Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) Digest, Edition 3

A sorrowful relative awaits as the remains of captured soldiers executed on 10th/11th November 1994 are being excavated at Yundum Barracks.

Photo: Jason Florio
© 2019 ANEKED & The Point Newspaper
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 2017 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 and as recounted during the TRRC hearings. In doing so, the TRRC Digests provide a necessary record of information and evidence uncovered – and may serve as “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.
OVERVIEW

The third session ran from 11th to 28th March 2019. The Commission continued to hear testimonies related to the 22nd July 1994 coup, the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup and the death of the then Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995. The Commission heard more testimonies on how and why the 22nd July 1994 and the 11th November 1994 occurred. With regards to the latter, the session focused on who the main actors were, and ultimately, the whereabouts of those who were forcibly disappeared during that event. During the course of the session, the arbitrary arrests, detention and torture of individuals (including the witnesses) were also discussed. The third session also heard testimonies from persons adversely mentioned in sessions 1 and 2; and relatives of those extrajudicially killed or forcibly disappeared and tortured during those events. It was anticipated that at least one institutional hearing would take place, however this did not materialize.

In the course of the third session, human rights violations reported include:

- Arbitrary arrest and detention
- Torture
- Detention under inhumane and degrading conditions
- Extrajudicial killing

The session saw 18 persons testify of whom 10 were victims (7 of them women), 3 perpetrators (1 of whom was also later victimised through his alleged arbitrary arrest) and 5 witnesses to the events (1 of whom was later victimised through his arbitrary arrest, detention and torture).

Three persons testified via video conference/skype and 1 person was flown in.

During the session, 35 persons were adversely mentioned as perpetrators of and/or accessory to gross human rights violations committed, namely:


-Borra COLLEY: Part of the “Junglers”, a notorious hit squad that answered to Yahya Jammeh. Accused of arbitrary arrest. Outside the country at time of mention.

-David COLLEY: Former Director General of The Gambia Prison Services. Accused of arbitrary detention. According to media reports, David Colley was dismissed on 24th February 2017 from his position as Director General of The Gambia Prison Services and was charged with conspiracy to commit murder and abuse of office in March 2018, but released on bail.¹


-Zakaria DARBOE: Former orderly of Sanna Sabally. Accused of having tortured detainees.


-Albert GOMEZ: Orderly of Sanna Sabally. Accused of having tortured detainees. Deceased.

¹See publication by The Point Newspaper: Ex-prison chief charged over Baba Jobe’s murder, 20 March 2018.

-Buba JAMMEH alias Kanilai2: Cousin to Yahya Jammeh and a former soldier in the Gambia National Army, GNA. Accused of participating in the burial of executed soldiers on 11th November 1994.


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

-Fraiser JOOF: Accused of arbitrary arrest and detention.

-Alhagie KANYI (alias ‘mofa kanyi’ (“Killerman”)): Former Army Corporal, serving at the Immigration Department at Soma at the time of mention. Accused of participating in torture, executions and burials on 11th November 1994.

-Gumbo LOWE: Former Sergeant in the Gambia National Army, GNA. Accused of being present during the executions on 11th November 1994.


-Ensa MENDY: Former orderly to Yankuba TOURAY. Confessed to having fired and beaten Abdoulie Dot Faal at Yundum Barracks and having shot at soldiers at Fajara Barracks on 10th November 1994, killing two of them.


-Corporal NDURE: Accused of arbitrary arrest and torture of Babucarr Sanyang. Deceased.

-Baba (B.A.) NJIE: Former private soldier and orderly of Sanna Sabally. Accused of having tortured detainees and of having participated in the executions and burials on 11th November 1994.

---

2Not the same as Buba Jammeh, soldier executed during the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup.
3See testimony by Alhagie Kanyi on 28th February 2019 – TRRC Digest 2.
- **Babucarr NJIE also known as Njie PONKAL**: Former private soldier and orderly of Sanna Sabally. Accused of having tortured detainees and of having participated in the executions on 11th November 1994.

- **Sanna SABALLY**: Former Captain of the Gambia National Army, GNA 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 the testimonies. Accused of having ordered the torture of civilians. Also accused of ordering and participating in the executions of captured soldiers on 11th November 1994.

- **Pa SENGHORE**: Accused of arbitrary arrest and torture of Babucarr Sanyang. Believed to be working at the State Intelligence Services at time of mention.

- **Edward SINGHATEH**: Former Lieutenant of the Gambia National Army, GNA and second Vice Chairman of the AFPRC, served in the Jammeh cabinet. From 2016 to 2018, he served as the Vice President of ECOWAS and was said to be residing in Nigeria at time of mention. Accused of ordering arbitrary arrests and of participating in the executions on 11th November 1994 and being present at the house of Yankuba Touray the night of the killing of the Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995.

- **Peter SINGHATEH**: Former Lieutenant of the Gambia National Army, reported to be residing and working as a pilot in the United Kingdom at time of mention. Accused of participating in the executions on 11th November 1994 and of having participated in the killing of Ousman Koro Ceesay.


- **Lang Tombong TAMBA**: Former Chief of Defense Staff, CDS. Accused of arbitrary arrest.

- **Yankuba TOURAY**: Former Lieutenant of the Gambia National Army, GNA. He held different ministerial portfolios in Jammeh’s regime, including Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture and Local Government and Lands. Accused of participating in the executions on 11th November 1994 and in the killing of the Minister of Finance Ousman Koro Ceesay. Awaiting trial for TRRC witness tampering at the time of the release of this publication.

