

OPEN LETTER

**Appeal from artists and cultural workers to the
President of the Republic of Senegal concerning
the genocide perpetrated by Israel against
Palestinians in Gaza**



**SILENCE DURING
A GENOCIDE MEANS
COMPLICITY**

**To His Excellency Mr Bassirou Diomaye Faye,
President of the Republic of Senegal**

Mr President,

We, artists, writers and cultural workers in and from Senegal, write to you at a historic moment, when the soul of our collective humanity seems to be faltering. While the ceasefire in Gaza should have offered a moment's much-needed respite for its 2.3 million Palestinian inhabitants, the perpetrators of Israel's ongoing genocide—as it has been recognised by the UN— are still afforded total impunity to continue to kill, and to continue their illegal occupation and regime of apartheid.

We are overwhelmed with pain, indignation and despair at the horror still unfolding in Gaza, while Israel has obliterated the necessary conditions for sustaining life. For more than two years, every day, the images, the stories, the cries of civilians, children, mothers and the elderly haunt us. Israel's genocide, in parallel with its ongoing land theft and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, destroys the very pillars of international law and the multilateral system. Silence, inaction and ambivalence are no longer tolerable.

As Your Excellency said, Mr President, at the 80th United Nations General Assembly: «In the face of such inhumanity inflicted on the Palestinian people, to remain silent and not act would be passive complicity.” We acknowledge and commend your steadfastness: words that are precious in a world that too often remains silent. We appeal to you, Your Excellency, Mr. President, to show by example how your moral demand on humanity can be translated into accountability measures in Senegal that can inspire many nations.

In this regard, we are calling on Senegal, as well as on all states, to meet their obligations under international law, as triggered by the determinations last year of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). As you are aware, Mr. President, the ICJ decided that Israel is plausibly committing genocide and, later, that its entire presence in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is illegal, amounts to apartheid and must be brought to an end.

Following the ICJ ruling, dozens of UN human rights experts called on all states to meet their legal obligations by imposing “a full arms embargo on Israel, halting all arms agreements, imports, exports and transfers, including of dual-use items,” as well as cancelling or suspending “economic relationships, trade agreements and academic relations with Israel that may contribute to its unlawful presence and apartheid regime in the occupied Palestinian territory.”

It is in times of crisis that nations forge their greatness. Africa, which has experienced slavery, colonialism and apartheid, must say no to injustice and oppression. Mr President, at the UN you also said that international law and the protection of civilians have been buried under Gaza’s rubble. Mr President: what role will your government play in retrieving international law from Gaza’s rubble?

The Senegalese people are waiting for concrete and urgent measures. We therefore solemnly request that you consider and implement the following decisions:

- 1. End diplomatic relations with Israel, starting by expelling its ambassador.**
- 2. Cut trade, military, developmental and other complicit ties with Israel, and end all contracts with complicit Israeli companies.**
- 3. Participate fully in The Hague Group, and mobilise African states to join.**
- 4. Together with other African nations, ensure Israel will not be reinstated to Observer status at the African Union.**
- 5. Prevent any maritime transfers of military materiel to Israel through Senegal's territorial waters and ports and follow other nations in barring Israel's flagship maritime company ZIM from operating in our ports.**
- 6. Support growing international efforts to ban genocidal Israel from sports, including the Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games.**

Please accept, Your Excellency Mr President of the Republic of Senegal, the expression of our most sincere consideration.

SIGNATORIES

1. **Pape Badara Seck, filmmaker**
2. **Khadim Bamba Dia, poet, slam poetry artist, writer**
3. **Mati Diop, filmmaker**
4. **Martine Ndiaye, festival organizer**
5. **Delphine Buysse, cultural practitioner**
6. **Selbe Diouf Sister LB, rapper, singer**
7. **Amy Celestina Ndione, painter**
8. **Khalifa Ababacar Dieng, visual artist**
9. **Amélie Maison, stroryteller, actress**
10. **Amadou Tidiane War, musician**
11. **Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Dieng, photographer**
12. **Alioune Ba, visual artist**
13. **Diakus Diakhate, photographer**
14. **Abdou Aziz Seck, visual artist**
15. **Ghassan Salhab, filmmaker**
16. **El'Hadj Samba Khary Ndao, sculptor**
17. **Moussa Tine, painter**
18. **Mohamed Abdoulaye Kane, dancer**
19. **Abou Tall, writer, screenwriter**
20. **Moustapha Diop, musician**
21. **Marynet J, curator**
22. **Emmanuel Hernandez, visual artist**
23. **Maky Madiba Sylla, filmmaker and musician**
24. **Jennifer Houdrouge, cultural organizer**
25. **Abdoul Kader Aka Diedhiou, screenwriter, filmmaker**
26. **Nzinga Mboup, architect**
27. **Laure Lepigeon, architect**
28. **Mariama Sylla, filmmaker**
29. **Diarra Seck-Meyer, cultural organizer**
30. **Maguette Traoré, graffiti artist**
31. **Anna Karima Wane, artist**

