

## MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS

After granting foreign workers several months to regularize their status, the government launched a crackdown on irregular foreign migrants in November 2013, arresting, detaining and deporting hundreds of thousands of foreign workers in order to open more jobs to Saudi Arabians. In March, the Interior Minister stated that the authorities had deported over 370,000 foreign migrants in the preceding five months and that 18,000 others were in detention. Thousands of workers were summarily returned to Somalia and other states where they were at risk of human rights abuses, with large numbers also returned to Yemen. Many migrants reported that prior to their deportation they had been packed into severely overcrowded makeshift detention facilities where they received little food and water and were abused by guards.

## CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT

The courts continued to impose sentences of flogging as punishment for many offences. Blogger Raif Badawi was sentenced to a flogging of 1,000 lashes in addition to a prison sentence. Human rights defender Mikhlif bin Daham al-Shammari was sentenced to 200 lashes as well as a prison term.

In September, the authorities released Ruth Cosrojas, a Filipino domestic worker sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and 300 lashes after an unfair trial in October 2013 where she was convicted of organizing the sale of sex (*quwada*). She had received 150 lashes by the time of her release.

## DEATH PENALTY

Courts continued to impose death sentences for a range of crimes, including some that did not involve violence, such as "sorcery", adultery and drug offences, frequently after unfair trials. Some defendants, including foreign nationals facing murder charges, alleged that they had been tortured or otherwise coerced or misled into making false confessions in pre-trial detention.

The authorities carried out dozens of executions, many by public beheading. Those executed included both Saudi nationals and foreign migrants.

# SENEGAL

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## Republic of Senegal

Head of state: **Macky Sall**

Head of government: **Mohammed Dionne (replaced Aminata Touré in July)**

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**Police used excessive force to suppress demonstrations. Conditions in prison continued to be harsh. There was some progress in overcoming impunity for past human rights violations, although many cases remained unresolved. The long-running conflict in Casamance was less intense than in previous years.**

## BACKGROUND

In September 2013 the Minister of Justice committed to opening an official commission of inquiry into poor detention conditions in the Liberty 6 and Rebeuss prisons, but by the end of 2014 no progress had been made.

In March 2014, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review on Senegal. During the review process Amnesty International had raised concerns about excessive use of force by security forces to repress freedom of expression and assembly, torture and other ill-treatment, deaths in detention, and impunity for human rights violations, including some dating back 30 years. Senegal committed to protecting the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly; and to ensure that its security forces maintain public order without resorting to excessive use of force. However, it rejected recommendations to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death

penalty, despite having committed to ratify it in a meeting with Amnesty International in December 2013. Senegal also rejected recommendations to amend national legislation to protect LGBTI people from discrimination, and claimed that there were no cases of enforced disappearance in Senegal despite repeated concerns raised by Amnesty International about the fate of dozens of disappeared Casamance people at the hands of government forces.

The corruption trial of Karim Wade, a former minister and son of former President Abdoulaye Wade, and other defendants, began in July. Karim Wade was charged with illicit acquisition of wealth and stood trial before the Court for the Repression of Illicit Acquisition of Wealth, which does not allow for appeals after the verdict.

## EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

In January, in Oulampane, Casamance, high school students demonstrated to call for more teachers. Military forces intervened using live ammunition, injuring four students. The Army Command condemned these actions by military forces and announced that there would be accountability, although no concrete steps were taken and no investigation was opened during the year.

Throughout August, students protested against delays in paying scholarships at Cheikh-Anta-Diop University in Dakar and there were repeated confrontations with security forces. Student Bassirou Faye died after being shot in the head by police during a demonstration. A police officer was arrested in October and charged with his murder.

In September a convicted prisoner was shot dead in Sinthiou Roudji, near the town of Kédougou. His sentence allowed him to work out of prison during the day and return to the prison facility at night. Upon failure to return, security forces were sent for him, and he was shot by a security officer, reportedly while trying to flee. The Ministry of Justice committed to opening an investigation, and the officer was remanded in custody.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Authorities prosecuted demonstrators who participated in or spoke out during demonstrations organized by political parties and NGOs.