- **Alfusainey SUSSO**: Accused of participating in the burial of soldiers executed on 11th November 1994.
4 TYPES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RECORDED

- arrest/detention
- torture
- detentions under inhumane and degrading conditions
- extrajudicial killing

18 PERSONS TESTIFIED
- 10 victims including 7 Women
- 3 perpetrators
- 5 witnesses

35 PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED
- as perpetrators of and/or accessory to gross human rights violations

PLACES

FAJARA BARRACKS  YUNDUM BARRACKS  KAIRABA POLICE STATION
SOMA POLICE STATION  MANSAKONKO POLICE STATION  FARAFENNI POLICE STATION
JANJANBUREH PRISON  JESHWANG PRISON  MILE 2 PRISON  BAKAU BARRACKS
NYAMBAI FOREST NEAR SIFO AREA  NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT  BAMBADINKA IN JESHWANG
ARMY HEADQUARTERS  YANKUBA TOURAY’S RESIDENCE  MILITARY POLICE
The summary of the testimonies given are as follows:

The next day. One of his daughters called the next day to inform the family that her father had been arrested on his way home. They didn’t know his whereabouts nor the reason for his arrest.

One day they got a call from their husband who told them he was being held at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) office in Banjul and that he was in so much pain that if he had even a spoon, he would try to kill himself. They didn’t hear from him again and did not know his whereabouts despite their efforts to find him.

They didn’t know if he was alive or dead.

Later they heard that one of the men he was detained with was released and went to find out his fate from him. He told them his husband was detained at Bakau Barracks but not much else.

Witness Camara explained that her husband was arrested because there was an allegation that he was collecting the rent of a house belonging to his in-law and former Vice President, Saihou Sabally and that he (Alhagie Mamadi Sabally) had delivered the money to Saihou Sabally who was in exile in Dakar at the time.

After the family did not see or hear from her husband for 1 year and 2 months, one of his daughters called to say her father was being released. However, that did not materialize. They were informed that one F.R.I. Jammeh had him transferred from Bakau to Bambadinka in Jeshwang instead. He was later brought back to Bakau after O.J. Jallow and Ousainou Darboe demanded for him to be brought back and then eventually released.

Witness Camara testified that her husband’s body was swollen all over, and that he was unable to walk and in a lot of pain at the time of his release. They treated him with local herbs and the swelling went down after about a week.
Madam Camara said her husband told the family that he had been castrated during his detention. He told them that he recognized F.R.I. Jammeh and Daba Marenah among the people at Bambadinka who crushed his testicles and castrated him.

She said her husband reencountered to them how they used to take him out every morning, tie a rope around his neck and knees and whip him, asking him about the alleged rent money he collected for Saihou Sabally, of which he denied each time. She said her husband used to tell them that he knew what they did to him would kill him. He passed away about a year later.

She recounted to the Commission the hardship their family faced during her husband’s detention – the children dropped out of school, their electricity was cut off, the business went down and they were ostracised by the community.

After her husband’s death, the then Chief of Soma, Yaya Jarjusey told their family that the Area Council wanted to impound their shops unless they paid a bribe. They gave the bribe monthly but the shops were seized after the fourth month. She said they continued to suffer in silence but did not pursue matters as they were afraid.

Kaddy Camara concluded her testimony by urging all women who went through a similar situation to not be afraid and to come forward and testify.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Torture
F.R.I. Jammeh, Daba Marenah
WITNESS NAME: Mafugie SONKO

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 11th & 12th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED:

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Driver with the Tactical Support Group of the Gambia Gendarmerie

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Was instructed by his superior, Binneh Minteh, to drive the Lieutenants L.F. Jammeh, Darboe, Nyancho Sanneh, Buba Jammeh, and Basirou Barrow from Fajara Barracks to Yundum Barracks.

POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Driver at a private company

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness Sonko testified that on the night of 11th November 1994, he was off duty but around 10pm, the head of his unit, Lieutenant Binneh Minteh came to his room and instructed him to drive some soldiers from Fajara Barracks to Yundum Barracks. He later came to know that these soldiers were Lieutenants L.F. Jammeh, Darboe, Nyancho Sanneh, Buba Jammeh, and Basirou Barrow.

The witness said that upon entering Yundum Barracks, they were stopped by gunfire. L.F. Jammeh and another officer managed to escape but he and the other officers were captured and stripped down to their underwear by a group of armed soldiers led by Peter Singhateh and Batch Samba Jallow, Edward Singhateh’s driver.

They were forced to crawl from the gate towards the guardroom, about 50 metres while being kicked and hit with rifle butts. Peter Singhateh, Batch Samba Jallow and around 20 soldiers were telling them that they would kill them. Peter Singhateh later identified the witness and told Batch Samba Jallow that he (Mafugie Sonko) was not part of the group. He was taken aside, as they questioned the lieutenants about what he later understood was an attempted coup. Batch Samba Jallow however, took him back to the group and left him there even though Peter Singhateh told him again that he (Mafugie) was not part of it.

Mafugie Sonko said they made them crawl again to the guardroom where they were locked up in the cell. Later in the night, he was taken to Mile 2 Prison with Basirou Barrow, Buba Jammeh, and Nyancho Sanneh, escorted by Peter Singhateh, Batch Samba Jallow and other soldiers.

At Mile 2, they were also made to crawl while being kicked and hit with rifle butts to an open space where many other soldiers were also detained. He recalled seeing Abdoulie Dot Faal: he had been beaten so badly that his eye was almost popping out and was almost paralysed from the beating.

They had to drag him along.

Sonko testified that Sanna Sabally was there and as well as Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Batch Samba Jallow and other heads of the Gambia National Army. They were locked up in overcrowded cells. Sanna Sabally asked Peter Singhateh to stay behind while the others (including Edward Singhateh and Sadibou Hydara) went to the State House to get orders on what to do next.
Sanna Sabally later returned alone around dawn and told Peter Singhateh to take them all out of the cells, as they were being taken to Fajara Barracks where they were going to be executed. They took two truck-loads of detainees from his group as well as detainees who had been there already. Abdoulie Dot Faal had to be helped to get into the truck.

