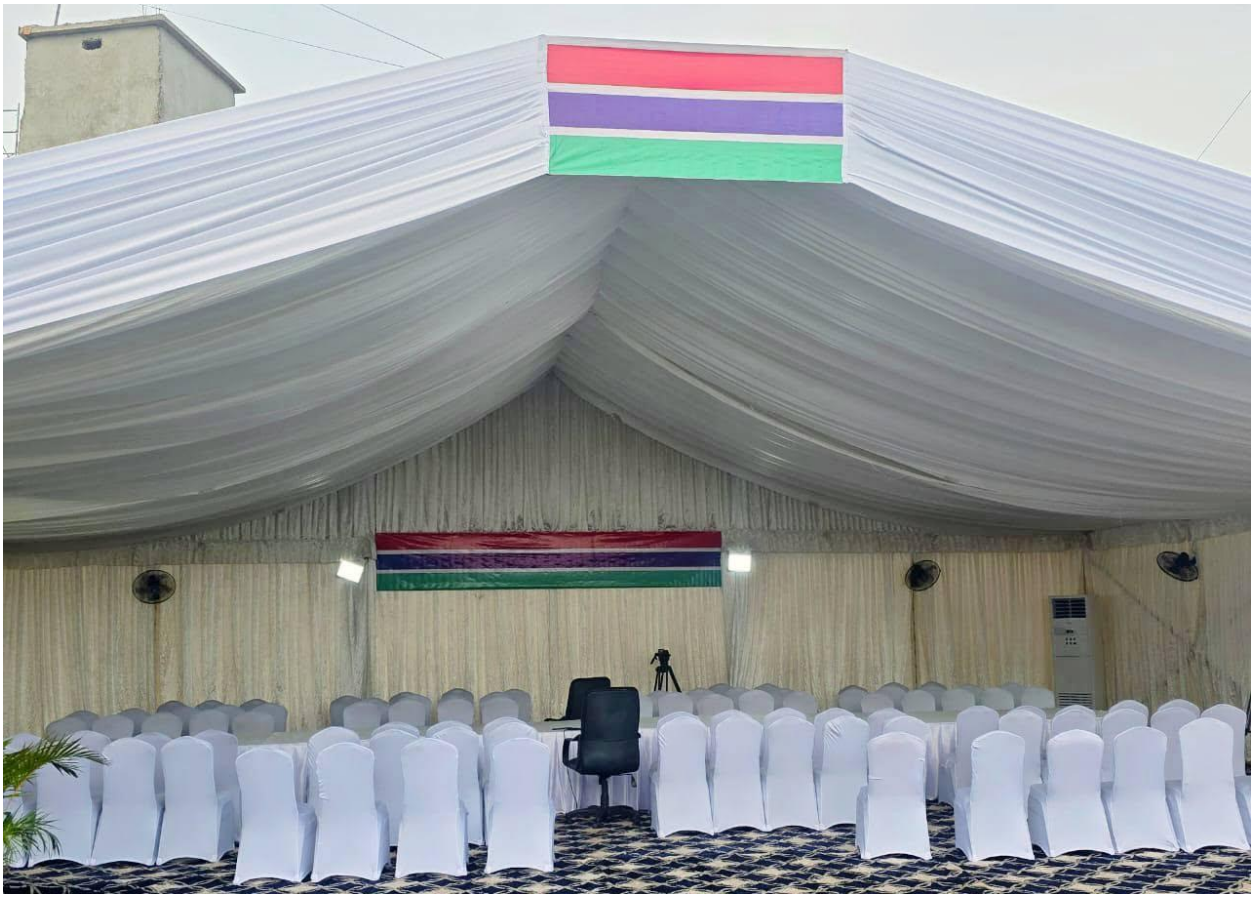
EFSCRJ ELECTION WATCH 2026

Final Report on Presidential Candidate Nominations



3–14 November 2026
Independent Electoral Commission, Election House, The Gambia

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EDWARD FRANCIS SMALL CENTER FOR RIGHTS & JUSTICE

Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice

EFSCRJ is an independent civil society organization dedicated to advancing human rights, democratic governance, accountability, transparency, and constitutionalism in The Gambia. Through regular monitoring, the Centre documents incidents that may affect the enjoyment of fundamental rights and assesses the response of public institutions.

