

## Mauritania

Estimated population 2.9 million

Mauritania became independent from France in 1960. A democratic constitution in operation since 2006 provides for a president elected by direct suffrage for a five-year term. The judicial system is that of Islamic Shariah law with the death penalty still in force. The country is 153rd in the world in Human Development and had an estimated GDP per capita in 2005 of \$658. Life expectancy for females is 55 and for males 53.

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