



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**

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Mr Souleymane Téliko, the elected President of the Union of Senegalese Magistrates, known as UMS, and a member of the Higher Council of the Judiciary, is a person who is committed to the defence of the independence of the Senegalese judiciary; a principle which is enshrined in particular by the principle of security of tenure.

The Union of Senegalese Magistrates, through its President, Mr Souleymane Téliko, denounced a number of recent appointments and assignments of magistrates, which have been made in violation of the above principle, including that of a President of the Court of Instance who was relieved of his duties without a meeting of the Superior Council of the Judiciary.

After Mr. Téliko's criticism of the breach of the principle of security of tenure, Mr Teliko, on 18 September 2020, came to be investigated by the General Inspectorate of the Administration of Justice (IGAJ) for having said in an interview in July 2020, that the rights of a person presumed to be innocent and of the defence of the person prosecuted for embezzlement of public funds had been violated, as had been ruled by the Court of Justice of Cedeao, and followed by the Dakar Court of Appeal.

A disciplinary procedure was then commenced against him by the referral of the matter to the High Council for the Judiciary.

Mr Souleymane Téliko only learnt of the referral to the Council, a disciplinary body through a press release published on 28 September 2020.

The African Group of the International Union of Magistrates express its full support of the UMS and its President in the struggle for the establishment of true independence of the judiciary in the Republic of Senegal.

The African Group of the International Association of Judges strongly condemns the obstacles and abuses to which the President of the UMS has been subjected in the exercise of his aims, entrusted to him by the statutes of the Union, in the defence of the judiciary and for the independence of the judiciary.

The African Group of the International Association of Judges calls on the Senegalese Minister of Justice to support the position of the President of the UMS to provide an outcome that respects the statutory guarantees of the Judges and the independence of the judiciary.