Yundum Barracks, where soldiers accused of staging a coup were captured, executed and buried in unmarked graves in November 1994.
The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, TRRC is mandated to investigate and establish an impartial historical record of the nature, causes and extent of violations and abuses of human rights committed during the period of July 1994 to January 2017 and to consider the granting of reparations to victims and for connected matters. It started public hearings on 7th January 2019 and will proceed in chronological order, examining the most serious human rights violations that occurred from 1994 to 2016 during the rule of former President Yahya Jammeh.

While the testimonies are widely reported in the press and commented on social media, triggering vivid discussions and questions regarding the current transitional process in the country, a summary of each thematic focus/event and its findings is missing.

The TRRC Digests seek to widen the circle of stakeholders in the transitional justice process in The Gambia by providing Gambians and interested international actors, with a constructive recount of each session, presenting the witnesses and listing the names of the persons adversely mentioned and – as the case may be – their current position within State, regional or international institutions.

Furthermore, the Digests endeavor to highlight trends and patterns of human rights violations and abuses that occurred as the TRRC carries its hearings. In doing so, the TRRC Digests provide a necessary record of information and evidence uncovered – and may serve as a “checks and balances” at the end of the TRRC’s work.

After each release, the Digests are translated into Fula, Jola, Mandika and Wolof, and transmitted over local radio stations. In addition to translation and transmission of the Digests, ANEKED and The Point Newspaper facilitate panel discussions which aim to engage journalists, activists, victims, politicians and the general public to expand on the themes of the sessions, the trends and patterns arising as well as how the country can learn from the findings to prevent such atrocities in the future (#NeverAgain).
DISCLAIMER

The current publication is not a document emanating from the TRRC. It is produced by ANEKED and The Point Newspaper.

The information in this publication has been compiled from live testimonies given at the TRRC hearings. Great care has been taken to accurately represent the verbal testimonies, however errors cannot be fully excluded.

Please note that the culpability of any person adversely mentioned by witnesses can only be established by a competent court.

Discrepancies and conflicting testimonies are highlighted at the end of the Digest.

Electric cables used to tie captured soldiers on 11th November 1994 and excavated at Yundum Barracks
OVERVIEW
The second session of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, TRRC which ran from 12\textsuperscript{th} to 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2019 primarily focused on hearing testimonies on the alleged 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994 failed coup.

Among the key objectives of the second session were to understand the circumstances that led to the planning of the alleged 11\textsuperscript{th} November failed coup, how the event unfolded, what happened to those suspected of planning the coup and the role that those who opposed the coup played. In the course of the second session, witnesses who testified also referred to the 22\textsuperscript{nd} July 1994 coup and the extrajudicial killing of former Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995. The arbitrary arrests, detention and torture that individuals (including some witnesses) were subjected to, notably in January 1995, October 1995 and March-April 2006 after the alleged failed coup were also discussed.

CONTEXT
Following the 22\textsuperscript{nd} July 1994 coup, which unseated then President of The Gambia Sir Dawda K. Jawara and saw the rise of the Junta as well as the formation of the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, AFPRC, it was reported that a group of soldiers planned a coup, which eventually failed.

Led by then Lieutenant Basirou Barrow, the soldiers were reportedly dissatisfied with the AFPRC because they had failed to fulfill the promises made to them during the 22\textsuperscript{nd} July 1994 coup. These included increment of salaries, better welfare and promotions. There were also concerns regarding the human rights abuses and violations in the country under the AFPRC. The AFPRC got word of the coup and first warned soldiers about any attempts to overthrow them. However, upon being tipped off, the soldiers loyal to the AFPRC, led by Sanna Sabally (then Vice-Chairman of the AFPRC) captured soldiers suspected of staging the coup, tortured and executed them. Yahya Jammeh and the other Council members then falsely publicly claimed that the soldiers had died in an attack launched against the AFPRC.

According to the testimonies, in the late night of 10\textsuperscript{th} November/morning of 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994, 10 of the soldiers accused of planning the coup were extrajudicially killed, namely:

- Lieutenant Basirou Barrow
- Lieutenant Gibril Saye
- Lieutenant Abdoulie Dot Faal
- Sergeant Ebrima (Ebou M) Ceesay
- Lieutenant Buba Jammeh\textsuperscript{1}
- Sergeant Fafa Nyang
- Lieutenant Lamin Darboe
- Sergeant Basirou Camara
- Lieutenant Bakary Sanneh/Nyancho
- Cadet Amadou Sillah

Their remains were buried in various locations including Yundum Barracks and Nyambai forest in Brikama.

In the course of the second session, 12 persons testified, of whom six were victims, two were perpetrators and four were witnesses to the events discussed. All persons who testified were invited or voluntarily offered to testify. Six of these witnesses are resident in Europe and North America, three of whom testified via video conferencing while the other three were flown in by the TRRC to testify.

The human rights violations reported during this session include:

- Extrajudicial killing
- Torture
- Inhumane and degrading prison conditions
- Arbitrary arrest and detention
- Confiscation of private property (infringement to the right to property)

\textsuperscript{1}Not the same person as Buba Jammeh alias Kanilai, cousin to Yahya Jammeh, who reportedly warned the AFPRC about the planned coup.
During this session, 50 persons were adversely mentioned in relation to human rights violations committed, namely:

- **Momoudou BADJIE**: Former Regional Commissioner of the North Bank Region and Ambassador to Mauritania. Serving as the Security Adviser to President of The Gambia, Adama Barrow at the time of mention. Accused of being present during the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Alpha BAH**: Accused of having participated in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Ebrima BAH**: Accused of torturing inmates at Mile 2 Prison on 6\textsuperscript{th} September 1994 dubbed “Night of terror” by detainees.

- **Yunusa BARRY**: Accused of having participated in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.


- **Lamin BOJANG**: Former Lance Corporal. Accused of having participated in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Momodou BOJANG**: Former Commissioner of Janjanbureh Prison. Accused of torture.


- **Lamin COLLEY**: Former Lance Corporal a medic of the Gambia National Army, serving in the army as Warrant Officer Class 2 at the time of mention. Accused of killing Fafa Nyang on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Salmina DRAMMEH**: Accused of arbitrary arrest and detention of Sainey Faye in October 1995.

- **Lamin FATTY**: Former Lance Corporal. Serving in the army as a Major at the time of mention. Accused of torture and participation in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Pa Alieu GOMEZ**: Former Sergeant of the army. Accused of having participated in the killing of then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995.

- **Paul “Papu” GOMEZ**: Former Sergeant in the Gambia National Army, serving in the army at time of mention. Accused of having participated in the executions and burial on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.


- **Buba JAMMEH alias Kanilai**\textsuperscript{2}: Cousin to Yahya Jammeh and a former soldier of the Gambia National Army. Accused of participating in the torture and the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **E. JAMMEH**\textsuperscript{3}: Former Inspector General of Police. Accused of torturing a brother of Saihou Sabally which resulted to his death, shortly after his release.

- **Yahya JAMMEH**: Former Lieutenant in the Gambia National Army and Chairman of the AFPRC. Accused of having ordered the torture of perceived opposition sympathizers and the extrajudicial killing of the soldiers of the alleged 11th November failed coup. In exile in Equatorial Guinea at time of mention.

- **Batch Samba JALLOW**: Former Lance Corporal and former driver to Edward Singhateh. Accused of torture in September 1994 and of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.4

- **B.K. JATTA**: Former staff sergeant in the Gambia National Army. Reportedly in the United Stated at the time of mention. Accused of participating in the killing of former Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay.

- **Baboucarr JATTA**: Former Army Commander. Accused of being present during the executions on 11th November 1994.

- **Lamaranah JALLOW**: Accused of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

- **Modou Pika JALLOW**: Former National Intelligence Agency, NIA agent. Accused of arbitrary arrests.

- **Wandifa Saidy JENG**: Officer in the Gambia National Army. Reportedly serving in the army and resident in Farato, Gambia at time of mention. Accused of participating in the torture of Sainey Faye in October 1995.

- **Lamin JOBARTEH**: Former soldier of the Gambia National Army. Accused of arbitrary arrests.

- **Baba JOBE**: Businessman and close associate of Jammeh, National Assembly majority leader of the ruling AFPRC party from 2001 to 2003. Accused of assaulting a detainee and breaking his finger. Deceased (2011).

- **Alhagie KANYI (alias ‘mofa kanyi’ (“Killerman”))**: Former Army Corporal, serving at the Immigration department at Soma at time of mention. Participated in torture and executions on 11th November 1994 and in the killing of then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay. Also accused of torture.

- **Musa KINTEH**: Accused of arbitrary arrest and torture.

- **Sanna Manjang**: Former soldier in the Gambia National Army. Accused of torture.

- **Almamo MANNEH**: Accused of torture of Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara (who reportedly succumbed from his injuries) from January 1995 on. Deceased (2000).

- **Sainey MANNEH**: Former NIA agent. Accused of arbitrary arrest.

- **Daba MAREN AH**: Former head of the NIA. Accused of arbitrary detention and torture. Deceased (2006).

- **Lamin MARONG**: Former Lance Corporal. Accused of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

- **Alhagie MARTIN**: Sergeant in the Gambia National Army. Serving as General in the army at time of mention. Accused of torturing Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara (who reportedly succumbed from his injuries) from January 1995 on.

- **Babucarr MBOOB**: Former Lance Corporal of the army. Reported to be residing in New York, United States at the time of testimonies. Accused of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.


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2Not the same as Buba Jammeh, the soldier killed during the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup.

3First name not given.

4Not the same as Batch Samba Jallow, the witness who testified in the first session about his arrest and torture in October 1995.
- **B.A. NJIE**: Former private soldier. Accused of having participated in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **B.K. NJIE**: Former staff Sergeant in the army. Accused of having participated in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **B. Njie also known as PONKAL**: Former private soldier. Accused of having participated in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Sanna SABALLY**: Former Captain of the Gambia National Army and the first Vice Chairman of the AFPRC, reported to have been working as a nurse in Germany and most recently in Dakar for a German organization at the time of mention. Accused of having participated in torturing detainees in September 1994 and in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Baba SAHO**: Former agent of the NIA. Reportedly working at the Gambian Embassy in Guinea Bissau at time of mention. Accused of participating in the torture of Sainey Faye in October 1995.

- **Bubacarr SANYANG**: Former Sergeant and Major. Serving member in the Gambia National Army at time of mention. Accused of torture and supervising the burials on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Harry SAMBOU**: Director of the NIA in 2006. Mentioned in relation to torture taking place at the NIA after the March 2006 failed coup.

- **Edward SINGHATEH**: Former Lieutenant of the Gambia National Army and second Vice Chairman of the AFPRC, served in the cabinet during Jammeh’s regime, from 2016 to 2018, he was the Vice President of ECOWAS. Said to be residing in Nigeria at the time of mention. Accused of torture in September 1994, of participating in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994, of torturing Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara (who reportedly succumbed from his injuries) from January 1995 on and in the killing of then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay.

