

UA 14/19

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## **COTE D'IVOIRE**

### **DETAINED ONLINE ACTIVIST ALLEGES TORTURE IN PRISON**

Soro Tangboho (alias Carton Noir), an outspoken online activist, was arbitrarily arrested on 8 November 2018 in the northern town of Korhogo. At the time of the arrest, he was livestreaming a video on Facebook showing police officers who were, according to him, extorting money from motorists. He has been accused of disrupting public order.

While in detention at Korhogo police station, he was subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. After spending two nights at the police station, he was transferred to the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance (DST) where he spent the first night with his hands cuffed behind his back. On 16 November, he was then transferred to the Abidjan Correctional Facility and Penitentiary (MACA).



*Soro Tangboho via Twitter*

Soro Tangboho has been hospitalized at the MACA prison clinic since 22 January. However, the clinic at the prison is not well equipped.

#### **Please send a letter or fax to the Minister of Justice and Human Rights.**

- \* Ask him to ensure that the charges against Soro Tangboho alias Carton Noir are dropped and that he is immediately and unconditionally released.
- \* Insist that a prompt, thorough, effective and independent investigation be established into the allegations of Soro Tangboho's torture in detention and that anyone found to be responsible is brought to justice in trials that meet international standards of fairness.
- \* Urge him to ensure that the right to freedom of expression is fully respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled.

#### **Write to**

M. Sansan Kambilé  
Minister of Justice and Human Rights  
Imm. Symphonie - Rue du commerce (ex- CNA)  
Abidjan, plateau  
01 BP 2020 Abidjan 01  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Fax: 011 225 2032 0881  
Postage: \$2.65  
Salutation: Dear Minister Sansan Kambilé

**Please copy**

His Excellency N'Goran Kouamé  
Ambassador for the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire  
9 Marlborough Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8E6  
Fax: 613 563 8287  
E-mail: [info@canada.diplomatie.gouv.ci](mailto:info@canada.diplomatie.gouv.ci) or [ambci.info@rogers.com](mailto:ambci.info@rogers.com)

M. Alassane Ouattara  
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Place de la République  
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Abidjan 01  
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**Additional information**

This case is part of the wave of repression targeting activists for several months now in Côte d'Ivoire.

In the lead up to the 2020 presidential election, violations of the right to freedom of expression risk not only weakening social peace, but also hindering the right to accessing and disseminating information in a tense political climate.