

## Landless peasants of Diokoul and CICODEV Africa to march against land grabs

### PRESS RELEASE.

Senegal. Diokoul, July 11, 2011. 18 hours GMT.

### The Landless Peasants of Diokoul Will March on July 18, 2011 To Claim Their Land.

**99 peasants of four villages in the rural community of Diokoul, Louga region in Senegal, just filed a declaration of march planned for July 18, 2011 with the Sub-Prefect of Ndande and the Prefect of Kébémér to claim the land they have been dispossessed of, by the farm Mametola, allocated to a political-religious authority.**

By resolution No. 004 AND / CRDD of 21 July 2005, the Rural Council of Diokoul affected 2070 ha of land to a private company called Mametola, thus dispossessing 99 farmers in four villages of Diokoul, Nguer-Nguer, Yadiana and Dara. This expropriation without consulting the farmers has had dramatic impacts on food security for farmers and their families as well as on the sustainability of natural resources<sup>1</sup> in the villages.

In order to defend their case together and to fight this injustice, the peasants gathered in the Collective of Landless Peasants of Diokoul in partnership with CICODEV Africa (Institute for Consumer Citizenship and Development) held a meeting on Friday 1 July 2011 to assess the results of different actions they have undertaken until now.

Faced with the inertia of the authorities, the Landless Peasants of Diokoul have resolved to carry out concrete actions on the ground to be restored in their rights and have filed a declaration of march with the Sub-prefect of Ndande on Monday July 11, 2011.

*"We call the attention of the President of the Republic, the Minister of Agriculture, the Prefect, the Sub-Prefect and the President of the Rural Council of Diokoul on the urgency and gravity of our situation and we urge them to take all necessary action so that we can get back our lands to grow and feed our families; with the arrival of the rainy season,"* said Ibrahima Dieng, President of the Collective of Landless Peasants of Diokoul.

The main objective of the march -scheduled for Monday, July 18, 2011 at 10am- is to deliver to the Chairman of the Rural Council (PCR), a letter in which the Landless Peasants of Diokoul call his attention to the fact that the farm Mametola is not located on the site which it had been allocated during the deliberations of the Rural Council in 2005.

As a result, the Collective of Landless Peasants requests:

- The PCR to take all necessary measures to require the farm Mametola to move to the site it has been allocated in the minutes of the deliberations of the Rural Council in 2005.
- The Rural Council to make a new deliberation to reallocate the Landless Peasants the land handed back by the farm Mametola.

<sup>1</sup> On this subject see the study by CICODEV Africa: "The village where you no longer hear the pestle: Land Grab in West Africa. Export or feed the people. Impacts on rural consumers". February 2011. [www.cicodev.org](http://www.cicodev.org)

- The PCR to inform them of the date on which the Rural Council will hold its meeting which will consider their request for reallocation of their land, so they can attend the meeting in accordance with the Local Government Code.

Expressing concerns over the phenomenon of land grabbing that is taking staggering magnitudes in Senegal and Africa, with unforeseen effects on the lives of farmers and rural people in general, Amadou Kanoute, the Executive Director CICODEV Africa, accompanying the Collective in this campaign to help them recover their land, states *"it is urgent that civil society organizations particularly human rights organizations, peasant and producers' organizations, consumer organizations, good governance organizations and research institutes join hands in a broad platform to effectively fight against the phenomenon "*

### Notes for editors

1. For more information, please contact:  
Amadou Kanoute, Executive Director, CICODEV Africa. Dakar +221 775296662 (for interviews in English) [amadou.kanoute@cicodev.org](mailto:amadou.kanoute@cicodev.org)
- Cherif Diallo, Campaign manager, CICODEV Africa. Dakar + 221 776133204, (for interviews in French) [diallocherif41@yahoo.fr](mailto:diallocherif41@yahoo.fr)
- Ibrahima Dieng, President of the Collective of Landless Peasants of Diokoul: +221 763325453 (for interviews in Wolof)
2. The four villages of Diokoul, Nguer-Nguer, Yadiana and Dara are in the rural community of Diokoul Ndiawrigne, borough of Ndande, department of Kébémér, region of Louga . Located in the center west of Senegal, it covers an area of 272 km <sup>2</sup>.
3. CICODEV Africa is the Pan-African Institute of Research, Training and Action for Consumer Citizenship and Development in Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. [www.cicodev.org](http://www.cicodev.org)