



PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT ON THE APRIL 10 AND 11 2000, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

The Ministry of Justice joins Gambians today in commemorating the 24th anniversary of the April 10 and 11 2000 Student Demonstrations, which resulted in the death of 15 persons, injury of many others and massive traumatization of our nation at large.

The Ministry of Justice commiserates with the families of those who lost their lives, twelve of whom were known to be students, two toddlers and one, a Red Cross volunteer. Their names were:

Reginald Carrol of 7 Grant Street, Banjul
Momodou Lamin Chune of Serrekunda
Lamin A. Bojang of Jambur
Perrera Calisco of New Jeshwang
Karamo Barrow of Ebo Town
Modou Lamin Njie of Ebo Town
Mansally Wuyeh of Tallinding Kunjang
Bubacarr Badjie of Tallinding
Bamba Jobarteh, from Armitage High School in Janjanbureh
Amadou Sajaw, a 3-year-old boy
Sainey Nyabally of Dasilameh Village, a 12-year-old boy
Musa Sembene, a toddler shot in the head
Omar Barrow, Red Cross Volunteer of Latrikunda German

Whilst the proceedings and Final Report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission were able to identify some of the victims of these fateful days, the Ministry of Justice takes cognizant of the finding of the TRRC that there are no records of the actual number of victims. The Ministry once again reiterates its resolve to ensure an accurate documentation of all victims.

In recognition of the 24th anniversary of the 10 and 11 April 2000 Student Demonstrations, the Ministry of Justice reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Government White Paper on the Implementation of the TRRC Recommendations which listed Seventeen critical recommendations on the 10 and 11 April 2000 Student Demonstrations, which collectively, aim to serve to ensure justice and accountability for the past crimes and guarantees of non-repetition. In this regard, the Ministry of Justice is committed to working with the victims of the 10 and 11 April 2000 Student Demonstrations, other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, as well non-governmental institutions in the implementation of these recommendations.

The Implementation Plan to the Government's White Paper on the TRRC Recommendations identifies 18 activities to be implemented on the 10 and 11 April 2000 Student Demonstrations, focused among other things on capacity building of our security personnel, the adoption of mechanisms that encourage open communication lines between students and national authorities, and the development and implementation of a National Memorialization Strategy.

Regarding reparations for victims of the 10 and 11 April 2000 Student Demonstrations, many of whom continue to live with painful physical and psychological conditions, the Ministry of Justice acknowledges the urgency of this matter and is working expeditiously to establish the Victims Reparations Commission under the recently enacted Victim Reparations Act.

In the same vein, the Ministry of Justice is also expeditiously working on the presentation of the Special Prosecutor's Office Bill, and the Special Accountability Mechanism Bill before the National Assembly. These laws when enacted would ensure the availability of an adequate legal framework for post-TRRC justice and accountability measures

We pay homage to the persons who lost their lives and their families and recognize the resilience of those who continue to live their lives with the physical and emotional aftermath of the violence that occurred on 10 and 11 April 2000.

Banjul
10 April 2024

For further information and enquiries, please consult our website, www.moj.gm, on Twitter @Gambia_MOJ or by email: info@moj.gov.gm and posttrrc@moj.gov.gm