



Statement of the African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC-ICC) about the crisis in Senegal

14 June 2023

Abidjan, Bangui, Bamako, Bujumbura, Conakry, Kinshasa, N'Djamena, Ouagadougou, Rabat.

Senegal was the first country in the world to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC, and is a model of democracy and stability in the West African sub-region. For some time now, however, it has been in the grip of a socio-political crisis that threatens to undermine all its political and economic gains if nothing is done.

On 1 June 2023, opposition politician Ousmane Sonko, who was prosecuted for rape and death threats, was sentenced to two years in prison for "corrupting young people". Following the announcement of this verdict, spontaneous and violent demonstrations took place in several Senegalese cities. The violent repression of these demonstrations by the forces of law and order in Dakar and Ziguinchor resulted in the deaths of 16 people, over 500 arrests, including minors, according to the authorities, and at least 390 injuries (Senegalese Red Cross).

Faced with this situation, which risks degenerating into other massive human rights violations, and in order not to encourage the recurrence of other crimes, the African Francophone Coalitions for the International Criminal Court (AFC-ICC) call on:

- **The Senegalese government to carry out an impartial and independent investigation to establish responsibility and the circumstances of the deaths during the demonstrations;**
- **ECOWAS to send emissaries to facilitate dialogue between the various protagonists;**
- **The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to monitor the situation in Senegal and send a strong signal to the various parties;**



For the African Francophone Coalitions for the ICC

The Coordinator

Mr. Ali OUATTARA

Member organisations

1. The Burundian Coalition for the ICC
2. The Central African Coalition for the ICC
3. The Chadian Coalition for the ICC
4. The Guinean Coalition for the ICC
5. The Ivorian Coalition for the ICC
6. The Malian Coalition for the ICC
7. The Moroccan Coalition for the ICC
8. NGOs: Bureau d'études et de réflexions sur le bien être des communautés (Berco) and Club des amis du droit du Congo (CAD) (DRC)
9. Burkina Faso: Nurukyor Association for Peace and Human Rights