- **Peter SINGHATEH**: Former Lieutenant of the Gambia National Army, reported to be residing and working as a pilot in the United Kingdom at the time of mention. Accused of torture in September 1994, of participating in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994 and in the killing of then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay.

- **Jali Musa SUSSO**: Accused of participating in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Ousman TAMBA**: Former NIA agent. Accused of arbitrary arrest and of causing physical impairment.

- **Tumbul TAMBA**: Former NIA agent. Accused of participating in the killing of then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay. Deceased.

- **Mustapha Churro TOURAY**: Former member of the Gambia National Army. Accused of participating in the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994.

- **Yankuba TOURAY**: Former Lieutenant of the Gambia National Army. He held different ministerial portfolios in Jammeh’s regime, including Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture, Local Government and Land. Accused of torture in September 1994, of participating the executions on 11\textsuperscript{th} November 1994 and in the killing of then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay. Awaiting trial for witness tampering at the time of the release of this edition.
5 TYPES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RECORDED

- extrajudicial killing
- torture
- arbitrary arrest/detention
- detention under inhumane and degrading conditions
- confiscation of private property (infringement to the right to property)

12 PERSONS TESTIFIED
- 6 victims
- 2 perpetrators
- 4 witnesses to the events

50 PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED
as perpetrators of and/or accessory to human rights violations

PLACES

- YUNDUM BARRACKS
- FAJARA BARRACKS
- NYAMBAI FOREST NEAR SIFO AREA
- RESIDENCE OF YANKUBA TOURAY AROUND KERR SERIGN
- MILE 2 PRISON
- KAIRABA POLICE STATION
- NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
- POLICE HEADQUARTERS
- SPECIAL DETENTION CENTRE BEHIND JESHWANG PRISON
- JANJANBUREH PRISON
The summary of the testimonies given are as follows:

**WITNESS NAME:** Mohamadou Cadi CHAM (known as MC Cham)

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 11th February 2019

**EVENT(S) DISCUSSED:** 22nd July Coup and his arrests, notably in October 1995 and 2006

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S):** Member of the People’s Progressive Party, PPP and government

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S):** Opposed the July 1994 coup

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Retired politician

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** MC Cham stated that weeks after the coup d’état, he made comments to the media refuting negative statements by the Junta about the Jawara regime and highlighted some achievements of the PPP government including the establishment of the Gambia Armed Forces (which gave the soldiers a platform to overthrow the government), the Gendarmerie, ferry services, roads, and schools among others. He was arrested the next day and detained at Banjul Police Station for weeks without any charges. Searches were conducted at his residence by the Junta, they took documents as well as books and ransacked the properties of his wives. He was arrested several times and said he felt humiliated, dehumanized and disgraced by the arrests considering his background and services rendered to the nation.

Persons arrested with him also without warrant included Lamin Waa Juwara and Badou Faye. Witness Cham said his second detention was triggered by false allegation that he convened an anti-AFPRC meeting at his residence. In 1995, he was arrested again and alleged to have asked businesses to close shops because there was an ongoing coup. The witness described the conditions of the police cells as damped, filthy, dark and smelly and mosquitos infected. Detainees were not allowed to change clothes or to take showers.

Witness Cham said that in 1995, two of his properties in Banjul and in Fajara were confiscated whilst he was in detention. His family were sent out and they were only allowed to take out their clothing. Thanks to his lawyer the two properties were not expropriated but were used by the Junta as a residence for some of their people. When these people were forced to move out, they took along many valuable things including 60,000 cement blocks, the doors, windows and the corrugated iron sheets.

He said he was also arrested in October 1995 and detained in a hangar at Fajara Barracks alongside around 46 others including O.J. Jallow, Ousainou Njie, Baboucar Ceesay, Moustapha Ceesay, Jobarteh Manneh, Ismaela Jawara, Malang Fatty, Omar Bah, Souleyman Camara and Imam Seedy Khan, Lamin or Mamadou Fadera an old man called Sonko, Batch Samba Jallow, Ousman Jallow – some of them were block makers arrested at random. According to the witness, these men were arrested allegedly for preparing a demonstration before the US embassy, but MC Cham believed it was an alibi to arrest him, O.J. Jallow and Ousainou Darboe and as they were prominent personalities.

The military officers present at the hangar were

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5Witness could not remember the first name
6Not the same as Batch Samba Jallow, former driver to Edward Sing hateh and accused of committing human rights violations
Almamo Manneh who he described as “a terrible man, amongst the worst”, one Mendy, Bojang and Sanyang (but he could not remember the exact names). Almamo Manneh hit him with the branch of a tree. He suffered injuries on his back and his clothes were soaked with blood. The soldiers stripped them naked and made them sit on the floor. They were kicked and beaten by the soldiers with sticks. One day, seven of them were taken to a makeshift urinal and subjected to a mock execution. Then, the same was done to all other detainees. Almamo Manneh and the rest said “you people you have been stealing and eating this country’s wealth for 30 years but you will not allow Yahya Jammeh and his men even for a little period”. The witness said that he was quite certain that the officers did all of this on the instructions of Yahya Jammeh, who they called many names, including “crocodile”, “the boss”, “chairman”, “the big man”.

He added that two women were also detained at the barracks. They supported the PPP and UDP.

The women suffered the same humiliation and torture. In fact, their fate was worth as they were detained with only men.

After a couple of weeks they were taken to Banjul. For the first six months of detention, the food was inadequate and only served once a day and the sanitary conditions degrading with lack of toilet facilities, no showers and changes of clothes and no family members or lawyers were allowed to visit. MC Cham explained that he saw the members of the Junta passing by, and could hear them talking but they never came to see the detainees. Edward Singhateh who MC Cham knew very well and who had lived for free with the witness’ family at his residence never visited him.

After about six months in detention, Baboucarr Jatta the army Commander came to visit the detainees and acknowledged that he did not know the reason of their detention. The witness voiced the detainees’ grievances in clear terms. Conditions improved after Jatta’s visit: a medical doctor came to visit the detainees, they could leave the hangar during the day and do physical exercise. But the families were still not allowed to visit and the sleeping arrangements did not improve.

The witness reckoned that the arrests of former leaders without due process intended to testify and intimidate the general public, showing that respected personalities could be arrested in impunity, showing that the rest of the public better be careful.

MC Cham attested that religious leaders including Imam Baba Leigh came to Fajara Barracks and informed them that they were sent by the Junta to express regret over their detention. This is because they were important personalities in the society and called on them to desist from politics. Thereafter, the detainees were released. In total the detention lasted for 13 months. After the release, MC Cham was under a travel ban.

In 2006, MC Cham was rearrested after an alleged failed coup. He was detained at cell number 4 of the maximum-security wing at Mile 2. He was not told the reasons for his incarceration and was not shown any warrant of arrest. He was also not informed of any of his rights and not allowed to a service of a lawyer. He was never brought to court.

Sheriff Mustapha Dibba, the National Assembly speaker at the time of mention was arrested a few days later and tortured. The prison conditions were inhumane. Food and hygienic articles were sent to him by some of his friends.

Laye Conteh, a senior military officer was detained in security 1, which according to the witness, is
the place where detainees were brought to be “treated terribly”. Around 1 am the guards came to take the detainees to the National Intelligence Agency, NIA to be tortured. One morning, the witness saw Laye Conteh, with a swollen face and wounds. Conteh told him that he could not recognize the persons who had beat him as their faces were covered with a black cloak.

A few days later, the witness was taken to the NIA himself, together with Badijie (former NIA Director and relative of Yahya Jammeh), Riaf Diab and others in the middle of the night. At the NIA, MC Cham recognized Harry Sambou, the Director of the NIA who told him that everything would be okay and to calm down. The detainees were pushed out of the vehicle, with their hands tied behind their backs, and felt on the ground.

At the NIA, they were taken into a hole, where he found a woman (the witness was asked not to mention her name) in a severe condition with another guy who was barely alive. The woman was naked and the witness said he thought that she would never survive because of what happened to her. MC Cham testified that

He said freedom of the press is paramount in every democratic society and if the mass is denied their right to access to information, no meaningful development can take place.

He also condemned nepotism and cronyism as well as corruption.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Torture
Almamo Manneh, Harry Sambou, one Mendy, one Bojang and one Sanyang (the witness could not remember the exact names)
Order to torture
Yahya Jammeh

“What they did to her, they would not do it any man, they do not do that to men, they don’t get to that extend with men”.

The witness then recounted the torture he and the other detainees went through. He sustained permanent injuries from the beatings and from the extreme tight handcuffs.

MC Cham was released after about three weeks together with Riaf Diab. He was not arrested again.

On his recommendation to the TRRC, MC Cham said employment opportunity should be offered by merit and labour must be adequately rewarded and there should transparency and accountability in the governance of the country.
**WITNESS NAME:** Bubacarr BAH

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 12th February 2019

**EVENT (S) DISCUSSED:** 22nd July Coup and the alleged 11th November failed coup

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S):** Acting Sergeant, Gambia National Army, GNA training school

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S):** Defended Fajara Barracks against the supposed attack on 11th November 1994

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Captain in the GNA

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** The witness testified that on the morning of 22nd July 1994, he saw soldiers running towards the main gate area of Fajara Barracks. He was told there was a mutiny at Yundum Barracks and that Fajara Barracks might possibly be attacked and that some officers had gone to Denton Bridge to stop the mutineers. The witness then signed for his rifle at Faraja Barracks. He also tried to contact some of his colleagues to warn them but the lines were dead. He suddenly heard sustained firing outside and went out and found a group of heavily armed soldiers led by Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara advancing towards him and two of his colleagues.

Bah said he and his colleagues were used as human shield by the mutineers as they moved towards Fajara Barracks. As they gained ground, the mutineers fired up and to the sides. The gendarmes at Fajara Barracks were firing back but the mutineers managed to reach Fajara Barracks and most of the gendarmes fled.

Bubacarr Bah and the remaining gendarmes were arrested on Sanna Sabally's orders and taken to Yundum Barracks where they were kept at the Senior Officers’ Mess for two to three days. After his release, the witness was allowed to report back to work. He was told that the soldiers had looted Fajara Barracks.

The witness testified that on 10th November 1994, around 11 pm, he was told by one Sanna Bayo of the possibility of an attack by foreign mercenaries. Bah later saw some of his colleagues collecting weapons from the armoury who repeated the information he had previously heard. The witness therefore took weapons, ammunition and grenades.

