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Pierre Sané

Appointed Secretary General of Amnesty International in October 1992, Pierre Sané is responsible for the day-to-day management of the international affairs of this human rights movement and heads the International Secretariat in London. Mr Sané serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation and as its primary spokesman, representing the movement to governments, international organizations, news media and the general public.

A member of Amnesty International since 1988, Mr Sané said he accepted the post of Secretary General because “working for the effective universalisation of human rights enjoyment is the greatest service one could render to the weak or dispossessed in our societies.”

Before joining Amnesty International, Mr Sané worked for 15 years in international development. He was the East and Southern Africa regional director for the International Development Centre, an International development agency based in Canada. He previously served as the organization’s regional director for West and Central Africa.

His academic background includes doctoral studies in political science at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada; a Masters of Science degree in public administration and public policy from the London School of Economics; a diploma in finance and accounting from the *Ecole nouvelle d’organisation économique et sociale* in Paris, and a diploma (MBA) from the *Ecole supérieure de commerce et d’administration des entreprises* in Bordeaux (France).

Mr Sané is also a founding member of the international committee of PANAF, an international non-governmental organization set up by individual Africans throughout the world with the objective of African unification.

Since joining Amnesty International, Mr Sané has travelled extensively to raise human rights concerns with heads of government and other officials worldwide and to participate in the organization’s campaigning activities.

In 1993 Mr Sané led Amnesty International’s delegation at the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, and played the same role in 1995 at the UN World Conference on Women. Similarly, Mr Sané led Amnesty International’s delegation at the 1996 International Conference on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, hosted by the organization in Bogota.

As chief spokesperson for the organization, he has launched major Amnesty International campaigns on Indonesia (Bangkok), Sudan (Nairobi), China (Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo), Turkey (Istanbul and Ankara) and USA.

As Secretary General, Mr Sané has visited many countries to raise the organization’s concerns directly with those in positions of authority. The high-level missions have taken Mr Sané to dozens of countries in the past eight years, including: Israel and the Occupied Territories/Palestinian Authority (1996); South Africa (1995, 1996, 1997), Peru and Colombia (1996), USA (1997), Mexico (1997), Kenya (1997), Morocco (1998), South Korea (1998) and Spain (1998), Ivory Coast (1999), Mali

(1999).

Mr Sané has also taken the concerns of Amnesty International to the business community to engage them in issues of responsibility for human rights promotion and protection (Davos 1998, 1999 & 2000, Oslo 1998, 1999 & 2000, Accra 1999, USA 1999).

Mr Sané addressed the United Nations Security Council in September 1997, briefing the members on the theme of human rights and armed conflict. This was followed by a meeting with the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. In both meetings, Mr Sané stressed that attention to human rights issues can not only provide early warning of potential conflict but also enhances the chances of establishing a lasting peace.

He also addressed the Council of the Organisation of American States (Washington) calling for a moratorium on the death penalty in the Americas (1998).

In 1998, Mr Sané led the worldwide campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, focussing the attention of the world on the threats against human rights defenders in many countries. He presided over the Human Rights Defenders Summit in Paris in December 1998 and called on the international community to rededicate itself to the values and principles of the UDHR.

Mr Sané, 51, is married with two children. Born in Dakar, Senegal, he is a Senegalese citizen now residing in London, United Kingdom.