

PRESS RELEASE

July 3, 2023.

WADEMOS CALLS ON MACKY SALL TO PULL SENEGAL BACK FROM THE BRINK OF RUIN

Today, July 3, 2023, President Macky Sall is expected to address the people of Senegal, and by extension, the world, on his intention or otherwise of extending his term in office beyond its constitutional limit.

Given the recent carnage on the streets of Dakar and the lingering prospect for further destruction of lives and property, it is imperative that President Sall uses this rare opportunity to de-escalate the situation and begin to restore confidence in Senegal's democratic systems.

The implosion in Senegal is coming on the back of a continuing assault on democracy in the sub-region following the recently botched elections in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. Senegal's leadership is now more than ever needed, given its strategic role in the Senegambian enclave and its leadership in the French-speaking parts of Africa. A Senegal engulfed in civil strife will significantly weaken the capacity of the government to build on its social and economic investments and respond to security threats in the region.

WADEMOS appeals to President Macky Sall to use this broadcast to unequivocally state that he has no ambitions of pursuing a third term in office, that he will not be standing for re-election, and that he will refrain from exerting any undue influence on the electoral processes and outcomes of the February 2024 election. The Network equally appeals to citizens, citizen groups, and opposition parties to remain law-abiding and to pursue the path of peace.

This, the Network believes, is in alignment with the expectations of the millions across the sub-region and also across the continent who cherish the principles of democracy and believe in freedom of expression.

It is the expectation of the Network that in this evening's national broadcast, President Macky Sall will choose peace for Senegal over violence, stability for Senegal over confusion, progress for Senegal over uncertainty, and uphold the most fundamental tenets of the democracy that elevated him to his current position of power.

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Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) | Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), Ghana | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI), Ghana
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About WADEMOS

WADEMOS is a non-partisan, independent, civil society-led transnational democracy solidarity network. The WADEMOS Network consists of over 35 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) located in 15 countries in West Africa. The WADEMOS Network mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West African Region to advance, defend, and reinvigorate democracy and promote democratic norms and reforms in the sub-region.

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