



Cancellation of Guinea enforced disappearances' round table deeply concerns CSOs, citizen movts

On 9 July 2026, the Senegalese authorities cancelled the international round table titled “The Epidemic of [Enforced abductions in Guinea](#),” which was scheduled to take place in Dakar. According to the organisers, the cancellation follows instructions from the Directorate General of National Territorial Surveillance.

This meeting, initiated by the Tournons La Page (TLP) Guinea movement, aimed to mobilise the international community, regional actors, human rights organisations and decision-makers around the troubling issue of enforced disappearances in Guinea. It was intended to present documented cases, assess the scale of the phenomenon and analyse the responses provided by national, regional and international mechanisms.

We, the civil society organisations and citizen movements signing this statement , express our deep concern regarding this ban, which occurred on the very day of the commemoration of the two-year enforced disappearance of Guinean human rights activists and militants, Foniké Menguè and Mamadou Billo Bah.

This decision raises concerns about the full exercise of freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, guaranteed by Articles 9, 10, and 11 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as by the international commitments to which Senegal has subscribed.

This situation is particularly worrying given that Senegal has historically played an important role in hosting many persecuted Africans, debates and

initiatives in favour of human rights and democracy on the continent. Preventing the holding of a peaceful event dedicated to human rights and seeking *ça va ruth* constitutes a break from this tradition of hospitality, which has long contributed to the country's democratic prominence on the African continent. It is essential to preserve this legacy and ensure spaces for peaceful dialogue.

On [9 July 2024](#), in Conakry, activists Foniké Menguè and Mamadou Billo Bah were arrested by agents of the Guinean Defence and Security Forces. Since that date, their families, loved ones, and lawyers have remained without reliable information regarding their fate, their place of detention, or the progress of any judicial proceedings that may have been initiated against them.

Two years later, silence persists, uncertainty remains, and the risk of impunity sets in. This situation constitutes a serious violation of human rights and reveals a deeper crisis marked by the multiplication of enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, and the gradual restriction of civic space in Guinea.

We remind that these disappearances occur in a general context of declining fundamental freedoms in the country, notably freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceful assembly, and the right to access information. This situation has worsened with the closure of several major private media outlets, significantly reducing public debate spaces and further undermining the democratic process.

The prohibition of an event dedicated to the search for truth cannot erase the suffering of the families of the victims nor silence the legitimate demands for justice. The families of Foniké Menguè, Mamadou Billo Bah, and all the disappeared individuals have the right to truth, justice, and reparations.

In light of this situation, we, the signing organisations and movements:

- Demand that the Guinean authorities immediately open an independent, impartial, transparent, and credible investigation to establish the full truth about the disappearance of Foniké Menguè and Mamadou Billo Bah, identify those responsible, and ensure that justice is served;
- Demand the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained for peacefully exercising their civil and political rights,

including journalists, human rights defenders, civil society activists, and political actors;

- Urge the Guinean authorities to ensure the physical and psychological integrity of all persons deprived of liberty and to fully respect their obligations under national law, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and other international human rights instruments;
- Demand the effective reopening of civic space in Guinea, through the guarantee of freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and access to information, as well as the lifting of unjustified restrictions imposed on independent media;
- Invite regional and international organisations, notably the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Nations, and all partners committed to democracy and human rights, to strengthen their diplomatic efforts to uncover the full truth regarding the fate of Foniké Menguè, Mamadou Billo Bah, other disappeared persons, and all victims of human rights violations in Guinea;
- Call upon the Senegalese authorities to fully guarantee the exercise of freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, in accordance with their constitutional, regional, and international commitments, and to allow civil society organisations to carry out their activities without hindrance.

We reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the families of the disappeared, human rights organisations, and all civic forces that continue, in peace and dignity, their mobilisation for truth, justice, memory, democracy, and the rule of law in Guinea.

Dakar, 10 July 2026

Signatories

- AfricTivistes
- Afrikajom Center
- LSDH
- RADDHO
- TLP/Sénégal
- Amnesty International Sénégal
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