

**DUBLIN**

Front Line Defenders – Head Office
First Floor, Avoca Court
Temple Road, Blackrock
Co. Dublin, A94 R7W3, Ireland

info@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +353 1 212 3750
fax +353 1 233 8695

BRUSSELS

Front Line Defenders – EU Office
Square Marie-Louise 72
1000 Brussels
Belgium

euoffice@frontlinedefenders.org
www.frontlinedefenders.org

phone +32 2 230 9383
fax +32 2 230 0028

7 December 2022

Côte d'Ivoire: Arbitrary arrest and detention of four human rights defenders

On 28 November 2022, human right defenders **Kipré Pacome, Diangoné Bi Roland, Dolé Anicet** and **Séry Romuald** were transferred and still remain detained at the central prison of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The human rights defenders will be brought before the judge on 9 December 2022.

On 25 November 2022, the human right defenders were all arrested during a peaceful protest denouncing the rising living cost in the country, and were remained in custody at the police headquarters. Kipré Pacome, Diangoné Bi Roland, Dolé Anicet and Séry Romuald are all human rights defenders and members of [Urgences Ivoiriennes](#), a citizen movement and network of civil society organisation working to promote and defend human rights, civil liberties, democracy and peace in the country.

On Monday 28 November 2022, Kipré Pacome, Diangoné Bi Roland, Dolé Anicet and Séry Romuald were transferred to the central prison of Abidjan, where they are still detained. The first hearing confirming the charges against the human rights defenders will take place on 9th December 2022.

On 25 November 2022, the human rights defenders were all arrested during a peaceful protest denouncing the rising living cost in the country. The protest which was organized by their citizen movement Urgences Ivoiriennes was dispersed by the security forces before it started. The four human rights defenders were arrested at the scene and were remanded in custody at the police headquarters on the same day.

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned by the detention of the four human rights defenders as the organisation believes that their arrest and detention are in reprisal to their legitimate and peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of assembly as per the Ivorian Constitution.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Kipré Pacome, Diangoné Bi Roland, Dolé Anicet and Séry Romuald, as Front Line Defenders believes that they are being held solely as a result of their legitimate and peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of assembly;
2. Respect in all circumstances Law No. 2014-388 of June 20, 2014 relating to the promotion and protection of human rights defenders, and its implementing decree No. 2017-121, both adopted by the Ivorian authorities;
3. Ensure the psychological and physical integrity of the four human rights defenders while in detention;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Cote d'Ivoire are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including harassment, arrests and threats.