They were taken to Fajara Barracks and made to line up along the road near the guardroom. Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Batch Samba Jallow and other members of the army were all there. Sanna Sabally told them they will all be killed, from lieutenant to sergeant. They were then separated by rank and Sadibou Hydara said to them “you people want to take over this government but we will take these guns and put into your asses”. The witness explained that he knew then this was no longer a joke and that they were going to be killed for real.

Witness Sonko said he broke down and cried and asked them to pardon him as he had no knowledge of the activities. He explained that he had been asked by Binneh Minteh to drive the lieutenants to Yundum. Sonko told them he only realised when they got to Yundum that this was betrayal. Sadibou Hydara asked him the names of the lieutenants. He gave the names of Basirou Barrow, Lamin Jarju, L.F. Jammeh, Buba Jammeh and they were brought out after which Sanna Sabally said “In fact, let’s just take them to the field over there and kill them.”

Sadibou Hydara, Sanna Sabally, Peter Singhateh, Batch Samba Jallow and around 10 others stood in front of the captured soldiers. They all had guns.

The first person who was killed was Abdoulie Dot Faal. He was pulled out of the line and Peter Singhateh was the first person to shoot him. All the other soldiers who were armed with weapons fired as well.

Faal did not die instantly. He was gasping for air slowly until the second shooting started.

The second round of shooting was directed at the other lieutenants. The witness said he recalled that more than five fell to the ground, including Basirou Barrow, shaking and making noises while some remained standing.

When the third round of shooting started, Momodou Lamin Jarju who was standing behind him and other GNA officers decided to run to safety. It was pitch dark as all the lights were off. They ran for a while before the shooters realised some were trying to escape. Witness Sonko said he heard Peter Singhateh say “some of them are running away” and all the soldiers in the camp scattered. Some of the soldiers stayed and were ordered to put the fallen soldiers in a truck. Sergeant Gumbo Lowe was the driver of the truck. Sonko said that he was among those who had to carry the bodies to the truck.

Sonko testified that Abdoulie Dot Faal was the first to be put in the truck. Faal was still breathing. After all the fallen soldiers were put in the truck, Gumbo Lowe started the vehicle and Sanna Sabally ordered them to go to Yundum Barrack. They all got in the truck including the armed soldiers. All the other detainees that were not shot were lying on the floor among the dead and wounded while the armed soldiers stood.

At Yundum Barracks, the armed soldiers alighted from the truck and the detainees that were alive were led in a single file and marched into the cells. Peter Singhateh, Batch Samba Jallow and other soldiers were there but Sanna Sabally did not come to Yundum with them. Sanna Sabally only came to Yundum Barracks in the morning together with Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh, Baboucarr Jatta, Military Police and their leader Lieutenant Jasseh and one Fraiser Joof.
Sonko told the commission that from their cell window, they saw that the dead bodies that were left in the truck were taken to the back of the barracks among the lime grove. He said they did not see what happened but heard from the soldiers who came back that the bodies were buried in a big pit. Sonko said that Sanna Sabally and some of the officers left, leaving Peter Sing hateh and Batch Samba Jallow behind.

In the afternoon, Edward Sing hateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Baboucarr Jatta and military police officers returned to Yundum Barracks. Sonko said he counted over twelve detainees from rank of lieutenant to sergeant being brought out of the cells in their underwear, taken to a truck, their heads covered with a tarpaulin. The truck headed towards Brikama followed by senior officers. Witness Sonko said the detainees he recognised among the group were Buba Jammeh and Bakary Manneh Nyancho. The senior officers came back and took another batch of detainees including Gibril Saye and Basirou Camara.

Three days later Warrant Officer Class 2, WO2 Trawalleh, Corporal Omar Njie who was shot in the thigh and was limping, Private Babai Manneh were arrested and brought to the camp. Sergeant Nyang Kabareh was also brought while being beaten by armed soldiers followed by Corporal Kebbeh who was also shot in the leg with the bone protruding out of his body as well as other army personnel. Corporal Omar Njie who was very weak was taken out of the cell.

Sonko said they were in the cell for about a week without being given food to eat nor water to drink. They slept on the floor without clothes, were not allowed to shower and were told regularly that they were going to be killed.

Soldiers came back and moved Sergeant Nyang Kabareh and himself to another cell that was pitch dark. Witness Sonko said he gave up at that point and believed that it was time for him to die. They were kept there for a day after which Peter Sing hateh and Batch Samba Jallow came. Peter Sing hateh asked him to go inside the cell they were previously while they had a long talk to Sergeant Nyang Kabareh.

A couple of days later, all the detainees were moved to Mile 2 Prison. When they got there, they found other senior officers among them Captain Ebrima Cambi, Captain Mamat Cham, Captain Ndure Cham, former Director of the National Security Service, Kebba Ceesay, Major Njie, Major Mbaye and other GNA personnel.

At Mile 2, he said they were locked up in a single, poorly ventilated, rat infested cell with a concrete slab for a bed and no light. The food was poor and they were not charged nor allowed access to a lawyer.

The witness said he recalled WO2 Trawalleh, Sergeant Nyang Kabareh, Babai Manneh, Omar Njie, and Sergeant Manjang were tried in a court martial after which they were dismissed from the army, sentenced to nine years and moved to the regular prison yard.

During the period of two months, Sonko said he was taken to the Army Commander Baboucarr Jatta’s office in Banjul a couple of times and returned back to Mile 2 without any further information. He was served a paper to be court martialled. At the court martial, he was told his case should be referred to civilian court and he was taken back to Mile 2. Sonko told the commission that one day,

David Colley, the Commissioner of Prison handed him a prison jumper and moved him to the main prison yard, changing his status from detainee to prisoner without any paperwork or trial.

