



International Department

Date  
2012-03-27

Mr. Mohamed Saïd Fofana  
Prime Minister  
BP 21 CONACRY  
Republic of Guinea

### **Trade union leaders targets of armed attacks and severe intimidation**

Mr Prime Minister,

We are writing to you on behalf of all the workers represented by the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), which represents 1.5 million workers, to strongly protest against the intimidation and vicious armed attacks suffered by the leaders of the Confédération nationale des travailleurs de la Guinée (CNTG).

On the night of Monday 19 March 2012, the first assistant general secretary of the CNTG, Mr Kader Aziz Camara and his family were the victims of an armed attack on their home in Dabompa, in the commune of Matoto, Conakry. The assailants, totalling around ten, in military uniforms and some hooded, were armed with military rifles and sharp weapons. After surrounding the property, they broke down the main gate and the door of the house. Once inside, they stormed the rooms and assaulted the occupants. Faced with resistance from the head of the family, the assailants shot several rounds of gunfire. They then seized a range of items (jewellery, a computer, etc.) as well as a large sum of money. Despite repeated calls from neighbours, the police responded that they did not have a vehicle at their disposal and did not appear until daybreak.

This attack came just hours after the final verdict of the Conakry Court of Appeal concerning the legal case initiated - and lost - by Mr Yamoussa Touré, to contest the assigning of the position of CNTG general secretary to Mr Amadou Diallo.

To add insult to injury, Mr Kader Aziz Camara and Mr Mamadou Mansaré, also assistant general secretary of the CNTG, were called in by the police on the morning of 27 March, following a complaint filed by the same Mr Yamoussa Touré. Seen in the context of the police's abject failure to protect our colleagues when they are attacked by armed thugs in uniform, this state



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**Landsorganisationen i Sverige**



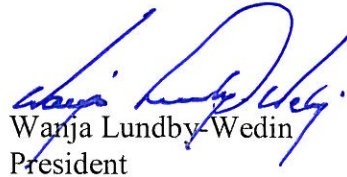
of affairs is a disgraceful illustration of how the Guinean authorities are handling the problems outlined.

We should remind you that threats, intimidation and attacks levelled against trade unionists exercising their legitimate role as defenders of Guinean workers' rights all constitute highly serious violations of Convention 87 (on freedom of association) and Convention 98 (on collective bargaining) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which Guinea has ratified. Your government therefore has a responsibility to establish and guarantee an environment favourable to the proper exercise of the rights they enshrine, as well as to protect and promote them.

We call on you to take urgent measures to bring an end to this situation, and to guarantee our colleagues' rights and safety. The exercise of the abovementioned rights is impossible in a climate of terror wherein trade unionists are only able to think of their safety, and we would not want to be forced to conclude that this is indeed the Guinean government's intention.

Yours sincerely,

THE SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO)



Wanja Lundby-Wedin  
President



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