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About the EFSCRJ Election Watch Campaign

The EFSCRJ Election Watch Campaign is a non-partisan civic initiative established to independently monitor The Gambia's electoral and political environment throughout the 2026 electoral cycle. The Campaign monitors and documents the conduct of political parties, candidates, public officials, state institutions, the media, and other electoral stakeholders to promote compliance with electoral laws and democratic norms and standards. Particular attention is given to electoral malpractices, hate and dangerous speech, divisive and tribal politics, disinformation, political and campaign financing, abuse of incumbency and state resources, selective law enforcement, media fairness, institutional neutrality, and the performance of the IEC. Through periodic status reports, public statements, civic education and stakeholder engagement, Election Watch seeks to expose violations, highlight good practices, promote accountability, and contribute to free, fair, transparent, inclusive, peaceful, and credible elections.

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EFSCRJ Election Watch Campaign

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Acknowledgement

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice expresses its sincere gratitude to the Independent Electoral Commission for its cooperation in facilitating observation of the presidential candidate nomination proceedings. The Commission's openness and collaboration enabled EFSCRJ to carry out its monitoring mandate effectively and contributed to the transparency of the nomination exercise.

EFSCRJ extends its appreciation to its partners, the CSO Coalition on Elections and the Election Watch Committee, and to all fellow observers for their collaboration and unwavering commitment to independent electoral scrutiny. Their collective efforts strengthened the integrity and credibility of the observation exercise.

Special recognition goes to the Na Karamonding Saidy Trust for its logistical support throughout the exercise. EFSCRJ further thanks the other individuals who supported its observation with the necessary resources, enabling the team to perform this important duty.

To all who contributed to the success of this observation exercise, EFSCRJ remains deeply grateful.

Empowered Citizens. Accountable Leadership.



1. Introduction

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice (EFSCRJ), through its Election Watch 2026 initiative, conducted comprehensive observation of the presidential candidate nomination process for the 5 December 2026 Presidential Election. The observation exercise spanned twelve days, from 3 to 14 November 2026, at the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) Election House.

EFSCRJ undertook this monitoring exercise in partnership with the CSO Coalition on Elections under the auspices of TANGO and the Election Watch Committee, of which EFSCRJ is a member. The observation focused on procedural compliance, transparency, equal treatment of aspiring candidates, respect for fundamental rights, and the overall conduct of the nomination exercise by the IEC.

The objectives of the observation were to:

- Assess the transparency and fairness of the nomination process;
- Monitor compliance with constitutional and electoral requirements;
- Evaluate the conduct of electoral officials, security personnel, and other stakeholders;
- Document any human rights concerns or irregularities;
- Promote public confidence in the electoral process.

This final report consolidates observations from all nine days of nomination proceedings, documents the confirmation of nine presidential candidates by the IEC on 14 November 2026, and offers recommendations to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process ahead of the 5 December 2026 election.





EFSCRJ Observers pose with the IEC Vice Chair Cherno Jallow at the nomination grounds

ASK QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU VOTE!
What has the candidate achieved? What are their plans? How will they finance their promises? How will they be held accountable?
Ask Questions. Demand Answers.

2. Methodology

EFSCRJ deployed accredited observers to the IEC Election House throughout the nomination period. Observers monitored proceedings in accordance with established election observation principles, including:

- ✓ **Impartiality:** Observers maintained strict neutrality throughout the process;
- ✓ **Non-interference:** Observers did not participate in or influence nomination proceedings;
- ✓ **Accuracy:** Observations were systematically recorded using standardized reporting templates;
- ✓ **Transparency:** Findings were documented and reported in preliminary daily reports.