While in prison, there was an incident relating to food that led to prisoners refusing to come out of the cells, eat or work. This information was relayed to Army Headquarters. Soldiers came to the prison and moved
some of them, including himself, to Jeshwang Prison. Others were taken to remand.

Sonko revealed that he was kept in isolation at Jeshwang Prison with his hands tied at all times except when it was time to eat. The cuffs were removed after the third week. He spent five years at Jeshwang Prison before being moved back to Mile 2 Prison.

Sonko further narrated he was released in 2003 after having been kept in prison for **nine years without trial.**

He explained that his release was also in a manner similar to how his status changed from detainee to prisoner i.e. he was called again by David Colley, given an army uniform and told him he was going to be released in two days.

He explained that David Colley told him that he was not dismissed from the army and was instructed to report to Fajara Barracks. At Fajara Barracks, he was told to report to Yundum Barracks but when he got to Yundum, the Regimental Sergeant Major told him his post was Fajara. This back and forth went on for another round after which he got upset and took off his uniform, threw them at Yundum Barracks and went home.

Sonko testified further that during his **detention,** he was made to sign an affidavit stating that he was authorizing part of his salary to be collected by his wife. He said his wife used to collect D1,000, D1,500 or D2,000 monthly from army headquarters. He said David Colley commented on this saying that he has never seen someone serving time in prison being paid a salary and confirmed to him that he was still in active service.

He worked odd jobs from his release to 2004 before deciding to visit the Army Headquarters where he was told he was retired from the army after which he left and went home. Asked if he was given any paperwork to this effect, he replied in the negative.

Asked how he felt about being imprisoned without trial for all this time, witness Sonko said he took it as his destiny and as what his leaders that kept him wanted.

He said he found a job in 2004 where he is still working. Sonko told the Commission that he received a letter of termination from the army in August 2011.

In closing, witness Sonko, stated he never believed he would be alive to witness this day. He explained that he controlled himself believing he was the same as everyone as if he kept thinking about what happened to him and what he saw, he would have **lost his sanity.**

Sonko said he does not hold a grudge against anyone, he has forgiven all.

He added however that in his own thinking, Binneh Minteh and Batch Samba Jallow were the main cause of everything he went through. Though he has forgiven them, he felt they were responsible for what happened to him – Binneh Minteh for ordering him to drive the other lieutenants even though he (Sonko) was off duty, and not briefing him about what was to happen before they left; and Batch Samba Jallow for putting him back with the group once they were arrested, despite Peter Singhateh’s order to pull him out.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

**Extrajudicial killing/Witness to Extrajudicial killing**

Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Batch Samba Jallow, Baboucarr Jatta

**Arbitrary detention**

David Colley
WITNESS NAME: Koso TAYLOR

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 13th March 2019

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

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Party militant and Treasurer of the Women’s Executive Committee of the People’s Progressive Party, PPP Nominated Councillor with the Banjul City Council

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Accused of intending to participate in a demonstration

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Lives and works as a nurse in California, United States

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness Koso Taylor told the commission that on Thursday, 12th October 1995, as she was on her way to buy an air ticket, she was stopped by Sainey Manneh who asked if she was going to the demonstration. When she asked what demonstration, she was forcefully arrested and taken to Kairaba Police Station. She was transferred to Fajara Barracks later in the evening.

At Fajara Barracks, she was detained in a dirty storage facility she described as not fit for human habitation. Those detained had nothing to sleep on, no food, water nor shower and no toilet facilities. More detainees were brought in the next few days including Omar (O.J.) Jallow, the late Ousainou Njie, MC Cham, Jobarteh Manneh, one Faye and Batch Samba Jallow.

She was the only woman detained among over 20 other men.

On Saturday morning, three truckloads of military personnel came and started insulting them, telling them they were going to be killed. The men were made to lie face down while the soldiers walked on their bare backs and beat them with hose pipes. She said at one point, one of the military officers fired a shot as he was talking to Jobarteh Manneh and she shouted “he has killed him, oh he has killed him”. Taylor recounted that as soon as she uttered the words, about eight officers rushed at her.

One of them kicked her in her genital area with his military boots. There was blood all over the place after she was kicked.

She said the others started beating her with pipes. They stripped off her top clothing in front of all the male detainees and soldiers causing her great embarrassment. She sustained injuries on her back as well and was in a lot of pain. Koso Taylor said that they were not given any medical assistance.

The next day, National Intelligence Agency, NIA and Criminal Investigation Department, CID officers came and took their statements. She said she was transferred after that and detained at the CID Office at Police Headquarters in Banjul.

At Banjul, she was detained with two other women by the name of Mama Jawara and Adama Ceesay who said they were also arrested and taken to the NIA Office. Koso Taylor said Mama Jawara claimed she was shocked by an electrical device all over her legs and she had sustained injuries. They were never
provided with food while in detention. Family and friends brought her food. She further stated that they had to sleep on the floor for about five to six months before they were provided with mattresses.

While they were detained at the CID office on Banjul, Witness Taylor said lawyer Fafa Mbye and late Abou Denton then head of Treasury Department were also arrested and brought in.

The witness said they were taken to Kanifing Court and charged with seditious intent to stage a demonstration, however the case was never heard as they kept adjourning it until thirteen months later when they were called by the then Inspector General of Police FRI Jammeh in November 1996 informing them their case was over and that they were being released.

Witness Taylor said she assumed the case had been dropped as they were never called back to court. She left for Freetown, Sierra Leone after that. After the civil war broke in Sierra Leone, Taylor said that while most were fleeing to Gambia, her homeland, she found her way to Senegal as she did not feel she could return to the country because she was afraid for her life and also because of the humiliation she went through.

