

URGENT ACTION

FIVE ACTIVISTS IN DETENTION

Five pro-democracy activists, Alseny Farinta Camara, Moussa Sanoh, Boubacar Diallo, Thierno Seydi Ly and Thierno Oumar Barry, were arrested on 14 November 2019 in Kindia, western Guinea, and charged with participation in an unauthorised gathering. They are all members of pro-democracy coalition, National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC in French). Two of the activists require medical attention.

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

Mamadou Lamine Fofana
Minister of Justice
BP: 564 Conakry
Guinea

Email: kolycamara1@yahoo.com (Minister of Justice's Chief of Cabinet)

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you with regard to five pro-democracy activists and members of FNDC who were arrested on 14 November 2019, and have since been detained in Kindia Prison, in western Guinea, in connection with their participation in a protest against the revision of Guinea's Constitution.

Alseny Farinta Camara, Moussa Sanoh, Boubacar Diallo, Thierno Seydi Ly and Thierno Oumar Barry have been charged with participation in an unauthorised gathering.

Alseny Farinta Camara, local coordinator of FNDC, has alleged that he was the victim of ill-treatment by police officers during his arrest and, according to relatives, his health condition is poor. Moussa Sanoh suffers from asthma and the overcrowded conditions of his detention are putting his health at risk.

Such actions blatantly violate the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, which are 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 activists and drop the charges against them;
- In the meantime, ensure that Alseny Farinta Camara and Moussa Sanoh have access to adequate healthcare;
- Refrain from further arrests of individuals for exercising their right to peaceful assembly;
- Effectively investigate the allegation of ill-treatment of Alseny Farinta Camara during his arrest.

Your sincerely

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 12 November, the mayor of the urban commune of Kindia banned the demonstration of the regional branch of the National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC), scheduled for 14 November, as it coincided with a ceremony held by the local authorities. The local coordinators of FNDC decided the decision was unfounded and upheld the protest.

All five activists were arrested minutes before the protest, against the revision of the constitution in Guinea, began. The activists were at a rallying point waiting for protesters when police arrested them.

They were all transferred to Kindia Prison the same day, where they have been held since. All five activists were charged with participation in an unauthorised gathering.

At least 25 activists, including members of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), have been arrested since 14 November in Kindia and Conakry, also in western Guinea, during protests against the revision of the constitution in Guinea.

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. Since FNDC announced the first protests, at least 16 protesters and bystanders were killed during demonstrations between 12 October and 14 November. Leaders of pro-democracy movements and scores of protesters have been arrested and sentenced. On 22 October, five other FNDC national leaders, including the national coordinator Aboudoulaye Sanoh, were sentenced to between six months and one year in prison.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: French

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 9 January 2020

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

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Alseny Farinta Camara (he/him); Moussa Sanoh (he/him); Boubacar Diallo (he/him); Thierno Seydi Ly (he/him) and Thierno Oumar Barry (he/him).

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: n/a

ADDITIONAL TARGETS: Embassy of Guinea, 2nd floor, 239 Old Marylebone Rd, Marylebone, London NW1 5QT