Observation covered all scheduled aspirants, including those who appeared for nomination, those who withdrew, and those who failed to appear.



Observers

VOTE FOR YOUR FUTURE!

The decisions made by elected leaders affect education, healthcare, employment, electricity, water, and opportunities for generations.

Think Beyond Today. Choose Your Future.

3. Daily Observation Summaries

Day One – 3 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Yiramang Darboe (All Inclusive Party), Salieu Jallow (Independent), Momodou Lamin Sima (Alliance of Progressive Citizens)

The nomination exercise on the opening day was peaceful, orderly, and transparent, with electoral officials, security personnel, journalists, observers, and supporters present. No security incidents, disturbances, or human rights concerns were observed.

Yiramang Darboe withdrew from the nomination process, citing his dual Gambian and British citizenship. He stated that he had been informed renouncing his British citizenship would take approximately six months.

Salieu Jallow presented documentation covering age, Gambian citizenship, secondary school qualification, photograph, candidate symbol, voter registration, tax clearance, and sworn asset declaration. However, his nomination signatories form, nomination fee payment, campaign itinerary, and choice of campaign colour remained outstanding.

Momodou Lamin Sima presented documentation covering age, Gambian citizenship, secondary school qualification, nomination fee payment, party sponsorship, sworn asset declaration, tax clearance, and campaign itinerary. His nomination signatories form remained outstanding, and he was requested to obtain notarization of the income tax component of his tax clearance documentation.



Yiramang Darboe



Salieu Jallow



Momodou Lamin Sima

VOTE PEACEFULLY. RESPECT THE RESULTS PROCESS!

Follow lawful voting procedures, respect other voters, reject violence and use established legal channels to challenge electoral irregularities.

Peaceful Voting. Credible Elections.

Day Two – 4 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Yusupha A. Dumbuya (Democratic Party), Dr. Isatou Touray (Independent)

The process remained peaceful, orderly, and transparent. No security incidents, disturbances, or human rights violations were observed. EFSCRJ monitored equal treatment, freedom of participation, non-discrimination, and the conduct of security personnel. No intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or restrictions on participation were observed.

Yusupha A. Dumbuya arrived shortly before the end of his scheduled nomination period and presented documentation establishing citizenship and age compliance. However, he did not present evidence of his Senior Secondary School Certificate and had yet to fulfil the nomination fee requirement.

Dr. Isatou Touray arrived at her scheduled time, presented proof of citizenship, and fulfilled the nomination fee requirement. However, she did not present evidence of her Senior Secondary School Certificate, and her asset declaration documentation required corrections.

A third scheduled aspirant from the Gambia Action Party did not appear, as announced by the IEC Chair.

Observers present included representatives from the CSO Coalition on Elections, the Election Watch Committee, and the National Human Rights Commission. Several media houses were also present.



Yusupha Dumbuya



Isatou Touray

ELECTION DAY IS NOT THE END OF DEMOCRACY!

Citizens have a responsibility to monitor elected leaders, demand transparency, and hold public officials accountable throughout their term.

Vote Today. Demand Accountability Every Day.

Day Three – 5 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Bakusa Dukureh (Gambia Labour Party), Alieu Sowe (Independent), Ansu Sanneh (National Builders Party)

The nomination exercise was conducted in a peaceful, orderly, and transparent environment. No security incidents, disruptions, or human rights violations were recorded. EFSCRJ observed no discriminatory treatment or procedural irregularities affecting equal participation.

Bakusa Dukureh arrived shortly before the conclusion of his scheduled nomination period. Outstanding requirements included: letter of sponsorship, original supporting documents, campaign itinerary, tax clearance certificate, and party symbol, colour, and photograph. Mr. Dukureh disclosed that he holds dual citizenship and was advised to make a decision regarding his citizenship status before 4:00 p.m. the same day.

Alieu Sowe arrived considerably later than his allocated nomination time. Outstanding items included: letter of sponsorship, campaign itinerary, original documentation establishing citizenship, payment of the prescribed nomination fee, and corrections to his electoral symbol, colour, and photograph.

