

# URGENT ACTION

**RADIO DIRECTOR REARRESTED, HELD INCOMMUNICADO**  
**Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay, the managing director of the independent Gambian radio station Teranga FM, was rearrested on 17 July by members of the Gambian security forces after being abducted and released earlier on in the month. He has since been held incommunicado without access to his family or a lawyer.**

After celebrating the Muslim holiday of Eid ul Fitr that marks the end of Ramadhan on Friday 17 July, **Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay** asked a friend to give him a lift to the town of Latrikunda German where he was to meet another friend. When they arrived at the town, Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay asked his friend to wait for him in the car. Thirty minutes later the friend decided to call him as he had not returned, but his phone was off. The friend left.

Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay's family visited several police stations close to his home on Monday 20 July after they did not hear from him the entire weekend. He was not at any of the stations. According to an eyewitness, Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay was brought to his home in the Sinchu Alagie area in West Coast region on 20 July around 4pm. He was accompanied by two men from the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the Gambian secret service. They searched the house and left a few minutes later in a car that was waiting for them outside.

Reliable information indicates that Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay is being held at the NIA headquarters in Banjul without charge or access to his family or a lawyer. Further, the NIA may have opened an investigation into Alagie.

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay taking into account that this is the second time in a very short period that he has been detained incommunicado by security forces and the poor health condition in which he was left after his first detention. Amnesty International considers Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

**Please write immediately in English or your own language:**

- Calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression;
- Calling on the authorities to immediately provide him with access to his family and lawyers;
- Urging authorities to ensure that he is not subjected to torture or ill-treatment while in detention.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 4 SEPTEMBER 2015 TO:**

Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh  
 Ministry of Justice and Attorney General  
 Chambers  
 Marina Parade  
 Banjul, Gambia  
 Email: info@moj.gov.gm

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Deputy of the National Intelligence

Agency  
 Mr. Louis Gomez,  
 National Intelligence Agency (NIA),  
 Headquarters  
 Marina Parade  
 Banjul, Gambia

**Salutation: Dear Deputy of the  
 National Intelligence Agency**

**And copies to:**

Minister of Information and  
 Communication Infrastructure  
 Mr. Sheriff Bojang  
 Ministry of Information and  
 Communication Infrastructure  
 Grts Building, MDI Roas, Kanifing,  
 Gambia  
 E-mail: info@moici.gov.gm  
 Fax: + 220 437 8029

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 156/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR27/2070/2015/en/>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay, the managing director of the Gambian Radio Station Teranga FM, was taken on 2 July by two men who are members of the Gambian security forces. His whereabouts were unknown for 12 days until he was released on 13 July. During his detention his health condition seriously deteriorated.

Journalists, human rights defenders, and real or perceived political opponents in the Gambia face the risk of arbitrary arrest, detention and even enforced disappearances.

In December 2004, Deyda Hydara, the former president of GPU and editor of The Point newspaper, was shot and killed in his car while travelling home from work. The murder came on the anniversary of the establishment of The Point, and three days after a controversial media legislation, which Deyda Hydara had vociferously opposed, had been passed. No investigation into the killing has taken place and no one has been brought to justice.

In July 2006, Ebrima Manneh, a Gambian journalist, was arrested and subjected to enforced disappearance. His whereabouts still remain unknown. In 2008, the ECOWAS Court ordered the Gambian government to release him from unlawful detention and pay him compensation, but the judgment has yet to be enforced.

Name: Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 156/15 Index: AFR 27/2155/2015 Issue Date: 24 July 2015