According to Bah, later that night there was firing at Fajara Barracks, which he partook in as he tried to defend the barracks against the alleged enemies. The firing continued until the early morning of 11th November. After exhausting his ammunition, he left to go to Bakau and then returned to Fajara Barracks where he was told by colleagues that officers had been arrested and lined up in the fields in Fajara Barracks. The Council members ordered their orderlies and other soldiers to fire at them. Peter Singhateh, the then Commandant at the training school came and confirmed that there had been an attempted coup and that individuals had been killed. The witness particularly remembered Peter Singhateh mentioning Cadet Amadou Sillah as killed. Peter Singhateh further added that a few of the putschist were on the run and that they were looking for them. On the same day, the witness saw then Lance Corporal Abdouli Mboob and another soldier, whose name he could not remember, escort former 2nd Lieutenant Abdouli Bah (aka Achopie) who was only wearing his underwear to the then Commanding Officer.

On Sunday 14th November, the witness heard that there had been an execution the day before at Yundum Barracks, around Nyambai Forest and Sifo
area. On Monday, Peter Singhateh gathered all the school instructors and informed them again that there had been an attempted coup, which resulted in some individuals being killed. He then warned that anyone involved in the attempted coup would face the same fate. The witness recalled also hearing that Basirou Barrow, Gibril Saye and Ebrima (Ebou M) Ceesay had been executed in Nyambai Forest.

In October 1995, the witness who was still working with the GNA training school saw detainees, including Omar O.J. Jallow being brought in at Fajara Barracks and escorted to a hangar. Almamo Manneh, who was escorting the detainees called the witness and told him that people like O.J. Jallow were the main problem for The Gambia, adding that O.J. Jallow was planning to bring foreign mercenaries to attack the country.

The witness said that at this period he was young and gullible. As he personally knew Almamo Manneh, he believed him and joined in beating and torturing O.J. Jallow: punching O.J. Jallow in his stomach and as O.J. Jallow bent, he repeatedly beat and kicked him even when he fell down.

Witness Bubacarr Bah admitted being involved in beating O.J. Jallow on about three or more occasions. He further added that he came to realise that the allegations levelled against O.J. Jallow were untrue. He stated that he deeply regretted taking part in the beating and torture of O.J. Jallow and that after the “O.J. incident”, he never took part in any killings or torture of anyone even though there were many opportunities to do so.

In 2012, Bah was arrested along with his guards on the orders of Yahya Jammeh. They were accused of having dug a dead ram out at Fajara Barracks, which they refuted. They were then put in front of a National Intelligence Agency, NIA investigation panel and interrogated. One night, children were also brought to the NIA for questioning in relation to this incident. He was released after about 4 days.

The witness was arrested a second time during the political impasse in 2016. The witness who was the Deputy Commander at Fajara Barracks at the time was asked by then General Commander Sulayman Badjie to plant and detonate explosives in order to blame the coalition who had won the elections. Bah did not comply with the request and a few days later was arrested, taken to the NIA and kept in an underground cell. A few hours later, he was taken to a special detention centre, which looked like a private home that had been modified and which was located behind Jeshwang Prison. He spent about a week there and was released on the 19th/20th January 2017. Upon his release, he realised that about 14 of his colleagues had also been detained there.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Torture
Almamo Manneh
Ordered Arbitrary detention
Yahya Jammeh

Captain Bubacarr Bah extended his apologies to O.J. Jallow, his family and to the Gambian people.

He ended by indicating that he was willing to apply for amnesty before the commission in relation to this event.
WITNESS NAME: Sainey FAYE

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 13th February 2019

EVENT (S) DISCUSSED: Arbitrary detention and torture of the witness

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Businessman

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): United Democratic Party, UDP member

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Businessman/Importer of goods

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Sainey Faye stated that on 12th October 1995, he went to the US embassy to collect a visa application form for his brother. While leaving, he met a large group of National Intelligence Agency officers led by Ousman Tamba, Musa Kinteh and Modou Pika Jallow. Ousman Tamba asked the witness to join them. They were met by one Sainey Manneh (who the witness knew). Manneh told Ousman Tamba to move towards Bakau area because the Americans may be seeing them using their satellite. Faye resisted when they tried to arrest him and Ousman Tamba, Musa Kinteh, Modou Pika Jallow, Sainey Manneh and others assaulted and severely beat him resulting in breaking his ankle. They forced him into a vehicle and took him to Kairaba Police Station. Once there, the witness could not walk and had to crawl to go inside the station.

He was searched and nothing was found except for his praying beads.

The witness said he was transferred to the NIA headquarters, where he and others who had been arrested were received by Daba Marenah, Baba Saho, Salmina Drammeh, Sainey Manneh, Musa Kinteh and others including soldiers from the State House. They were led to a big hall and Daba Marenah called the detainees one by one for interrogation. Upon seeing the witness, Daba Marenah told him that one Bakary Camara had reported him to the NIA for hosting anti-government meetings at his shop. The witness categorically refuted the allegation. He was escorted to an office without any help where he met other NIA officers and State Guards. They asked him to undress and said: “Before you people kill us, we will kill you first”.

They proceeded to electrocuting his various body parts: genitals, ears and nose for over 30 minutes. The witness said he nearly fainted. He added that they were kicking and beating him at the same time. He was then asked to leave and as he was crawling, the soldiers kicked him on his broken leg. Daba Marenah was present and supervising the torture as well as one Wandifa Saidu Jeng who hit the witness. The other detainees were also subjected to this torture.

Witness Faye said he was later transferred with the others who had been arrested to Fajara Barracks and kept with other detainees in an old garage, which he described as big, with only one exit; no ventilation and with numerous insects including mosquitoes. Upon arrival, they were told that they would all be taken to Brikima firing squad to be killed during the night. However, in the early morning, the head of the guards had a radio with him and heard on the BBC the names of the detainees being called out. It was reported that
they (including Witness Batch Samba Jallow) wanted to collaborate with then Captain Ebou Jallow to invade the country. A few hours later, they saw two big trucks with soldiers led by Almamo Manneh. He ordered the detainees to lie on the ground, stretch their legs and when they did, he trampled on their backs. Almamo Manneh then gave orders to the soldiers accompanying him to beat the detainees. One of the detainees was a woman who was assaulted by one soldier “Bombardier” and started profusely bleeding. One soldier by the name of Sanna Manjang attempted to kill one of the detainees (Ismaela Jawara) by twisting his neck but the other detainees shouted and he stopped. The witness said that whilst Almamo Manneh was beating them, he said: “Before you reach Yahya Jammeh, you will have to pass through us”.

Sainey Faye testified that the soldiers promised to come back and continue from where they stopped. He added that the soldiers later brought in Omar “O.J” Jallow, MC Cham and the late Ousainou Njie, who were severely tortured by the soldiers under the command of Almamo Manneh.

Witness Faye stated that Alhagie Kanyi alias ‘mofa kanyi’ (“Killerman”) repeatedly tortured lawyer Ousainou Darboe inside the garage and that the then Inspector General of Police E. Jammeh, tortured a brother of Saihou Sabally which he believes resulted to his death, shortly after their release.

He explained that they were kept under detention for almost 14 months without access to a lawyer, their family nor medical assistance until they were visited by two UN representatives.

Witness Faye said he was eventually charged on 5 counts including sedition and conspiracy to commit an act with seditious intention and that he was prosecuted by Fatou Bensouda, the Deputy Director of Prosecution at the time. He said Fatou Bensouda made an application for their detention to be extended for 90 days, and when that elapsed, she made another application for another extension until they were held for over a year. The charges were changed to treason, but he was never arraigned before a Court of law for this alleged offence. He said he was finally discharged and told that he was not allowed to talk about politics.

On the impact that the detention had on him and his family, Sainey Faye said that he sustained injuries to his leg, that the education of his children was disrupted and that many of those detained alongside him are now dead because of the torture they were subjected to.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Arbitrary arrest
Ousman Tamba, Musa Kinteh, Modou Pika Jallow, Sainey Manneh
Arbitrary detention
Daba Marenah, Baba Saho, Salmina Drammeh, Sainey Manneh, Musa Kinteh
Corruption of justice
Fatou Bensouda
Torture
Almamo Manneh, Baba Saho, Musa Kinteh, Daba Marenah, Alhagie Kanyi, E. Jammeh, Wandifa Saidy Jeng, one “Bombardier”, Sanna Manjang
WITNESS NAME: Lamin Waa JUWARA

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 13th February 2019

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT: Member of Parliament

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: Multiple arbitrary arrests and detention

ROLE DURING THE EVENT: Victim of arbitrary arrest and detention

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Not Stated

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Lamin Waa Juwara told the Commission that he was arrested soon after the 22nd July 1994 coup when he made his views known to the public that the Junta was turning into a dictatorship. He was taken to Kairaba Police Station where he was kept for 11 days and then transferred to Janjanbureh Prison in Central River Region for 3 months and put in solitary confinement. He was not informed of the reason of his arrest nor was he charged before a magistrate’s court. He also recalled being threatened and told he would die if he continued opposing the government. Though he said he was not tortured on this particular occasion, he recalled the prison conditions as being terrible.

Lamin Juwara testified that after his release, he was re-arrested in 1995 this time with one Imam Karamo Touray and taken to Mile 2 Prison. Witness Juwara said that on their way to the prison, just before reaching the bridge, they came across a group of what he described as “hooligans” led by Baba Jobe. They assaulted the witness who as a result sustained a broken finger. He said Baba Jobe was working for Yahya Jammeh and was feared by everyone. The police officers escorting him finally intervened and they proceeded to Mile 2. At Mile 2, he was taken to the security wing together with Karamo Touray without being processed first. He said he was not told of the reason of his arrest and detention, nor allowed family visitation or access to a lawyer on this particular occasion.

Lamin Waa Juwara stated that Sanna Sabally, the former Vice Chairman of the AFPRC was at Mile 2 and had been beaten and tortured prior to his (the witness’) arrival. He remained there for about two weeks then was released.

In 1996, he was arrested again and first taken to Kairaba Police Station, then Yundum Barracks and finally at Janjanbureh Prison. The witness was not told of the reason of his arrest but believes this was a tactic by the Jammeh regime to intimidate him.

At Janjanbureh Prison, the witness stated that he was beaten by Momodou Bojang, the then Commissioner of the prison among others. He was again not given access to a lawyer nor was he allowed contact with his family, leading to speculations as to whether he was still alive. He added that he was detained in inhumane and degrading conditions and released after a year. He added that Momodou Bojang came to see him after his release and before his (Bojang’s) departure for the US to apologise for his participation in beating the witness.

