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AFRICAN NETWORK AGAINST EXTRAJUDICIAL  
KILLINGS AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

# **Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) Digest, Edition 1**

Photo: Helen Jones-Florio

*Mile 2 Prison where many victims were tortured and detained incommunicado in inhumane and degrading conditions following the July 1994 coup*

The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, TRRC is mandated to investigate and establish an impartial historical record of the nature, causes and extent of violations and abuses of human rights committed during the period of July 1994 to January 2017 and to consider the granting of reparations to victims and for connected matters. It started public hearings on 7th January 2019 and will process in chronological order, examining the most serious human rights violations that occurred from 1994 to 2016 during the rule of former President Yahya Jammeh. While the testimonies are widely reported in the press and commented on social media, triggering vivid discussions and questions regarding the current transitional process in the country, a summary of each thematic focus/event and its findings, is missing.

The TRRC Digests seek to widen the circle of stakeholders in the transitional justice process in The Gambia by providing Gambians and interested international actors, with a constructive recount of each session, presenting the witnesses and listing the names of the persons adversely mentioned and – as the case may be – their current position within State, regional or international institutions.

Furthermore, the Digests aim to highlight trends and patterns of human rights violations and abuses that occurred as the TRRC carries its hearings. In doing so, the TRCC Digests provide a necessary record of information and evidence uncovered – and may serve as a “checks and balances” at the end of the TRRC’s work.

After each release, the Digests are translated into Fula, Jola, Mandika and Wolof, and transmitted over local radio stations. In addition to translation and transmission of the Digests, ANEKED and The Point Newspaper will facilitate panel discussions which will engage journalists, activists, victims, politicians and the general public to expand on the themes of the sessions, the trends and patterns arising as well as how the country can learn from the findings to prevent such atrocities in the future (#NeverAgain).

## OVERVIEW

Session one of the TRRC was primarily dedicated to hearing testimonies on the July 22nd military takeover that brought then Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh and members of the then military Junta (which later became the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, AFPRC) to power.

Among the key objectives of the first session were to understand the background and context within which the coup happened including the circumstances surrounding the creation of the Gambian security services, the various roles played by key state institutions in creating underlying factors leading up to the coup, how and why the coup was planned, how the coup unfolded on 22nd July 1994, how the coup leadership was constituted, and what happened to key players both within the military council and in the ousted People's Progressive Party government and its supporters and sympathisers in the immediate aftermath of the coup. In the course of the session, witnesses who testified also referred to other events namely 6th September 1994 when three detainees were tortured and mock executed at Mile 2 Prison, the 11th November 1994 foiled coup, the arrest and torture of two perpetrators at Mile 2 Prison a few months later and the multiple arrests and persecutions some of the witnesses were subjected to over the years.

## CONTEXT

On 22nd July 1994, a coup led by a military junta composed of junior officers of the Gambia National Army successfully overthrew then elected government of former President Dawda Kairaba Jawara.

The main pretext given for the coup was discontentment and disgruntlement among junior army offices as a result of:

- the demoralising impact on junior soldiers of the presence of the Nigerian Army Training Team, NATAG in the late eighties/early nineties who took over key command positions in the Gambia se-

curity services and were seen to be enjoying privileges that Gambian soldiers were not accorded;

- complaints of poor welfare and working conditions of soldiers in terms of low salaries, poor food and poor housing conditions;
- accusations of the Gambia Government and army officials of corruption and nepotism;
- non-payment of allowances to veteran soldiers that went to Liberia for peace-enforcement among others.

Even though the feelings of discontentment and disgruntlement were not shared by some top Gambia security officers at the time (such as then Assistant Inspector General of Police, Ebrima Ismail Chongan and Adjutant Sheriff M.L Gomez), according to testimonies by some of the witnesses, the Junta was able to get the backing of other junior soldiers as a result of promises of better conditions for soldiers (salary increases, promotions, improved welfare and plots of land among other things) should the coup succeed.

Other factors that were believed to have led to the 22nd July 1994 coup included the battle-hardened soldiers from the peace-enforcement forces from Liberia who may have been too hasty to resort to violence to resolve issues rather than dialogue as well as institutional failures such as the lack of a ministry for Defence (the Gambia only had a Permanent Secretary for Defence at the time) that didn't allow for structures and avenue for soldiers to address soldiers' issues.

## JUNTA COMPOSITION AND COUP LEADERSHIP

The Junta that led the coup was composed of junior officers and lieutenants of the army namely then 2nd Lieutenant Edward Singhateh, Lieutenant Sanna Sabally, Lieutenant Basirou Barrow, 2nd Lieutenant Alpha Kinteh, 2nd Lieutenant Sadibou Hydara, 2nd Lieutenant Alhagie Kanteh and Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh.

They purportedly held several meetings including meetings at Kundang Barracks in May 1994 and later at Yundum Barracks at a place called the “Bahamas” to organise the coup.

Major disagreements were reported between the members of the Junta. Then 2nd Lieutenant Edward Singhateh was said to be in favour of a “Ghana style” coup where officials of the ruling People’s Progressive Party, PPP would be arrested and executed whereas other such as then 2nd Lieutenant Alhagie Kanteh supported a bloodless coup.

According to testimonies, the coup planners decided to carry out the coup on 21st July 1994, at the airport, the day President Jawara was to return from his overseas trip and “the American marine was supposed to have an amphibious landing around Denton Bridge”. However, the National Security Service having had information about the coup, Edward Singhateh and Yahya Jammeh were disarmed on the 21st July 1994. The men who were neither arrested nor detained after the airport incident, regrouped that same night with their followers to regain confidence and proceed with their plan to remove the Jawara government the next day.

It was reported that the heavily armed soldiers that led the coup were unprepared, drunk and unstable and that during the planning of the coup, no leader was identified. They found little resistance from the police force who were reportedly not a match in terms of weaponry. After the coup, Yahya Jammeh became the leader of the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, AFPRC because of his higher ranking at the army at the time.

In the course of the first session, human rights violations reported include:

- arbitrary detention
- torture
- detention under inhumane and degrading conditions
- summary execution

The first session which ran from 7th to 28th January 2019 saw 13 persons testify of whom 12 were victims, there were no perpetrators and 1 was a witness to the coup.

During the first session, 19 persons were adversely mentioned as perpetrators of and/or accessory to gross human rights violations committed during the coup and the early aftermath, namely:

**-Momoudou BADJIE:** Former Regional Commissioner of the North Bank Region and Ambassador to Mauritania. Accused as being present during the executions on 11th November 1994.

**-Bubacarr BAH:** Former Corporal and Sergeant in the Gambia National Army. Accused of torture and impairment of physical integrity.

