

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, storyteller, 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 Ndoeye 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. Marième 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