

MAURITANIA, North Africa

Leader: Colonel Ely Ould Mohammed Vall

Dominant Religion: Sunni Islam

Christians: <1%

Persecution Ranking: 40th

Colonel Vall heads a 17 member military council that took control of Mauritania in a bloodless coup on August 3rd, 2005. They replaced former President Taya who himself came to power in a bloodless coup in 1984. He was re-elected to office three times, most recently in November 2003. He was nearly toppled by a coup in June 2003 and two further coup attempts were foiled in 2004. Taya sought to modernise the country by developing economic links with the West. Colonel Vall and his military council have revised the constitution, including limiting the President to at most two five-year terms. This change was approved in a referendum in June 2006. A presidential election is scheduled for March 2007 following which the country is expected to return to democratically elected civilian rule. Oil has been discovered off the coast and full-scale production is expected to begin in 2006. There are a small number of Christian believers. Those who choose to follow Jesus having been followers of Islam face harassment and pressure from their families. Some are threatened with divorce by spouses or in-laws, and some are evicted from their homes.

Prayer points:

- Pray that Mauritania's government would continue to observe the religious freedoms upheld in the nation's constitution and that over time they would look to increase these freedoms, particularly regarding evangelism.
- Pray that new oil wealth will be wisely used for the benefit of all citizens, and that fears of it bringing corruption and even violence will prove unfounded.
- Pray that the development of economic links facilitates more Christians visiting Mauritania and supporting local Believers.
- Pray for the solidarity of new Christian Believers with the rest of the Church and that they would stand firm in their faith despite cultural and social opposition

LORD God Almighty, build and strengthen Your Church in Mauritania, provide discipleship and mentors for young Christians, and bring to maturity all who seek You. May Your Church be united in You. Strengthen those who suffer job discrimination, harassment or ostracism from their families because they have chosen to follow Jesus Christ as their LORD and personal Savior. Amen