**-Foday BARRY:** Former agent of the National Intelligence Agency, NIA. Accused of arbitrary detention, sequestration and torture.

**-Fatou BENSODA:** Deputy Director of Prosecution in 1995 and former Minister of Justice from August 1998 to March 2000. Accused of being an accomplice of Yahya Jammeh in the corruption of justice.

**-Abdoulie BOJANG:** Former teacher and politician. Accused of torture.

**-Sadibou HYDARA:** Former Captain in the Gambia National Army and Interior Minister from 1994 to 1995. Accused of impairment of physical integrity and torture in July 1994 and of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

**-Batch Samba JALLOW:** Former Lance Corporal and former driver to Edward Singhateh. Accused of torture.

**-Musa JAMMEH:** Former Major in the Gambia Armed Forces and Security Chief of the Gambia Football Federation. He was responsible for the personal

protection of Yahya Jammeh. Accused of torture.

**-Yahya JAMMEH:** Former Lieutenant in the Gambia National Army and Chairman of the AFPRC. Accused of having ordered arbitrary detentions beating and torture of detainees.

**-Baboucarr JATTA<sup>1</sup>:** Former Army Commander. Accused as being present during the executions on 11th November 1994.

**-Musa KINTEH:** Accused of having committed arbitrary detention, torture and impairment of physical arrest.

**-Almamo MANNEH:** Former lieutenant in the Gambian Armed Forces. Accused of torture.

**-Daba MARENAH:** Former Director of the National Intelligence Agency. Accused of arbitrary detention, torture and impairment of physical integrity.

**-Alhagie MARTIN:** Former Commander of the Kanilai Camp and of The State Guards battalion. Accused of torture.

**-Sanna SABALLY:** Former Captain in the Gambia National Army and the first Vice-Chairman of the Junta. Accused of torture and impairment of physical and psychological integrity in July 1994 and of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

**-Baba SAHO:** Reportedly, a former Officer of the NIA. Accused of torture and arbitrary arrest.

**-Edward SINGHATEH:** Former Lieutenant of The Gambia National Army and second Vice Chairman of the Junta, served in the cabinet of the former President Jammeh's regime. Accused of torture and impairment of physical integrity in July 1994 and of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

**-Peter SINGHATEH:** Former Second Lieutenant and Lieutenant Colonel of The Gambia National Army. Accused of torture and impairment of physical integrity.

**-Yankuba TOURAY:** Former Lieutenant of The Gambia National Army. Accused of torture and impairment of physical integrity in July 1994 and of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

<sup>1</sup>Not the same as Witness Babucarr Jatta the then Prison Medic at Mile 2 Prison

# 4

## TYPES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RECORDED



arrest/detention



torture



detentions under inhumane and degrading conditions



summary executions



PLACES

DENTON BRIDGE

YUNDUM BARRACKS

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

STATE HOUSE

MILE 2 PRISON

# 13

## PERSONS TESTIFIED

12 victims

0 perpetrators

1 witness



# 19

## PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED

as perpetrators of and/or accessory to gross human rights violations

The summary of the testimonies given are as follows:



**WITNESS NAME:** Ebrima Ismaila CHONGAN

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION AT THE TIME OF EVENTS:** Assistant Inspector General of Police

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Opposed to and attempted to stop the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994 coup

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Barrister at Law currently residing and practising in the United Kingdom

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Ebrima Ismaila Chongan stated that when he was informed about the plan by the Junta to overthrow the then Government on the morning of **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, he was opposed to it and deployed the Tactical Support Group, TSG from the police force to Denton Bridge led by Amadou Suwareh to stop the advancing Junta from entering Banjul.

When he found that the group he had sent had surrendered and joined the Junta, he tried to stop them but was not successful. The Junta led by Yahya Jammeh eventually took over the country. Captain Chongan was

**arrested** and taken to Mile 2 Prison along with the then Inspector General of Police, Pa Sallah Jeng on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1994.

Captain Chongan was kept in **prison** without being charged and was frequently and repeatedly **beaten**, gang **tortured** and **traumatized** for 30 months.

On **6<sup>th</sup> September 1994**, he was tortured by Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Yankuba Touray, Sadibou Hydara and their entourage of orderlies and bodyguards. He was released on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1997 still without being charged. He took the Junta to court over his detention, but the case was dismissed by Magistrate Borry Touray in April 1997.

Despite not having a job and feeling unsafe, Captain Chongan still insisted on staying in the country however, he was encouraged by his father to leave the country for his own safety after the **death** of Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995. He left for Senegal where he sought asylum and later proceeded to the United Kingdom where he compiled his ordeals in a book for future evidence. A copy of the book was handed to the TRRC.

Captain Chongan stated that he was tortured for defending the Constitution of The Gambia and requested for the new government to retire him honourably and pay him his pension and dues rightfully owed to him.

#### **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

##### **Torture**

Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Peter Singhateh, Edward Singhateh, Yankuba Touray



**WITNESS NAME:** Amadou SUWAREH

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION AT THE TIME OF EVENTS:** Tactical Support Group (TSG) Commander, Western Division stationed at Denton Bridge

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S):** Commander of the TSG assigned to defend Denton Bridge but later convinced and led many soldiers to join the coup makers.

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Retired Soldier

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Amadou Suwareh recalled that in **July 1994**, the general security of the country was calm but there was trouble within the security services over unpaid allowances that led to two mutinies by disgruntled soldiers. While the Nigerian army officers present in the country at the time were supposed to be a training team, they were heading strategic command positions with Gambia army officers serving under them. They were seen to be living large which led to resentment among members of the security forces.

He explained that the TSG was tasked to perform security duties during the arrival of President Dawda Jawara from the United Kingdom on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1994. Everything went as planned until he was informed by Chief Superintendent Touro Jawneh about a planned coup at the

airport. The suspected officers were disarmed and he later learned that Yahya Jammeh and the others had regrouped that night at the Yundum Barracks. Witness Suwareh said as such rumours were almost routine at the time, he was dismissive of them.

The next day, Jawneh told witness Suwareh that a coup was being staged. He received orders by Jawneh, Ebri-ma Chongan and the Inspector General of Police, Pa Sallah Jagne to close Denton Bridge *“...and shoot at sight any military personnel...coming towards Banjul”*. He however modified the order and instructed his men not to shoot unless he gave the order.

