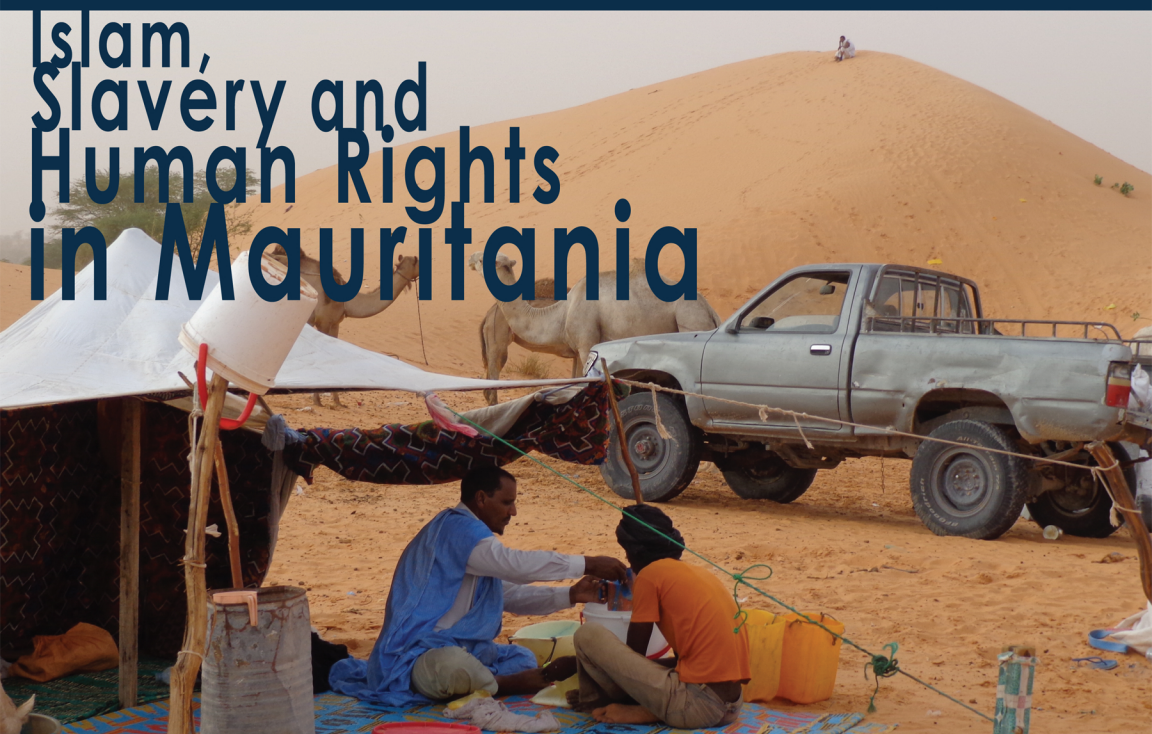


The Sahel Research Group
and the Islam in Africa Working Group
Present a talk and discussion on

Islam, Slavery and Human Rights in Mauritania



by

Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid

President of the anti-slavery NGO

Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement in Mauritania (IRA)

Friday 6 December 2013 at 11:45 AM
471 Grinter Hall

On 29 April 2012, Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid was arrested at his home in connection with the burning of Islamic law books which referred to the practice of slavery and are reportedly used to justify it. The burning of the books took place during a Friday prayer gathering at a public place in a suburb of Nouakchott. Before the event, Biram Ould Abeid had ensured that pages referring to the Qur'an and the names of Allah and the Prophet Mohamed were removed from the books so that they would not be burned. IRA supporters and journalists attended the event and security services had been informed. On 29 April 2012, a large police unit entered Biram Ould Dah Ould Abeid's home where dozens of supporters and relatives had gathered, and he was arrested and held until his release on bail on 3 September 2012.

On Friday 3 May 2013, Irish President Michael D Higgins presented Biram Ould Abeid with the 2013 Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk. Biram was selected from a total of 100 nominees from 40 countries on the basis of his exceptional courage defending the rights of the more than 500,000 people who are held as slaves in Mauritania.

For more information see:
<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/BiramDahAbeid>