

URGENT ACTION

UNIONIST SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON

Ghislain Duggary Assy is the Communications Secretary of the Movement of Teachers for the Dignity Dynamic union. He was arrested on the night of April 2 to 3 by hooded men at his home after a coalition of teachers' unions called for a strike on April 3 and 4, demanding, among other things, the upgrading of quarterly bonuses. He was questioned the same night at the police headquarters in the absence of a lawyer. On April 4, Ghislain Duggary Assy was charged with organizing the collective action of civil servants outside the prescribed legal framework and "obstructing the operation of the public service," and he was sentenced to two years imprisonment on April 8. He must be immediately and unconditionally released.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 41.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Mr. Jean Sansan Kambilé

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Plateau immeuble Symphonie, cité administrative

tour B 16e et 17e étage

BP V 107 Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire

Email: minjusticedroitdelhomme@gmail.com

Twitter/X: [@minjustice_dh](https://twitter.com/minjustice_dh)

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Embassy of Côte d'Ivoire in the United States

Ambassador Sem Toure Ibrahima

2424 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,

Washington DC 20008

Email: info@ambacidc.org

Dear Minister,

I am writing this letter to urge the Ivorian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the arbitrarily detained unionist, **Ghislain Duggary Assy**.

Ghislain Duggary Assy is the Communications Secretary of the Movement of Teachers for the Dignity Dynamic union. He was arrested on the night of April 2 to 3 by hooded men at his home, just before the coalition of teachers' unions were due to strike on April 3 and 4. He was questioned the same night at the police headquarters, in the absence of a lawyer.

On April 8, Ghislain Duggary Assy was sentenced to two years imprisonment for "coalition of public officials" and "obstructing the operation of the public service". An appeal was filed by his lawyer the day after the conviction; the hearing date remains pending.

Ghislain Duggary Assy's peaceful action to call for strike to demand, among others, the upgrading of quarterly bonuses for teachers, is not a crime. His conviction and a dozen arrests following the strike notice sent to the Minister of Education on March 21, 2025, constitute a flagrant violation of workers' human rights, in particular the rights to freedom of expression, strike, and association.

I therefore call upon you to ensure that Ghislain Duggary Assy's conviction and sentence is quashed, and that he is immediately and unconditionally released, as he is being detained solely for his peaceful human rights activism.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On March 21, 2025, in compliance with legal procedure, a notice was sent to the Minister of Education by two interunion organizations, calling for a strike action in primary and secondary schools in Côte d'Ivoire to demand, among other things, the upgrading of quarterly bonuses for teachers.

The unions, who previously protested in October 2024, say negotiations with authorities have failed to address their concerns. The government of Côte d'Ivoire committed to establishing a committee to address the grievances. However, union members have indicated that this committee has not convened since its formation.

In a statement issued on April 5, the Ministry of the Public Administration called the strike illegal and threatened to punish the striking teachers. On April 8, a dozen members of the striking inter-union board were arrested, then released a few hours later.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: French or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: October 24, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ghislain Duggary Assy (he/his)