Ansu Sanneh arrived ten minutes after his scheduled nomination time. He presented the required documentation except for the original senior secondary school certificate, which remained outstanding and required correction.

EFSCRJ noted that the recurring submission of incomplete documentation and late arrival of aspirants remained matters of concern, highlighting the need for greater preparedness among candidates and political parties.



Bakusa Dumbuya



Alieu Sowe



Ansu Sanneh

Day Four – 6 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Kebba Madi Bojang (National Democratic Party), Musa Jallow (Independent), Bakary K. Badjie (Independent)

Observers assessed the proceedings as fair, transparent, and orderly. Observers and journalists enjoyed unhindered access to the venue, while security personnel acted professionally and neutrally. Women and youth were visibly represented among participants and supporters.

Kebba Madi Bojang's nomination proceedings did not begin at the scheduled time. Although several requirements were met, a Tax Clearance Certificate and Campaign Itinerary were outstanding, while concerns were raised regarding evidence of secondary education and the completeness of voter signatures.

Musa Jallow withdrew from the nomination process, as announced by the IEC Chair.

Bakary K. Badjie's proceedings began on schedule. He presented documentation covering citizenship, age, educational qualifications, voter endorsements, nomination deposit, voter registration, and tax clearance. However, aspects of his asset declaration required notarization or amendment, while some manifesto-related documents required revision.



Bakary K Badgie



Kebba Madi Bojang

VERIFY BEFORE YOU BELIEVE!

False information, fabricated quotations, and misleading videos can distort electoral choices.
Check credible sources before sharing.
Stop Disinformation. Protect Democracy.

Day Five – 7 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Talib Ahmed Bensouda (UNITE-led Coalition 2026), Joseph Henry Joof (Independent)

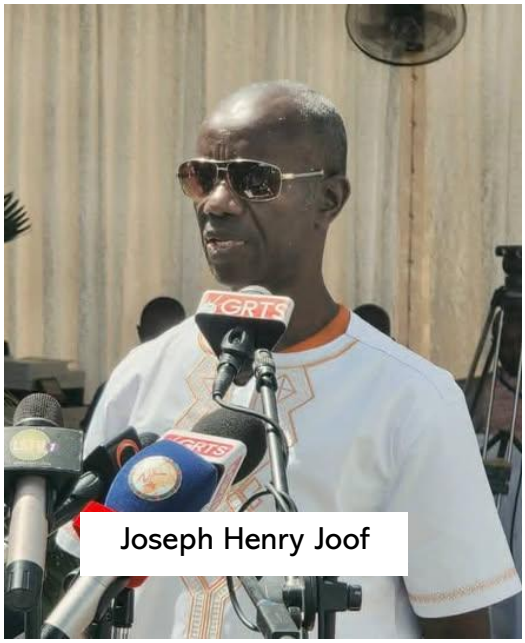
Talib Ahmed Bensouda presented documentation meeting the major nomination requirements, including proof of citizenship, age and educational qualifications, voter endorsements, tax clearance, asset declaration, nomination deposit, and commitment to the electoral code of conduct. His proceedings began thirty minutes behind schedule.

Joseph Henry Joof arrived on time but had several outstanding requirements, including voter signatures, nomination deposit receipt, tax clearance certificate, asset declaration, and campaign itinerary.

The overall environment remained generally peaceful, open, and transparent. However, EFSCRJ noted overcrowding around the venue, inadequate seating for observers, and instances of obstruction or harassment affecting observers and media personnel. EFSCRJ called on the IEC and security personnel to improve crowd management, provide adequate observer seating, and safeguard unhindered access.



Talib Ahmed Bensouda



Joseph Henry Joof

REJECT HATE SPEECH AND DIVISION!

Political Opponents ARE NOT Enemies.
No election is worth hatred, violence, or division among communities.

Different Choices. One Gambia.