Rapper Malal Talla, a leader of the Y'en a marre (We have had enough) movement, was arrested and detained for four days in June for denouncing police racketeering at a public gathering. He was charged with insulting the police, before being released after a judge determined that the charges were unfounded.

## RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PEOPLE

In February, police arrested four young men who had attacked five gay men in Rufisque, a town outside Dakar. Residents of the town marched in support of the accused, calling for their release.

## IMPUNITY

The trial of police officers implicated in the death in custody of Dominique Lopy in 2007 was postponed from June to November 2014 at the request of the defendants' lawyers.

The trial of two gendarmerie commanders charged with killing demonstrators in two separate incidents in 2011 and 2012 was still pending. They were released from detention pending trial.

## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

Former Chadian President Hissène Habré remained in custody awaiting trial before the Extraordinary African Chambers created by the AU in 2012 to try him in Senegal. On 30 June 2013 Hissène Habré was arrested, and was charged on 2 July 2013 with crimes against humanity, torture and war crimes committed in Chad between 1982 and 1990. In August the court rejected the Chadian government's request to be a civil party (*partie civile*) in the case. The court asked that Chad extradite certain key witnesses, but this request was refused. The court also asked the AU to intervene in the matter.

## INTERNAL ARMED CONFLICT

The conflict between the army and the Democratic Forces of Casamance Movement (MFDC) became less intense, and one MFDC leader proclaimed a unilateral ceasefire in April.

Civilians continued to suffer from the impact of ongoing conflict, which rendered thousands unemployed or displaced from their villages. At least seven men were killed by landmines in August.

# SERBIA

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## Republic of Serbia, including Kosovo

Head of state: **Tomislav Nikolić**

Head of government: **Aleksandar Vučić (replaced Ivica Dačić in April)**

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**Progress was made in investigations into the unsolved murders of prominent journalists. Slow progress was made in the prosecution of war crimes. The Belgrade Pride took place for the first time since being banned in 2010. In Kosovo, a special court was proposed to try former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) for the abduction of Serbs in 1999. Violence in the north of Kosovo, inter-ethnic attacks and discrimination against minorities continued.**

## BACKGROUND

The Serbian Progressive Party took over the government in April. In May, severe flooding left 51 dead and tens of thousands homeless.

Before the opening of negotiations on accession to the EU, the European Commission called for action plans on the rule of law and fundamental rights, and commitment to the “normalization” of relations with Kosovo.

The government adopted austerity measures, as required by the International Monetary Fund, which included cuts to

public sector salaries and state pensions and restrictions on trade unions.

## INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

In January, the Appeals Chamber at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) upheld the conviction of Vlastimir Djordjević, former Serbian Assistant to the Minister of the Interior, for murder and persecution - including sexual assaults as crimes against humanity - and the forced deportation of 800,000 Kosovo Albanians. His sentence was reduced on appeal, along with those of three other senior officials, Nikola Šainović, Sreten Lukić and Vladimir Lazarević. Former military commander Nebojša Pavković's 22-year sentence was affirmed.

Vojislav Šešelj, leader of the Serb Radical Party, indicted in 2003 for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the forced deportation and persecution of non-Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Vojvodina, was granted provisional release in November to receive treatment for cancer and returned to Serbia after 12 years in detention.

Domestic prosecutions were hampered by insufficient resources in the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor and inadequate police investigations.<sup>1</sup> Five indictments were published, and verdicts reached at first instance in only one case.

The Head of the Witness Protection Unit, which was alleged to have intimidated protected witnesses, was dismissed in June, allegedly for corruption. Prosecutors, police and witnesses received threats from war veterans while investigating the abduction of 19 civilians by Bosnian Serb paramilitaries in Štrpci in 1992. Fifteen suspects were subsequently arrested in December, in a joint operation with the Bosnian authorities.

An investigation started in August into Major General Dragan Živanović's command responsibility for war crimes in Kosovo, between 1 April and 15 May 1999, when he was commander of the 125th Motorized Brigade. He was suspected of failing to prevent “a campaign of terror against