

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 27/002/2006

06 April 2006

Further Information on UA 69/06 (AFR 27/001/2006, 28 March 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)
 Famara Jammeh (m) - released
 Alpha Bah (m), sergeant-major
 Sgt Abdoulie Sanyang (m) - released
 Mamadou Cadi Cham (m), former minister
 Antouman A. B. Gaye (m), lawyer - released
 Ramzia Diab (f), former MP of the ruling APRC party
 Musa Saydikhan (m), Chief Editor of *The Independent* (spelling corrected)
 Madi Ceesay (m), *Independent* administrator (spelling corrected)

New names: Raif Diab (m), businessperson, aged around 70
 Mariam Denton (f), lawyer
 At least 10 others

At least 12 more people are known to have been arrested in connection with the attempted coup of 21 March. Fourteen detainees have been released, and five have reportedly escaped. At least 20 remain detained incommunicado and without charge, at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Lawyer Mariam Denton was arrested on the morning of 6 April and taken to the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) headquarters in the capital, Banjul, for questioning in relation to the attempted coup. Businessperson Raif Diab is now known to have been arrested on 24 March, and is detained at Mile 2 central prison in Banjul. Aged around 70, he has heart problems requiring regular medical treatment and a special diet, and his family fears that in prison he may not be able to get the medical attention he needs.

Independent journalists Musa Saydikhan and Madi Ceesay are still held incommunicado and without charge. They are detained at the NIA headquarters. The newspaper's office is still closed, as the security forces have not returned the keys.

According to a statement issued the following day by the Office of the Inspector-General of Police, Warrant Officer Alpha Bah escaped with four other detainees on 3 April.

Famara Jammeh and another military officer were released on the evening of 28 March. Twelve others, including Sgt Abdoulie Sanyang and lawyer Antouman A. B. Gaye, were set free on 3 April.

At least 20 people are now detained incommunicado at the NIA headquarters and Mile 2 prison. Those in the prison are in solitary confinement.

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

- welcoming the release of Famara Jammeh, Sgt Abdoulie Sanyang, Antouman A.B. Gaye and 11 others, but 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 Hydara
Department of State for Justice and Attorney General's Chambers
Marina Parade
Banjul
Republic of the Gambia

Faxes: + 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 18 May 2006.