Heavily armed battle-ready soldiers later approached the bridge led by Corporal Tumbul Tamba, attempting to get to Banjul. More soldiers later arrived after which he met with their leaders, Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh, 2nd Lieutenant Edward Singhateh and Captain Modou Lamin Sonko alias Kankurang. Yahya Jammeh informed the witness that they were going to take over the “corrupt” People’s Progressive Party government and later hand over to a civilian government. He was under the impression that Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh and Tumbul Tamba were drunk. Yahya Jammeh and Edward Singhateh promised to appoint him in the cabinet if he joined them but he turned them down.

Suwareh testified that as the army officers were more heavily armed, and because of their drunken state, he made the call to try and save life and property to avoid “carnage” rather than fight. He negotiated and took command of both groups and led them to Banjul. He affirmed that he never had any prior agreement with Jammeh and his men and that they only agreed to join Yahya Jammeh and cohorts with the intention of reaching Banjul without loss of life and from there see what help they could get when they arrived.

He subsequently used his position of trust and respect among the men from both sides to convince and disarm the reinforcement team for the Presidential Guard and all the other men they encountered along the way to give up and join the coup makers.

He said he attempted to get help from the Marine Unit without success. He proceeded to Police Headquarters and explained the incident to other officers including Captain Ebrima Chongan who didn't believe how fast the incident had happened and insisted that they must "...fight them". Witness Suwareh said that Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara later came to the Police Headquarters to explain what had happened.

He was subsequently appointed Provost Marshall by the Junta, responsible for maintaining security among the forces until 18<sup>th</sup> August 1994 when he was appointed Commissioner of North Bank. He was relieved of this position in June 1996 and redeployed to the army as a Major, and then redeployed back to the police. He was dismissed in October 1999, by executive orders.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING  
TESTIMONY:**

None

**Yahya Jammeh**  
informed the witness that they  
were going to take over the  
**"corrupt"**  
**People's Progressive Party**  
government and later  
hand over to a  
civilian government.

<sup>2</sup>This contradicts Ebrima Chongan's testimony who had no recollection of such a discussion taking place.



**WITNESS NAME:** Sheriff M.L. GOMEZ

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Adjutant at Yundum Barracks

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** He had the keys to the guns armoury at Yundum barracks

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:**  
Not stated

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Then Adjutant Gomez testified that they were used to rumours of a coup in the making but it intensified the week prior to **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994** while ceremonial preparations for the return of President Jawara on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1994 and the planned training exercises with the American Marine scheduled to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994 at the Port of Banjul were underway. While the army conducted investigations into these rumours at the time, they dismissed them as a false alarm yet again.

He claimed he was ambushed and arrested by a group of soldiers led by then 2nd Lieutenant Edward Singhateh on the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> July when he reported to work at the Yundum Barracks. He was locked up in the detention cells at guard room at the Yundum Barracks.

In the cell, the duty officer from the night before who had also been arrested confirmed to him that there

was indeed a coup in the making. The armoury keys had been taken from him by Edward Singhateh under threat. After being locked up for 3 days, they were transferred to Mile 2 Prison on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 1994. Among those that escorted to Mile 2 Prison was Captain Ndure Cham.

They were kept at Mile 2 prison for 7 days in **dire conditions** and without contact with the outside world, not even their family member until a visit by the Gambia Red Cross when they started allowing them to go outside the cells and take showers. Conditions got better after that.

While at Mile 2 Prison, they were visited on the night of **6<sup>th</sup> September 1994** by Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Alhagie Kanteh, Yankuba Touray, Sadibou Hydara and their entourage of bodyguards. He was again threatened by a drunken Edward Singhateh at gunpoint and

**Captain Ebrima Chongan, Captain Mamat Cham and RSM Baboucarr Malick Jeng were beaten and severely tortured.**

The beatings were accompanied by gunshots leading him to believe that they were executed. Edward Singhateh told him he would come for him (Gomez) next time. Forty-five days later that he learnt that the officers were not executed but were transferred to another security wing.

A few months later, Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara were arrested and brought to Mile 2 Prison and routinely **tortured** by Alhagie Martin among others. He believed this contributed to the demise of Sadibou Hydara.

#### **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

##### **Torture**

Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Alhagie Martin



**WITNESS NAME:** Alhagie KANTEH

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Gambia National Army, GNA

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Planned the coup and briefly Spokesperson of the Armed Forces Provincial Ruling Council, AFPRC

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** No position stated. Currently residing in Switzerland

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Alhagie Kanteh testified that he believed the following to be the contributing factors that led to the coup:

- the Gambian veterans from the Liberia peacekeeping mission were frustrated upon their return to the Gambia because of unpaid allowances;
- a few mutinies taking place around that time which had an impact on the leadership of the army;
- nepotism, cronyism, corruption within the army which affected the trust in the leadership; and
- disparity between the conditions of the Gambian and the Nigerian officers who were occupying senior positions.

As a result of these frustrations, he held a secret meeting with then 2nd Lieutenant Edward Singhateh, Lieutenant

Sanna Sabally, 2nd Lieutenant Sadibou Hydara, 2nd Lieutenant Basirou Barrow, 2nd Lieutenant Alpha Kinteh at the Yundum barracks where the idea of a coup d'état started floating around. This was around April/May 1994.

While he supported a bloodless coup, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally and Yahya Jammeh (who joined the group later) supported a "Ghana style" coup, whereby all the cabinet ministers were executed. According to the witness, Basirou Barrow and Alpha Kinteh supported his position of a bloodless coup.

The National Security Service learned of the planned coup and suspected soldiers were disarmed at the airport upon the return of Sir Dawda Jawara from the UK on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1994. The disarmed soldiers felt humiliated and were determined to ensure that it did not occur again.

Kanteh said returning from his brother's funeral on **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, he heard rumours of something happening. He spoke to Edward Singhateh who told him that the coup had been successful. He headed to the State House where Yahya Jammeh confirmed to him that they had taken over with the intention to return the country to civilian rule within months and added that Kanteh's wishes for a bloodless coup were going to be taken into account.

Kanteh stated that he stayed on with the coup makers to act as a moderator, the voice of reason. He was co-opted into the AFPRC and appointed spokesperson. He tried to stop civilian and military leadership from being detained including Captain Ben Wilson and Captain Pa Modou Ann and confronted Yahya Jammeh about the arbitrary arrests. He was assured these were interim measures.

He was **arrested** by Sanna Sabally and taken to Mile 2 Prison after giving an interview to a Senegalese newspaper on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1994 and was held **incommunicado** under inhumane conditions at Mile 2.

Kanteh testified that on **6<sup>th</sup> September 1994**, a group of soldiers led by Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray and Peter Singhateh stormed into Mile 2. He saw Mamat Cham, Ebrima Chongan and RSM Baboucarr Malick Jeng being **dragged, beaten and tortured**. He heard gunshots. He and the other inmates were made to believe that the three had been executed and promised that they would come back the next day for more killings.