She eventually succeeded in getting asylum to the USA where she lives up to today.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

Arbitrary arrest

Sainey Manneh

...she did not feel she could return to the country because she was afraid for her life and also because of the humiliation she went through.
WITNESS NAME: Kemesseng SM JAMMEH

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 14th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: Imprisonment and harassment of United Democratic Party, UDP members and perceived supporters

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT: Active member of the UDP

ROLE DURING THE EVENT: Opposed to the regime of Yahya Jammeh

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Gambia’s Ambassador to Turkey

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness Kemesseng Jammeh told the Commission that banned political parties namely the People’s Progressive Party, PPP, the National Convention Party, NCP and the Gambia People’s Party GPP came together on 23rd August 1996 to form a new political party called the United Democratic Party, UDP led by Lawyer Ousainou Darboe. He explained that the reason behind this was that they did not believe that the AFPRC would go back to the barracks as they had promised. The witness said that he was assigned to contest the districts of Jarra West and Central in Lower River Division.

On 23rd September 1996, police officers came to the witness’ house at around 11am and informed him that he was wanted at the Soma Police Station by the Officer Commanding Lower River Region. He cooperated and went with them.

He said he was detained at Soma Police Station until around 3pm before being transported to Janjanbureh Prison. He said he was detained at Janjanbureh Prison without due process and was not given the reason for his arrest nor allowed access to a lawyer.

In the cell, he found Lamin Waa Juwara whom he claims people did not know where he was at the time. He described the cell as being small, with poor ventilation and a concrete slab to serve as the bed. He said the food quality was also bad but he was fortunate to have access to food from outside. The witness also said that his family and party compatriots knew his whereabouts and were able to visit him. These privileges lasted until December 1996 when Farafenni was attacked.

After the attack, they were kept incommunicado until January 1997 when he, along with two other party militants from UDP who were also detained at Janjanbureh Prison, Sainey Sabally and Siaka Sonko were taken to Farafenni Police Station and told that they were going to be taken to court. At Farafenni, they were detained in a very narrow, dark, dingy and smelly cell with nothing to sleep on before the court hearing the next day. The witness told the Commission that the station officer at that time, one Officer Secka exercised some level of humanity by allowing them to get something to sleep on from the town.

The witness testified that the court was presided by Magistrate Borry Bojang and that they were charged with involvement in a confrontation between a UDP delegation and the July 22nd Movement in Farafenni that led to property damage, a charge he
He said he believed Mr. Waa Juwara was not released because Juwara was a radical and a problem to the government.

Kemesseng Jammeh told the Commission that he was nominated by his constituency to contest in the parliamentary elections during his detention, which he accepted. When they returned to court, they were granted bail but re-arrested the next morning and sent back to Janjanbureh without again being told the reason for their arrest. He believes that the reason for his arrest was to prevent him from contesting the elections.

The witness stated that his party, the UDP objected on the grounds of the unconstitutionality of their arrest and demanded their release or else they would reconsider their participation in the elections. These arguments got them released a few days later.

He disclosed that he was never tortured or maltreated while in detention however, it had a very adverse effect on his family. The witness said that his arrest and that of other people like him did not surprise him because he knew that the type of people who were ruling the country had very little regard for the rule of law if any.

The witness said he had compiled a list of 18-19 people whose arrest and detention at Janjanbureh Prison were politically motivated and sent it to his party, the UDP. He said the UDP submitted this list to the government and demanded that these people be released as a condition of their participation in the elections. Fortunately, the government cooperated and released everyone except Lamin Waa Juwara.

He said they filed a suit at the High Court and a judgement was issued to release the yard owners however, the prison officer refused to release them. They then filed a suit against the prison officer and were successful but they remained in custody. He therefore met the Attorney General, Fatou Bensouda who intervened and got his people released after 40 days in prison.

Witness Jammeh stated that the arrest of his people who were primarily farmers would have had a big impact of their families as they were arrested during the rainy season when there were supposed to tend their farms. He said the rest of the community and UDP party militants came together and supported the families of the prisoners on the farm to ensure they did not suffer.
He said some members of his constituency were arrested and detained at Janjanbureh Prison when they objected to the fact that non-eligible aliens had been allowed to register to vote in the constituency. The UDP party leader, Ousainou Darboe filed a suit in court and secured their release.

Mr. Jammeh told the Commission that on 14th April 2016, the UDP youth militants led by their president, the late Solo Sandeng staged a peaceful demonstration without the knowledge of the Party Executive to demand for the organization of free and fair elections and term limits. He said the demonstrations came as a result of the attitude of the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC which was ignoring requests by opposition parties to convene a meeting to address the issue of the unfair political environment in the country. He stated that some of these unfair conditions included senior civil servants politicking, military personnel wearing party T-shirts etc.

He said the demonstrators were trampled upon, arrested and manhandled. They were taken to Police Intervention Unit, PIU headquarters and eventually to Banjul. The witness explained that he later came to understand that they were taken to National Intelligence Agency’s, NIA torture chamber, where they were tortured. He listed some of those arrested as Solo Sandeng, Falang Sonko, Fatoumatta Jawara, Fatou Camara, Nogoi Njie, Jukuna Sussu, Kaffu Bayo, Ebrima Jabang, Modou Ngum and Bubacarr Jitteh.

The witness said that on the morning of 16th April 2016, he was dismayed and shocked to receive a call from Lawyer Ousainou Darboe informing him that he had information that Solo Sandeng died the night before as a result of the torture and had been secretly buried in Tanji.

He said they were also informed that the other detainees such as Nogoi Njie and Fatoumatta Jawara were in very bad conditions. He said his party felt it necessary to hold a press conference that day at 12pm.

At the press conference, it was decided that the party led by the entire leadership would go out to peacefully demand for Solo Sandeng and all the other detainees, dead or alive. It was also decided that the assistants of the leaders would stay behind in case anything happened to the leadership.

