

RHC 31/58/01 (19)

19 August 2025

The Honourable Minister, Dr Ismaila Ceesay
Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting
GRTS Building
Kanifing

And

The Inspector General of Police, Seedy Muctar Touray,
Gambia Police Force
Banjul, The Gambia

Dear Honourable Minister and Inspector General of Police,
Appreciation of Institutional Response to the Tragic Death of a One-Month-Old
Baby Subjected to Female Genital Mutilation

Honourable Minister,
Inspector General,

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting for its **press statement dated 14th August 2025**, and to the Gambia Police Force for its **Flash Report dated 10th August 2025**, regarding the tragic death of a one-month-old baby who was subjected to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The Commission **commends the Gambia Police Force for its swift actions in investigating this matter, as well as for the arrest and charging of the alleged perpetrators.** Such decisive steps send a strong message that violations of the rights and dignity of children will not go unpunished.

We equally wish to **acknowledge the Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting for its strong and unequivocal statement reaffirming the Government's position that FGM is a criminal act under Gambian law, that perpetrators will be held accountable, and that the Government remains committed to eradicating this harmful and illegal practice.** This position reflects the State's obligations under both national legislation and international human rights instruments to safeguard the rights of women and children.

The Commission urges that these firm measures be sustained and that all relevant state and non-state actors continue to work together to raise awareness, enforce the law, and provide protection and support for children at risk. The NHRC stands ready to continue its collaboration with your institutions, as well as with the Ministries of

Gender, Children and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Justice, to ensure the effective protection of children and the elimination of harmful practices in The Gambia.

Please accept, Honourable Minister and Inspector General, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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Emmanuel D. Joof
Chairperson NHRC

Cc:

- The Honourable Minister, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare
- The Honourable Minister, Ministry of Justice