



Civil society organisations and African citizen movements condemn the repression of peaceful demonstrations in Togo !

On 6th June, the anniversary of Faure Gnassingbé, the Prime Minister of Togo, was marked by peaceful demonstrations organised in Lomé as well as in several other cities across the country. These mobilisations, deemed illegal by the authorities, who viewed them as a "movement of revolt against the institutions of the Republic," were organised to denounce the constitutional reform, the rise in electricity prices, and targeted arrests, such as that of the rapper Narcisse Tchalla, alias **Aamron**, known for his criticisms of the government on social media. He was abducted by gendarmes on 26th May while at home for denouncing corruption and social injustices in Togo. He was freed on Saturday, 21st June.

Following this protest, 81 demonstrators were arrested and detained arbitrarily. Seven (7) protesters reported being subjected to acts of torture and ill-treatment. According to several observers and civil society organizations, the protests were marked by excessive and disproportionate use of force by law enforcement, who allegedly mistreated demonstrators. Among those detained was Dr Hounou-Adossi Ayitevi Firmin Elom, who was released on June 9 under pressure from his colleagues. There is also Bertin Bandiougou, a student movement leader and member of the SEET (Synergy of Students and Pupils of Togo). He was also released on the same day as Dr

Elom. The press was not spared either. Journalist and TV5 Monde correspondent [Flore Monteau](#), who was covering the protests, was intimidated by gendarmes who took her to the Djidjolé Police Station and forced her to delete images of the protests from her camera before releasing her

Since the adoption of a new constitution in April 2024, political power has been concentrated in the hands of Prime Minister [Faure Gnassingbé](#), leader of the majority party. In power since the death of his father in 2005, he was sworn in on May 3, 2025, having confiscated the popular and civic sovereignty of the Togolese people.

The arbitrary arrests and acts of torture against peaceful protesters, as well as the intimidation of journalists, occur within a broader context of long-standing restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, opinion, assembly, and peaceful protest in Togo. Consequently, we, the West African civil society organizations, demand:

- **The immediate and unconditional release** of all individuals detained for peacefully exercising their rights to **freedom of expression, assembly, and opinion**;
- The **immediate and unconditional release** of Narcisse Tchalla, alias **Aamron**, and Honoré Sitsopé Sokpor, alias **Affectio**;
- An **independent investigation** into cases of torture and ill-treatment, and full reparations for the victims;
- **Strict respect for public freedoms**, especially with the upcoming new mobilisations planned for June 26, 27, and 28, 2025;
- That the **Togolese authorities** comply with their international commitments, particularly Articles 19 and 21 of the **ICCPR**, as well as Articles 9 and 11 of the **African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights**.

We call upon the new acting president of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), H.E. Mr. [Julius Maada Bio](#), President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, to engage in constructive dialogue with the Togolese authorities to review the situation of the peaceful protesters arrested on 6 June. We also invite him to work towards their release, in full respect of human rights and in strict compliance with Articles 32 to 35 of the ECOWAS Additional Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

We reaffirm our solidarity with the citizens and civil society actors in Togo, as well as with all pro-democracy activists committed to defending freedoms and advocating for just, democratic, and respectful governance in Togo.

Dakar, June 24th, 2025

Signatories:

- AfricTivistes
- Afrikajom Center
- Tournons La Page/Togo
- Tournons La Page/Guinée
- Tournons La Page/Côte d'Ivoire
- Front Citoyen Togo Debout/Bénin
- West African Human Rights Defenders Network
- Popular Front
- Bissau Guinean league for human rights
- Wademos
- Center For Strategic Litigation
- Ballondiral