In 2012, he joined the government of Yahya Jammeh and served as Minister for Local Government and Lands as he felt he would contribute to the development of the country. However, in 2014, he...
was **re-arrested** soon after being removed as minister and charged for “neglect of official duty” on false allegations that he had wrongfully allocated land that belonged to Yahya Jammeh. He was sentenced to 6 months in prison.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

*Torture*

Baba Jobe, Momodou Bojang

He was again **not given access** to a lawyer nor was he allowed contact with his family, leading to speculations as to whether he was still alive.
WITNESS NAME: Momodou Lamin GASSAMA

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 14th February 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT: Captain in the GNA/ Aide de Camp to the President

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Accompanied President Sir Dawda Jawara in exile

POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Not Stated

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Gassama testified that prior to July 1994, there were rumours of an attempt to end Sir Dawda Jawara’s life, however, it was difficult to know what was true and what was not. He explained he was concerned that Nigeria could at any time have a change of government and pull out their troops, thus creating a command vacuum. He therefore suggested that the Nigerians assumed an advisory role and Gambian soldiers took the command positions. Three Gambian officers were selected to go on course to be able to become Commander of the army, but the nomination never happened.

On 21st July, Witness Gassama returned from the UK with Sir Dawda Jawara. As he returned to his residence in Mile 7, he was visited by Touro Jawneh then head of the Tactical Support Group, TSG who told him that there was meant to be a demonstration led by Yahya Jammeh at the airport, but that he had assigned Sergeant Alhagie Martin to ensure nothing happened.

The next morning, he went to the State House where he was briefed by Kebba Ceesay (then head of the National Security Service) about shootings at Yundum Barracks. The witness informed the then Vice President and Minister of Defence Saihou Sabally, who told him he was aware of the situation and that they were monitoring it. The witness then asked Samsudeen Sarr to go to the Marine Unit to bring more soldiers to secure the State House as it was virtually devoid of security.

The witness said he briefed Sir Dawda Jawara and suggested he sought refuge on the American ship, which he refused. He called Colonel Akoji who was with Mamat Cham and Captain Ben Wilson. The Colonel told him that soldiers had taken Yundum and Fajara Barracks as well as Radio Gambia, burnt the telecoms and were now at Denton Bridge. The witness relayed this message to the President and told him they believed it was a coup. After several discussions, Sir Dawda Jawara finally accepted to leave with his family to the American ship. Once on the ship, Sir Dawda Jawara asked the witness to call the Inspector General of Police, Pa Sallah Jagne to find out what the demands of the coup makers were. Gassama also spoke to Samsudeen Sarr who told him he was at Radio Gambia which surprised the witness, saying he had earlier asked him to go to Marine Unit to get reinforcement. Pa Sallah Jagne then came to the boat and once onboard, was accused of being the ring leader by Sir Dawda Jawara and locked up in a cell.

Witness Gassama said that he made the suggestion to be anchored facing State House as to monitor the movements there. According to him, the American ship
was well equipped and stronger than the entire Gambia National Army. The idea was to have the Americans intervene and stop the coup which the Americans also believed they could.

From Friday night to Saturday, Sir Dawda negotiated with the Senegalese for asylum. On Saturday 23rd July, the American ship received a request from the coup makers to move away which they did. Gassama said this made him suspect the Americans might have been supporting the coup makers. Senegal finally accepted Sir Dawda Jawara’s request for asylum on the condition that he would not engaged in any activities to get back in power.

The witness said that Edward Singhateh then finally spoke to Sir Dawda Jawara and informed him he could come back but not as the President. Sir Dawda Jawara tried to persuade them to go back to the barracks in exchange for immunity. The negotiations failed and the American ship headed to Senegal on Sunday essentially ending the Jawara regime.

In Senegal, discussions were held with Senegalese officials, including President Abdou Diouf. Foreign officials also tried to convince Abdou Diouf to the use of Senegal’s airspace, but he refused. On 22nd August 1994, they went to the UK and made further attempts with Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea Conakry for help to restore legality in Gambia but to no avail.

Gassama was later told by Pa Sallah Jagne that he believed the coup had been planned since April 1994 and that the then Vice President and Minister of Defence, Saihou Sabally was implicated.

The witness ended his testimony by strongly condemning those involved in planning the July 22nd coup under the pretext of handing power to civilian rule after 3 months. He said that there is not a single success story of a coup d’état in Africa as they end up wrecking the economy of the country and destroying lives.

Gassama stated that it is unreasonable to ask for people to forgive and forget when those who have committed human rights violations including torture are still in position of influence within the current government and abroad.

He asked the nation not to use the excuse of the Gambian culture which is to “forgive” and called for actions to be taken before the completion of the TRRC, including removing the perpetrators of human rights violations from their current positions.

He finally called on religious leaders to speak out and not excuse human rights violations, as citizens need to be held accountable for their actions.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
None
**WITNESS NAME:** Babucarr Malick JENG

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 19th & 20th February 2019

**POSITION AT TIME OF EVENTS:**
Regimental Sergeant Major

**EVENT(S) DISCUSSED:** 22nd July 1994, 6th September 1994, alleged 11th November failed coup

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S):** He refused to be part of the coup

**POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Living and working in the UK as Principal Telecom Field Officer

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Describing the conditions of the army before the coup and the presence of the Nigerian Army Training and Assistance Group, NATAG, the witness said that:

- the two demonstrations by soldiers from the peacekeeping mission in Liberia over delay in payment of allowances could have been avoided if the Ministry of Defence had had the capacity to run a military service, something he believes is still lacking in The Gambia;
- conditions of service for the soldiers were not perfect but were accepted by the soldiers;
- an award of D6M was promised to the army after a visit by then President Jawara to improve the conditions but only one third was ever released;
- NATAG had taken over top command of the Gambia National Army, GNA which senior Gambian officers had issues with including himself.

Recalling events on the 21st July 1994, Bubacarr Jeng testified that the then Acting Army Commander, Colonel Akoji had requested him to join him at the airport as there was rumours of a planned coup. He went to the camp to find out what was going on and saw trucks heading to the airport and stopped them. Then Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) and Company Sergeant Major Gibril Saye informed him the vehicles were loaded with live ammunition. The trucks were unloaded and the arms returned back to the armoury.

The witness recalled having a conversation with Edward Sing hateh and Yahya Jammeh as to their unusual presence at the camp at that time. Then he ordered that all the weapons carried by the soldiers were cleared at the camp. On his way to the airport, one of the soldier’s wife at the camp told him that the soldiers were rumouring about a coup.

At the airport, Jeng warned the soldiers against the rumours of a coup being pedalled around. They assured him they were clear and requested that he search them. Jeng said none of the soldiers were armed except Yahya Jammeh who was armed as was normal for his position. At the airport, Jeng saw Yahya Jammeh’s weapon taken from him by Commander Akoji and said that an exchange between Yahya Jammeh and the Commander led him to suspect that Akoji knew something about the rumoured coup. Bubacarr Jeng continued to monitor Yahya Jammeh as a result of his peculiar behaviour.

The witness said he was later informed by one of the drivers - Corporal Dampha - that the officers (he believed to be Yahya Jammeh, Edward Sing hateh, Momodou Sonko and others) he (the driver) had taken home had said that Bubacarr Jeng was now aware of their plans and that they should have commandeered
the vehicle and escaped to Casamance.

Bubacarr Jeng said he later called Colonel Akoji to recount what the driver had told him and asked him to hand over the names of the officers so he could arrest them but Akoji dismissed his request. He proceeded home after that.

On the morning of 22nd July, the witness explained that he drove to work in the morning with Captain Joseph P. Jasseh, who told him he heard soldiers were firing at the camp. The witness said he dismissed this as part of the training exercise that was supposed to take place.

Before they got to Denton Bridge, the witness said they were stopped and the vehicle searched by Amadou Suwareh. Suwareh allowed them to proceed however; they were stopped again before crossing the bridge by then Staff Sergeant Alhagie Martin and other Tactical Support Group officers on instruction that he, the witness was to be stopped from entering Banjul. They attempted to arrest him but he resisted.

They were later joined by Lang Tombong Tamba and Samsudeen Sarr who informed them that armed soldiers were coming towards Banjul and he (the witness) was responsible. They saw a group of heavily armed soldiers including Tumbul Tamba coming towards the bridge. Tumbul Tamba told them he was asked to secure the bridge. After a while, two truckloads of soldiers arrived at the bridge among them Yahya Jammeh, Momodou Sonko, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara and other ranks and men. He saw Amadou Suwareh and his men surrender at gunpoint.

Yahya Jammeh pulled him aside and explained that they were going to Banjul to demonstrate against NATAG. Jammeh told him that they knew he would not support their decision if he had been told. Yahya Jammeh further told him that they have taken over Faraja Barracks. Among the men who went to Faraja Barracks were Sanna Sabally and Abdoulie Dot Faal. After getting confirmation from Yahya Jammeh that no-one was injured, the witness told them he was not part of it, called the office to let them know he was not coming in as he was not allowed to come through and headed home.

On the way home, he received a call that Colonel Akoji wanted to see him. Upon arrival at the Colonel’s house, he found senior NATAG officers and Mamat Cham at the Colonel’s house. He recounted to the Colonel his experience at the bridge who responded with a laugh. The Colonel proceeded to take and make phone calls in between private conversations with Mamat Cham. Major Adamu told the witness to step out with him. Outside, the Major advised him to leave immediately as he feared for his safety.

Witness Jeng recalled that Captain Baboucarr Jatta and Captain Ben Wilson had also arrived at the Colonel’s house. When he came back in with Major Adamu, the Colonel asked him to go to Banjul to stop the boys. He declined because he felt it was a trap for him and left the Colonel’s house. Jeng told the Commission that he did not believe Colonel Akoji - then Acting Commander- took any steps to counter the coup then.

The next morning, Jeng said he decided to go back to Yundum Barracks. At the camp, he found Bun Jack, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant Sheriff Gomez, Major Chris Davis and other officers detained in the guardroom cells.

A convoy led by Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh and Samsudeen Sarr came to the barracks in the afternoon and told him they were informed that he (Babucarr Jeng) was regrouping the men to go after them (the Junta). Sanna Sabally told him that since he decided not to be part of them, it would be best if he stayed away until they made a decision. Jeng decided to join the detained officers in the guardroom as he felt that would be the safest place for him.

Around 8pm the same day, Captain Ndure Cham came to the camp and escorted the witness to attend a meeting at the State House but he was instead taken to Mile 2 Prison. The officers that were detained at
the Yundum Barracks were later brought to Mile 2 as well. The security wing they were detained in was full to capacity and they were kept in solitary confinement for the first two weeks. Later they were allowed to shower and slowly permitted more time outside.

Mr. Jeng said he was not allowed contact with his family nor access to a lawyer and was told that Yankuba Touray had denied all efforts by his family to reach him even though the rest of the Council members agreed.

On 6th September 1994 they were visited by Sanna Sablly, Edward Singateh, Sadibou Hydaya, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singateh, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Ebrima Bah and their orderlies at night.

Babucarr Jeng explained how they dragged Mamat Cham out and cuffed him while still being kicked and hit by Edward Singateh. He later heard a volley of rifle shots which led him to believe Mamat Cham had been executed. The soldiers then came for him. He was cuffed, kicked and beaten by Edward Singateh, Peter Singateh, Yankuba Touray and Batch Samba Jallow and dragged against a wall in front with three soldiers pointing their guns at him. Yankuba Touray told him to say his last prayers. He replied then “then what” after which Yankuba Touray insulted his mother which he found more painful than the beatings he was being subjected to.

