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## Senegal: Deterioration of Press Freedom

**Despite national and international outcry against the ongoing attacks on press freedom, the Senegalese authorities seem determined to wage war against private media organisations and independent journalists and to stifle press freedom.**

In a letter addressed to the President of Senegal, ARTICLE 19 called attention to the deteriorating situation of press freedom and raised concerns over the series of attacks and intimidations mounted against the private media, calling upon the authorities to put an end to the spiralling number of violations.

ARTICLE 19 believes that such acts should not be tolerated in a democratic society. Instead of ensuring that justice is carried out when journalists are attacked, the Government of Senegal has decided to protect the perpetrators of such unlawful acts and further harass journalists who call for help on behalf of their colleagues.

*“We are shocked that such crimes against journalists can go unpunished in Senegal”* said Dr Agnes Callamard, ARTICLE 19 Executive Director. *“We expect the government of Senegal to provide adequate legal remedies to the victims and bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice.”*

ARTICLE 19 supports the call for justice for all Senegalese journalists and urges the government to end the attacks and culture of impunity, and establish a constructive relationship with an independent media.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- For more information: please contact Africa Programme or Fatou Jagne-Senghore [africa@article19.org](mailto:africa@article19.org)
- You can read the letter at <http://www.article19.org/pdfs/letters/senegal-deterioration-of-press-freedom-letter.pdf>
- You can read ARTICLE 19s 2007 Report on the State of freedom of expression in Senegal at: <http://www.article19.org/pdfs/publications/senegal-liberte-d-expression.pdf>
- ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees free speech.