Day Six – 8 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Ebrima Tabora Manneh (People's Alliance Party), Ismaila Jobe (Independent), Alkali Cham (Independent)

Only **Ebrima Tabora Manneh** appeared among the three scheduled aspirants. He presented documentation covering all key nomination requirements, including proof of Gambian citizenship, age and educational qualifications, voter registration, at least 5,000 voter signatures, party sponsorship, campaign itinerary, tax clearance, sworn asset declaration, the D1,000,000 nomination deposit, party manifesto, and commitment to the IEC Campaign Ethics Code. Outstanding issues concerned discrepancies in the spelling and presentation of his name across documents and aspects of his residential address requiring verification and correction.

Ismaila Jobe informed the Commission of his withdrawal, while **Alkali Cham** was outside The Gambia.

The proceedings were transparent, orderly, and inclusive. IEC officials clearly explained requirements and openly verified documents in the presence of the aspirant and his representatives. Accredited observers and journalists accessed proceedings without obstruction, while security personnel acted professionally and neutrally. Some crowding developed around the venue's perimeter later in the day.



Ebrima Tabora Manneh

VOTE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY!

Public office is a responsibility, not a personal entitlement.

Leaders must obey the law, protect public resources and answer to citizens.

Public Office Is Public Trust.

Day Seven – 9 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: ANM Ousainou Darboe (UDP-led Gambia First Coalition), Sheikh Matarr Nyang, Abdou Dampha (Independent)

ANM Ousainou Darboe presented all key nomination requirements, including proof of Gambian citizenship, age qualification, educational credentials, the required 5,000 voter signatures, and the D1,000,000 nomination deposit. Proceedings commenced later than scheduled due to the candidate's late arrival, and EFSCRJ observed crowd congestion around the venue entrance owing to the large number of supporters. Despite this, the gathering remained peaceful, and verification proceeded smoothly.

Sheikh Matarr Nyang withdrew from the nomination process, as announced by the IEC Chair.

Abdou Dampha satisfied several eligibility requirements, including proof of Gambian citizenship, voter registration, age qualification, and senior secondary school educational credentials. However, outstanding requirements included confirmation of payment of the D1,000,000 nomination deposit, the requirement for 5,000 voter signatures, a tax clearance certificate issued in his personal name rather than his company's name, and adjustments to his photograph and symbol to meet IEC specifications. Mr. Dampha arrived considerably later than scheduled, though proceedings remained calm with no violence, threats, hate speech, or use of force observed.



ANM Ousainou Darboe



Abdou Dampha

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR POWER!

Your vote gives you a voice in deciding who leads the country and how it is governed.

Don't Surrender Your Power.

Day Eight – 10 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Adama Barrow (NPP-led Coalition), Papa Secka (Independent), Omar Mbaye (Independent)

Adama Barrow entered the IEC compound at approximately two minutes before the end of his allotted nomination period. He had successfully submitted all his nomination documents.

Papa Secka's nomination proceedings began on time. However, several requirements remained outstanding, including proof of payment of the D1,000,000 nomination deposit, a physical tax clearance certificate, a hard-copy asset declaration, a campaign itinerary, and confirmation of his candidate symbol.

Omar Mbaye withdrew from the nomination process.

Unequal Access and Preferential Treatment: EFSCRJ observed that vehicles carrying ministers and other officials accompanying Mr. Barrow were permitted through the security barrier to park along the road directly in front of Election House. Following his proceedings, his supporters were also allowed to approach the IEC gate in celebration. Other aspirants and their supporters had not been afforded comparable access. These differences raised serious concerns about equal treatment and the consistent enforcement of security arrangements. EFSCRJ emphasized that public office should not confer preferential access on officials attending nominations as supporters of an aspirant.



Adama Barrow



Papa Secka

VOTE FOR ISSUES, NOT PERSONALITIES!

Judge candidates by their policies, programmes, competence, integrity, and record of service. Choose Policies. Demand Results.