Witness Kanteh claimed he was **psychologically tortured** while in prison. He was released in November 1994.

He served as Commissioner and then Governor in the various regions until June 2000 when armed National Intelligence Agency officers came to dismiss and arrest him. He distracted them and escaped to Senegal. Kanteh's driver was **arrested and tortured** to reveal his whereabouts, which he did. The Gambia government pursued him to Senegal, but he managed to hide and filed for asylum with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR. He eventually had to leave for Switzerland due to the pressure of the search for him.

Witness Kanteh stated that he regretted that instead of broadening the democratic space, the Junta ended up as a one-man dictatorship and apologized for any role he played in enhancing this process. He ended by saying that we should stand up to dictatorship to ensure that it doesn't happen in this country again.

#### **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

##### **Torture**

Edward Singhateh, Yankuba Touray, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Peter Singhateh

**Edward Singhateh,  
Sanna Sabally  
and Yahya Jammeh**  
(who joined the  
group later)  
supported a “Ghana  
style” coup,  
where by all the  
cabinet ministers were  
**executed.**



**WITNESS NAME:** Abubacarr Sulayman JENG

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Police Officer,  
Prosecution Unit, Gambia Police Force

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** He reinforced security at the police headquarters in Banjul when they were informed of a mutiny

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** United Nations  
Deputy Security Adviser in the Middle East

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Abubacarr Jeng testified that on the morning of **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, they were briefed that there was report of a mutiny by elements of the Gambia National Army and measures had to be taken to ensure that there was no spill over because they were marching towards the seat of government which was the city of Banjul.

One such measure was the deployment of the Tactical Support Group at Denton Bridge. He was tasked to collect arms and ammunition from the Banjul Barracks to secure the Police Headquarters.

Information was trickling in as they waited and they heard that Fajara Barracks had fallen without any resistance.

He also heard of the stand-off at Denton Bridge, with Amadou Suwareh leading the negotiations. He heard that the mutineers had crossed the bridge and were now moving to the State House. He eventually heard that the seat of government had fallen into the hands of the mutineers.

Some members of the mutiny including Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Captain Momodou Sonko, with Sanna Sabally as the leader later arrived at the Police Headquarters and asked the witness and his colleagues to surrender, which they did.

The next day, he met with some police officers and went to the State House to speak with the Junta in order to find out what was required of the police force now and found Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara and other senior officers of the Gambia Armed Forces namely, Mamat O Cham, Samsudeen Sarr and Major Malick Njie, discussing.

Witness Jeng disclosed that he was later that day appointed secretary to the Provisional Council by Edward Singhateh tasked with taking notes and covering internal meeting and external meetings with diplomats but was arrested few days later without charge.

He was first taken to Yundum Barracks where he was asked to give a statement and then taken to Mile 2 Prison. In prison, he came to realise that most of the other detainees were Wolof and concluded that he was probably arrested because the Junta was concerned that “Wolof boys” would take over the government.

On the **6<sup>th</sup> September 1994** dubbed “**night of terror**” by inmates, they were visited by Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Yankuba Touray and their orderlies led by Sanna Sabally. They dragged, beat, tortured and **mock executed** Mamat Cham, Ebrima Chongan and RSM Baboucarr Malick Jeng after which they left and promised to come back.

A few months later, Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hyda-

ra were escorted by Edward Singhateh and Alhagie Martin to Mile 2. Jeng recalled hearing Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara being **tortured** intermittently.

He was released after 18 months.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING  
TESTIMONY:**

**Torture**

Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh,  
Peter Singhateh, Yankuba Touray, Alhagie Martin

**Jeng**  
disclosed that his  
**traumatic**  
experience at the  
Mile 2 Prison  
left a deep imprint  
on his mind.



**WITNESS NAME:** Brigadier General Mamat O. CHAM

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Captain at the Army

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Helped the Junta form a government composed of military and civilians; negotiated with the Americans, Senegalese and international community

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:**  
Brigadier General at the Gambia National Army

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Mamat O. Cham told the Commission that he felt that the presence of the Nigerian Army Training and Advisory Group, NATAG in The Gambia was positive and helped reform the national army. He did not consider its presence as a source of disgruntlement among Gambian soldiers.

Cham stated that while the conditions that prevailed in the army between 1984 to 1994 were below what was normal in well-resourced countries, they were “acceptable”. He however acknowledged that the soldiers were dissatisfied with the conditions of the barracks, food, transportation and pay.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, Cham, Captain Ebrima Cambi and Captain Ben Wilson, were stopped by soldiers as they were heading to Banjul. The soldiers informed them about the coup and ordered them to report to Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh. They returned to Fajara

Barracks and found the barracks had fallen to the coup makers, who had armed their supporters and moved to Denton Bridge. Cham and his peers decided to send more troops to Banjul for reinforcement.

Later that day, he realised that the then President Jawara had taken refuge with the visiting American ship. It was clear that the Nigerians did not want to be involved as they viewed this as a Gambian internal affair. This created a command vacuum.

Cham therefore decided to negotiate with the soldiers in order to maintain stability. At State House, Edward Singhateh ask for this support as they had overthrown the government and didn't know what to do next. On that day, he assisted in setting up the AFPRC in drafting the speech to announce the new changes on the radio and negotiating with the Senegalese government to avoid a military intervention.

He was appointed Minister of Information and Tourism on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1994 but **arrested** by Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh the next day. He was detained at Mile 2 Prison without being given a reason and denied seeing a lawyer or his family. The prisons conditions were **dehumanising** and **degrading** with mosquitoes and rat infestations.

On the night of **6<sup>th</sup> September 1994**, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singhateh and their escorts came to Mile 2. They came to his cell, cuffed his hands and Edward Singhateh started **hitting him** with his AK47 butt. They dragged him to the courtyard. They kept hitting him and then Edward Singhateh fired some shots in the air, **shoved the barrel** of his gun into his mouth while flicking up and down the safety catch. Sanna Sabally eventually made him stop.

Cham was profusely bleeding when he was taken back to his cell. After returning to his cell, he recalled hearing Ebrima Chongan and RSM Baboucarr Malick Jeng's cries as they were subjected to the same **mock execution**.

The witness recounted seeing Sanna Sabally and Sadi-bou Hydara later being imprisoned at Mile 2. They were escorted by Edward Singhateh and a group of soldiers. Cham recalled hearing Sabally and Hydara being tortured.

He was released after 27 months of detention, in October 1996. When released from prison, he was advised to write a letter of apology to Yahya Jammeh but refused and was retired from the army.

