

Minister of Justice
Me Malick Sall
Avenue Jean JAURES, ex ambassade des Etats unis
BP 4030
Dakar, Sénégal

Your Excellency,

I am concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of activist Guy Marius Sagna.

Guy Marius Sagna is a member of the movement “Le Front pour une Révolution Anti-impérialiste Populaire et Panafricaine” (Front for a popular anti-imperialist revolution and pan African, FRAAP- France Degage).

He was arbitrarily arrested on 16 July in Dakar by the Gendarmie’s Brigade Research section. He was first questioned over his two Facebook posts about the lack of adequate medical facilities in Senegal, 59 years after independence, and the fact that many political leaders in Senegal have had to seek better medical care in Europe. He was detained without being notified of any charges. Three days after being detained, Guy Marius Sagna was questioned over a post on the FRAAP Facebook Page about the presence of the French army in Africa and a terrorist attack in the Sahel region. According to him and his lawyer, he did not write the Facebook post and he is not the coordinator of FRAAP- France Degage.

On 19 July, he was charged with “ spreading false news” and detained at the Central Prison of Rebeuss in Dakar. The prosecutor later changed the charge against Guy to “spreading false news on terrorism” on 5 August.

I urge you to ensure that:

- Guy Marius Sagna is immediately and unconditionally released as he has been detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom expression;
- The right to freedom of expression is fully respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled in Senegal;
- While in detention Guy Marius Sagna is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment and that he is allowed access to his lawyer and family members.

Yours sincerely,