumed upon acceding to the Convention against Torture"*. During the examination of the report, several States ((France, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey) recommended Mauritania to ratify to the OPCAT and Mauritania responded that the government was *"examining with great interest the requests that it accede to the (...) OPCAT"*.

### 2011-2012

Mauritania signed the OPCAT on 27 September 2011, demonstrating its interest in torture prevention.

On 12 January 2012, the Prime Minister Dr. Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf presented to the Parliament his 2011 report as well as his perspectives for 2012. He mentioned that Mauritania participated in the First Global Forum on the OPCAT in Geneva in November 2011, organised by the APT. He also underlined that OPCAT ratification was amongst the strategic priorities of the Human Rights Commission for 2011 – 2013 (see [report](#) of the Commission).

On 22 March 2012, the Council of Ministers approved the [draft law](#) on ratification of the OPCAT.

A week later, the opportunities to ratify the OPCAT were discussed during a seminar organised jointly by the APT and the Human Rights Commission of Mauritania. The need to establish an independent mechanism to monitor all places of detention was identified. It was also agreed that a broader and transparent consultation should take place to examine the implications of the ratification.



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The APT was informed that after the National Assembly, the Senate approved the law on ratification of the OPCAT on 30 May 2012.

On 3 October 2012, Mauritania deposited the instrument of ratification of the OPCAT to the United Nations and became the 64th State Party to the OPCAT.

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## NPM Designation

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### NPM Designated

A new specialised body, the National Preventive Mechanism, was established by law in September 2015.

## Process

### 2008

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recommended Mauritania to *"Ensure that the mechanisms established by the law to ensure monitoring and supervision of places of detention are set up as soon as possible and ensure independent oversight of places of detention, in particular by carrying out unannounced visits to them"*.

### 2012-2014

In March 2012, a national seminar on the OPCAT was held which gathered approximately 50 representatives from different sectors of civil society, ministries, armed forces and law enforcement, parliamentarians and academics. The possible structure of a NPM was discussed on that occasion. The majority of participants acknowledged the central role played by the National Human Rights Commission and NGOs in monitoring places of detention. No consensus emerged from the discussions as it was felt that further reflexion and analysis was required to take an informed decision.



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In August 2014, the government announced that Mauritania will create a National Preventive Mechanism consisting of a team of national experts, selected, through a participatory process, from NGOs, the National Bar Association, the National Medical Association and independent personalities. The government planned to hold a series of consultation sessions about the draft law, before it's submitted to Parliament in November 2014.

### **2015-2016**

On 30 September 2015, Mauritania adopted the law N° 2015-034 establishing a new specialised institution as National Preventive Mechanism. In January 2016, the Selection Commission of the National Preventive Mechanism was appointed by [Ministerial Decision N°052](#). In March 2016, the Selection Commission, in charge of selecting double the number of members (24), launched a public call for candidacy and then transmitted the names of candidates to the President.

On 20 April 2016, the Mauritanian President issued a decree announcing the names of the president and 12 members of the NPM.