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EFSCRJ Calls for Independent Investigation into Allegations of Torture, Abuse of Power, and Inhumane Prison Conditions

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice has today formally written to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), with copies to the Inspector General of Police, the Minister of Interior, the Director General of the Gambia Prison Service, and the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, requesting an urgent, independent and impartial investigation into the serious allegations made by Ousainou Bojang and his sister, Amie Bojang, during their exclusive interview with Kerr Fatou Media on 25th June 2026.

The interview can be found in these links:

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/192SBAvzQ/>
- **YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/live/h3N0EtnszXM?si=uY4_b2TAMGG_XKSs

The allegations relate to torture, cruel, degrading treatment, abuse of power, manipulation of evidence and deplorable prison conditions allegedly suffered during their arrest, detention and incarceration.

These are grave allegations that strike at the very foundation of the rule of law and the protection of human rights. They concern not only the rights of Ousainou and Amie Bojang, but also the integrity, professionalism and accountability of our law enforcement and correctional institutions. If such allegations are left uninvestigated, they risk eroding public trust and confidence in the justice system and undermining the democratic values for which Gambians have struggled.

The Constitution of the Gambia, the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2023 and the country's obligations under regional and international human rights treaties prohibit torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. These legal obligations require that every credible allegation of torture or abuse by state officials be investigated promptly, independently, and impartially.

The revelations by Ousainou and Amie Bojang also raise broader concerns regarding the state of prison conditions and the effectiveness of the Security Sector Reform and Transitional Justice programs initiated since 2017 under the national commitment of "Never Again." After nearly a decade of reforms and billions of dalasi invested in the security sector, allegations of this nature warrant urgent public scrutiny.

In our letter, EFSCRJ has requested the NHRC to investigate the allegations of torture and abuse made by Ousainou Bojang, examine the conduct of the officers identified in his account, assess the prison conditions described by both Ousainou and Amie Bojang, determine whether these incidents reflect broader institutional failures, and make public its findings and recommendations.

We have equally urged the Inspector General of Police, the Director General of the Gambia Prison Service, the Minister of Interior and the Attorney General to extend full cooperation to the NHRC by ensuring access to all relevant officers, records, facilities and evidence necessary for a credible investigation.



EFSCRJ reiterates that justice does not end with an acquittal. Justice also requires accountability for wrongdoing committed by public officials, effective remedies for victims and institutional reforms that prevent similar violations from recurring. We therefore call on the NHRC to exercise its constitutional mandate without delay and assure the Gambian public that these serious allegations will receive the independent scrutiny they deserve.

At the same time, we reiterate our call for adequate compensation for Ousainou Bojang and Amie Bojang for their wrongful arrest, prolonged detention, and the immense physical, psychological and emotional suffering they endured for more than two years.

The promise of "Never Again" must be measured not by rhetoric but by the willingness of our institutions to investigate abuse, hold perpetrators accountable and uphold the rights and dignity of every person.

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