While they were demonstrating,

PIU officers descended on them, beating them with batons before arresting about 30 to 40 of them, seriously injuring Lawyer Ousainou Darboe, Momodou Lamin Dibba who nearly lost his eye and Lamin Jatta.

They were taken to the PIU headquarters, the injured were taken to the hospital for treatment.

They were detained for one night in a big hall with mattresses to sleep on, men and women together in the same hall. He said the then Minister of Interior, Ousman Sonko and Inspector General of Police, Yankuba Sonko visited them but did not say anything. The next day, their statements were taken and they were transferred to Mile 2 Prison. They were received and detained by David Colley without being charged. He described the conditions of the cells as overcrowded and poorly ventilated. He said they were allowed visitors and food from outside.

Kemesseng Jammeh said they were charged and sentenced to three years imprisonment on 20th July 2016 for holding a demonstration without permit.
when in fact they held a peaceful demonstration which
did not require a permit. He said they were fortunate
to be defended for free by 17 lawyers when they filed
an appeal until the election victory of the coalition led
by Adama Barrow. Their appeal was heard and the
motion went unopposed on 5\textsuperscript{th} December 2016 and
they were released.

The witness said his \textbf{arrest} was a painful ordeal
for him and his family and disrupted their lives. In
answers to questions from the Commissioners
regarding reforms, Mr. Jammeh suggested the need
for a new constitution that will put a definite stop to
the issue of self-perpetuation; that there should be a
term limit. Inter-party dialogue should be sustained
and maintained and the IEC should consult political
parties. He further emphasised the need for an
overhaul of Mile 2 Prison allowing prisoners to be
rehabilitated and learn new skills, so that those with
skills can be employed to do prison work and earn
money rather than waste their time.

\textbf{PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING}
\textbf{TESTIMONY:}
None

In his concluding remarks, witness SM Jammeh stated that
people have great expectations of the Commission and urged them
to seriously look into these cases of \textbf{atrocities} and \textbf{excesses} of the
previous regime and prioritize reparation to first deal with people whose
loved ones have been \textbf{killed}, people who have \textbf{disappeared}, people
who have been \textbf{disabled} and deal with the question of what to do with
the \textbf{perpetrators} before addressing reconciliation so Gambians can
have a fresh start and open a new page.
Excavation site at Yundum Barracks where captured soldiers were summarily executed on 10th/11th November 1994
Photo: Jason Florio
WITNESS NAME: Malang Fenda Sidiq CAMARA

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 18th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 10th /11th November 1994

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Private soldier/ Member of the communications team stationed at the Army Headquarters

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Got hold of information regarding the execution of soldiers

POSITION AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Warrant Officer Class 1 in the Gambia National Army

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness Camara testified before the Commission that on 10th November 1994, at around 11am, the radio operator at Yundum Barracks called his unit to inform them that the Council members (except for Yahya Jammeh) together with then Army Commander Baboucarr Jatta, Momodou Badgie (the security advisor to President Barrow at time of mention) and Dennis Koka were at Yundum Barracks. The witness and his colleagues were told that the meeting was about soldiers’ plan to boycott the Remembrance Day parade as they were dissatisfied with unfulfilled promises made to them during the 22nd July 1994 coup by the Council members.

According to information the witness received, after leaving Yundum at around 3.30pm, the Council members headed to Fajara Barracks for a similar meeting and left at around 7pm.

The witness stated that he was still on duty at the Army Headquarters at around 8.30pm when he received a call from Yahya Jammeh ordering that if Basirou Barrow, Abdoulie Dot Faal, L. F. Jammeh, Bakary Manneh, Binneh Minteh, Gibril Saye, Ebou (EM) Ceesay and Sar Jakal came to the Army Headquarters and wanted to force themselves into the premises, they should open fire on them. The witness relayed the information to the Guard Commander whose name he could not remember.

He revealed that at around 1.30-2am, he heard gunshots and went outside the Army Headquarters. He added that the gunshots lasted for a while.

Malang Camara further revealed that at about 3.30am, then 2nd Lieutenant Ousman Sonko rushed into the Army Headquarters, grabbed his rifle, informed him that he was going to the State House and left.

The witness said at about 8am on 11th November 1994, he was instructed to escort Captain Lawrence Jarra to Yundum Barracks. The witness stated that they had received information that soldiers were being arrested at Yundum and Fajara barracks.

Upon arrival at Yundum Barracks, the witness went to the Communications Centre. At around 11am, he heard three shots, went to the door and saw that Fafa Nyang had been killed in front of the Anti-room. He was informed by the soldiers standing around that Edward Singhateh had killed him. He also recalled Malafi Corr and Lamin Colley being present. The witness specified that he was told that Lamin Colley had also participated in the shooting of Fafa Nyang. The witness mentioned that Ebou (EM) Ceesay was also killed at around 1pm in front of the cookhouse on orders of Edward Singhateh but he did not see the bodies.
The witness said that he left with Captain Jarra at around 1-2pm and went home.

Upon his return to work on Monday, he got information that soldiers namely Amadou M Sillah, Gibril Saye, Basirou Camara among others had been executed around Sifo area and Brikama/Nyambai Forest by Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Yankouba Touray and Sadibou Hydara. The witness said that after he received the information, he could not sleep for 48 hours. He further added that he could not remember exactly who had been killed but believed it was about 15 soldiers in total at the barracks, Nyambai forest and Sifo area. He added that he heard that Fafa Nyang and Ebou (EM) Ceesay had been buried at Yundum Barracks.

He stated that the morale of the soldiers was low after the extrajudicial killings of their colleagues.

Witness Camara concluded by condemning the extrajudicial killings that took place on 11th November 1994. The witness finally recommended for the security services to be reformed with an emphasis on training in human rights, civic education and public relations; and appealed to the political leadership to look into the welfare of the country’s army and security services.

