

Freedom of association and peaceful assembly, Freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful demonstration and corruption



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY STATE AGENTS

In the third cycle Guinea-Bissau received 196 recommendations, countries such as the Netherlands, Ireland, France, United State, South Africa, Sierra Leone and Belgium formulated together 8 specific recommendations on this topic and all of them were supported, as example are the followings recommendations:

- The **Netherlands'** recommendation urges Guinea-Bissau to "Safeguard the right to freedom of expression by refraining from interfering with peaceful assemblies and ensuring that cases of excessive use of force by those responsible by law enforcement are properly investigated."
- The **Ireland's** recommendation, urges Guinea-Bissau to "...provide adequate protection for the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and by taking measures to decriminalize defamation and insult, and placing them within the Civil Code..."
- The **South Africa's** recommendation equally urges a "Fully operationalize tribunals and prosecution offices to ensure the adequate delivery of justice and the countering of corruption"
- There was no implementation of these recommendations, quite the opposite, the period that followed was one of greater in terms of violations of these rights and corruption.



NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- The Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau – Article 54 – freedom of assembly
- Law Nº 3/92 of April 6 of 1992 – Consecrate the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Demonstration
- Law nº4/91 of 3 of Octobre of 1991
- UDHR – Article 20.
- ICCPR – Articles 21 and 22.

There has been a lot of effort from CSOs, especially the Guinean Human Rights League, which constantly demands the need to respect the Constitution and other laws of the republic and the cessation of abuse and disproportionate use of force by state agents against political leaders and CSO members.



CHALLENGES

- 1 End abusive and unilateral restrictions on the exercise of freedom of assembly and demonstration outside the constitutional framework.
- 2 Eliminate the arbitrary and illegal detentions of political and social activists.
- 3 End restrictions of freedom of expression through attacks on journalists and political analysts.



IMPACTS

- 1 Freedom of expression was severely restricted, with more than 17 attempts at peaceful demonstrations repressed.
- 2 Numerous arbitrary and illegal arrests have occurred and continue to occur, for example, on May 18, 2024, 84 people were detained under torture following a peaceful and legally convened march.
- 3 There have been more than 20 cases of attacks on journalists and media outlets between 2020 and 2024.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Lift the illegal suspension of freedom of demonstration immediately.
- 2 Train law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities on human rights and appropriate legal practices to ensure the protection of citizens' rights and prevent abuses. Start by developing a program of continuous education of law enforcement agents.
- 3 Establish clear protocols for dealing with reports of abuses and ensuring they are strictly followed, developing accountability mechanisms for the culprits.
- 4 Implement and strengthen policies to protect journalists, activists and political opponents, ensuring they can operate freely without fear of reprisal.
- 5 Adopt rigorous measures to combat corruption and promote transparency in all spheres of government and public administration.



QUESTIONS

What specific measures has Guinea-Bissau taken to guarantee the rights of freedom of assembly and reunion?

How is the Government going to improve the way police actors work in response to marches and protests?

What concrete measures will Guinea-Bissau adopt to combat corruption in the judicial system and in public administration in general, taking into account the legal framework in force in the country and those resulting of international commitments undertaken by the country?



SOURCES

Archives of the RDDH-GB; Report of the Guinean Human Rights League (LGDH): "Report on the Human Rights Situation in Guinea-Bissau 2020-2022."

CONTACT DETAILS

Edmar Paulo Badilé Nhaga

✉ edmarnhaga82@gmail.com

☎ 00245955277652