

Mr Mahamadou Kassogué
Minister of Justice and Human Rights
Cite administrative – batiment 12
BP 97 Bamako, Mali
Email: mamoudoukassogue@gmail.com

Dear Minister Kassogué,

I am concerned about the arbitrary detention and unlawful conviction of **Professor Étienne Fakaba Sissoko** to two years in jail, one of which was suspended.

On March 25, 2024, the Judicial Investigation Brigade arrested Étienne Fakaba Sissoko, a university professor, economist, activist, and author, at his home in Bamako. Two days later, he was charged with "harming the reputation of the state", "defamation", and "dissemination of false news disturbing the public peace". The charges are related to his book, "Propaganda, Agitation and Harassment – government communication during the transition in Mali", published in December 2023, in which he was critical of Mali's military authorities.

Amnesty International believes Etienne Sissoko was sentenced solely because of his activism and criticism, in violation of his rights to freedom of expression.

Therefore, I call upon you to ensure the Malian authorities immediately and unconditionally release Étienne Fakaba Sissoko and quash his conviction. Pending his release, I urge you to ensure that he has access to his lawyers and family.

Yours sincerely,

CC: Embassy for Mali in the United States
Ambassador SEM Sékou Berthe
2130 R Street,
NW, Washington DC 20008
Email: administration@maliembassy.us