



THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, THE GAMBIA

RHL 36/63/01 (85)

9th May 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

CONCERNS ABOUT THE ARREST & DETENTION OF PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has reviewed video clips circulating online concerning a protest by Gambians Against Looted Assets (GALA) in response to a publication by The Republic on the sale and distribution of assets of former President Yahya Jammeh.

The NHRC expresses grave concern over the disruption of a peaceful protest held in Banjul which was later interrupted by officers of the Police Intervention Unit. This intervention resulted in the use of force and eventual arrest of several individuals including journalists.

The NHRC through its investigation has received credible information that the arrested individuals including students are currently being held in various detention facilities across the country without being granted access to family and legal representatives. The Commission reminds the authorities that the right to peaceful assembly is guaranteed under the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia and international human rights instruments to which The Gambia is a party.

Furthermore, the Commission calls on the IGP and all relevant authorities to respect and uphold the rule of law and to ensure that due process is strictly adhered to in the handling of this matter.

The NHRC reminds the Inspector General of Police that as an official of the State, his office should facilitate the exercise of the right to Freedom of Assembly and Association through the provision of security to ensure that law and order is maintained and not to undermine the enjoyment of this right.

The NHRC therefore calls for;

1. Immediate access to family and representative of the detainees
2. The immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested in connection with the assembly.
3. A swift, independent and thorough investigation should be conducted into the actions of the Police Officers involved in the arrests.

The NHRC will continue to monitor the situation closely and remains committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in The Gambia.

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Emmanuel Daniel Joof

CHAIRPERSON