

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: AFR 49/001/2014

19 March 2014

***Amnesty International Senegal must review commitment to ratify Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and commit to protecting the rights of LGBTI persons.***

***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Senegal***

Amnesty International welcomes Senegal engagement with the UPR process and in particular its acceptance of recommendations to make **resources available to bodies working on trafficking, gender and human rights**<sup>1</sup> and to ensure the independence of the **National Observatory of Places of Deprivation of Liberty**.<sup>2</sup>

Amnesty International has raised concerns about excessive use of force by security forces to repress **freedom of expression and assembly** and so, welcomes Senegal's acceptance of recommendations to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and to ensure that its security forces maintain public order without resorting to excessive use of force.<sup>3</sup> Amnesty International looks forward to swift implementation of these recommendations in Senegal.

Despite this, Amnesty International is very disappointed at Senegal's decision to reject recommendations to ratify the **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**.<sup>4</sup> During a meeting in December 2013 with an Amnesty International delegation Senegal committed to ratify the Second Optional Protocol, and moreover, in its response to the recommendations,<sup>5</sup> Senegal states that it has ratified the major international instruments and will pursue the remaining ratifications. Amnesty International expects that the Second Optional Protocol will form part of this pursuit.

In response to the recommendations,<sup>6</sup> Senegal states that there are no cases of enforced disappearances in the country. Amnesty International is gravely concerned by this statement as it has repeatedly and consistently raised concerns about the fate of dozens of disappeared **Casamance people** at the hands of government forces. Amnesty International is also concerned that the 2004 amnesty law risks depriving the victims and their families of their right to justice and redress.

Finally, Amnesty International is disappointed by Senegal's outright rejection of all recommendations to amend national legislation which currently permits **discrimination** against minorities,<sup>7</sup> and to ensure the respect for the **human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual,**

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/25/4, Recommendation 123.11 (South Africa)

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/25/4, Recommendation 123.12 (Austria)

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/25/4, Recommendation 124.83 (Slovenia), 124.84 (Spain)

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/25/4/Add.1, Recommendation 124.2 (Australia, Montenegro), 124.3 (Benin), 124.4 (France), 124.5 (Switzerland), 124.2 (Gabon), 124.7 (Rwanda)

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/25/4/Add.1, Recommendation 125.1, 125.15 (Spain)

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/25/4/Add.1, Recommendation 125.8 (Uruguay)

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/25/4, Recommendation 126.1 (Uruguay)

**transgender and intersex persons** (LGBTI).<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International calls on Senegal to ensure the universality of human rights of all individuals, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, and to release all persons imprisoned or detained on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Senegal on 19 March 2014 during its 25<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Senegal: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR49/001/2013/en/22da93f4-ff1b-4db6-862b-b41a1ada3597/afr490012013en.html>

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<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/25/4, Recommendations 126.1 -126.14 (Uruguay, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Greece, Paraguay, Thailand, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Mexico)