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 ’Ivoire

Oldenzaal, October 2025

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express my concern about unionist Ghislain Duggary Assy. On 16 July 2025, the Abidjan Court of Appeal confirmed his conviction and two-year sentence. He was prosecuted solely for exercising his rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association.

On 8 April, the First Instance Tribunal convicted Assy for organizing a strike outside the legal framework and “obstructing the operation of the public service.” He had joined a call for strike by a coalition of teachers’ unions, demanding better quarterly bonuses. He was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment and provisionally released on 7 May under conditions, including a travel ban. No committal order followed the appeal decision, so Ghislain remains free. But he should never have been convicted.

I urge you to quash his conviction and protect the right to strike in Côte d’Ivoire.

Thank you for paying attention to this case.

Yours faithfully,