32. **Aïssatou Ciss, photographer**
33. **Saky Tchebe Bertrand, choreographer**
34. **Adji Ibrahim Traoré, photographer**
35. **Inès Senghor, writer**
36. **Haidar Chams, photographer**
37. **Fatou Mandoye Mbengue, visual artist**
38. **Stephen Ibaaku Bassene, multidisciplinary artist**
39. **Fatou Cissé, choreographer**
40. **Samba Ndoye Ndiour, painter**
41. **Abdourahmane Seck, researcher**
42. **Birahim Diallo, musician**
43. **Fatim Soumaré, visual artist**
44. **Ndeye Seck, journalist**
45. **Mariétou Mbaye, writer**
46. **Laure Malécot, visual artist, author**
47. **Julien Flosse, filmmaker**
48. **Ndeye Nogaye Diop, filmmaker**
49. **Salimata Diop, curator**
50. **Fatime Mbengue, painter**
51. **Sara Gadiaga, artist**
52. **Adiara Fall Ndiaye, cultural organizer**
53. **Babacar Buuba Diop, academic**
54. **Mariéme Faye, author, actress**
55. **Nasrine Safa, photographer**
56. **Amadou Bator Dieng, journalist**
57. **Amadou Ly, cultural practitioner**
58. **Penda Diouf, writer**
59. **Baba Diop, journalist, cultural practitioner**
60. **Lajoya Sène Somno-Dibélè, poet, singer, novelist**
61. **Corinna Fiora, songwriter**
62. **Ekatarina Golovko, photographer, researcher**
63. **Aicha Deme, multidisciplinary artist**
64. **Haja Fanta, cultural organizer**
65. **Pathé Dieye, writer**
66. **Nathalie Vairac, actress, performance artist**
67. **Hajar Thiam, slam poet**

68. **Serigne Mansour Fall, graffiti artist**
69. **Khady S., photographer**
70. **Fehe Saar, emcee**
71. **Mame Diarra Fall, photographer**
72. **Kerim Boucher, upcycling designer**
73. **Fatou Kiné Diouf, multidisciplinary artist**
74. **Ndeye Ndioro Diop, painter**
75. **Federico Silvio Andrea Putelli, musician**
76. **Moustapha Mbacké Diop, writer and doctor**
77. **Samora Mendy, graffiti artist**
78. **Rass Nganmo, musician**
79. **Penda Seck, artistic director, filmmaker**
80. **Jean Baptiste Joire, photographer**
81. **Ismaël Mahamadou Laouali, photographer**
82. **Awa Cheikh Diouf, cultural organizer**
83. **Abdou Samb, filmmaker, screenwriter**
84. **Lamine Faye, musician**
85. **Cleophee Moser, visual artist**
86. **Salimata Ciss Momath, assistant director/screenwriter**
87. **Matar Ndiaye, filmmaker**
88. **Yaminah Faye, fashion designer**
89. **Tshiela Aicha Fall, photographer**
90. **Chiara Figone, editor**
91. **Ousmane Dieme, graffiti artist**
92. **Germaine Acogny, dancer, choreographer**
93. **Ibrahima Khalil Koné, graffiti artist**
94. **Anna Diagne, graphic designer**
95. **Djeylani Guèye, cultural organizer**
96. **Karine Ba, painter**
97. **Elena Bougaire, cultural organizer**
98. **Joséphine Mboup, actress, filmmaker**
99. **Nalla Thioye, painter**
100. **Aïda Sène, fashion designer**
101. **Eved Od Sita, musician**
102. **Conny Schneider, musician, circus acrobat**
103. **Nampémanla Pascal Traoré, visual artist**

104. **Cécile Ndiaye, visual artist**
105. **Lolita Grand, sculptor, painter**
106. **El Hadj Ousmane Majha Sarr, filmmaker**
107. **Diedhiou Paul, lecturer-researcher**
108. **Mame Tahirou sall, filmmaker**
109. **Marie Noël Diagne, filmmaker**
110. **Alain Formose Gomis, filmmaker**
111. **Clement Kassianov Aichelbaum, artist, musician**
112. **Fadilou Toure, musician**
113. **Serigne Mbacké Madina Faye, photographer**
114. **Mouhamed Lamine Gueye, visual artist**
115. **Amy Collé Seck, artist dancer**
116. **Moussa Ba Wane, DJ composer**
117. **Fatouma Diallo, fashion designer**
118. **Aminata Mboup, sculptor, industrial designer**
119. **Tabara Korka Ndiaye, artist**
120. **yasmine eid-sabbagh, artist**

ARTIST STATEMENTS

“It is the duty of every human being to strongly denounce this inhumanity and to fight relentlessly against injustice.”

