



Repression of Gen Z in Togo: 48 activists must be urgently released

Lomé–Geneva, October 22, 2025: Since June 5, 2025, at least 133 young Togolese activists who have spoken out or gathered peacefully to voice civic demands have been arbitrarily arrested - 48 of whom remain in detention. Twenty national and international civil society organizations are now calling for their immediate and unconditional release and expressing deep concern over the closing civic space in Togo since the establishment of the Fifth Republic.

Officially enacted on May 3, 2025, the Fifth Republic allowed Faure Gnassingbé, the former President of the Republic who completed his fourth five-year term on that same day, to become “President of the Council of Ministers,” a position with no term or power limits. Protests against this regime change by the opposition and civil society have been [silenced](#) through a ban on demonstrations, as well as intimidation and detention of those who dared to speak out. The incommunicado detention and acts of torture inflicted on engaged artist and cyberactivist “Aamron” on May 28, 2025, in retaliation for his criticism of the government on social media, marked the beginning of a youth-led uprising for social justice and dignity in Togo.

On [June 5-6](#) and again on June 26-28, 2025, hundreds of young Togolese took to the streets to express their discontent. These peaceful demonstrations were met with [brutal repression](#), the [OMCT Africa Litigators Group recorded](#) at least five extrajudicial executions, 21 cases of

torture, and 105 arbitrary arrests - 18 of which led to 12-month prison sentences (with 11 months suspended), reviving painful memories of the [bloody crackdown](#) on the 2017 protests in Togo.

Since these events, Togolese authorities have focused on preventing and punishing any form of dissent, particularly from Generation Z: [restrictions on social media access](#) and [internet connectivity, criminalization of “likes” on online platforms by the Prosecutor près le Tribunal de Grande instance](#) (despite the Togolese Penal Code providing no legal basis for this), bans and violent repression of attempted protests, and targeted hunts for young activists, including through infiltration of their relatives' WhatsApp accounts. The twenty signatory organizations have documented at least 133 short-term enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests of activists since the beginning of the demonstrations up to the date of this statement, in addition to daily judicial harassment, threats, and intimidation. Illegal arrest methods have included failure to present a warrant or provide reasons for arrest. Several activists reported being subjected to torture and ill-treatment - including sexual violence - during custody, being denied access to medical care and visits from lawyers and family, and being prevented from notifying their relatives of their detention.

Despite repeated condemnations from civil society and [United Nations special procedures](#) since the start of the year, the Togolese government has taken no steps to release arbitrarily detained defenders, to open independent investigations into rights violations, to respond to citizens' social demands, or to ensure their free participation in the social, economic, and political life of the country, all essential to peace and democracy, as Mr. Faure Gnassingbé himself [stated](#) at the Lomé Peace and Security Forum II.

The signatory organizations therefore firmly condemn the criminalization of young activists and demand their immediate and unconditional release, in accordance with Togo's national, regional, and international obligations regarding freedom of expression and assembly, in particular Articles 5 and 9 of the annex to the new Togolese Constitution, Articles 9 and 10 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and Articles 19 and 22 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**LISTE DES 48 PERSONNES TOUJOURS DÉTENUES SUR LES 133 ARRÊTÉES POUR AVOIR EXERCÉ LEUR
LIBERTÉ D'EXPRESSION OU DE RASSEMBLEMENT PACIFIQUE ENTRE JUIN ET OCTOBRE 2025
(au 22 octobre 2025)**

JUIN 2025	JUILLET 2025
105 personnes arrêtées les 5-6 juin et 26-28 juin puis relâchées, sauf 21 personnes dont M. Steeve ROUYAR, expert-comptable et communicant M. Mario Junior ZODJI, électro-technicien M. Arioh Akewome Lito, conducteur de taxi-moto M. René Koffi MISSODE dit "A votre avis", cyberactiviste (27 juin 2025) Mme. Dora DOUGBEJI, manifestante (30 juin 2025) M. Assogba AYEGBEMI, manifestant (30 juin 2025) M. Kodozo ATAGLO, manifestant (30 juin 2025) M. Moussa IBRAHIM, manifestant (30 juin 2025) M. Maxwell TETEV, manifestant (30 juin 2025) M. Blaise AMEVOR, manifestant (27 juin 2025) M. Yves ADJAKOTO, manifestant (30 juin 2025) M. Agbodo-Koffi DAGLO, Pasteur (30 Juin 2025)	M. Kokou Gildas AMEGNAGLO, manifestant (5 juillet 2025) M. Yao Rodrigues AWOUDJA, manifestant (5 juillet 2025) M. Jean EGNOKOR, manifestant (5 juillet 2025) M. Alfred AZIAKOR, manifestant (6 juillet 2025) M. Kokou DJIKOTO, manifestant (6 juillet 2025) M. Eloge HOUNKPATI, manifestant (6 juillet 2025) M. Komi Jules TEKO, manifestant (6 juillet 2025) M. Honoré AMATI, Professeur de français (07 juillet 2025) M. Foly SATCHIVI, Porte parole du Mouvement En aucun cas et membre du Mouvement Martin Luther King (07 juillet 2025)
AOÛT 2025	SEPTEMBRE 2025
M. Oséi Agbano, TLP Togo (22 août 2025) M. Armand Agblézé, TLP Togo (22 août 2025) Mme. Chimène APEVON, Juriste (28 août 2025) M. Abel Yawo ATITSO, Secrétaire Général de la Synergie des Élèves et Étudiants du Togo (SEET) (03 septembre 2025) M. Abdoul LAMBONI, Membre du SEET (03 septembre 2025) M. Abessan Théodore AKOUEDE, commerçant (14 août 2025)	M. Narcisse TCHALLA dit Aamron, artiste engagé et cyberactiviste (19 septembre 2025 puis libéré le soir-même) Mme Marguerite GNAKADE, ancienne Ministre des armées et activiste (19 septembre 2025) M. Julien Komandéga KATAKA, membre du Mouvement Martin Luther King (12 Septembre 2025) Octobre 2025 Mme Grâce KOUMAYI BIKONIBIYATE, Sage-femme activiste (03 octobre 2025)

Signatories :

- Organisation mondiale contre la torture (OMCT), dans le cadre de l'Observatoire pour la protection des défenseur·e·s des droits humains
- Fédération internationale pour les droits humains (FIDH), dans le cadre de l'Observatoire pour la protection des défenseur·e·s des droits humains
- Synergie des Élèves et Étudiants du Togo (SEET)
- Katutu civil rights center
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture victims (IRCT)
- Tournons La Page Togo (TLP Togo)
- Front Citoyen Togo Debout
- Novation Internationale
- Centre de Documentation et de Formation sur les Droits de l'Homme (CDFDH)
- ACAT Togo
- Coalition Togolaise des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CTDDH)
- Institut des Médias pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme (IM2DH)
- Front Line Defenders (FLD)
- Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme (LIDHO)
- Réseau Ouest Africain des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (ROADDH/WAHRDN)
- Tournons La Page (TLP)
- Tournons La Page Bénin (TLP Bénin)
- Justice pour les prisonniers politiques et les prisonniers de liberté publiques (JPP/JPLP)
- Ligue Togolaise des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH)
- Tchala Lao-Dja Songdou Kibalo (frère d'Aamron)