In 2006, he was suspected to have taken part in an abortive coup, as he was a distant relative to Ndure Cham. He was taken to Mile 2 and after about 3 to 4 days, to the National Intelligence Agency along with Daba Marenah<sup>3</sup> and Lawyer Antouman Gaye, where he was interrogated and ultimately released.

Cham, who was reinstated into the Gambian army in 2017, said he regretted contributing to establishing Ya-hya Jammeh's regime. At the time, he acted in the best interest of the country. Had he known that it would contribute to setting up such an abusive regime, he would not have partaken.

#### **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

##### **Torture**

Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singhateh

**3 Correction Statement: The Digest has been edited post-publication to correct that Daba Marenah led the group that arrested Mamat Cham in 2006. Daba Marenah was arrested along with Mamat Cham.**

...he  
**regretted**  
contributing to  
establishing  
**Yahya Jammeh's**  
regime.



**WITNESS NAME:** Unidentified Witness

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Soldier in the  
Gambia National Army, GNA

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** One of the soldiers that  
took over the country in July 1994

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:**  
Unknown

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** According to the witness, problems within the army were numerous including salaries, food, uniform, accommodation. The institution was new. Everyone was learning – from the command to last soldier and expectations were high. Soldiers were not disgruntled.

The witness said that soldiers from peacekeeping missions in Liberia staged demonstrations over claims of unpaid allowance among others.

Responding to questions about the Nigerian Army Training and Advisory Group, NATAG the witness said what he understood about their mission in the Gambia is that they were here to offer basic training, set up administrative procedures that the GNA was lacking, show them how to command and control. He said he believed soldiers at his level were happy while top level soldiers were not happy as NATAG officers took their

positions and were totally in control.

At a training in Kudang camp, some middle rank officers initiated discussions about the possibility of the military running a government, as was the case in Nigeria. Those were Edward, Peter, Yankuba, Yahya Jammeh, Sadibou Hydara, Sanna Sabally, Basirou Barrow with Edward Singhateh being the most vocal. They agreed to recruit more officers in their platoons. Several other meetings were held and he was recruited.

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 1994, the witness said he was informed that some officers were disarmed at the airport and put under house arrest. Some of them met to discuss and agree that they should go ahead with the coup to avoid being discovered when the commanders investigated.

They broke into the armoury, arrested and detain officers in the barracks including Adjutant Sheriff Gomez and 2nd Lieutenant O B Mbaye and convinced many soldiers to join them in the coup. This was done and the coup plotters armed themselves including himself.

The witness testified that they seized private vehicles and jubilantly headed towards Banjul to take the State House. When they got near the bridge, they instructed one of them to go and collect Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally and the other soldiers that were under house arrest and continued to move forward.

At the bridge, they were approached by Amadou Suwareh who immediately accepted and joined them and signalled his men to join and marched with them towards Banjul and successfully took over the State House.

The witness revealed that Basirou Barrow was supposed to lead them but fell sick. Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara, Sanna Sabally Captain Mamat Cham, Captain Samsudeen Sarr, and

Major Malick Njie (Pachakh) met to discuss who would be the Chairman of the group. Soldiers were leaning towards Edward Singhateh as the Chairman, but Yahya Jammeh was elected being the most senior of rank. The other officers were given ministerial posts. Yankuba Touray later joined the Council. All the soldiers that actively participated in the coup were uplifted in rank; soldiers were given different roles.

The coup makers had agreed they would stay in power for 3 months before handing over to civilian rule among other promises. However, these agreements were not honoured and soldiers started getting disgruntled, which made the Council Members uncomfortable.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1994, Council Members decided to take the first move and attacked Fajara and Yundum Barracks under the guise of a planned counter coup that they were foiling. Some soldiers were **arrested**, some **executed** and **buried** at different locations including Yundum Barrack were most of them were buried. Others were buried at Fajara Barracks and some at Nyambai Forest in Brikama.

Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray were there on the **execution** side.

Colonel Babucarr Jatta, former Army Commander and Momodou Badjie, current Security Adviser to the President Adama Barrow were present during the shootings. Some soldiers managed to escape into Casamance.

The witness testified that he took some actions that were not popular with other soldiers and they started framing him against the Council Chairman however, he declined to proceed with his testimony due to the fact that he may be identifiable by his responses.

## **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

### **Summary executions**

Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray

### **Witnessing executions**

Babucarr Jatta, Momodou Badjie



**WITNESS NAME:** Bubacarr JATTA

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Prison Medic at Mile 2 Prison

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Took care of beaten and tortured prisoners

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:**  
Commissioner of Janjanbureh Prison

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Jatta testified that after 1994 the conditions at the Mile 2 Prison got worse due to over-crowding caused by high rate of sentencing. In addition, normal procedures were not being followed in processing detainees. Detainees were brought in by soldiers without the normal warrant citing executive orders as backing for the detentions. The witness said he did not offer any resistance to the military when the detainees were brought in without any normal warrant as he feared the consequences.

Witness Jatta recalled that in the early morning of **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, he noticed officers at Denton Bridge but took it to be for the purpose of the military exercise that was to take place that day. When he got to the infirmary at the prison, he was informed that this was no longer a military exercise but a coup and that the coup plotters had stopped at the prison gates and promised that things will get better. He perceived this to mean that this will

improve the welfare of prison officers. The witness along with his colleagues were informed to stay on standby until further notice.

After the coup had succeeded, the witness recalled seeing detainees being brought in and taken to the security wings. The witness testified that both the detainees and their escorts were military personnel. Among the detainees, he remembers Ebrima Chongan, Mamat Cham, RSM Jeng, Samsudeen Sarr and Alhagie Kanteh. Witness Jatta noticed that some of the detainees who were brought in following the coup had multiple injuries.

**He suspected those injuries had been sustained from physical torture.**

**He remembered one detainee who had sustained a gunshot wound on his leg.**

Witness Jatta stated that the facilities and materials to treat the detainees were not sufficient to treat them. He also stated that he was not allowed to refer detainees who had severe injuries to the hospital. The witness who was not a qualified doctor would have to try and treat them. At some point, after discussions with his superiors, doctors were allowed into the prison.

The witness recalled a time when Ebrima Chongan had sustained multiple injuries after being tortured by a group of soldiers. He said he was not present but was told that the injuries had been sustained the previous night. He was told by his colleagues that Sanna Sabally and others had come to deal with the detainees. He also recalled that Mamat Cham had **excessive bleeding**. The witness added that some detainees were **traumatised** including Samsudeen Sarr and Kebba Ceesay. He said he would bring prisoners out of solitary confinement to help with their mental state.

Jatta said at that time he did not talk about the conditions of the prison to anyone as he was distrustful of anyone.

