

PRESS STATEMENT

December 5, 2024.

WADEMOS CONDEMNS THE UNLAWFUL ARREST AND DETENTION OF MOUSSA TCHANGARI BY THE NIGERIEN AUTHORITY

We, the West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), unequivocally condemn the recent abduction of Mr. Moussa Tchangari, a prominent journalist and secretary general of the Alternative Espaces Citoyen (AEC). On Tuesday, December 3, by armed men in civilian clothes, who surrounded his home, preventing access and forcibly taking him to an unknown location upon his return from Abuja, where he participated in the International Governing Council meeting of the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa).

The Network demands his immediate release and an end to the repressive and intimidatory tactics used to silence dissenting voices, including that of Mr. Tchangari. We are deeply concerned about his safety, given that his whereabouts remain unknown. Mr. Tchangari has long been an advocate for democracy, justice, and human rights—principles that are sorely lacking in many parts of the ECOWAS subregion.

As Niger faces a turbulent governance crisis, we are alarmed by the escalating repressive actions of the incumbent junta, which includes increased restrictions on free speech and the rights to peaceful assembly and association. We call for an immediate cessation of the ongoing repression against human rights defenders, particularly against the backdrop of a shrinking civic space in Niger and throughout West Africa.

In solidarity with the people of Niger and their civil society, we join the call for the restoration of democracy in the country. WADEMOS urges the Nigerien government to take concrete steps towards a free, fair, and transparent transition to democracy.

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About WADEMOS

WADEMOS is an independent and non-partisan network of diverse national and transnational civil society organizations and civic groups working to promote and defend democracy, good governance, and inclusive development in the West Africa region. WADEMOS mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective voice and power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West Africa region to advance its mission. The current membership of WADEMOS stands at 47 spread across West Africa. The WADEMOS Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana.

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