

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 27/005/2006

25 April 2006

Further Information on UA 69/06 (AFR 27/001/2006, 28 March 2006) and follow-ups (AFR 27/002/2006, 6 April 2006; AFR 27/003/2006, 10 April 2006) - Incommunicado detention/fear of torture or ill-treatment

GAMBIA

Major Sang Pierre Mendy (m)
Captain Muhammed Jah (m)
Captain Bunja Darboe (m)
Lt Wassa Camara (m)
Alpha Bah (m), sergeant-major
Mamadou Cadi Cham (m), former minister - released
Ramzia Diab (f), former MP of the ruling APRC party - released
Musa Saydikhan (m), Chief Editor of *The Independent* - released
Madi Caesar (m), *Independent* administrator - released
Raif Diab (m), businessperson, aged around 70 - released
Mariam Denton (f), lawyer
Sheriff Mustapha Dibba (m), Speaker of the House - released
Abdoulaye Kanaji Jawla (m), MP for the ruling APRC party - released
Ngorr Secka (m), acting Deputy Director General of the NIA
Pa Njie Guirigara (m), businessman - released
Abdoulie Kujabi (m), former National Intelligence Agency Director
At least 8 others

**New names: Lamin Fatty (m), reporter with *The Independent*
Kemo Balajo (m), former senior officer of the National Intelligence Agency –
One other**

Nine of those detained in connection with the alleged coup attempt of 21 March are now known to have been released without charge. Some of them had been tortured or ill-treated . At least 20 are now in custody. They are held incommunicado and without charge, and are at serious risk of torture.

The 10 in custody whose names were not known are now known to have included *Independent* reporter Lamin Fatty, who was arrested on 10 April. He is believed to be held at the NIA headquarters. Another of the 10 was former senior NIA officer Kemo Balajo, who was released on 15 April but reportedly rearrested four days later.

Abdoulaye Kanaji Jawla, MP for the ruling APRC party and businessperson Pa Njie Guirigara were released on or around 11 April. Sheriff Mustapha Dibba, Speaker of the House, was released on 15 April.

On 20 April six people were released without charge but are obliged to report to the police every morning: Raif Diab, Ramzia Diab, Mamadou Cadi Cham and one NIA employee had been kept in solitary confinement. The *Independent's* General Manager, Madi Ceesay, and Editor-in-Chief, Musa Saidykhan, were also released without charge on 20 April but on the same condition of reporting daily to the police.

The *Independent* has not yet been allowed to resume production.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that at least 20 people are still detained incommunicado for their supposed involvement in an attempted coup;
- seeking assurances that they are not being tortured or ill-treated, and urging the authorities to give them regular access to their families, lawyers and any medical attention they may require;
- urging the authorities to release them immediately, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- if they are to be charged, asking for details of the charges against them and when they are to be put on trial.

APPEALS TO:

President and Minister of Defence

Captain (retd.) Alhaji Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh
Office of the President
State House, Banjul
Republic of the Gambia

Fax: + 220 4227 034

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

M. Baboucarr Jatta
Ministry of Interior
71 Dobson Street, Banjul
Gambia

Fax: +220 420 1320

Salutation: Dear Minister

Attorney General and Secretary of State for Justice

M. Sheikh Tijan Hydera
Department of State for Justice and Attorney General's Chambers
Marina Parade
Banjul
Republic of the Gambia

Fax: + 220 4225 352

Salutation: Dear Secretary of State

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Gambia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 June 2006.