At the time, Sanna Sabally was the Vice Chairman. Prison officers did not have the authority to restrict Sanna Sabally's access to the prison.

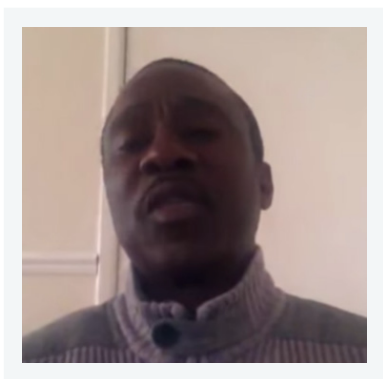
He recalled later treating Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara for multiple injuries on several occasions and also seeing detainees being brought in with multiple injuries sustained outside the prison following a few separate attacks, including the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1994 attack and the Farafenni attack in 1996.

The witness had little information about names of perpetrators of human rights violations. He ended his testimony by saying that the prison system needs to be reformed so that inmates can be rehabilitated into society.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING  
TESTIMONY:**

**Arbitrary detention**

Sanna Sabally



**WITNESS NAME:** Tijan TOURAY

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Presidential Bodyguard

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Accompanied President Jawara in exile

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** No current position given. Residing overseas.

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Tijan Touray testified that he was deployed on physical guard duties on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1994 and that he observed Yahya Jammeh was not armed at the airport on the arrival of the President on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1994. On **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, he heard rumours of a mutiny by soldiers and that they were moving from Yundum Barracks to Banjul which was dismissed because they were used to such.

Upon reporting to work on 22<sup>nd</sup> July at the State House, he saw Saihou Sabally, the American Ambassador at the time with the then President Dawda Jawara and his family in a vehicle leaving the State House, which baffled him. He followed them to the seaport and saw President Jawara and his family board a vessel. He was asked by Kaba Bajo to go back to the State House to find out what was happening.

Touray said he observed that the guards at State House were not happy and wanted to resist but Lang Tombong

Tamba was with Yahya Jammeh trying to negotiate with the Guards. He saw Alhagie Martin and Edward Singhateh with the group.

He said that as he did not agree with the coup and vowed never to work for a military government, he decided to leave State House and went back to the seaport but found that the vessel had left. He went back to his residence, took his personal properties and travel documents and left for Dakar, Senegal where he later joined President Jawara.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

None



**WITNESS NAME:** Ebrima Baba CAMBI

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Army Captain

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** State House Chief of Staff for Chairman Jammeh

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Not Stated

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** The witness recalled that on **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, he, Captain Babucarr Jatta and Captain Ben Wilson were stopped on their way to work by soldiers at Denton Bridge and directed to turn around to go and speak to their leaders at Fajara Barracks but they did not state who their leaders were.

A few hours later, he heard the announcement on the radio about the coup d'état. He decided to go to his supervisor, Colonel AQ's residence to inquire about the situations. There he found other soldiers including Mamat Cham but could not gather much from the Colonel. Cambi then decided to go to the State House even though the Colonel cautioned him that the senior officers could be killed.

At State House, he found Yahya Jammeh with the late Almamo Manneh, the late Musa Jammeh and Buba Jammeh. The witness recalled seeing Captain Mamat Cham and Samsudeen Sarr. Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh and Sadibou Hydara were not present. Yahya Jammeh

explained to him that they had taken over the country and that Sir Dawda Jawara was free to come back as a senior citizen but not as the president of the country.

He stressed that he was not a council member and did not partake in any discussions pertaining to the formation for the council etc. He was later appointed of State House Chief of Staff by Yahya Jammeh responsible for on all logistics as he had experience in that regard.

Whilst at the State House, he heard that cabinet ministers and parliamentarians had been arrested and sent to the National Security Service. These included Omar Jallow, the late Kama Badjie and Faman-dou Sanyang. They were eventually released based on his advice to Jammeh. Cambi also found out that Hassan Jallow was locked up in a room at the army headquarters and later got him released. According to Witness Cambi, Edward Singhateh and Sanna Sabally were not pleased with him for having released the ministers. Two weeks later he was **arrested** by Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara and their guards and taken to Mile 2 Prison.

Cambi described the conditions of the cells as deplorable. For the first few days, he was refused visitation including medical visits although he had health issues from the time he served in Liberia.

Cambi recalled that on the **6<sup>th</sup> of September 1994**, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara and their guards went to Mile 2 Prison and took 3 inmates, **beat** and **dragged** them out. He also heard gunshots, which made him think they had been killed. Sometime later, one of the prison officers told him that they were not dead.

A few months later, he saw Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara with their hands tied to their back, escorted by Edward Singhateh and Alhagie Martin. Edward Singhateh and Alhagie Martin moved Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara to the cells where the 3 other

inmates whom they had **mock executed** had been kept.

Cambi stated that he was eventually charged with treason and court marshalled. While he was acquitted and discharged, he got re-arrested and taken back to Mile 2 on the same day. He stated that those called to falsely testify at his trial are still presently serving in the government.

He remained in prison until after the 1996 elections, released in February 1997 and is still on bail. After his release, the witness claimed he continued to be monitored by the security services.

Cambi closed his testimony by recommending among others that the army be regimented, and promotion be based on merits otherwise the Never Again slogan will not be achieved. He said he is concerned that the malpractices of the army at the time of Jammeh are still in place in this new regime.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING  
TESTIMONY:**

**Torture**

Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Alhagie Martin, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singhateh

...he is  
concerned that the  
**malpractices**  
of the army at  
the time of  
**Jammeh**  
are still in place  
in this new regime.



**WITNESS NAME:** Dr. Binneh MINTEH

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:**

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Operations Commander of Tactical Support Group resisting the coup

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Not Stated

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Witness Binneh Minteh stated that the transformation of the gendarmerie into the Police Force with little weaponry, and the failure of the Nigerian commanders to take action against Yahya Jammeh and co. after they were disarmed at the airport following reports of a planned coup to overthrow the President Dawda Jawara encouraged the young Gambian officers to overthrow the government on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994. He said he was not among those deployed at the airport to provide security for the President.

On the morning of **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994**, he and his men were called for duty when an alarm call was made to signal that there was an emergency. They were deployed at Denton bridge under the command of Commander Amadou Suwareh. They were briefed that they were going to stop an army mutiny that had broken from the barracks and was heading to Banjul. The exact orders to stop them by and all means including firing at them when the orders are given.

Once they got to Denton Bridge, Commander Suwareh

went to find out what was happening. It took long for Suwareh to come back. He together with the late Lamin Jarju went to see what had happened. They found that Suwareh was behind Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh and the troops.

