



## GAMBIA: STOP CLIMATE OF FEAR TAKE ACTION!

The human rights situation in Gambia is dire. The government refuses to abide by its international human rights obligations. Cases of enforced disappearance remain unresolved, perpetrators of unlawful killings have not been brought to justice, and torture is still widely used by security forces. Below are some examples of victims of human rights violations.



Ebrima Manneh

**ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES** Most victims of enforced disappearance are journalists, opposition party members or security force personnel. Investigations into enforced disappearances rarely take place, and perpetrators escape justice. Many victims remain missing.

**Still missing:**

**Ebrima Manneh**, journalist, arrested on 11 July 2006.

**Kanyiba Kanyi**, politician and NGO worker, arrested on 18 September 2006.

**Five Security Officers:** Daba Marenah, Lieutenant Ebou, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Alieu Ceesay, Warrant Officer Alpha Bah and Staff Sergeant Manlafi Corr, arrested in March 2006.

**EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS** The Gambian security forces routinely kill suspects and opponents of the government with impunity. Many victims are extra-judicially executed. Nobody has been brought to justice for these unlawful killings.

**Deyda Hydar** The editor of the Point Newspaper and President of the Gambia Press Union was shot and killed in his car on 16 December 2005. No investigation has taken place and no one has been brought to justice.



Deyda Hydar

**50 Foreign Migrants** On 23 July 2005 a group of 50 foreign nationals was intercepted by Gambian security forces. They were arrested on suspicion of planning to overthrow the government. They were killed by members of the Gambian security forces. Their bodies were surreptitiously disposed. A UN-ECOWAS report identified individual security members who took part in the killings, but to date no one has been brought to justice.

**Alleged Coup Attempts in 1994 and 2000** Eleven members of the army were summarily executed in November 1994 by security forces after being arrested for an alleged coup plot. In January 2000 two soldiers, Alimamo Manneh and Corporal Sulayman Dumbuya, accused of planning to overthrow the government were killed. No one has been brought to justice.

**Student Protests in 2000** On 10 and 11 April thirteen students and Omar Barrow, a journalist, were killed by security forces during a peaceful protest. There has been no investigation and the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.



Musa Sadykhan

**TORTURE AND OTHER ILL- TREATMENT** Torture is used routinely in Gambia to coerce suspects to confess to crimes and to punish detainees.

**Musa Sadykhan** was arrested and detained without trial in 2006. He was also tortured. In December 2010 the regional ECOWAS Community Court in Nigeria declared his treatment to be unlawful. Musa Sadykhan was awarded damages of US\$200,000, which the government has still not paid.

**Eight Sentenced to Death** Eight men, including General Lang Tombong, arrested in 2009 were convicted of treason and sentenced to death in July 2010. The men were arbitrarily arrested, tortured in prison and denied food and water for long periods. They were not permitted to see lawyers and were refused urgent medical attention.

## TAKE ACTION NOW:

1. Write to the President of Gambia, asking him to:

- Immediately end incommunicado detention and enforced disappearances, and ensure that security personnel who engage in these practices are brought to justice in fair trials;
- Investigate cases of extrajudicial executions by the security forces and ensure that those found responsible are brought to justice in fair trials;
- Allow all prisoners visits from their families, lawyers and doctors;
- Comply with obligations under the African Charter with regard to the right to liberty, freedom from torture, right to fair trial, freedom of expression and association;

2. Write to the Commonwealth Secretary General in the UK, asking him to raise these concerns with the Gambian authorities.

Send appeals to:

H.E. Yahya A.A. Jammeh  
President of the Republic of The Gambia  
State House  
Banjul  
The Gambia

Kamalesh Shama  
Secretary General  
Commonwealth Secretariat  
Marlborough House  
Pall Mall  
London SW1Y 5HX  
UK  
Email: [secretary-general@commonwealth.int](mailto:secretary-general@commonwealth.int)

## Model Letter to the President of the Gambia:

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express my concern about the human rights situation in the Gambia, particularly relating to continuing issues of enforced disappearance, extrajudicial executions and torture. I wish to urge you to urgently resolve these issues and bring the perpetrators to justice.

We urge you to:

- Immediately and unconditionally order the release Ebrima Manneh, Kanyiba Kanyi, Daba Marenah, Ebou Lowe, Aliou Ceesay, Alpha Bah and Manlafi Corr, who are unlawfully detained by your government, and whose whereabouts remain unknown;
- Implement the ECOWAS Court judgement on the Ebrima Manneh and Musa Saidykhan cases;
- Stop human rights violations and comply with the Constitution of The Gambia and the country's international obligations under the African Charter regarding the right to liberty, freedom from torture, right to a fair trial, freedom of expression and association;
- End *incommunicado* detention and enforced disappearances, and ensure that security personnel who engage in these practices are brought to justice in fair trials;
- Allow all prisoners visits from their families, lawyers and doctors;
- Establish an independent and international commission of inquiry to investigate the whereabouts and fate of victims of enforced disappearance
- Investigate all allegations of acts of torture in detention and ensure that those responsible for these human rights violations are brought to justice in fair trials;
- Investigate cases of extrajudicial executions by the security forces and ensure that those found responsible are brought to justice in fair trials

Sincerely,

Name:

Country