Pape Badara Seck, filmmaker

“This genocide shows how humanity loses its humanity, and we cannot be part of this genocide through our silence.”

Amadou Tidiane War, musician

“When I think that nearby people, women and children are being massacred, I cannot remain silent and do nothing in the face of such injustice.”

Abdou Aziz Seck, visual artist

“I signed because it is not the role of an artist to look away. We are the guardians of sensitivity, the witnesses to what the world wants to forget. Art cannot remain neutral in the face of injustice; it must become a voice, resistance, solidarity.”

El'Hadj Samba Khary Ndao, sculptor

“I strongly and vehemently condemn this unprecedented massacre of the Palestinian people. Long live Yasser Arafat! Long live Gaza! Long live the Palestinian people!”

Moussa Tine, painter

“An injustice that stems from a diabolical Zionist plan to seize the territory of a people who welcomed them. My anger is more than great, it is tinged with indignation against certain countries that claim to be powerful. For less than that, they invaded Iraq and Afghanistan. Long live Gaza! I am Gazan.”

Abdoul Kader Aka Diedhiou, screenwriter, filmmaker

“The world must change; there must be greater justice and equality among people.”

Saky Tchebe Bertrand, choreographer

“Senegal, chair of the Committee for the Defence of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, should not have an Israeli embassy on its soil.”

Birahim Diallo, musician

“Nowadays, no people should suffer repression in full view of everyone. We have had enough of these conflicts that hinder development. Enough is enough! Stop genocide, stop injustice. Freedom, Peace & Love for PALESTINE and all those who are oppressed.”

Fatime Mbengue, painter

“Justice for all according to the rules set by the United Nations. What is happening in Gaza is depriving the world from its humanity.”

Amadou Bator Dieng, journalist

“To the women and children of Gaza, hang in there.”

Ndeye Nogaye Diop, filmmaker

“Because we only have one Earth, what is happening in Palestine could happen to us. A neighbour with a strong army could decide to expand and claim a piece of your territory. Fighting injustice is the duty of every human being. Let us stand together in solidarity.”

Baba Diop, journalist

“We are all citizens of the world and therefore no one is more worthy of being a superior being than another. So, allowing one people to oppress another without taking action is unworthy of our mission as social actors, which we claim to be.”

Aicha Deme, multidisciplinary artist

“Free Palestine, Congo, Sudan.”

Khady S., photographer

“Every life is a life. Israel is committing genocide.”

Fehe Saar, emcee

“We are all the same species; the world is our home. We are all born in the same way, and we will all die one day. While we wait for death to come, we have the duty to take care of each other, regardless of colour or race... We must constantly remind ourselves to reject violence in all its forms.”

Kerim Boucher, upcycling designer

“Many believe they have no way of changing things for Palestine, whereas if everyone makes their voice heard, however small it may be, the echo will only grow and reach heights beyond imagination. So let’s speak up!”

Ndeye Ndioro Diop, painter

“I feel perpetual indignation, anger, and sadness when I see the impunity enjoyed by the genocidal state of Israel in the face of the unspeakable horrors they inflict on Palestine, before and after October 2023. I feel powerless as I scroll through these horrors on social media, at a time when Palestinians only want to be heard and regain their peaceful lives in a land that is theirs. Instead, they are subjected to ethnic cleansing, endless displacement, and their voices are silenced by the genocidal state. There can be no ‘two-state solution’ because since 1881, the annexation of Palestine has been a colonial project. It is up to our states, to all states, to stand up to Israel and its allies. Because the genocide of the Palestinians is a human and environmental cause that we must all oppose, each at our own level and beyond.”

Moustapha Mbacké Diop, writer and doctor

“We want a world where human life and values are respected.”

Awa Cheikh Diouf, cultural worker

“Because every human right deserves to be protected and respected, No to the massacres against the Palestinian people.”
Salimata Ciss Momath, assistant director/screenwriter

“No human being can remain indifferent to the situation in Palestine”
Ousmane Dieme, graffiti artist

“Actions must be taken in line with the government’s position. Senegal’s stance on maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel seems ambiguous to me.”
Moustapha Diop, musician

“I signed this letter because I am appalled by the attitude of Western countries, which claim to be humanist, allowing this genocide to take place in Gaza without lifting a finger. I am appalled by all these sterile debates on the escalation in Palestine, where uttering the word genocide is synonymous with anti-Semitism... I am also outraged to see that humanity as a whole, including Africa, has done nothing to stop Israel in its murderous rampage...”
Joséphine Mboup, actress, film actress, director