

## Senegal / Mauritania



NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania, April 30, 2009/African Press Organization (APO)/ — Daily press briefing by the offices of the spokesperson for the UN secretary-general and the spokesperson for the general assembly president:

The UN refugee agency says more than 10,000 Mauritanian refugees have returned home from Senegal since the start of the year. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees launched its repatriation programme for Mauritanian refugees in Senegal a little over a year ago. Forty-four convoys have since been organized to return refugees, all of whom UNHCR has also helped to reintegrate into their native communities with income-generating projects.

The refugees are among tens of thousands of Mauritians who fled into Mali and Senegal in 1989, when a decade-old border dispute between Mauritania and Senegal spiralled into ethnic violence.

**SOURCE:** United Nations - Office of the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General