

Prime Minister

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Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the enforced disappearances of **Oumar Sylla** (alias Fonike Mengue) and **Mamadou Billo Bah**. On 9 July, the two activists and members of the National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), were arrested by armed defense and security forces in Oumar Sylla's house in Conakry, Guinea's capital. According to a press release issued by the FNDC on 10 July, they were subsequently taken to the Gendarmerie Headquarters and then to Kassa island, an army camp. Since then, Oumar Sylla and Mamadou Billo Bah have had no contact with their lawyers and families, and their whereabouts remain unknown. On the day of their arrest, Oumar Sylla had called on social networks for people to wear red clothes on 11 July to "protest against the closure of the media and the high cost of living, in particular power cuts and all the blunders of the transition".

On 17 July, your office issued a press release stating that no investigative body has carried out any arrest of Oumar Sylla and Mamadou Billo Bah, and they were not detained in any of the prisons in the country. According to the official press release, the two activists have been abducted.

I am deeply concerned for Oumar Sylla and Mamadou Billo Bah as they have been targeted simply for exercising their rights and now their enforced disappearances put their safety at risk. Furthermore, this follows the pattern of repression in Guinea. For several months now, the Guinean authorities have been stepping up their crackdown on peaceful dissent, with the suspension of media outlets, restrictions on internet access and the use of unlawful force at demonstrations, including the killing of at least 47 people during protests as of 22 April 2024. Amnesty International believes Oumar Sylla and Mamadou Billo Bah are being arbitrary detained solely because of their activism and criticism of the Guinean authorities, in violation of their right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

I urge you to immediately release Oumar Sylla and Mamadou Billo Bah and ensure there is an effective investigation into their enforced disappearance, capable of bringing anyone suspected of criminal responsibility to justice in fair trials. Pending their release, I urge you to guarantee they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

Yours Sincerely,