Dr. Minteh said he believed at the time that Suwareh was captured and held against his will as he was laying down and he could not talk to them. Edward Singhateh ordered them to put their arms down. Witness Minteh and the late Lamin Jarju complied with his orders. Edward Singhateh then said to them: *"Minteh... we have broken the armoury, we have more arms than you, we want to get across that bridge, we want to get to Banjul. If you cannot join us, don't stop us. We can blow this bridge with just a propel rocket grenade"*. Witness Minteh responded that they did not want to engage in any violent confrontation. Edward Singhateh and his men allowed him and the late Lamin Jarju to take their weapons and return.

He and the late Lamin Jarju went back to inform the others that the situation was out of control. After speaking to Captain Chongan who had also arrived in the meantime, Minteh testified that he went to the police headquarters to inform the Inspector General Police who advised him to go back and negotiate. Dr. Minteh went back with others and as they got closer to Gambia High School, they realised at this point that the soldiers had divided themselves into two groups: one group took Marina Parade, another group took the Independence Drive.

He further testified that he encouraged Lang Tombong Tamba to find a peaceful solution, not necessarily surrender the State House. He asked Tamba to open the State House gates for Jammeh and his men.

At State House, Jammeh and his men were jubilant. Dr. Minteh remembered that at one point, Sanna Sabally walked in and was very furious and told one of his guards: *"if I say fire, kill everybody except me"*.

In the evening, a meeting was organised and mem-

bers of the coup made their position known. It was very clear at this stage that the four ringleaders were Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally and Sadi-bou Hydara. During this meeting, Yahya Jammeh was pronounced head of the council. Edward Singhateh dispatched soldiers at various points.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING  
TESTIMONY:**

None



**WITNESS NAME:** Batch Samba JALLOW

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Headmaster at a school

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Refused to join the Armed Forces Provisional Council, People's Progressive Party, PPP sympathizer

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:**  
Not Stated

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** On 12<sup>th</sup> October 1995 at 4 am, Batch Samba Jallow was arrested by 4 National Intelligence Agency officers who broke into his house. The officers were Daba Marenah, Baba Saho, Musa Kinteh and Foday Barry. The witness was dragged on the floor and **repeatedly kicked** and slapped with a pistol, which caused the loss of a tooth. He was then forced into a van and taken away.

Batch Samba Jallow said he was repeatedly threatened and pinched whilst in the van. The officers said that they were working for Chairman Yahya Jammeh, and they were prepared to deal with anybody who didn't support him, including the witness. The officers claimed the witness was working with Americans to stage a coup but he kept proclaiming his innocence.

He was taken to the National Intelligence Agency and

recalled arriving around 7 am. Upon arrival he was seated in a wooden armchair and his clothes forcibly removed. Foday Barry, Musa Kinteh, Daba Marenah, Baba Saho tied his hands and legs with **electric cables**. The witness also recalled the presence of a soldier whose name he could not remember.

Baba Saho then came with a rock and hit the witness on his genitals. The same officers that had arrested him then electrocuted his various body parts: nose, ears, lips, toes, and genitals. They then removed him from the chair and forced him on the floor naked. Someone came in with military boots and stamped on his hands, breaking his small finger.

The witness was then again sat on a chair. Daba Marenah, Foday Barry, Musa Kinteh and Baba Saho brought a blue sponge, gagged and taped his mouth. He was left like that for hours and could not speak or cry.

The officers then brought a knife out and threatened to kill him. They put him on the concrete floor once again, spread his legs apart and **slashed** him. The witness recalled Daba Marenah, Baba Saho and Musa Kinteh being present during this particular torture.

Around 7 pm on the same day of his arrest, Mr Jallow was moved to a place called Babandinka 2 and which he remembers being very slippery because of all the blood.

He was further tortured and **forced to drink his own urine** by one Abdoulie Bojang and another person whose name he did not remember. They also let burnt plastic drip onto his chest, resulting in injuries. Witness Jallow also stated that he was tied like a ball and dragged around the concrete floor covered with broken pieces of glass. As he was dragged, the broken bottles lacerated his body. The men would then stop, pour cold water onto him to rinse away the blood and repeat the procedure. Mr Jallow recalled being tortured in such a manner 3 times.

He said he was detained at Babandinka 2 for 5 days.

During the first 4 days, he was beaten every day. After the 5<sup>th</sup> day, he was told that he was to be transferred to Kotu Police Station for further interrogation and beatings. During his transfer, the witness asked for medical assistance, but was refused. The witness believes it was to conceal their crime.

Mr Jallow found Daba Marenah, Foday Barry, Baba Saho and Musa Kinteh at Kotu Police Station who gave instructions to the police officers that the witness should be kept incommunicado. The witness stated that he stayed at Kotu Police Station for 3-4 days. On his second day at the Station, the same officers came back and tried to have him transferred but the police officer in charge refused to do so without official documents. They same men made several attempts to have him transferred but the officer in charge refused. The finally came back with an official document and the witness was transferred to Fajara Barracks.

At Fajara Barracks, the witness remembers being kept in a garage with 72 other inmates including former Minister Omar OJ Jallow who had been tortured and also 3 women. Witness Jallow recalled the conditions in the garage as terrible with no windows, no ventilation, and no mattresses.

The witness was kept there for 14 months until the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC visited. The witness specified that the ICRC was first denied access but after the United Nations intervened, they were allowed to interview the detainees. According to the witness, it is only after the visit of the ICRC that conditions improved. Among the improvements he cited were the permission to shower once a day, for family members to send food, and access to medical facilities if need be.

Batch Samba Jallow stated he was charged with sedition along with 6 other detainees. The charge was later changed to treason by Fatou Bensouda who at the time was the Deputy Director of Public Prosecution but was eventually dropped due to lack of evidence. During this process, Mr Jallow did not have access to a lawyer. It was alleged that the witness and the

others had organised a demonstration against the government of Yahya Jammeh at the US Embassy in The Gambia around 12<sup>th</sup> October 1995. The witness refuted the allegations and claimed that he was targeted because he was a critic of former President Yahya Jammeh and because he had refused to become an AFPRC candidate back in 1994, upon request by Captain Bojang, the former Governor at Central River Division.

Mr Batch Samba Jallow was finally released after UN representatives and the President of Senegal visited Gambia; and following pressure from the American and British ambassadors to the Gambia.

Upon his release, Mr Jallow was instructed not to discuss politics and not to gather with more than two people in the streets. He was also dismissed from his job and never received any dues that were owed to him.

After his dismissal, the witness escaped to Senegal where he was helped by the UN to seek asylum to the US.

