

URGENT ACTION

PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS DETAINED

On 7 March, Ibrahima Diallo and Sekou Koundono, pro-democracy activists of National Front for the Defence of the Constitution, were arrested in Conakry, Guinea. On the day prior to their arrest, they were spokespersons at a press conference during which they accused the director of the Central Direction of the Judicial Police of phone tapping, torture and other ill-treatment. On 9 March, they were charged with trumped up charges of assault, assaulting a public officer and production and dissemination of data threatening public order and security.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Mamadou Lamine Fofana
Minister of Justice
BP: 564 Conakry
Email: malaf74@gmail.com

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you concerning Ibrahima Diallo and Sekou Koundono, activists of National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC), who were arrested at Ibrahima Diallo's house on 7 March by agents of the Research and Investigation Brigade (BRI) and have since been detained in Conakry Civil Prison.

On 6 March, the day before their arrest, Ibrahima Diallo, coordinator of pro-democracy movement Tournons la Page Guinee and operation coordinator of FNDC Guinea, and Sekou Koundono, general administrator of the pro-democracy movement Balai Citoyen, were spokespersons at a FNDC press conference, during which they accused Commissioner Fabou Camara, director of the Central Direction of the Judicial Police (DPJ in French) of phone tapping, torture and other ill treatment. On 9 March, they were charged with "assault, assaulting a public officer and production and dissemination of data threatening public order and security".

Ibrahima Diallo's wife has alleged that she was physically assaulted by police officers during the arrest. The agents also took her mobile phone, broke the doors to enter and broke the dining room table. Ibrahim Diallo and Sekou Koundono's lawyer filed a complaint regarding these damages on 9 March.

During the first three days of their detention, Ibrahima Diallo and Sekou Koundono were refused access to their lawyers.

Amnesty International believes that the activists face trumped-up charges, linked to their comments regarding Commissioner Fabou Camara, therefore violating the right to freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by Guinea's Constitution (article 7 and 10) and Guinea's international obligations.

In light of the above, I urge you to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release the peaceful activists and drop the charges against them, pending further investigation;*
- Pending their release, guarantee access to family and lawyers;*
- Refrain from further arrests of individuals for simply exercising their right to freedom of expression;*
- Promptly and thoroughly investigate the allegation by Ibrahima Diallo's wife regarding physical assault.*

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 7 March, Ibrahima Diallo, operation coordinator of FNDC was in his house with his wife Asmaou Barry and activist Sekou Koundono when about 20 agents of the Research and Investigation Brigade (BRI in French) entered in the house without warrant.

According to Ibrahima's wife, two BRI officers scaled the wall to open the gate to. They broke the gate and then the second door to enter in the house.

FNDC is a coalition of non-governmental groups and opposition parties that boycotted the consultation process which started national demonstrations against the potential revision of the constitution in October 2019. Since FNDC announced the first protests, many protestors and bystanders were killed during demonstrations. Leaders of pro-democracy movements and scores of protestors have been arrested and sentenced. On 22 October 2019, the Tribunal of Dixinn found Abdourahamane Sano, Alpha Soumah (alias Bill de Sam), Ibrahima Diallo, Bailo Barry and Sékou Koundouno guilty of "direct incitement to an unarmed gathering". Sano was sentenced to a year in prison and the others to six months. They were released on bail on 28 November 2019 pending their appeal.

The day before their arrest, FNDC had organized a [press conference](#) at the Conakry press house to respond to the accusations brought against them by the director of the Central Direction of the Judicial Police (DPJ in French) and to denounce phone taping of members of the movement.

During [a press conference](#) on 5 March, Commissioner Fabou Camara, director of the Central Direction of the Judicial Police (DPJ in French) had established a link between the burning of a tank in Tombolia neighbourhood on the night of February 26-27 with FNDC activities. The Commissioner explained how, through infiltrations, wiretapping, the police services under his leadership, he came to the conclusion that the fire was one of many acts of violence decided during a planning meeting at which "Other FNDC members participated".

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: [French]

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: [24 April 2020]

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Ibrahima Diallo (he/his) and Sekou Koundono (he/his)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: N/A