KEUR GUI CREW BIOGRAPHY
International Hip Hop Artists and Social Activists
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KEUR-GUI Crew is recognized as one of the most visible and socially engaged rap groups on the hip hop scene in Africa today. The crew consists of Kilifeu a.k.a. Kalachnikov, Thiat a.k.a. Mass 36 and DJ Gath who all hail from Kaolack, Senegal. Kilifeu and Thiat were beaten and arrested at the age of 17 because the lyrics of one their songs spoke out against the mayor of Kaolack. In 2000, their first album was censored by the socialist regime in Senegal. It was the first time a hip hop album had ever been censored in the region. After the release of their album in 2002, the group became widely known in Senegal as being committed to addressing social and political issues. They continued to act as social commentators with the release of the album Liy Raam in 2004 as they tackled head on the interconnection between religion and politics in Senegal. In 2008, KEUR-GUI returned with, “Our idiots Complaints”, a French pun of “Condolences” (Nos Connes Doléances), an album that sought to both entertain and educate. Their four years of relentless work paid off with numerous awards—best hip hop album of the year, best selling artists, and best band, Hip Hop Awards Festival in Senegal; nominated best band of the year, Sunu Music Awards; nominated micro d'or award (mic gold); nominated for song of the year, Tube de l'année, Rfm Radio; nominated for African Hip Hop Awards in South Africa—as they became recognized continent-wide for a brand of conscious hip hop that confronts elements of bad governance and corruption. In 2011, the band became founding members of Y’en a Marre, a world recognized youth movement led by rappers and journalists formed to contest the attempted coup d'état of the Senegalese constitution by then president Abdoulaye Wade as he sought to change the constitution of the country in order to run for a third term and lower the number of votes needed to win the Presidency. With a calmer political scene in the country, the group have returned to the studio in Senegal and the United States to record their next album - a two volume collection to be titled Encyclopedia volume 1 & 2. KEUR-GUI has become one of the most sought after hip hop acts on the continent and regularly appear on compilation albums and as guest speakers addressing contemporary social and political issues across Africa.