Mr Batch Samba Jallow ended his testimony by saying that before his time at the National Intelligence Agency, **he never knew a Gambian could do what was done to him to another Gambian.** He said it was for every Gambian to refuse what had happened in the last 22 years to happen again and asked that the TRRC be supported to ensure it continued its work.

## **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

### **Arbitrary detention and torture**

Daba Marenah, Baba Saho, Musa Kinteh, Foday Barry, Abdoulie Bojang

### **Corruption of justice**

Fatou Bensouda



**WITNESS NAME:** Omar Amadou JALLOW (OJ Jallow)

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:**

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Refused to join the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, Outspoken against the Yahya Jammeh regime

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:**

Politician – Member of the People’s Progressive Party

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Three days after the military coup, there was an announcement that all ministers should hand themselves to the National Security Service. Witness OJ Jallow explained that he was taken to the National Security Service where he met most of his cabinet colleagues.

They were **detained** without any facilities or access to visits. After 3 days in detention, Yahya Jammeh went to the National Security Service and told them they would all be executed.

Mr. Jallow stated that he and his former colleagues were detained for about 10 days, released and put under house arrest with military personnel to check on them. The situation persisted for over 2-3 months.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1994, Jallow decided to organise a press conference to express his vehement opposition to the announcement by the Provisional Ruling Council

to stay for 2 years before handing over to a civilian government.

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 1994, Sanna Sabally and others went to his home, **beat** him in front of his family and put him in a truck and then went for Omar Sey and Kama Badjie. They were paraded through the town at the back of the truck to the army headquarters. They were lined up and Batch Samba Jallow<sup>3</sup> tried to force the barrel of a pistol into his mouth. He resisted which made them angry.

They were then taken to Mile 2 where they met Sadi-bou Hydara, Edward Singhateh and Yankuba Touray. The 3 men, together with Sanna Sabally ordered Batch Samba Jallow to beat him as an example to others and because he challenged them. **He sustained a lot of injuries at the time.** He was thrown into the security wing where the conditions were deplorable. He was there for a day and on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1994 he was taken to the National Security Service headquarters.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1994, all the former ministers were told by Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara and Fafa Mbaye (then Minister of Justice) that they should all have been executed but the Junta decided to have mercy and will only **execute** him (Jallow) on Friday by **firing squad**. However, due to the foiled coup of 11<sup>th</sup> November, they forgot about him. Jallow testified that he was told by the then head of the National Security Service that Sanna Sabally was a hero, that he was *“killing people like he was killing bugs”*.

He was released the next day after the Ambassadors of the UK and the US, together with the Minister of Health intervened at the request of his wife.

Jallow recalled he was arrested again in October 1995 and taken to the army camp in Bakau where he was **stripped naked** and beaten by Musa Jammeh, Almamo Manneh, Bubacarr Bah (who deliberately injured his eye) and others under the orders of Yahya Jammeh. He and the other detainees were constantly told by Bubacarr Bah that they were waiting for instructions from “Oga” (Yahya Jammeh) to **execute** all

46 detainees. For the first month, the detainees were woken up every 2 hours. He was kept for 13 months. During the entire period, they were not allowed to see their families nor allowed access to a lawyer.

Witness Jallow specified that he was arrested over 22 times and was **tortured** in his home by Sanna Sabally on 4 separate occasions in front of his children before being taken away.

He was unsuccessfully prosecuted multiple times. His wife was arrested twice and taken to the National Security Service. Five of his friends were also arrested and seriously tortured by the National Security Service. One of them, Momodou Jallow died about a week later as a result of the injuries he sustained from the torture. The witness never reported the death because he did not have confidence in the police who he said were complicit in torturing citizens.

Mr. Jallow stated that he was defiant and continued to be so because he believes in justice and fair play for the people who looked up to him for leadership.

Mr. Jallow claimed he was offered money and positions multiple times, at one time over D3M, which he turned down. He had sworn never to work for or support a military government; that he would rather be killed.

In closing, he expressed delight that he is still alive compared to the others that lost their lives for the love of their country and for justice. He further stated that he has forgiven all those that tortured him and urged people to support the TRRC process and respect their recommendations.

Mr. Jallow further called for **reparations** to victims to improve their conditions and urged that **we forgive but not forget** so that we can stop living in the **past**, learn from the **mistakes** of the past and **never allow** this to be done in this country again.

## **PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

### **Torture and Arbitrary detention**

Bubacarr Bah, Almamo Manneh, Batch Samba Jallow, Sadibou Hydara, Sanna Sabally, Daba Marenah, Musa Jammeh, Yahya Jammeh

<sup>4</sup>Not to be confused with Witness Batch Samba Jallow, the headmaster.

### CONFLICTING/REFUTED TESTIMONIES:

1. In his testimony, Amadou Suwareh said he spoke with Ebrima Chongan on two separate occasions after the officers reached Banjul while Chongan said he had no recollection of these conversations.
2. In his recollection of Amadou Suwareh's role on the day of the coup and his interactions with the coup makers at Denton Bridge, Dr. Binneh Minteh stated that he was under the impression that Amadou Suwareh was captured and held against his will while Suwareh's explanation of the same event positioned him having taken command of both troops.
3. Sheriff Gomez testified that Alhagie Kanteh was with the officers that visited them in prison on the night on 6<sup>th</sup> September, the "night of terror" when Captain Ebrima Chongan, Captain Mamat Cham and RSM Baboucarr Malick Jeng were beaten and severely tortured. Alhagie Kanteh was not mentioned as being among the visitors by any of the other witness and Kanteh refuted this during his testimony. He said he was a detainee at Mile 2 at that time.
4. Bubacarr Jatta, then Prison Medic at Mile 2 Prison mentioned Sadibou Hydara and Sanna Sabally being brought to Mile 2 Prison after the Farafenni attack, which was in 1996. This conflicts with the testimonies given by other witnesses who detained at Mile 2 immediately after 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1994. They recalled Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara being brought "a few months after" they arrived at Mile 2. Based on our research, Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara were arrested in January 1995.



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### **About ANEKED**

Led by young African human rights activists, the African Network against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED) campaigns against forced disappearances and summary executions. ANEKED combines the power of technology, innovation, traditional media and legal expertise to make issues related to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings much more visible, advocating for justice for victims and their families.

[www.aneked.org](http://www.aneked.org)

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### **About The Point Newspaper**

The Point Newspaper is a major independent Gambian newspaper, co-founded by Deyda Hydara, a fierce advocate of press freedom and a fierce critic of the government of then President Yahya Jammeh, who was allegedly killed under the orders of Jammeh in 2006. The current co-publisher is his son, Baba Hydara.

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