He added that whilst Gambian culture and values promote forgiveness, he encouraged the Commission to set an example by bringing those responsible for committing those horrific and heinous crimes to face the full force of the law in order to guarantee true reconciliation in the country. He added that only by emphasising justice under such circumstances can the “Never Again” campaign take its root. He also appealed for the bodies of those killed to be recovered and given a befitting burial.
WITNESS NAME: John Charles B. (J.C.B.) MENDY

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 19th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994 coup, violation of the rights of civilians, Alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup, Arrest and detention of Sanna Sabally Sadibou Hydara and their orderlies

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Officer in the finance department at Army Headquarters

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Participated in the torture and killing of soldiers on 10th/11th November 1994

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Chief security of the Gambia International Airlines

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness John Charles B. Mendy stated that he was unaware of any coup plans to overthrow the government of Sir Dawda Jawara prior to the 22nd July 1994 coup. He added that on 21st July, whilst on duty at the Army Headquarters, he heard that soldiers had been disarmed at the airport. The witness testified that according to information he received from Sanna Sabally after the takeover, the idea of a coup had been initiated by Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh and that soldiers who were part of the planned coup were to be arrested on 22nd July 1994 following what had happened at the airport the day before. He added that out of fear of being arrested Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh rushed to Yundum Barracks in the early morning of 22nd July 1994 and arrested Adjutant Sheriff Gomez.

The witness testified that he was in Banjul when he heard that a coup was taking place. As he wanted to participate in the takeover, he left his office, went home, changed into his uniform and joined the coup makers at Yundum Barracks arriving there at around 11am-1pm. When he got to Yundum Barracks, Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh had already left for Fajara Barracks. The witness said he collected a weapon and joined the others heading to Banjul. They commandeered a vehicle and on their way to Banjul met a group led by Yahya Jammeh going towards Denton Bridge on foot. They jumped out of the vehicle and joined them.

Upon arrival at Denton Bridge, they met Amadou Suwareh who had blocked the access to the bridge. The witness stated that after about a 30-minute conversation between Amadou Suwareh and Yahya Jammeh, they were allowed to pass. The witness was not privy to what was discussed but he believed that because Amadou Suwareh and Yahya Jammeh had a good working relationship, the latter managed to convince him to let them through.

Witness Mendy said that as they moved towards Banjul, they increased in numbers as soldiers joined them from Fajara Barracks. Upon reaching Mile 2, they arrested Kebba Ceesay then Director of the National Security Service and senior officials from the prison department. Their weapons were confiscated by Yahya Jammeh and handed over to the witness. The officials who were taken as captives were lined up between Yahya Jammeh and the men. As they proceeded, they heard a gunshot coming from those opposing the coup. The witness later learnt that Ebrima Chongan had given the order to fire at them. No one was injured but when they heard the gunshot, they all dispersed. They then took position again and proceeded. Once at the State House, the soldiers they met at the gate told them that Sir Dawda Jawara had already left the premises.
Once inside, the senior officers held discussions while the junior officers guarded the State House. About 4 hours after they had secured the State House, the witness said he went home. He stated before going home, he learnt from others that the senior officers had formed a government and that there had been a pull and push between Yahya Jammeh, Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara as to who was to head the newly formed government. They decided to act according to seniority in the military and Yahya Jammeh was declared the Chairman of the Council. The witness stated that there was tension when they had to select the Vice Chairman, as Edward Singhateh wanted that position. However, as Sanna Sabally was senior to him in rank, he was declared Vice Chairman of the Council.

J.C.B. Mendy testified that a week or so after the coup had succeeded, he was selected by Sanna Sabally to be his orderly. He stated that he reluctantly accepted. On the reasons for his selection, he believed it was because he was an obedient and hardworking soldier. He added that Babucarr Njie also known as Njie Ponkal, Baba Njie alias B.A. Njie, Zakaria Darboe, the late Albert Gomez were also selected to be members of Sanna Sabally’s security detail; and Dembo Gibba, Alkali Jallow and Lamin Drammeh to be his drivers.

The witness stated that they were given instructions to safeguard him and to ensure that anyone who obstructed their convoy on the road should be dealt with by all means. He specified that civilians were not to be shot at but they were allowed for instance to burst their tires which he admitted doing once. The witness particularly recalled doing so to one John Njie whom he knew. On further probing, the witness confirmed that he was not aware that John Njie had been beaten although he was present.

When read a report from the National Intelligence Agency that stated that one Abdoulie Tekanyi was assaulted by Sanna Sabally and his escorts (which included the witness) on 27th January 1995 at Lamin, allegedly for failing to give way to the Vice Chairman on the highway, the witness maintained not being aware that the individual had been beaten. On other incidents whereby civilians’ rights were violated by his group of men, witness Mendy stated not remembering any of the seven incidents mentioned by the Counsel.

Witness Mendy, recalled a time when he was instructed by Sanna Sabally to go to Serrekunda Police Station to collect someone who had been using phone booths to call Yahya Jammeh and insult him. He did so and handed him to Sanna Sabally who questioned him. According to the witness, the detained person did not respond and Sanna Sabally instructed the witness and his colleagues to punish him. The witness and his colleagues tortured the detainee.

Moving on from discussing the violations of rights of civilians carried out by members of Sanna Sabally’s convoy, J.C.B. Mendy denied being present at Mile 2 and participating in the torture of detainees on the night of 5th September/early morning of 6th September 1994.

The witness recalled a time at Mile 2 Prison where political detainees, including O.J. Jallow and Kama Badjie, were questioned by Council members. Their orderlies were also present including Zakaria Darboe, B.A. Njie, Babucarr Njie, Lamarana Barry, Alfusainey Susso, Mustapha “Churro” Touray and the drivers. The witness could not recall exactly what they were asked but he remembered Sanna Sabally asking detainees to crawl. O.J. Jallow refused. According to the witness, O.J. Jallow was about to be beaten when the witness intervened. He tried to convince O.J. Jallow to do as Sanna Sabally instructed or he would be tortured. O.J. Jallow finally accepted and did as instructed. The witness denied having beaten O.J. Jallow. He also stated not being aware of O.J. Jallow being beaten.

