

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/mali-newspaper-editor-arrested-for-07-03-2013,44180.html>

Africa - Mali

Media reaction

Media suspend operations to press for editor's release

11 March 2013

Reporters Without Borders hails a decision by Mali's newspapers and radio stations to stop publishing and broadcasting from tomorrow until the authorities release *Le Républicain* editor **Boukary Ndaou**, who has been held by state security police for the past five days.

Ndaou was arrested at his newspaper on 6 March after publishing an open letter to President Dioncounda Traoré from an army captain in the northern city of Gao who threatened to lead a mutiny if Traoré did not rescind the "benefits granted" to Capt. Amadou Sanogo, the army officer who led a military coup in March 2012.

Last month, Sanogo was appointed to head a military committee in charge of reforming Mali's armed forces.

07.03.2013 - Newspaper editor arrested for publishing army officer's open letter

Reporters Without Borders strongly condemns yesterday's arrest by the state security service of *Le Républicain* editor **Boukary Ndaou**, who is still being held in an unknown location.

No charge has so far been announced but his arrest came just hours after his newspaper [published an open letter](#) by a soldier criticizing President Dioncounda Traoré for the "benefits granted" to Capt. Amadou Sanogo, an army officer who led a military coup in March 2012.

"Mali's current problems do not justify intimidating journalists," Reporters Without Borders said. "Arresting a journalist who draws attention to the dissension within the armed forces since last year's coup just contributes to the instability. The press must be free to cover the most sensitive subjects in order to facilitate a return to stable democracy and respect for human rights, and we therefore call for Ndaou's immediate release."

Ndaou was arrested at the newspaper shortly after midday yesterday by six state security officials. He has not been formally charged and the newspaper's staff do not know where he is being held.

Le Républicain's front page story yesterday was the open letter by a certain Capt. Touré, identified as a member of the Malian forces currently stationed in the northern city of Gao, and his criticism of Capt. Sanogo, the former coup leader, who was appointed last month as General Secretary of the Military Committee for Monitoring the Reform of the Defence and Security Forces.

In his letter, Capt. Touré said he and his troops would suspend military operations in the north if President Traoré did not rescind the financial benefits granted to Capt. Sanogo and the other members of this Military Committee.

[In a statement published today](#), the staff of *Le Républicain* voiced concern about recent media freedom violations and added: "*Le Républicain respects media ethics and will never yield to any kind of threats. Long live media freedom in a democratic Mali.*"

Photo : Boukary Ndaou

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