



## Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles – West Africa



### Statement following the armed robbery and burglary of the home of the GCLWS WA spokesperson

We the National Platforms of the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles in West Africa (GCLWS WA), representing 15 countries and organizations, are signatories to this declaration.

Our comrade Massa Kone was targeted in an attack at his home on Friday, June 22, 2020. Massa is the spokesperson of the GCLWS WA and No Vox Africa, a member of the international committee of the World Social Forum and part of the coordination for the Right to Food and Nutrition.

We are outraged at this shocking attack on Massa Kone and his family. Six hooded individuals dressed in military uniforms and carrying firearms entered Massa's home and vandalized and looted it in the presence of his terrified children.

We condemn this barbaric act against Massa Kone and his family, and warn those who sponsored it and carried it out.

We also give our full support to the victim and express our solidarity with Massa Kone, and with all the activists who have been criminalized in the context of their work in defense of human rights.

Today, an increasing number of activists, like Massa, are being intimidated, kidnapped or killed in the course of their human rights work. This is unacceptable. In each of these instances, we need to react and express our solidarity and our collective strength.

As civil society actors, organizations, movements, and networks, together with partners and allies at national and international level – assert the following:

- We emphasize the seriousness of this action to the Government of Mali. This attack is reminiscent of a past era and completely unacceptable in a country that claims to be a democracy. We are concerned that this situation could lead to further abuses;
- We invite all human rights defenders, civil society actors, partners and allies at national and international level to mobilize and challenge the Malian government;

Therefore, we ask the Malian Government:

- To take appropriate measures to protect Massa Kone and his family, and others who have been persecuted;
- To open a judicial investigation to ensure that the people responsible for this aggressive action are held accountable and brought to justice;

In addition, we seek the support of all diplomatic representations, including sub-regional, African, and international institutions in Mali. We ask them to demand that the Malian Government take all the measures necessary to guarantee the safety of human rights defenders, particularly Massa and his family.

Bamako, June 22, 2020

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## Signatories

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## **Signatory organizations**

### **Africa**

- Forum des organisations nationales de droits humains (FONADH) - **Mauritanie**
- No Vox Afrique
- IRPAD / Afrique - **Mali**
- ENDA PRONAT – **Sénégal**
- Coordination des Clubs et Associations Universitaires UNESCO (CAU-CI) **Côte d'Ivoire**
- Association Ouest Africaine pour le Développement de la Pêche Artisanale (ADEPA)
- Réseau de l'Association de Défenses des Droits Aide-ménagères et des Domestiques (ADDAD) – **Mali, Burkina, Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée et Sénégal**
- Femmes en Action Rurale de **Madagascar** (FARM)
- Collectif pour la défense des terres malgaches, TANY - **Madagascar**
- Convergence Malienne contre les Accaparements des Terres (CMAT) - **Mali**
- African Center for Biodiversity – **South Africa**
- Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE)
- L'institut panafricain pour la citoyenneté, les Consommateurs et le Développement (CICODEV) - **Senegal**
- Justice, Peace and Development Commission of SECAM
- Réseau National de la Société Civile pour l'Environnement et Développement Durable (RENASCEDD) - **Guinée**
- Mouvement pour l'Engagement et le Réveil Citoyen (MERCY) - **Guinée**
- Convergence des Jeunes et Leaders pour la Paix et la Démocratie (CoJeLaiD) - **Guinée**
- Alternative Espaces Citoyens (AEC) - **Niger**
- Conseil National des Organisations de la Société Civile de Guinée (CNOSCG) - **Guinée**
- Collectif citoyen pour l'Agro-Ecologie (CCAEC) - **Burkina**
- Réseau Agroécologie Paysanne et Citoyen (RESAPAC) - **Mali**
- Biodiversité Echanges et Diffusion d'Expériences (BEDE)

- Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)
- Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA)
- Comité Ouest Africain des Semences Paysanne (COASP)

### **Outside Africa**

- Conseil International du Forum Social Mondial
- No Vox international
- No Vox Japon
- FIAN international
- Association Internationale de Techniciens, Experts et Chercheurs (AITEC)
- Droit au Logement (DAL)
- Society for International Development (SID),
- Association pour l'Amélioration de la Gouvernance de la Terre, de l'eau et des ressources naturelles (AGTER), France
- La Via Campesina International,
- La Coordination Européenne Via Campesina (ECVC)
- Association de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement (ACORD)
- FIAN Belgium
- SoliREsp
- Association ReAct - France
- Confédération Paysanne - France
- Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches pour les Alternatives de Développement Océan Indien (CRAAD-OI)
- Friends of the Earth International
- CCFD - Terre Solidaire
- Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE)
- Pain pour le prochain
- Africa Europe Faith Justice Network AEFJN
- Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU)