

URGENT ACTION

URGENT HEALTH CONCERN FOR TWO DETAINEES

Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou, two men arbitrarily detained in Guinea, and with deteriorating health, are in need of urgent medical treatment. Since their arrest on 7 May, they have not been charged with a recognizable offense nor brought before a court.

Dogius Koly Théa, a 28-year-old corporal and father of two, and **Kala Honomou**, a 47-year-old economist and father of five, were arrested at the Gendarmerie of Nzérékoré in Guinea on 7 May. On 11 May, they were transferred to the PM3 Gendarme Detention Centre in Conakry; far from their relatives, without legal justification and without access to lawyers. During their first week in the PM3 Gendarme Detention Centre, they were detained in cells used as toilets, where they had to sleep on the floor.

Upon their arrival in Conakry, Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou were told they were under investigation for attempting a coup d'état. Attempting a coup d'état is not a recognizable offence under the Guinean law. Despite formal requests from the public prosecutor, the Commanding Officer of the PM3 Gendarme Detention Centre refused to bring them to a court of law.

Dogius Koly Théa has been suffering from high fever and body aches for over two weeks. The gendarmes took him to a clinic after he fainted in his cell. However, he was not able to receive adequate treatment and was taken back to the detention centre with medication. His health continues to deteriorate. Kala Honomou has had a severe lung infection for over three weeks. Despite the requests of his lawyer, the Gendarmerie has refused to allow him access to a doctor.

Please write immediately in French, English or your own language:

- Urging the Guinean authorities to immediately ensure that Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou are provided with appropriate medical treatment and care, in accordance with their wishes;
- Calling on the authorities to release them immediately or charge them with a recognizable criminal offence;
- Calling on them to ensure that the treatment of Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou meet international standards, including the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners;
- Reminding them of the importance of protecting and respecting the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in the context of elections.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 JULY 2015 TO:

President of the Republic of Guinea

Alpha Condé
Présidence de la République
Conakry
Guinée
Email: info@presidence.gov.gn
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Cheick Sako
Ministère de la Justice
BP 06, Conakry
Guinée
Email: gouvgn@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

Minister of Human Rights and Public
Freedoms
Kalifa Gassama Diaby
Ministère des Droits de l'Homme et des
Libertés Publiques
BP 564, Conakry
Guinée
Email: gouvgn@gmail.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to media reports, on 23 May, during a visit to Nzérékoré, President Alpha Condé delivered a speech where he referred to a group of men involved in mischievous activities in the forest of Kéréma, the area where Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou were living. He warned that those involved in these activities would face the state and that resources would be allocated to police, the gendarmerie and the army to deal with them.

Four months before national elections in Guinea, the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are under serious threat. Presidential elections are due to be held in October 2015, and local elections in 2016.

Since the announcement of the electoral calendar in March 2015, at least six people have died and 57 others wounded, including members of the police force and the gendarmerie, during clashes between protestors and security forces linked to upcoming elections in Conakry and other cities. According to information obtained by Amnesty International, approximately 357 people have died and thousands have been wounded during demonstrations over the last decade in Guinea.

On 2 June a bill on maintaining public order was passed by the National Assembly, defining how and when force can and cannot be used to police protests. While welcoming measures to define the roles and responsibilities of Guinea's security forces, Amnesty International warned that the new law – still to be approved by the President – contains significant gaps that could provide flashpoints for future protests and result in the right to peaceful assembly not being fully respected, protected and fulfilled. Crucially, the law would not allow for spontaneous assemblies, while security forces also retain powers to disperse groups of otherwise peaceful protestors if just one person is believed to be carrying or concealing a weapon. Amnesty International fears that such clauses could still be used as grounds for banning or repressing peaceful protest.

The National Assembly also passed a separate bill in the same session on 2 June, approving measures that would introduce penalties of up to five years' imprisonment and hefty fines for insulting, slandering, offending or publishing 'false news' about the President and other public officials. Amnesty International considers these measures a wholly unjustified restriction of freedom of expression that could be used to criminalise dissent and urges the President to refuse to assent to this law.

On 1 June the High Communication Authority, the media regulatory body of Guinea, delivered decision N°08/SC/P banning certain journalistic genres, including chronicles and editorials, until the conclusion of the electoral process, a clear violation of the right to freedom of expression. Following the mobilization of Guinean media organizations, the High Communication Authority clarified in a statement dated 4 June that the decision was to be read as a an invitation to "demonstrate professionalism and responsibility" in the use of chronicles, commentaries and other journalistic genres.

Name: Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou
Gender m/f: m