Day Nine – 11 November 2026

Aspirants Monitored: Lamin J. Darboe (Independent backed by Team Gambia Coalition), Almameh Gibba (Independent backed by "No to Alliance" Movement), Fabakary Jammeh (Independent)

Lamin J. Darboe presented key nomination documents for verification, including proof of Gambian citizenship, educational qualifications, voter endorsements exceeding the required threshold, tax clearance, asset declaration, campaign itinerary, manifesto, and the prescribed nomination deposit. His proceedings began later than scheduled due to delayed arrival, and a minor administrative discrepancy concerning the spelling or presentation of his name required correction.

Almameh Gibba presented all required nomination documents, which were verified during the proceedings. These included evidence of voter support, asset declaration, tax clearance, campaign itinerary, manifesto, and the required nomination deposit. His proceedings were conducted smoothly in a calm and peaceful atmosphere.

Fabakary Jammeh withdrew from the nomination process.

EFSCRJ assessed both proceedings as fair, transparent, and generally orderly. Electoral officials conducted verification openly, while accredited observers and journalists enjoyed unhindered access throughout the day.



Lamin J Darboe



Almameh Gibba

ETHNICITY IS NOT A MANIFESTO!

A candidate's ethnic background does not guarantee good leadership. What matters is character, competence, and commitment to the public interest.
Reject Tribal Politics. Vote on Issues.

4. Confirmed Candidates

On Saturday, 14 November 2026, the Independent Electoral Commission confirmed nine presidential candidates comprising eight men and one woman for the 5 December 2026 election. The confirmed candidates are:

No	Candidate	Party/Affiliation
1	Modou Lamin Sima	Alliance of Progressive Citizens
2	Isatou Touray	Independent Candidate
3	Talib Ahmed Bensouda	UNITE-led Coalition 2026
4	A.N.M Ousainou Darboe	UDP-led Gambia First Coalition
5	Adama Barrow	National People's Party
6	Ebrima Tabora Manneh	People's Alliance Party
7	Lamin J. Darboe	Independent Candidate of Team Gambia
8	Almameh Gibba	Independent Candidate of No To Alliance Movement
9	Ansu Sanneh	National Builders Party

Dr. Isatou Touray's nomination marks a historic breakthrough for women's political participation. Yet one woman among nine candidates highlights the work still needed to achieve equal representation.

EFSCRJ calls for equal treatment of all candidates, impartial public institutions, balanced media coverage, and peaceful, issue-based campaigning. EFSCRJ will issue a position paper on the confirmed candidates to promote transparency and accountability, support informed voter choice, and safeguard the public interest.



RELIGION IS NOT A QUALIFICATION FOR LEADERSHIP!

Respect every person's faith.

Evaluate candidates by their policies, integrity, leadership, and ability to serve all citizens.

Faith Deserves Respect. Leadership Demands Accountability.

5. Key Findings

5.1 Positive Observations

i. **Peaceful and Orderly Process:** Throughout the nine-day nomination period, proceedings were consistently peaceful, orderly, and transparent. No significant security incidents, disturbances, or human rights violations were recorded.
ii. **Transparency:** IEC officials conducted verification openly and explained requirements clearly to aspirants and their representatives. Accredited observers and journalists generally enjoyed unhindered access to proceedings.
iii. **Equal Treatment in Verification:** EFSCRJ observed no discriminatory treatment or procedural irregularities affecting the equal participation of aspiring candidates. The IEC applied nomination requirements and verification procedures consistently.
iv. **Professional Security Conduct:** Security personnel acted professionally and neutrally throughout the observation period. No intimidation, harassment, discrimination, or restrictions on participation were observed.
v. **Inclusive Participation:** Women and youth were visibly represented among participants and supporters. The nomination of Dr. Isatou Touray represents a historic breakthrough for women's political participation.
vi. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** The presence of observers from the CSO Coalition on Elections, the Election Watch Committee (EWC), Gambia Participates, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), EU election observers, and various media houses demonstrated strong stakeholder engagement in the electoral process.



