



## REPUBLIC OF GABON : ARREST AND ARBITRARY DETENTION OF MR. JEAN REMY YAMA, PRESIDENT OF DYNAMIQUE UNITAIRE, THE LARGEST TRADE UNION CENTER IN GABON AT LIBREVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### URGENT APPEAL N°3 /2022

Douala-Libreville : February 28, 2022 : The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and the Gabon Country Coalition have heard from reliable sources the arrest and detention of Mr. Jean Remy YAMA, president of Dynamique Unitaire, the largest conglomerate of public sector unions in Gabon, by the security services at the International Airport. Also, REDHAC and the Gabon Country Coalition remain concerned about the sequestration in the intelligence offices of Gabon since last night.

#### **The facts:**

On Sunday, February 27, 2022, Mr. Jean Remy YAMA, was supposed to go to Senegal for his emergency treatment. While he was about to take his flight to Senegal and without having been the subject of any summons throughout his stay in Gabon, he was arbitrarily sequestered at the International Airport of Libreville until this moment.

Since October 2021, President Jean Remy YAMA, from Senegal where he is treated, had launched a call for a dead city on December 15, 2021, widely followed throughout the national territory. In January 2022, the strike of the National Union of Teachers and Researchers (SNEC), is currently paralyzing the higher education institutions of Gabon.

For REDHAC and the Gabon Country Coalition, this sequestration is an intimidation aimed at muzzling civil society organizations, human rights defenders and trade unionists.

#### **That is why,**

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its Gabon Country Coalition:

- strongly condemns the sequestration of President Jean Remy YAMA in the cells of the International Airport ;
- denounces the methods of intimidation and the reprisals against President Jean Remy YAMA, as well as other Human Rights Defenders and trade unionists, intimidations which aim at weakening trade unions and civil society associations in Gabon.

#### **To the authorities of Gabon, REDHAC and its Gabon Country Coalition:**



- Requests the pure and simple release of President Jean Remy YAMA and to take all the necessary measures so that he answers present at his medical control in Senegal as soon as possible;
- Urges continued respect for the regional and international (UN) conventions and instruments freely ratified and relating to human rights, trade unions and human rights defenders in Gabon.

Finally, REDHAC :

- Continues to encourage the government of Gabon to ensure the legal protection of Human Rights Defenders, journalists, by adopting the law on "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa".

#### **FOR ALL URGENT ACTIONS :**

#### **USEFUL ADDRESSES :**

- Minister of the Interior, Decentralization, Security and Public Hygiene: Mr. Lambert Noël MATHA: Tel: (+241) 01 77 10 09/ 01 76 05 32,
- General Directorate of Territorial Administration: Tel: (+241)01 76 21 81/ 01 77 38 00
- Minister of National Defense: Mr. Michael Moussa ADAMO, : BP:13493, Libreville Gabon Tel: (+241)011 72 72 29/ 011 72 71 97
- Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, and in charge of Human Rights: Mrs. Erlyne Antonella NDEMBET Epouse DAMAS: Tel: (+241)09 03 30 13
- Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA in Gabon: Mr. François Louncény Fall
- National Human Rights Commission

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