



Non-Governmental Organization with Special status at the ECOSOC in the United Nations, member observer at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) of the African Union and at the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

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## PRESS RELEASE

### NO TO THE TRIVIALIZATION OF POLICE VIOLENCE

On Saturday, June 21, 2008, at the end of the game between the national team of Senegal and the one of Liberia at the Stade Léopold Sédar Senghor, police officers responsible for the safety of players are brutally hard on journalists Kambel Boubacar Dieng of the RFM and Kara Thioune of the West Africa Democracy Radio.

In front of witnesses, the two journalists who wanted in connection with their work, doing interviews after the game, were attacked, wounded, handcuffed, abused by cruel and degrading manner by a dozen policemen.

The African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO) said the recurrence of police brutality on journalists and citizens in general whose most basic rights are so trampled upon, as was the case on March 30 2008 for those who wanted to organize a sit-in outside the radio Walfadjri television to protest against the high cost of living.

#### **The African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO):**

- **Strongly condemns** these uncivilized practices that violate the right to information and which seriously undermine the free exercise of the profession of journalism;
- **Demands** banning the use by police of electro-shock batons, today likened to torture
- **Demands** that an impartial investigation be opened into these acts of violence and mistreatment of journalists Kambel Boubacar Dieng and Kara Thioune so that alleged perpetrators are arrested and tried.
- Invites the authorities to take steps to ensure that such acts do not recur in Senegal the authorities to take steps to ensure that such acts do not occur again in Senegal

**Done in Dakar on June 23, 2008**

**The President**