



# Advocacy Network for Africa (AdNA)

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**Washington, DC - February 13, 2024**

## **Advocacy Network for Africa Condemns Postponement of Senegalese Elections**

*The Advocacy Network for Africa (AdNA) is a non-partisan network of U.S.-based organizations and individuals who maintain significant focus on Africa and U.S.-Africa relations in their work.*

*AdNA strongly condemns the decision of Senegalese President Macky Sall to postpone the presidential elections scheduled for the 25th of February 2024. Since President Sall's announcement which the opposition in Senegal view as an institutional coup, the country has been [plunged into a political crisis](#). We call upon President Sall to reverse the decision and allow the elections to take place as scheduled in a free, fair and transparent manner. We call upon Senegal's allies in Africa and around the world to press President Sall to immediately reverse course and uphold Senegal's commitment to democracy.*

*As a member of the African Union, the Senegalese government has an obligation to hold free and fair elections as stated under the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ADC). Furthermore, Senegal, as a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) must uphold the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance which specifically states:*

***All the elections shall be organized on the dates or at periods fixed by the Constitution or the electoral laws."***

*Following President Sall's announcement and [Parliament's vote](#) to postpone the elections to December 15, protests have broken out in various cities, resulting in violent clashes between protesters and police, with reports of police using tear-gas, and live bullets. The State also responded by [restricting the internet](#) and arbitrarily revoking the [TV license of Walfadjiri](#), for reporting on the protests. Hundreds, including opposition leaders have been arrested, others injured and [three people have reportedly died](#). The situation is reminiscent of the wave of protests experienced in the [last two years over the prospects of a third term for President Sall](#) and arrest of prominent opposition leader Ousmane Sonko, which saw the death of 37 people, and arrest and detention of thousands, some of whom are still arbitrarily detained. This includes at [least four journalists](#).*

*AdNA is deeply concerned that should the elections in Senegal not proceed as scheduled, the country will be further plunged into a protracted political crisis, as more protests are scheduled. The people of Senegal have been clear in their desire to exercise their constitutional right to*

participate in timely elections. The [regional and international community](#) must ensure that Senegal's democratic credentials are not completely eroded. The United States in particular, as a long standing and valuable security and economic ally of Senegal, must make it clear that should Sall's actions continue to undermine democracy, this will jeopardize diplomatic relations.

AdNA supports the right of the Senegalese people to peacefully protest President Sall's actions, individually or collectively, and to engage in public political debate on the same. We demand that Senegal adhere to its constitutional, regional and international obligations to respect and protect the rights to association, peaceful assembly and freedom of expression and the media. Any violations must be fully investigated and those responsible, held accountable. Those arbitrarily detained must be immediately released.