

= Mauritania at the 2012 Summer Olympics =

Mauritania competed at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London , which was held from 27 July to 12 August 2012 . The country 's participation at London marked its eighth appearance in the Summer Olympics since its debut in the 1984 Summer Olympics . The delegation included two track and field athletes , Jidou El Moctar and Aicha Fall , who were selected to the team by wildcard places , as the nation had no athletes that met either the " A " or " B " qualifying standards . Moctar was selected as flag bearer for the opening ceremony while a LOCOG Games Maker carried it for the closing ceremony . Neither of the two athletes progressed beyond the heats .

= = Background = =

Mauritania participated in eight Summer Olympic games between its debut in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles , United States and the 2012 Summer Olympics in London . Mauritania would participate in the Summer Olympics from 27 July to 12 August 2012 . 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 London games were Jidou El Moctar , in the Men 's 200 meters and Aicha Fall in the Women 's 800 meters . Moctar was flag bearer for the opening ceremony and a LOCOG Games Maker held it for the closing ceremony .

= = Athletics = =

Making his Summer Olympics debut , Jidou El Moctar was notable for carrying the Mauritania flag at the opening ceremony . He qualified for the Summer Olympics via a wildcard , as his best time , 23 @. @ 16 seconds , was 2 @. @ 51 seconds slower than the " B " qualifying standard for his event , the 200 meters . He competed on 7 August in Heat 1 against seven other athletes . He ran a time of 22 @. @ 94 seconds , finishing last but achieving a personal best time . Kazakhstan 's Vyacheslav Muravyev ranked ahead of him with a time of 21 @. @ 75 seconds in a heat led by eventual gold medalist of the event , Jamaica 's Usain Bolt (20 @. @ 39 seconds) . Overall , Moctar ranked 53rd out of 55 athletes competing and was 2 @. @ 31 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 , Aicha Fall qualified for the London Games as a wildcard , as she had set no time for her event , the 800 meters . She was to compete in the 2012 World Junior Championships in Athletics 800 meters but did not start the event . She competed on August 8 in Heat 5 against seven other athletes . She posted a time of 2 minutes and 27 @. @ 97 seconds , finishing sixth and setting a national record in the process . She placed ahead of Palestine 's Woroud Sawalha (2 minutes and 29 @. @ 16 seconds) and behind Canada 's Melissa Bishop (2 minutes and 09 @. @ 33 seconds) in a heat led by Ukraine 's Nataliia Lupu (2 minutes and 8 @. @ 35 seconds) . Overall , Fall was 24 @. @ 12 seconds behind the slowest athlete that progressed to the semi @-@ finals and therefore did not advance .

Key

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