

## = Mauritania at the 2004 Summer Olympics =

Mauritania competed at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens , Greece , from 13 to 29 August 2004 . The country 's participation at Athens marked its sixth appearance in the Summer Olympics since its debut in the 1984 Summer Olympics . The delegation included two track and field athletes , Youba Hmeida and Aminata Kamissoko , who were both selected by wildcards after both failed to meet either the " A " or " B " qualifying standards . Hmeida was selected as the flag bearer for the opening ceremony . Neither of the Mauritians progressed beyond the heats .

## = = Background = =

Mauritania participated in six Summer Olympic games between its debut in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles , United States and the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens . The Mauritania National Olympic Committee ( NOC ) selected two athletes via wildcards . Usually , an NOC would be able to enter up to 3 qualified athletes in each individual event as long as each athlete met the " A " standard , or 1 athlete per event if they met the " B " standard . However , since Mauritania had no athletes that met either standard , they were allowed to select two athletes , one of each gender , as wildcards . The two athletes that were selected to compete in the Athens games were Youba Hmeida in the Men 's 400 meters and Aminata Kamissoko in the Women 's 100 meters . Hmeida was flag bearer for the opening ceremony .

## = = Athletics = =

Making his Summer Olympics debut , Youba Hmeida was notable for carrying the Mauritania flag at the opening ceremony . He qualified for the Summer Olympics via a wildcard place , as his best time , 47 @. @ 87 seconds at the 2001 World Championships in Athletics 400 meters , was 1 @. @ 92 seconds slower than the " B " standard required . He competed on 20 August in Heat 3 against seven other athletes . He ran a time of 49 @. @ 18 seconds , finishing seventh after Russia 's Anton Galkin was disqualified . El Salvador 's Takeshi Fujiwara placed ahead of him ( 46 @. @ 70 seconds ) , in a heat led by Cuba 's Yeimer López ( 45 @. @ 44 seconds ) . Out of 63 athletes , Hmeida ranked 57 and was 3 @. @ 30 seconds behind the slowest athlete that progressed to the semi @- @ finals . Therefore , that was the end of his competition .

Competing at her first Summer Olympics , Aminata Kamissoko qualified after being granted a wildcard as her best time , 13 @. @ 70 seconds in the 2003 World Championships in Athletics 100 meters , was 2 @. @ 30 seconds slower than the " B " qualifying standard . She competed on August 20 in Heat 3 against seven other athletes , finishing last with a time of 13 @. @ 49 seconds . Palau 's Ngerak Florencio ranked ahead of her ( 12 @. @ 76 seconds ) , in a heat led by United States ' Lauryn Williams . Overall , Kamissoko was 2 @. @ 06 seconds behind the slowest athlete that progressed , therefore not advancing to the quarter @- @ finals .

## Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only