He believed he was going to be executed as Edward Singateh asked the men to get ready to fire

but the incident was interrupted by a phone ringing which Edward Singateh took. After taking the call, they fired a volley of bullets similar to the previous time before taking him back to another cell.

He heard another person whom he later identified as Ebrima Chongan being subjected to similar treatment as himself and Mamat Cham. All three of them sustained severe injuries without help for days and were isolated which the witness recalled was very painful and amounted to mental torture.

On 14th October 1994, they were visited by top security brass after which they were issued with blankets and he got a brace for his neck. The witness also recalled that on 1st December 1994, they were visited by the Red Cross and that the delegation informed them about an incident on 11th November 1994 where some soldiers had been killed.

He said he eventually got the details of the 11th November executions of Basirou Barrow, Abdoulie Dot Faal, Fafa Nyang, Gibril Sey, Bakary Manneh Nyango, Abdouli Bah, Cadet Amadou Sillah, Momodou Lamin Darboe, Basirou Camara and Ebrima (Ebou M) Ceesay by Edward Singateh, Peter Singateh, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Alhagie Kanyi, Papu Gomez, Alpha Bah, J.C.B. Mendy, Mustapha Touray, Baboucar Mboob, Jali Musa Susso, Lamaranah Jallow, Lamin Colley and Yunusa Barry supervised by Sanna Sabally.

Witness Jeng testified that on the 28th January 1995, Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara were taken to Mile 2. Babucarr Sanyang and other officer escorted by Edward Singateh and Alhagie Martin and his orderlies including Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Alhagie Kanyi, Papu Gomez, Alpha Bah, J.C.B. Mendy, Mustapha Touray, Baboucar Mboob, Jali Musa Susso, Lamaranah Jallow, Medic Colley and Yunusa Barry. These men frequently visited the prison to torture Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara.

The witness health deteriorated in prison and he was eventually admitted at the hospital where he was able to see his father. His father told him that his daughter had passed away in November and that the family’s request to allow him to attend his daughter’s funeral was denied by Yankuba Touray.

Witness Jeng suspected Edward Singateh of wanting to kill him while he was admitted at the hospital.
Yahya Jammeh and Edward Singhateh visited him there. He said he expressed his concerns to Yahya Jammeh over the possibility of a fall out among the AFPRC and cautioned them to be careful of sending the country into anarchy.

Bubacarr Jeng was released on 30th December 1996 and later dismissed from the service without the proper procedure meaning he is technically still employed by the army.

Witness Jeng proceeded to offer advice on security reforms in the country such as:

- ensuring ending the history of government failing to pay soldiers’ allowance on time or people in authority tampering with soldiers’ allowances which is still happening;
- the President paying a surprise visit to the army barracks to see first-hand the living conditions of the soldiers and appeal for the soldiers to be supported and not alienated;
- urging the government to be strong and decisive with the army as it is not fit for purpose and is not serving the country; that the army needs to be restructured, resized, and provided with enough facilities and training and that The Gambia does not have external threat to fight; the threat is internal and without proper training, discipline and regimentation, the country will get nowhere;
- the excessive amount of money being pumped into the army without results.

When questioned about how junior officers were able to take over the country and become leaders and not the superiors officers, the witness responded that back then, he believed senior army officers had allowed politicians to interfere in the affairs of the army to the extent that the coup was not just planned by the four lieutenants but was backed by certain influential individuals who were not happy when President Jawara decided to stay in power. He added that he believes that then Vice President and Minister of Defence, Mr. Saihou Sabally and then Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Defence backed the soldiers in carrying out the coup.

Babucarr Jeng finally appealed to the TRRC to look into organizing a Remembrance Day for victims and to exhume the bodies of the gallant soldiers buried at Yundum Barracks for proper burial and to help boost the soldiers’ moral.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:

**Extrajudicial killing**
Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Alhagie Kanyi, Papu Gomez, Alpha Bah, J.C.B. Mendy, Mustapha Touray, Baboucar Mboob, Jali Musa Susso, Lamaranah Jallow, Lamin Colley, Yunusa Barry

**Torture (his and the ones of Sanna Sabally and Sabidou Hydara)**
Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singhateh, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Ebrima Bah, Alhagie Martin, Alhagie Kanyi, Papu Gomez, Alpha Bah, J.C.B. Mendy, Mustapha Touray, Baboucar Mboob, Jali Musa Susso, Lamaranah Jallow, Lamin Colley, Yunusa Barry

**Arbitrary arrest**
Ndure Cham
WITNESS NAME: Dr Binneh Minteh

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 20 February 2019

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT: Soldier in the Gambia National Army, GNA

EVENTS DISCUSSED: Alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Participated in staging the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Not Stated

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Dr Binneh Minteh stated that shortly after the July 1994 coup, the Gambia security and political landscape was very polarised. There was a lot of discontentment and many human rights abuses taking place across the country.

The witness stated that he was approached by Abdoulie Dot Faal in September 1994 about a plan that was being prepared to remove Yahya Jammeh. The witness stated that they both agreed that the Junta had betrayed the principles outlined in the manifesto that had defined the July 1994 coup. According to the witness, Abdoulie Dot Faal was outraged by the human rights abuses taking place in the country under the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, AFPRC. Abdoulie Dot Faal disclosed to the witness that the military Junta was thinking of summarily executing detainees from the July 1994 coup and specified that Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh had said this to him on two separate occasions. Abdoulie Dot Faal said that this is not why he had participated in overthrowing the People’s Progressive Party government. He further lamented about the fact that the AFPRC were assigning themselves luxury housing, paying themselves lump sums of money and seizing private properties.

Dr. Minteh stated that Abdoulie Dot Faal told him he was part of a group led by Basirou Barrow that wanted to forcefully remove the AFPRC regime and appoint a transitional civilian government. The witness then admitted that he had also been thinking of a coup and he was happy to join the group. Abdoulie Dot Faal told the witness that they were already in consultation with a few prominent Gambian citizens who had spent most of their lives as public servants and who would be part of the transitional civilian government. Dr. Minteh declined to publicly share the names of the individuals.

According to Dr. Minteh, Abdoulie Dot Faal mentioned that 75 percent of the army was behind the plan including some officers at the State House, the latter being of concern to the witness. According to the witness, the plan was as follows: on the night from 10th to 11th November 1994, 2-3 platoons would be mobilised to storm the State House in collaboration with their operatives there and platoons from Fajara Barracks would join to serve as reinforcement. Small teams of 5 to 6 were assigned to go and arrest Council members Sadibou Hydara, Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh and Yankuba Touray at their respective homes.

On 10th November 1994, the witness stated he and Faal were responsible for the preparations at Fajara Barracks. He briefed his men at around 8.30-9pm. He told them that the AFPRC had taken the country hostage, had contradicted themselves by involving in ways that did not justify ending the PPP regime and
were abusing human rights. Witness Minteh adamantly refuted the testimony of a witness that suggested he had told the men that there was an outside force about to invade them.

Binneh Minteh further testified that contrary to what had been agreed, they did not hear from Basirou Barrow at around 9pm. They waited and at 10.30pm they received a call from Yundum Barracks. The caller claimed to be calling on behalf of Basirou Barrow saying that Basirou Barrow and others were all ready. The witness stated that he could tell from the caller’s voice that he was faking his voice. The witness said he suspected it was Sanna Sabally. As a result of that suspicion, the witness discussed with Abdoulie Dot Faal who then said he was going to Yundum Barracks to find out what was happening – this was around 11.30pm. About 45 minutes later, the witness got another call but it was a different voice. The witness was again told that Basirou Barrow and the others were ready and wanted the witness to come. However, right after this, the witness received another call and was told not to come to Yundum Barracks, as officers were being arrested and others were being tortured.

Following the call, Fajara Barracks was attacked and the witness heard Sanna Sabally saying “kill them, kill them all”.

The witness escaped Fajara Barracks and moved around the country for some time. He eventually left The Gambia due to the pressure of the search for him and went to Senegal where he received assistance from the Senegalese gendarmerie. He was then connected to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR and after some time was relocated to the United States as an asylee.

He said he later learnt about the summary executions by from some of his colleagues who had managed to escape. They told him that Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal, who were unarmed, were tortured and killed by Edward Singhateh and his men.

The witness believed about 11 men were killed by Edward Singhateh and Sanna Sabally on that night.

He added that he was told that Gibril Saye, who was not part of the coup, was also arrested, killed and dismembered. He suspected that this was because the latter had a difficult relationship with Edward Singhateh. The witness was told that summary executions took place by the cook house in Yundum Barracks, Nyambai Forest, and the Brikama firing range.

Whilst in the US, he heard that three of his former colleagues who had managed to escape to Senegal shortly after him namely Lamin Jarju, Abdoulie Bah and Abdoulie Jammeh had launched an attack in The Gambia but were captured by forces loyal to the AFPRC, severely tortured and handed the death penalty.

They were at Mile 2 prison for a very long time until Yahya Jammeh decided to execute nine inmates at Mile 2 including the three men.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Torture
Edward Singhateh
Extrajudicial killing
Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally
**WITNESS NAME:** Sait DARBOE

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 21st February 2019

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT:** Private soldier

**EVENT(S) DISCUSSED:** Alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S):** Participated in the planning of the alleged 11th November failed coup

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Not mentioned

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:** Sait Darboe testified that in early June 1994, Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh, and Sadibou Hydara would hold meetings behind Yundum Barracks at a place called “The Bahamas”. Edward Singhateh would then brief the witness and his colleagues about the meetings and their plan to forcibly remove the People’s Progressive Party, PPP government.

The coup was meant to take place on the 21st July 1994 as President Sir Dawda Jawara was returning from his overseas trip. The plan was as follows: Edward Singhateh would gunpoint the President and Yahya Jammeh would fire shots in the air to let people know they had taken over and they should surrender. The plan also included fighting and capturing Fajara Barracks and the State House. However, on the 21st July 1994, Yahya Jammeh and Edward Singhateh were disarmed at the airport. Witness Darboe said that together with his men, they later regrouped with Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yahya Jammeh and Edward Singhateh and decided to go ahead with the coup, notably because they were aware that there was a plan to have them arrested the next day. During that meeting, it was decided that they would forcefully take control of the barracks the next day.

