

Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Guinea-Bissau

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY STATE AGENTS

- Arbitrary detentions, torture and other ill-treatment against human rights defenders. Recommendation made by Israel in 2010;
- Restrictions on freedom of expression and demonstration., recommendation made by Netherlands and by Irlanda in 2020
- Lack of protection for human rights defenders and other members of civil society.
- The practice in our law that creates an enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, notably to provide adequate protection of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. In addition, to take measures to decriminalize defamation and insult by inserting these measures into the Civil Code, in line with international standard, recommendation made by Ireland in 2020

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

There is no law in the country to protect human rights defenders, as required by the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders. There is also the absence of a national action plan developed by the State with specific measures to promote the rights underlying the same Declaration.

CHALLENGES

In GB The practical experience of defenders, including defenders who work independently, members of NGOs, trade unionists, lawyers and journalists, is challenging. The analysis of available data and the experience shared among defenders demonstrates that the environment is not conducive to them being able to carry out their activities freely and effectively. All of this is facilitated and aggravated by political instability that is plaguing the country.

IMPACTS

The lack of a conducive and safe environment for human rights defenders has significant and negative impacts on the country, such as:

- Persecution and violence: which means that human rights defenders face risks such as arbitrary detention and torture, which destabilize their lives and threaten their personal security.
- Lack of a safe environment where there are cases of censorship and restrictions on freedom of expression and association, making the work of defenders difficult.
- Threats and violence demotivate defenders, leading some to give up their work.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Adopt** the legislative measures, notably the National Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the Law for the Protection of Whistleblowers until December 2025.
- **Develop** the National Action Plan to promote the rights and freedoms of human rights defenders as made explicit in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders by January 2026.
- **Promote** profound reforms (administrative and legal) in the country's Security Forces and Services, ensuring the transparent and impartial recruitment of Police and Force agents by 2028.
- **Create** the National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles by December 2025.

QUESTIONS

- What legislative measures is the State of Guinea-Bissau adopting to create a National Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders?
- When will Guinea-Bissau have a National Human Rights Institution aligned with the Paris Principles?

SOURCE

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

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