

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS

REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE  
Union-Discipline-Travail

MINISTRY OF STATE,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
AND SECURITY

**ARRETE INTERMINISTERIEL N°972/MJDH/MEMD/MIS DU NOVEMBRE  
10 PORTANT 2021 CREATION DU MECANISME DE PROTECTION DES DÉFENSEURS  
DES DROITS DE L'HOMME'**

**THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS,  
THE MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE,  
THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND SECURITY,**

**Vula** Constitution ;

**Having regard to** Law No. 2014-388 of June 20 2014 on the 2014 promotion and protection of human rights defenders;

**In view of** Decree No. 2016-257 of 3 May 2016 on the organisation of the Ministry of Defence;

**In view of** Decree No. 2016-478 of 7 July 2021 on the organisation of the Ministry of Justice, as amended by Decree No. 2017-85 of 8 February 2017 and Decree No. 2018-237 of February 28 2018;

**In view of** Decree No. 2017-121 of 22 February 2021 on the modalities of application' of Law No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders;

**Considering** decree n° 2021-176 of March 26 2021 appointing the Prime Minister, Head of Government;

**In view of** Decree No. 2021-181 of April 06, 2021 appointing the Members of the Government;

**In view of** the decree n° 2021-190 of April 28 on the 2021 attributions of the Members of the Government;

**In view of** Decree No. 2021-452 of 8 September 2021 on the organisation of the Ministry of the Interior and Security,

## **STOP:**

**Article:1** A mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders called the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders is hereby established.

**Article 2:** The mission of the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders is to ensure the protection of human rights defenders. In this respect, it is responsible for :

- guarantee the exercise of the activities of human rights defenders, by facilitating, in particular, access to places of detention with due respect for access to the information necessary for their activities to inform the public of any case of human rights violation;
  - guaranteeing the confidentiality of the sources of information of human rights defenders ;
  - to ensure the protection of human' rights defenders and their family members in case of risk or danger in the exercise of their activities;
  - ensure that violations committed against human rights defenders are punished in accordance with the laws and regulations in force force;
- monitor the situation of human' rights defenders;
- to propose and ensure the implementation of prevention and protection measures aimed at guaranteeing the full exercise of the rights recognised to human rights defenders.

**Article:3** The Committee for the Protection of Human' Rights Defenders is composed as follows

- a President: the Minister in charge of 'Human Rights or his/her representative;
- a Vice President: the Minister in charge of Security or his representative;
- a representative of the Minister of Justice, member ;
- a representative of the Minister in charge of Defence, member ;
- a representative of the National Human' Rights Council, member.

**Article:4** In the accomplishment of its mission, the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shall be assisted by the National Council for Human Rights.

The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders may also seek the assistance of any State institution, non-governmental organisation or resource person whose contribution it considers useful.

**Article:5** The members of the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shall be appointed by order of the Minister in charge of Human Rights, on the basis of proposal of the Ministers of the Departments and of the Council referred to in Article 3.

**Article 6:** The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shall meet at the invitation of its Chairperson, once a quarter and whenever necessary.

**Article:7** The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders may be seized of any case of violation of rights, infringement of rights or any threat or hindrance to a human rights defender in the exercise or on the occasion of the exercise of his activities.

**Article:8** The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders may be seized by the National Council for Human Rights, by any non-governmental organisation, by any human rights defender or by any other natural or legal person.

The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders can also be contacted.

**Article:9** The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shall meet immediately, when it is seized of facts likely to hinder the exercise of human rights recognised to human rights defenders by the legislation in force.

The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shall also meet as described in the preceding paragraph whenever it is seized of a violation of human rights to the rights or violation of the rights of human rights defenders.

**Article 10:** The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders shall take all appropriate measures to put an end to threats, hindrances or disturbances to the exercise of the rights of human rights defenders.

**Article:11** The financial means necessary for the execution of the mission of the Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders are provided in the budget of the state.

The Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders may benefit from any financial, material or technical support from the State or any public or private body, for the accomplishment of its mission.

**Article 12:** The competent services of the Ministry of Justice and Human' Rights, the Ministry of State, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of 'Interior and Security shall ensure, each in its own area of responsibility, the execution of the present decree which shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Done in Abidjan, November 10 2021

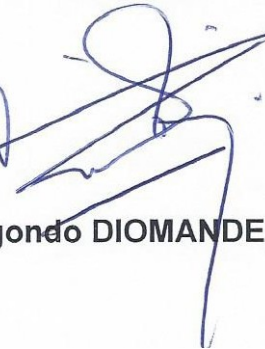
The Minister of  
State

Ministre de la D  
efense  
  
Téné Birahima OUATTARA

The Keeper of the Seals, Minister  
of Justice and Human Rights

  
Jean Sansan KAMBILE

The Minister of the Interior and Security

  
Gal Vagondo DIOMANDE