

Mauritania

Mauritania is a Member State of the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States (Arab League) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System and Arab System



Mauritania has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Additionally, Mauritania has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the ACHPR, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter. Although Mauritania is a Member of the Arab League, it has not ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights and is therefore not subject to monitoring by the [Arab Human Rights Committee](#).

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Mauritania to the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Malawi African Association et al. v. Mauritania*, the Commission held that State agents committed grave or massive violations of the human rights of Black Mauritians and members of oppositional political groups through such acts as arbitrary arrests, public executions, torture in the form of sleep deprivation and solitary confinement, and many other forms of "cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatments." See ACommHPR, [Malawi African Association et al. v. Mauritania](#), Communication Nos. 54/91-61/91-96/93-98/93-164/97-196/97-210/98, 27th Ordinary Session, 11 May 2000.

Mauritania has submitted its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted missions to Mauritania, including a fact-finding mission in [1996](#), and two promotion missions in [2010](#) and [2012](#).

Mauritania has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Mauritania is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Mauritania's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

Mauritania has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Mauritania has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#), [CAT](#), [CRC](#), and [CEDAW](#).

Mauritania has ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT and the Optional Protocol to the CRC addressing the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Mauritania has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty Mauritania has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Mauritania has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Mauritania has ratified the [optional protocol](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Mauritania has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, and CRPD.

Mauritania has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Mauritania to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery conducted a mission to Mauritania in February 2014, and published a [report](#) in August 2014.

For more information on Mauritania's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/MENARegion/Pages/MRIndex.aspx>.

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