Observers pose with IEC leadership

YOUR VOTE IS NOT FOR SALE!
Money, gifts and promises should never determine your political choice.
Your vote is worth more than any handout.
Reject Vote Buying. Protect Your Dignity.

5.2 Areas of Concern

i. **Incomplete Documentation:** A recurring pattern of incomplete nomination documentation was observed across multiple days. Many aspirants submitted partial documentation, necessitating requests for outstanding requirements before the close of nominations.
ii. **Late Arrivals:** Several aspirants arrived late for their scheduled nomination times, including some who arrived shortly before or after the end of their allotted periods. This created administrative pressure and raised questions about preparedness.
iii. **Dual Citizenship Issues:** At least three aspirants (Yiramang Darboe, Bakusa Dukureh, and Lamin J Darboe) disclosed dual citizenship status, raising questions about constitutional eligibility requirements that required resolution before the close of nominations.
iv. **Crowd Management:** Overcrowding around the venue and inadequate seating for observers were noted on multiple days. On Day 5, instances of obstruction or harassment affecting observers and media personnel were recorded.
v. **Unequal Access and Preferential Treatment:** On Day 8, EFSCRJ observed that vehicles carrying ministers and officials accompanying Mr. Adama Barrow were permitted through security barriers to park directly in front of Election House, and his supporters were allowed to approach the IEC gate in celebration. Other aspirants and their supporters had not been afforded comparable access. This raised serious concerns about equal treatment and consistent enforcement of security arrangements.
vi. **Documentation Discrepancies:** Minor administrative discrepancies, including spelling and presentation of names across documents, residential address verification, and tax clearance certificates issued in company names rather than personal names, required correction.
vii. **Withdrawals:** Several aspirants withdrew from the nomination process for various reasons, including dual citizenship concerns (Yiramang Darboe) and unspecified reasons (Musa Jallow, Sheikh Matarr Nyang, Omar Mbaye, Fabakary Jammeh, Ismaila Jobe). One aspirant (Alkali Cham) was outside The Gambia.





Vehicles of ministers, etc accompanying Adama Barrow were allowed to park in front of IEC

5.3 Human Rights and Electoral Integrity Assessment

EFSCRJ observed that the nomination process generally respected the principles of transparency, procedural fairness, equal treatment, and peaceful political participation. No incidents involving intimidation, harassment, discrimination, restrictions on media coverage, or interference with nomination proceedings were recorded.

However, the recurring submission of incomplete nomination documentation and late arrival of aspiring candidates remained matters of concern. These shortcomings highlight the need for greater preparedness among candidates and political parties to ensure compliance with applicable electoral requirements.

EFSCRJ emphasizes that electoral administration must balance strict adherence to the law with procedural fairness, ensuring that all aspiring candidates are afforded equal and lawful opportunities to fulfil nomination requirements.





DON'T VOTE OUT OF FEAR!

No politician, employer, traditional leader, or public official should intimidate or coerce you into supporting a candidate.

6. Recommendations

Based on observations across the nine-day nomination period, EFSCRJ offers the following recommendations:

6.1 To the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)

a. **Maintain Consistent Standards:** Continue to apply nomination requirements consistently, transparently, and impartially to all aspiring candidates, while providing clear guidance on outstanding documentation and applicable deadlines.
b. **Ensure Legally-Grounded Decisions:** Ensure that decisions concerning eligibility, citizenship, documentation, and nomination compliance are based strictly on applicable constitutional and electoral provisions, with clear explanations communicated to affected candidates.
c. **Improve Crowd Management:** Enhance coordination with security personnel to manage crowds effectively, provide adequate observer seating, and safeguard unhindered access to the venue throughout proceedings.
d. **Apply Access Rules Impartially:** Apply access rules uniformly to all aspirants, their supporters, and officials, and prevent preferential treatment based on public office or political affiliation.
e. **Communicate Decisions Clearly:** Ensure timely and clear communication of final nomination decisions to all aspirants and the public.
f. **Strengthen Voter Education:** Collaborate with stakeholders to enhance voter education on nomination requirements and electoral procedures.



