

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 19, 2018

Dr. Baba Galleh Jallow  
Executive Secretary  
Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission  
The Gambia

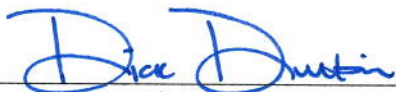
Dear Dr. Jallow:

We write in light of Gambian President Adama Barrow's recent launch of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC). Tasked with investigating human rights abuses committed between July 1994 and January 2017 in The Gambia under the dictatorial rule of former President Yahya Jammeh, the TRRC marks a historic and important step toward justice in your nation. As such, we urge you to include in the TRRC's agenda a review of the disturbing case of missing Gambian journalist Ebrima Manneh—a case that many of us have long tracked.

Many respected international human rights organizations, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Court have also raised the case of Ebrima Manneh over the course of the last decade. After more than 10 years since his initial 2006 arrest by members of the National Intelligence Agency, police officially informed Manneh's family of his death in January 2017, but provided no information about what happened to him or who was responsible. Under President Barrow's welcome new leadership, the Gambian government has begun compensating Manneh's family as per the ECOWAS Court ruling. However, a full accounting of Manneh's disappearance and tragic death is still warranted, similar to the accounting of countless others who had been subject to arbitrary arrest, forced disappearance, harassment, and even extrajudicial killing under former President Jammeh's brutal regime. A resolution of his case and that of others would help reaffirm the rule of law and democratic principals in The Gambia and bring a measure of closure to the affected families.

The TRRC's work will be invaluable to providing an accounting in the case of Ebrima Manneh and others, as well as in providing advice on prosecutions and financial compensation. Most importantly, the TRRC's work can help address the culture of impunity that persisted under the Jammeh regime and restore The Gambia as a model of stability, democracy, and human rights in the region. We in the United States Senate stand ready to support you in this endeavor.

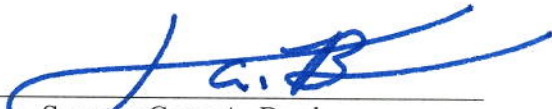
Sincerely,



Senator Richard J. Durbin



Senator Benjamin L. Cardin



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Senator Cory A. Booker



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Senator Patrick Leahy



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Senator Chris Van Hollen



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Senator Christopher A. Coons