



AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU AFRICAIN

نقابة المحامين الأفارقة

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March 29, 2021

His Excellency

Dr. Nana Akufo-Ado

President of the Republic of Ghana

Jubilee House

Accra

Republic of Ghana.

Dear Mr. President,

REQUEST TO INTERVENE IN THE FLAGRANT DISOBEDIENCE OF ECOWAS COMMUNITY COURT JUDGMENT BY CAPE VERDE

On behalf of the Executive Council, I respectfully send you warm felicitations and solidarity from the **African Bar Association (AFBA)** and congratulate you for your Leadership and democratic credentials not only in the ECOWAS Sub-region but throughout the Continent.

Your Excellency, sometime in **February 2021**, the African Bar Association received a Petition from the wife of a Venezuelan Diplomat **Mr. Alex Saab** who was on humanitarian mission to **Terhan** on behalf of the Government of Venezuela when the Airplane in which he was travelling stopped to refuel in Cape Verde.

The Venezuelan Special Envoy who has accreditation to the African Union was arrested by the authorities in the Country and had been detained there since **June 2020**.

This detention which was done in **controversial manner without an International Arrest Warrant was illegal** because Ambassador Saab is a Diplomat covered by the Vienna Convention and his detention is a **violation of his fundamental Human Rights, the Rule of Law and the Laws of Cape Verde. These actions are also a direct violation of the ECOWAS and AU Protocols.**

Your Excellency, the ECOWAS Community Court as a bedrock of the operations of ECOWAS upon application by Lawyers to Ambassador Saab directed the Government of Cape Verde to in the interim put

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the detained Diplomat under House arrest, allow him access to his Lawyers and family members pending the final determination of his case which was then in Court, **but the Country violated these orders** and continued to abuse the rights and privileges of Ambassador Alex Saab.

However, on the **15th of March, 2021**, the ECOWAS Community Court finally concluded the case, gave judgment and **ordered the Government of Cape Verde to immediately release Ambassador Alex Saab from detention** and pay him compensation of **Two Hundred Thousand US Dollars (\$200,000)** for Unlawful detention and violation of his Fundamental Human Rights.

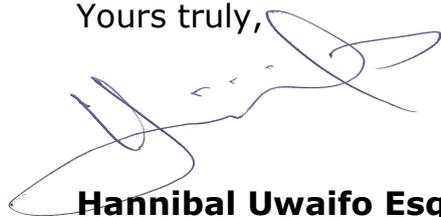
Your Excellency, more than two (2) weeks after, the Cape Verde authorities are still keeping the Diplomat in **detention and defying a legitimate Court judgment.**

As defenders of the Rule of Law and Members of the noble Legal profession in Africa, we consider the action of Cape Verde as not only a slap in the face of ECOWAS but also a clear demonstration of unwillingness to abide by the Protocols of this respected body. This situation Your Excellency, may ridicule the structure of the Sub-regional body and weaken her cohesion.

As one of the most respected Voices and Conscience of the Continent, especially the ECOWAS region, **we humbly and respectfully request Your Excellency to intervene and get Cape Verde to respect and obey the legitimate order of the ECOWAS Community Court of March 15, 2021.**

While thanking Your Excellency for **your quick kind intervention**, the Bar Association looks forward to more engagements with Your Excellency just as we assure you of our very high regards and considerations.

Yours truly,



Hannibal Uwaifo Esq. (LL.M, MNIM, MCI Arb)
President