In the morning of 22nd July 1994, a group of soldiers including the witness jumped over the fence of Yundum Barracks, seized private cars and mini-buses on the highway and drove back to the barracks to pick up the other soldiers who wanted to join them. Prior to this, officers including then Adjutant Sheriff Gomez who were not part of the coup were arrested and detained at Yundum Barracks. The group of soldiers left Yundum Barracks and dropped off Edward Singhateh and four men to seize the airport. Sanna Sabally and his men went to GAMTEL, the principal telecommunications company of The Gambia to disconnect telephone lines. Officers that were guarding GAMTEL were arrested and taken to Yundum Barracks. A group of heavily armed soldiers including the witness and led by Sanna Sabally then headed to Fajara Barracks. Once they got there, they started firing up in the air. They proceeded to the guardroom in order to reach the armoury. The officers defending Fajara Barracks started firing back however according to the witness, as the mutineers were trained soldiers, they managed to seize Fajara Barracks. The officers who defended Fajara Barracks were arrested and taken to Yundum Barracks.

The witness further disclosed that together with then Sergeant Ousman Sonko (who later became Minister of Interior) and Sisawo Fatty, they went to Serrekunda Police Station and opened fire in the air to confuse bystanders. They then drove to Yundum Barracks, collected ammunition from Basirou Barrow and headed to Fajara Barracks and Denton Bridge to drop them. They also met Yahya Jammeh and his group who were by Mile 2 Prison to supply them with ammunition and then headed back to Fajara Barracks.
The witness was posted at a checkpoint and on Saturday 23rd July 1994 at the State House as an escort to Yahya Jammeh. He further testified that on that day, they did not expect Yahya Jammeh to become Chairman of the Council, but rather Basirou Barrow, however the latter refused as he did not feel he was a good public speaker.

Regarding the reasons behind the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup, the witness disclosed that Edward Singhateh had made many promises in the run up to the 22nd July 1994 coup regarding land allocation and promotion of rank. Witness Darboe said the soldiers were disappointed and frustrated that these promises were not fulfilled.

The witness remained at State House until October 1994 and then was sent back to Yundum Barracks. When he returned to Yundum Barracks, he remembered discussing with then Sergeant Fafa Nyang who told him a group of them were planning something. The witness joined the group and was told of the plan to attack the State House led by Basirou Barrow. However, Yahya Jammeh and the Juntas got hold of this information. On 8th November 1994, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh, Baboucarr Jatta and Yankuba Touray assembled the men at Yundum Barracks and warned them against any coup. Basirou Barrow was then transferred to Fajara Barracks.

According to the witness, on 10th November 1994, one of Yahya Jammeh’s relatives named Buba Jammeh (also known as Kanilai) called Sanna Sabally and told him that there was a lot of movement at the barracks. The witness found out from another soldier about the leaked information and advised late Fafa Nyang that they should arrest Buba Jammeh, but the latter did not act on his advice. Later that night, the witness felt discouraged as the officers who were planning the coup were nowhere to be found. He left the barracks and went home in Bakau.

Sait Darboe testified that in the early hours of 11th November 1994, while at home, he heard gunshots at Fajara Barracks. He later headed to Yundum Barracks with his colleague Kemo Jawara. Upon arrival at the barracks, at around 8 am, he met with then Lance Corporal S.M. Drammeh who told him that they had suffered casualties. The witness further stated that he learnt that Basirou Barrow had been killed and put inside a truck. He went to the truck and saw both Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal lying down in the truck. They both had sustained severe injuries to the head. The witness stated that he was told that Basirou Barrow had been shot in the dead by Edward Singhateh.

Witness Darboe stated that a few minutes later he heard shouting around the cook house and saw a group of soldiers including Alhagie Kanyi, Lamin Colley, Babucarr Sanyang and Buba Jammeh alias Kanilai beating Fafa Nyang, breaking his back and threw him alive into a pit.

The group of soldiers threw stones at Fafa Nyang whilst he was trying to get up. Lamin Colley then deliberately shot Sergeant Fafa Nyang and killed him.

He specified that Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Yankuba Touray and Sadibou Hydara ordered the torture of Fafa Nyang and added that Sanna Sabally ordered for anyone found or seen to be killed.

Sait Darboe said he went to the primary school behind the barracks and sat for a while as he couldn’t stand watching the torture meted on Fafa Nyang by the soldiers. He later went back to the barracks but specified that he was not at the scene but in a building opposite where the three dead soldiers were buried.

He disclosed that a small pit had been dug whilst Fafa Nyang was still alive on the orders of Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Yankuba Touray and Sadibou Hydara. On the specifics of the digging of the pits and disposal of dead bodies, witness Darboe
said that Papu Gomez and Babucarr Sanyang would be in a better position to explain since they were in charge of what was going on at the barracks once they Junta Members had left. He added that the dead bodies of Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal were dragged to the pit by Alhagie Kanyi, Babucarr Sanyang and others whose name he could not remember.

He recalled seeing Pa Sanyang arrest Gibril Saye and escorted him to the cell. In the presence of Papu Gomez, Gibril Saye was stripped naked and placed inside a cell which held many other officers.

Witness Sait said that in the afternoon, Sanna Sabally and the other men went into the Officers’ Mess where they held a meeting. He said that as they went inside Edward Singhateh said if anyone wants to enjoy, he has to risk his life whilst Yankuba Touray said “we can forgive but we cannot forget. Let them dance to their tune”. They all then came out and went near the guardroom. Papu Gomez was holding a white paper and as names of the captured soldiers were being called out, he (Papu Gomez) would tie their hands with electric cables. He recalled hearing among the names called out that of Bakary Manneh (also known as Nyancho), Gibril Saye, Amadou Sillah, Lamin Fatty and Buba Jammeh.

Sait Darboe said that the captured soldiers were assembled and packed into a Land Rover with their heads uncovered. He said they were escorted by Alhagie Kanyi and Buba Jammeh alias Kanilai who were sitting on top of the Land Rover. The witness further disclosed that Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Baboucarr Jatta, Momodou Badjie, Peter Singhateh were present when the captured soldiers were being tied. All of them as well as their orderlies namely B. Njie (also known as Ponkal), J.C.B. Mendy, Churro Touray, Lamin Marong and Batch Samba Jallow accompanied the group that was taken to the firing range in Nyambai forest behind Brikama where they were executed.

The witness then stayed back and waited for 1-2 hours when he saw the captured soldiers’ dead bodies being brought back to Yundum Barracks. The witness said the dead bodies had bayonet wounds. He further explained that upon their return from the range, Sanna Sabally called Ebrima (Ebou M) Ceesay out, asked him to say his last prayers and march towards the dead soldiers. Ebrima (Ebou M) Ceesay obliged and whilst walking was shot by Babucarr Mboob in the back of the head. Sanna Sabally and the other Council members (including Baboucarr Jatta and Momodou Badjie) then left to watch the Gambia versus Liberia football match as if nothing had happened.

Sait Darboe recalled seeing Alhagie Kanyi drag the dead bodies and throw them inside a pit next to where Basirou Barrow, Abdoulie Dot Faal and Fafa Nyang had been buried behind the cook house. He said that Papu Gomez and Babucarr Sanyang supervised the burial. Mr. Darboe explained that Gibril Saye was the last one to be thrown into the pit.

As he was tall, his legs were dangling out so Alhagie Kanyi rushed to the cook house, collected an axe and cut Gibril Saye’s legs before his body was fully pushed into the pit.

He said the other soldiers that were not executed on 11th November 1994 including Sergeant Nyang Kabareh were tortured at the Police Headquarters before taken to Mile 2. The witness was part of the group of soldiers who escorted them. He said that the soldiers were court martialed and at least two of the soldiers served at least nine years in prison.

Concerning the statement Yahya Jammeh made the following day on the 11th November event, the witness said it was a lie. Then witness was arbitrarily arrested on two separate occasions. On the second occasion, he was...
accused of harboring arms and was kicked and beaten whilst detained. The witness could not remember who was involved in his beatings. He added that he fled police custody and left The Gambia.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:

Torture
Alhagie Kanyi, Lamin Colley, Babucarr Sanyang, Buba Jammeh alias Kanilai

Extrajudicial killing
Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singhateh, Babucarr Mboob, B. Njie (also known as Ponkal), J.C.B. Mendy, Churro Touray, Lamin Marong, Batch Samba Jallow, Lamin Colley

Witnessed Extrajudicial killing
Baboucarr Jatta, Momodou Badjie

Supervised burial
Alhagie Kanyi, Papu Gomez and Babucarr Sanyang

He was in exile for 19 years and during this time his wife remarried.
WITNESS NAME: Abdou K. BAH

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 25th February 2019

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT: Orderly to former Vice President of The Gambia, Saihou Sabally

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994 and Alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup

ROLE DURING THE EVENT: Participated in the planning of the alleged 11th November failed coup

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Not Stated

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Abdou Bah testified that prior to 22nd July 1994, whilst he was still training at the Gambia National Army, GNA training school, there was a number of mutinies from the soldiers.

The witness recalled that on 22nd July 1994, he reported for duty as usual. Upon arrival at State House at around 8am, there was an announcement on his handheld radio about a mutiny and was asked to brief the Vice President Saihou Sabally. He did and Saihou Sabally told him that he was already aware of the disturbances.

Witness Bah further testified that Saihou Sabally held a meeting with US officials. Following the meeting he went to Sir Dawda Jawara’s office where the head of the National Security Service, Mr. Kebba Ceesay was present. The witness stayed standing at the door and was therefore not privy to what was discussed but after the conversation, he was tasked with carrying the President’s luggage down to the US ambassador’s car and they all left for the American ship.

Whilst onboard the ship, Mr. Bah kept monitoring the radio. He heard Yahyah Jammeh’s name being mentioned as part of the coup leaders. He attempted to call Yahya Jammeh but then Ebrima Chongan came on air and asked the witness not to call as the signals had been compromised and the coup makers had already taken Fajara Barracks. He added that he noticed the US Coast Guards were getting into battle mode.

The witness proceeded to explain that after a while, the ship moved to face State House and finally left The Gambia the next day, on Saturday 23rd July for Senegal. The witness said the day after their arrival in Senegal, he approached Saihou Sabally and informed him that he wanted to return to The Gambia and was given permission to do so.

He recalled that upon return to The Gambia, when he finally reported to the army headquarters, he met with Abdoulie Dot Faal. According to the witness, Abdoulie Dot Faal commented that he had let Saihou Sabally escape. The witness explained that he was only performing his tasks. He was locked up in the guardroom as punishment and after a week he resumed work.

Witness Bah explained that ex-ministers including Omar “O.J.” Jallow were taken to Fajara Barracks and beaten. He said those present were Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhathe, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray who ordered their orderlies to beat the ex-ministers whilst they watched. This happened in the months prior to November 1994.

The witness said the torture meted by the Council
members on the ex-ministers eventually pushed him to join those who wanted to overthrow the AFPRC. Initially, he did not have much information but closer to the date, he was told the plan.

Witness Bah stated that on 10th November 1994, at about 8pm-8.30pm, the group of soldiers were briefed by Binneh Minteh. The witness was tasked to load vehicles with ammunition and weapons that were meant to go and arrest Sanna Sabally, Edward Sing heterogeneous, Sadibou Hydara and Yankuba Touray at their respective residences. When he loaded the last vehicle at around 1am, they were attacked by the Junta. The witness together with three other colleagues headed for the exit. He heard Sanna Sabally say “cease fire, cease fire, cease fire” and the shots subsided. The witness said he did not notice anyone from his group firing back.