Joseph Colley, Chair, IEC

VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT!

Every eligible citizen has the right to vote and participate in choosing their leaders. Know Your Rights. Exercise Your Vote.

6.2 To Aspiring Candidates and Political Parties

a. **Ensure Adequate Preparation:** Ensure timely arrival and complete submission of all legally required nomination documents to avoid unnecessary delays or possible disqualification.
b. **Verify Documentation:** Conduct thorough internal verification of all documentation, including name spellings, addresses, tax clearances, asset declarations, and photographs, before submission.
c. **Respect Scheduled Times:** Adhere to scheduled nomination times to facilitate efficient processing and demonstrate respect for the electoral process.
d. **Address Citizenship Issues Early:** Candidates with dual citizenship should resolve citizenship-related eligibility questions well in advance of nomination periods.

6.3 To Security Authorities

a. **Maintain Professionalism and Neutrality:** Continue to act professionally and neutrally in facilitating nomination proceedings.
b. **Ensure Equal Treatment:** Apply security arrangements uniformly to all aspirants and their supporters, without preferential treatment based on status or affiliation.
c. **Protect Observer and Media Access:** Safeguard unhindered access for accredited observers and journalists to enable independent scrutiny of the electoral process.



Police at work.

6.4 To All Electoral Stakeholders

a. **Uphold Peace and Tolerance:** Continue to uphold peace, tolerance, political participation, and respect for the rule of law throughout the nomination process and subsequent electoral activities.
b. **Respect Media Freedom:** Ensure that media personnel can carry out their duties without obstruction, intimidation, or harassment.
c. **Promote Inclusive Participation:** Encourage women, youth, and marginalized groups to participate actively in the electoral process.

d. **Support Independent Observation:** Facilitate the work of accredited observers and election monitoring organizations.



Ambiance at the Nominations

WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: YOUR VOICES MATTER!

Women and young people have equal rights to participate in political decisions and help shape the country's future.
Equal Rights. Equal Voice. Equal Participation.

7. Conclusion

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice successfully monitored presidential candidate nomination proceedings at Election House from 3 to 14 November 2026. The nomination process was generally peaceful, orderly, transparent, and conducted without observed human rights violations or discriminatory treatment.

While the IEC provided guidance to aspiring candidates regarding outstanding nomination requirements, the completion of these requirements remained pending at the time of observation for many aspirants. EFSCRJ notes that the confirmation of nine presidential candidates by the IEC on 14 November 2026 represents the culmination of the nomination process.

EFSCRJ commends the IEC for its cooperation in facilitating observation and for its generally transparent conduct of the nomination process. We appreciate the collaboration of our partners, the CSO Coalition on Elections and the Election Watch Committee, and all fellow observers for their commitment to independent electoral scrutiny.

The observations documented in this report highlight both strengths and areas for improvement in the nomination process. The recurring submission of incomplete documentation and late arrivals of aspirants underscore the need for greater preparedness among candidates and political parties. The concerns regarding unequal access and preferential treatment on Day 8 require serious attention to ensure that public office does not confer undue advantage in electoral processes.

EFSCRJ will continue monitoring the electoral process, including the IEC's handling of outstanding documentation, candidate eligibility, and procedural compliance. Together with our partners, we are preparing to monitor the election campaign and election-day proceedings. EFSCRJ will also issue a position paper on the confirmed candidates to promote transparency and accountability, support informed voter choice, and safeguard the public interest.

We reaffirm our commitment to promoting a free, fair, transparent, inclusive, credible, and peaceful presidential election on 5 December 2026. We call on all electoral stakeholders to uphold the rights of citizens, ensure equal treatment, and safeguard inclusive, peaceful, free, and fair elections.

Citizens deserve real choices, clear policies, and accountable leadership. Those seeking the highest public office must be open to scrutiny of their records, integrity, and commitments to the people.

Vote on Issues. Vote for Your Future.

Your Vote. Your Voice. Your Future.

Empowered Citizens. Accountable Leadership