

Urgent Letter 10-08  
5 August 2008

Death of Mr Abdoul Wahab Barka Ba

## LETTRE URGENTE DE LA FIE

**Dear Mr/Madam President,**

It is with deep sadness that we have just heard of the passing away of Mr Abdoul Wahab Barka Ba (MH, SEN) on 5 August 2008 in Dakar at the age of 66.

Mr Abdoul Wahab Barka Ba had been a member of the Executive Committee since 2004 and was made a Member of Honour by the Elective Congress that same year.

He was the President of the Senegal Fencing Federation, which he founded in 1997. Abdoul Wahab Barka Ba was behind the revival of fencing in Senegal and the development of fencing on a national, continental and international level. After the title awarded to the African champion Mamadou Keita, his most recent source of pride was that three Senegalese sabreurs were going to compete in the 2008 Olympics. "I believe that Fencing has really made a place for itself within the world of Senegalese sport. This truth can be seen on the field.", he stated.

In 2000, in cooperation with the International Fencing Federation, he created the EIMA school of fencing masters based in Dakar.

He also worked very hard so that the practice of fencing would spread on the African continent and new national federations could be created there.

In 2004, he was named best sports manager in Senegal. Abdoul Wahab Barka Ba dedicated his life and career entirely to sports, fencing in particular, but also to athletics. He was the Secretary General of the Confederation of African Athletics Council.

At the time of the Athens Olympics, he told the Senegalese press agency APS that he was convinced that sport was a deciding factor in socioeconomic integration and upward mobility.

When the FIE interviewed him in June 2008 in Dakar, he stated, "I have a great moral satisfaction with regard to the work which has been carried out. I think that I will be able to leave fencing with an easy conscience. I really feel as though I have fulfilled a mission. Remember, when I arrived in the federation, I had never seen a weapon in my life!"

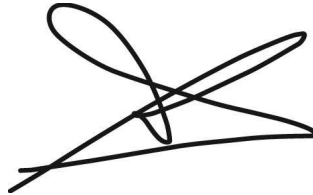
The FIE and fencing have lost a great leader and a generous human being, who was close to the athletes and trainers. He was the unfailing ally on whom the FIE could count for the development of fencing in Africa.

He leaves as a legacy the actions, convictions and values which he successfully passed on to the new generation.

The FIE extends its sincere condolences to his family as well as to the Senegal Fencing Federation.

Sincerely,

René Roch  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.