Once they escaped, one Landing Badjie suggested that they go to his compound in Manjai Kunda which they reached at around 7am on 11th November 1994. One Sergeant Kabareh who was part of the escapees and most senior in rank asked the three others to wait at Landing Badjie’s residence so he could go to Fajara Barracks to figure a way back there with the weapons. One of the men left for Casamance while the witness and the other colleague stayed back.

Mr. Bah further testified that the next day, then Sergeant Kabareh returned with Peter Singately. He had apparently told Peter that he knew those involved and had taken Peter Singately to the group. Peter Singately kicked the witness and tied his hands with his shoe laces. The group of men were taken to Yundum Barracks where the witness was screened, stripped to his underwear and taken to a cell to join about 15-20 soldiers who were already there. He recalled seeing Buba Jammeh, Amadou Sillah, Mafujie Sonko, Lamin Darboe and Gibril Saye. They spent the night in the cell and the next day, they were taken to the military police to give their statement. They were then taken back to the guardroom in Yundum Barracks. As they got closer, he saw Sanna Sabally, Baboucarr Jatta, Edward Singately, Sadibou Hydara and Yankuba Touray at the Officer’s Mess.

The witness stated that he was then escorted together with Lamin Badjie to the cook house to have food. He said he then saw the guardroom door open again and Papu Gomez was calling names from a list. As he called out the names, Papu Gomez and Alhagie Kanyi would tie the hands of the detainees. He said about eight captured soldiers were then placed in a Land Rover and they all left. About 2-3 hours later, the Council members and other soldiers came back to Yundum Barracks. Witness Bah said he saw lifeless bodies being placed in a ditch. The witness stated that he believed that the soldiers that were removed from the guardroom were the same soldiers whose lifeless bodies were dumped in an unmarked grave.

He disclosed that Sergeant Kabareh was eventually arrested because they had realized from the statements given at the Military Police that he was part of those who wanted to overthrow the AFPRC.

The witness recalled being taken to Mile 2 Prison after spending three weeks at Yundum Barracks. He said at Mile 2 he was kept in security wing 1 where he saw Babucarr Malick Jeng, Mamat Cham and Ebrima Chongan.

Mr. Bah recalled a particular day that he was moved to security wing number 4. Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara were escorted by Alhagie Martin and Edward Singately and their orderlies and placed there. He further explained that Alhagie Martin, Peter Singately and Edward Singately were involved in the beatings and torture of Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara. He indicated that he saw Alhagie Martin with a box containing electric irons.

He was released from Mile 2 after six months, taken to Yundum Barracks then to Fajara Barracks. Once there, he was told of his charge, which was that he had information regarding the 11th November 1994 event, had not communicated that prior to the event and was therefore dismissed. Following this, he left The Gambia on the 28th September 1995 for
Senegal where he registered with the United National High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR and later given asylum in the United States.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:

Torture
Alhagie Martin, Peter Singhateh, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray

The witness ended by saying that Yahya Jammeh may be gone but his supporters were still in the system. It is unreasonable to expect victims to reconcile with them and justice must be served.
**WITNESS NAME:** Abdoulie Jamantie DARBOE

**TRRC HEARING DATE(S):** 26\(^{th}\) February 2019

**EVENT(S) DISCUSSED:** Alleged 11\(^{th}\) November 1994 failed coup and torture of Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara

**POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S):** Acting Clerk in the Gambia National Army

**ROLE DURING THE EVENT:** Arbitrarily arrested and detained

**POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY:** Not Mentioned

**SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY:**

Witness Abdoulie Darboe said he was not aware of any coup plot prior to 11\(^{th}\) November 1994.

The witness stated that on 10\(^{th}\) November 1994, when he took documents he had prepared to then Lieutenant L.F. Jammeh at the Officer’s Mess, he saw the Junta members and senior officers in a meeting at Fajara Barracks. Witness Darboe went home and some moments later, L.F. Jammeh came for him and asked him to attend another meeting that was supposed to take place between members of the Junta and other officers at Yundum Barracks. Upon arrival, there was an ambush and soldiers started firing at him. The witness together with other individuals were arrested and beaten by then Private Mustapha Touray and another individual, both guards to Edward Sing hateh; and sustained injuries on his back as a result.

While at Yundum Barracks he heard former Lieutenant Abdoulie Dot Faal say “you are trying to betray us but Allah will betray you people”. He testified that whilst the captives were held, Edward Sing hateh wanted to throw grenades at them but Sanna Sabally stopped him and declared that they would kill them one by one as a lesson to other soldiers.

Thereafter they were taken to Mile 2 Prison, where he stayed for an hour. Around 2-3 am, he said he was transferred with the other detainees to Fajara Barracks where they were paraded.

**Sanna Sabally** counted up to 3 to fire and his soldiers started firing at them.

He said some soldiers fell down whilst others ran away and escaped, adding that three soldiers died as a result.

He further testified that he heard Baboucar Jatta tell Sanna Sabally that it was enough, and Sanna Sabally asked the witness to carry Basirou Barrow into a truck. Witness Darboe further explained that Abdoulie Dot Faal had been seriously injured and had completely lost his jaw whilst Basirou Barrow’s neck seemed broken. Neither of them could speak. Abdoulie Dot Faal was also carried into the truck by one Mafujie Sonko who had survived the shootings. He further indicated that Sergeant Fafa Nyang had been seriously beaten and was profusely bleeding. The three other individuals that had been killed were also put in the truck.

They then left Fajara Barracks and headed to Yundum Barracks at around 6-7 am on 11\(^{th}\) November 1994. When they got to Yundum Barracks, Alhagie Kanyi
came to the truck and flashed his torchlight. He realised that Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal were not yet dead and asked for a gun. Alhagie Kanyi shot Basirou Barrow in the forehead instantly killing him. He then shot Abdoulie Dot Faal in the forehead as well however it took a few minutes before Faal died. The witness said he was told to climb out of the truck and to carry Basirou Barrow’s dead body to the guardroom.

Sanna Sabally threatened the witness saying he would bury him alive and asked Paul (Papu) Gomez to get spades which he did. Sanna Sabally however got a phone call and the witness was put in a cell together with Mafujie Sonko. The witness said he believed Sanna Sabally was speaking to Yahya Jammeh.

Witness Darboe told the Commission he saw Basirou Camara and Amadou Sillah being brought in, forcibly undressed and placed in the cell. The witness stated that he also saw Gibril Saye being arrested at the gate by the guards on duty. They started kicking him and took him to the guardroom where they also forcibly undressed him and locked him in the cell where the witness was.

At around 10-11 am the detainees were asked to come out of the cell but the witness and Mafujie Sonko stayed back. Basirou Camara, Amadou Sillah and Gibril Saye were tied, put in a military Land Rover and driven away. The witness found out later that other individuals had been put in the Land Rover as well. After two hours, the vehicle came back. The witness heard Alhagie Kanyi who was covered in blood say, “I have bastared people, today I have bastared them”.

Abdoulie Darboe said he heard that members of the Junta including Peter Singhateh, Paul Gomez, Babucarr Sanyang were looking for someone. He heard gunshots around the cook house at Yundum Barracks and later found out that the men were referring to Ebrima (E.M) Ceesay and had killed him.

In the afternoon of 11th November 1994, a group of detainees including Lance Corporal Modou Njie who had sustained a gunshot wound inflicted by Peter Singhateh, were brought to the guardroom. The witness testified that they were kept there for about 2-3 weeks and then taken to Mile 2 Prison. At Mile 2, they were taken to security wing number 4 where they met former security officers including Ebrima Chongan, Sheriff Gomez and Ebrima Cambi. The witness described the prison conditions as being horrible with rat infestations. He was kept at security wing number 4 for about a month.

Abdoulie Darboe also referred to one time when he was poisoned whilst at Mile 2. He explained that he had been given oranges said to be from the Red Cross but subsequently fell ill after eating them. He was later told by a medic that the oranges contained poison.

Witness Darboe recalled seeing Sadibou Hydara and Sanna Sabally being escorted in January 1995 whilst at Mile 2 Prison. He further added that Edward Singhateh and Alhagie Martin would come and torture the pair.

He was never charged whilst in prison and was suddenly released in March 1996. Upon release, he was informed that he was discharged from the army.

The witness ended by saying that his arbitrary detention and subsequent discharge from the army had a severe impact on his family.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Torture
Edward Singhateh, Alhagie Martin
Extrajudicial killing
Alhagie Kanyi, Peter Singhateh, Paul Gomez, Babucarr Sanyang, Sana Sabally
WITNESS NAME: Demba NJIE

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 27th February 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994, alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup, death of Ousman Koro Ceesay and arrest and torture of Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara in January 1995

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Third Commander of the Presidential Guard

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Present during conversations at State House (during his time at Chief of Staff at the State House)

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Retired

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: On the 22nd July 1994 coup, Demba Njie stated that in July 1994, there were rumours of a coup. The witness who was then the Third Commander of the Presidential Guard returned to The Gambia with then President Jawara from an overseas trip to the UK on 21st July 1994. The witness stated that he did not notice anything unusual upon arrival at the airport but did remember seeing Yahya Jammeh.

On the next day, 22nd July 1994 at around 8-9am, Njie received information from Lang Tangbom Tamba about a mutiny. He then found out that the President had been escorted to the American naval ship. Late in the afternoon Lang Tangbom Tamba informed him that Yahya Jammeh had taken over the State House.

The witness testified that he later found out that there had been an insider at State House, the late Musa Jammeh who had helped the coup makers. Five days after the coup, the witness said he went to the State House where he saw Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally and Yankuba Touray and found out that Yahya Jammeh was the Chairman of the AFPRC and Head of State. He said he was surprised as he did not think Yahya Jammeh would be able to deliver on the promises made to the people in view of his age and indiscipline. Nevertheless, he accepted the position of Chief of Staff for the office of the Chairman and Head of State following Captain Ebrima Cambi’s arrest (who had briefly held that position). The witness said that at the time he believed that with a good team, he would be able to positively influence Yahya Jammeh.

As Chief of Staff, he was privy to a lot of the conversations Yahya Jammeh engaged in. On 10th November 1994, the witness heard that Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara and Yankuba Touray had gone to Yundum Barracks to hold a meeting with other soldiers to discourage them from staging a coup d’état. That night, in the early hours of 11th November, he heard that there was fighting at Fajara Barracks and that there was a coup d’état. Unsure of who were the friendly and enemy forces, he decided to stay home. He only went to the State House in the early morning of 11th November where he saw Yahya Jammeh in an agitated state and heard him say “leave me, let me go and fight” to his entourage.

