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Senegal: Human right defender and journalist Aliou Sané arrested and imprisoned

On 5 October 2023, **Aliou Sané** was arrested in front of his house and was brought to the Reubeuss prison in Dakar. His arrest follows the decision by the judge of the indictment chamber of the Dakar High Court, issued on 25 July 2023.

Aliou Sané is a human rights defender and an experienced journalist. He is a co-founder of the “Mouvement Y’en a marre” and campaigns for the right to freedom of expression and information, as well as the right to peaceful assembly and of association for the full enjoyment of civil and political rights in Senegal. The “Y en a marre” movement represents youth advocacy and protests against poor governance in Senegal.

On 5 October 2023, the human rights defender Aliou Sané was arrested in front of his house by the Dakar Central Police’s urban security force and was brought to the Reubeuss prison in Dakar. His arrest is an execution of the decision of the judge of the indictment chamber of the Dakar High Court, issued on 25 July 2023. The judge found favour with the appeal of the prosecutor, who had requested that the decision of the investigating judge on 4 June 2023 to provisionally release Aliou Sané, be invalidated.

On 29 May 2023, the human rights defender Aliou Sané was aggressively arrested under false accusations of participating in an unauthorised demonstration and for disturbing the public order. Since his first arrest, he has been granted access to a lawyer. However, the human right defender’s legal representative has stated that he continues to be kept in prison and has not been heard by any judge.

Front Line Defenders is extremely concerned by the arrest and detention of human rights defender and journalist Aliou Sané. It strongly believes that the arrest of Aliou Sané is due to his legitimate and peaceful human rights work.

Front Line Defenders urges the relevant authorities in Senegal to:

1. Immediately release Aliou Sané, drop all charges against him and cease the persistent reprisals against the human rights defender;
2. Guarantee under all circumstances that Aliou Sané receives adequate treatment for his health conditions and is not subjected to torture or other forms or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment while in Reubeuss prison, in accordance with international standards;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that human rights defenders in Senegal are able to carry out their peaceful human rights work without fear of reprisal.