A few moments later, he overheard Yahya Jammeh in a telephone conversation with other Junta members ordering them to “kill them all, the ring leaders.”

The witness disclosed that he believed Yahya Jammeh was speaking to Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara and Yankuba Touray and he was ordering them to kill captured soldiers. At around 10/11 am Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh and Yankuba touray came to the
State House in a jubilant mood. Yahya Jammeh was also rejoicing. Demba Njie stated that at that moment he regretted being a soldier and felt ashamed.

Witness Njie stated that Sanna Sabally later told those at the State House that some elements had wanted to overthrow the government, and as a result of fighting some had lost their lives, a statement that could not be true as Yahya Jammeh had instructed to kill them all, especially the ring leaders.

On the arrest of Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara in January 1995, the witness disclosed that in the months following the alleged 11th November failed coup he noticed a change of dynamic between the Council members. He specifically recalled a time in 1995 when Yahya Jammeh in the presence of Edward Singhateh instructed him to pass orders to the state guards to kill any Council member that came to the State House after 6pm. Witness Njie said he modified the orders and told the state guards not to let anyone in past 6pm. The witness said that Edward Singhateh was over ambitious and wanted to supersede Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara who were respectively second and third in rank in the AFPRC. Witness Njie said that whilst he was on a trip to Guinea Bissau, Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara were ambushed and arrested. He was told by other officers at the State House that whilst at Mile 2 Prison, Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Almamo Manneh, Musa Jammeh and Alhagie Martin tortured Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara. He later heard that Sadibou Hydara died. He suspected this was a result of the torture he was subjected to. He said the arrest of Hydara and Sabally made Edward Singhateh jealous. The witness left for the Organization of African Unity summit in Addis Ababa as part of an advance security team for Yahya Jammeh in 1996 where he later joined him. He said the day Yahya Jammeh left The Gambia was the same day Ousman Koro Ceesay was murdered.

Lang Tangbom Tamba called him to tell him that Ousman Koro Ceesay was dead and that he suspected foul play.

Demba Njie said that when he returned to Gambia, he was surprised that neither Yahya Jammeh nor Edward Singhateh mentioned Ousman Koro Ceesay’s name again. The witness eventually received information as to how Ousman Koro Ceesay had died. The State Guard soldiers who witnessed the departure of Yahya Jammeh at the airport for the summit told Demba Njie that Yahya Jammeh and Edward Singhateh had held two side talks at the boot of the aircraft. The witness said that he was told that when Jammeh left, Edward Singhateh asked Ousman Koro Ceesay to join his car. He explained that Edward Singhateh then took Ousman Koro Ceesay to Yankuba Touray’s residence where he was murdered. He said after they murdered him, his body was dumped at a bridge in Jambur village and his car was set on fire. Peter Singhateh sustained a burn on his arm as a result.

Njie said from 1997 to 2001, he was the Chief of Protocol at the State House. He said he was removed from that role because he refused for his wife to participate in the AFPRC campaign in the 2001 presidential elections because he was not a politician, but a military man. At that time, Jammeh gave an instruction that all officers’ wives should campaign for him.

He was later reinstated in 2007 when the then Chief of Defense Staff, Lang Tombong Tamba approached him and persuaded him to return to the service. He
was made the Director of Administration and Logistics and dismissed later in November 2009 when his name was mentioned in relation to the alleged coup in 2009 supposedly headed by Lang Tombong Tamba.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:

Torture
Edward Singateh, Peter Singateh, Almamo Manneh, Musa Jammeh, Alhagie Martin

Extrajudicial killing
Sanna Sabally, Edward Singateh, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Peter Singateh

Order to kill
Yahya Jammeh

...he overheard Yahya Jammeh in a telephone conversation with other Junta members ordering them to “kill them all, the ring leaders.”
saw Yahya Jammeh, Edward Sing hateh and Sanna Sabally at the gates and overheard Edward Sing hateh say to Yahya Jammeh to leave as there was no senior official there. According to the witness, they left for Banjul but he remained at Yundum Barracks because he was not confident at this stage that the coup would succeed.

Testifying about the 11th November 1994 failed coup, Alhagie Kanyi recalled that one day, either on the 8th, 9th or 10th November 1994, Edward Sing hateh, Sadibou Hydara, Sanna Sabally and Yankuba Touray came to Yundum Barracks to warn the soldiers against staging a coup d’état. When they left, he continued with his duties for the day then went home where he stayed until the morning of 11th November 1994. He arrived at Yundum Barracks around 7-8am and was halted at the back gate entrance to the barracks by an armed Lamin Colley who ordered him to head to the guardroom. Lamin Colley then told him that there was a coup led by Basirou Barrow. According to the witness, he was advised by a fellow soldier to change his outfit to avoid being killed or detained by the Council members. Witness Kanyi obliged and about 15 minutes later Sanna Sabally, Edward Sing hateh, Sadibou Hydara, Yankuba Touray, Peter Sing hateh, their orderlies and other private soldiers came with a truck. Upon their arrival, the witness said he went to the truck and climbed up. He saw the dead bodies of Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal who had sustained severe injuries to the head. He was then given a pistol by Batch Samba Jallow and asked to
and Baboucarr Jatta returned and held a meeting at the Senior’s Officer’s mess. The witness stated that he did not join the meeting but the CO Captain Marong did. When he returned to his office, he told Alhagie Kanyi that the captured soldiers were going to be **killed** in the next 10-15 minutes. When he came out of Captain Marong’s office, he saw a Land Rover about to drive off with Gibril Saye, Abdoulie Bah (Achopie), Buba Jammeh, Lamin Darboe, Bakary Manneh and Amadou Sillah who were restrained. He was instructed to board the Land Rover with Buba Jammeh (also known as Kanilai) behind the wheel.

The witness and the other Council members left Yundum Barracks towards Brikama. They entered Nyambai forest, parked the vehicles and got off.

The captured soldiers were lined up with their backs to Sanna Sabally, Yankuba Touray, Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh, Baboucarr Jatta, Lamin Fatty, B.A Njie, B. Njie (Ponkal), J.C.B Mendy, Lamin Fatty, Buba Jammeh Kanilai and himself, Alhagie Kanyi, were also in an extended line. The witness said **Sanna Sabally** asked the soldiers to say their last prayers and **Buba Jammeh pleaded for their lives**. Sanna Sabally then gave the order to fire and they **fired** (including Sanna Sabally) **killing** all the captured soldiers.

After the executions, they loaded the trucks with the dead bodies and headed to Yundum Barracks where all the junior officers participated in the burial. The Council members were not present. Witness Kanyi added that upon returning to Yundum Barracks, they were told that Ebrima (Ebou M) Ceesay had been **killed** by Babucarr Mboob.
According to the witness and responding to claims by other witnesses that he had dismembered Gibril Saye’s legs, he said Saye’s legs were hanging out, but he did not chop them off.

After the event, the witness said the soldiers who participated in the executions did not have a debriefing and the witness was not personally told to keep the execution a secret. He did not hear what the government said about that incident and could not attest to a fight between the provisional government and the deceased. However, he reiterated that the soldiers were not killed in a fight, they were captured and executed.

After the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup, he said he was told he was to be promoted for his participation.

Moving from the 11th November event, Alhagie Kanyi recalled being picked up by B.K Jatta late one day in 1995 on the orders of Edward Singhateh. They then picked Pa Alieu Gomez and Tumbul Tamba and headed to Edward Singhateh’s house. Upon arrival, Edward Singhateh briefed them that they were going to get rid of someone. The witness stated that at this time, he did not understand what that entailed.

They all left Edward Singhateh’s house and headed to Yankuba Touray’s house where Peter Singhateh asked Pa Alieu Gomez, Tumbul Tamba and the witness to wait for them. Peter Singhateh added they were going to the airport to see off Yahya Jammeh and they would be back with one minister that they should just salute when they come with the minister in the house. When they came back, the witness saw that they were accompanied by a civilian, a minister whom he had never seen before. They entered the house and he heard a heavy stroke, he looked back and saw that Peter Singhateh had struck Ousman Koro Ceesay.

Edward Singhateh then hit him 3 times with a pistol and gave the witness a big stick to hit Ousman Koro Ceesay.
DISCREPANCIES/CONFLICTING TESTIMONIES

• Bubacarr Bah referred to Saturday 12th November 1994 as the day the captured soldiers were executed by the Junta Members according to information he received. According to other witnesses who discussed the event during the hearings, the executions took place in the late night of 10th November/ morning of 11th November 1994 which also concurs with our own research.

• Sait Darboe stated that according to information he received Basirou Barrow had been shot in the head by Edward Singhateh which conflicts with the testimony of Abdoulie J Darboe in which he said having witnessed Alhagie Kanyi shooting Basirou Barrow in the forehead.

• Alhagie Kanyi stated that Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal were already dead when they arrived at Yundum Barracks. This contradicts the testimony of Abdoulie J Darboe who said he was in the truck as he had survived the shootings with the severely injured Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal.

• Alhagie Kanyi also said he was asked to shoot Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal whilst Abdoulie J Darboe testified that Alhagie Kanyi asked for a gun.

• On the killing of Basirou Barrow and Fafa Nyang, Alhagie Kanyi confessed of having shot at them on the orders of Edward Singhateh and that Edward Singhateh also fired. Witness Abdoulie J Darboe on the other hand stated that he saw a group of soldiers beating Fafa Nyang, breaking his back. The group of soldiers included Alhagie Kanyi, Lamin Colley, Babucarr Sanyang and Buba Jammeh alias Kanilai. Fafa Nyang was subsequently thrown alive into a pit. The group of soldiers threw stones at Fafa Nyang whilst he was trying to get up. Abdoulie J Darboe said Lamin Colley then deliberately shot Sergeant Fafa Nyang and killed him.

• Abdoulie J Darboe declared that when they came back from Yundum Barracks, after the executions Alhagie Kanyi who was covered in blood said “I have bastared people, today I have bastared them”. Alhagie Kanyi did not make mention of this particular event.

• Alhagie Kanyi did not recall seeing Momodou Badjie at Yundum Barracks nor at Nyambai forest on the day which conflicts with Sait Darboe’s account as Momodou Badjie being present.

• Demba Njie mentioned 1996 as the year Ousman Koro Ceesay was killed. However, according to testimonies from other witnesses and from our own research, Ousman Koro Ceesay was killed in June 1995.
About ANEKED
Led by young African human rights activists, the African Network against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED) campaigns against forced disappearances and summary executions. ANEKED combines the power of technology, innovation, traditional media and legal expertise to make issues related to enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings much more visible, advocating for justice for victims and their families.

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About The Point Newspaper
The Point Newspaper is a major independent Gambian newspaper, co-founded by Deyda Hydara, a fierce advocate of press freedom and a fierce critic of the government of then President Yahya Jammeh, who was allegedly killed under the orders of Jammeh in 2004. The current co-publisher is his son, Baba Hydara.

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