Witness Mendy testified before the Commission that on 10th November 1994 he was on duty at the State House with Sanna Sabally. In the afternoon, around 1-2pm he left for Yundum Barracks to join
the Council members. Upon arriving there, he saw the Council members in a meeting with Basirou Barrow, Gibril Saye and L.F. Jammeh at the Officer's Mess. The witness stood outside whilst the meeting took place and therefore could not ascertain what had been discussed but he could hear shouts. After the meeting, the witness together with the Council members returned to Banjul.

J.C.B. Mendy stated that he was briefed by Sanna Sabally and told that Basirou Barrow and co. were planning to overthrow the AFPRC. Sanna Sabally also told him that names had been listed in case the coup succeeded and that they (the coup makers) were to be silenced. When they arrived at the State House all the Council members went to Yahya Jammeh to brief him on the outcome of the meeting. They all came down and went back to Sanna Sabally’s residence where the witness also lived.

At around 7-8pm, Sanna Sabally told the witness and his colleagues that they should get ready as officers at Yundum Barracks were preparing to attack. The witness and his colleagues (Babucarr Njie, Baba A. Njie, Zakaria Darboe, Dembo Gibba, Lamin Drammeh, Alkali Jallow and the late Albert Gomez) got dressed in combat uniform, grabbed AK47s and headed to Banjul. The witness added that before departing Sanna Sabally’s residence, Edward Singhateh, Yankuba Touray, Sadibou Hydara, Batch Samba Jallow, Alfusainey Susso, Saikou Jassey, Sissaho Fatty, Mustapha “Churro” Touray and Momodou Lamaran Jallow arrived at Sanna’s house.

Upon arriving, the Council members held a meeting with Yahya Jammeh. Sanna Sabally came down and briefed his orderlies and other soldiers present including Peter Singhateh that they were going to foil an attempted coup and that the coup makers were ready to attack anytime. The witness added that nobody questioned the order as that was against the military code. He also added that Yahya Jammeh came down as well and said: “Sanna, I am going with you guys [...] Bilai walai talai if I go with you guys a lot of families will weep today”. Witness Mendy stated that at that moment he understood that the mission was to kill or to be killed and started having mixed feelings.

The group of about 30 soldiers and officers left and headed to Yundum Barracks. On their way to the barracks, they met with one private soldier called A.K. Touray. They apprehended him and Sanna Sabally asked him where he was going. A.K. Touray started crying and he was handed over to the witness.

**Sanna Sabally instructed the witness to kill him if he tried to escape.**

They left and the witness stayed behind with A.K. Touray. After about 30 minutes, he told him to leave but warned him not to tell anyone he had set him free, should he ever be caught.

Witness Mendy explained that he then proceeded to Yundum Barracks where he saw that they had seized the barracks, which were now under the Council’s control. Sanna Sabally instructed the witness to go get the Army Commander Baboucarr Jatta at Banjulinding. He did so and on their way back, they heard two gunshots.

Once at Yundum Barracks, he escorted Baboucarr Jatta over to Sanna Sabally. He then saw a truck and learnt that Basirou Barrow, Abdoulie Dot Faal and others had been arrested and where in the truck. The witness denied seeing anyone being beaten. He also denied going to the truck to see their conditions.

**He added that when the truck started moving, he heard the captured soldiers crying and moaning.**

They subsequently left for Fajara Barracks and upon arrival they dispersed. The witness specified that he was attached to Baboucarr Jatta to guard him at this stage and that he did not participate in the attack, although present.

---

4 Still serving in the army at time of mention.
The soldiers moved tactically and received enemy fire. They moved towards the truck. The captured soldiers including Basirou Barrow, Abdoulie Dot Faal and one Sar Jakal Joof were brought down by Sanna Sabally. He saw Baboucarr Jatta go speak to the Council members. Sanna Sabally then gave orders to the witness and his colleagues to fire at the captured soldiers who were lined up in front of them.

All of them except Baboucarr Jatta fired and killed Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal.

He noticed that Sar Jakal had escaped. The dead bodies were put inside the truck and they went to Radio Gambia to make an announcement.

At Radio Gambia, Sanna Sabally announced that there had been an enemy attack in which some soldiers lost their lives. The witness explained that this announcement was a lie. They then went to the State House to report to Yahya Jammeh. The witness disclosed that at the State House the soldiers were jubilant but he felt guilt for participating in the killing of his colleagues. After that, he did not see the bodies again.

The witness further disclosed that on the 12th of November 1994, the group led by the Council members went to Yundum Barracks, and whilst there, he saw a Land Rover parked with some detainees on board. He could not recall seeing Baboucarr Jatta at the barracks but he saw Alhagie Kanyi sitting behind with the detainees. They moved towards Brikama. He revealed that when the vehicles stopped, just after Nyambai Forest, he heard some screams from the Land Rover and as he walked to the vehicle, he saw the captured soldiers being bayoneted by Alhagie Kanyi with his rifle and Gibril Saye crying.

He further revealed that at this point he told Alhagie Kanyi to stop hitting them as their fate was still not decided.

The witness told the Commission that after a while, they proceeded to Sifoe area and went about 10 meters from the road and stopped. He stated that the detainees were brought down from the vehicle and lined up and he heard Sanna Sabally order the captured soldiers to say their last prayers. The captured soldiers including Abdoulie Bah Achopie, Amadou M. Sillah, Bakary Manneh Nyancho, Gibril Saye knelt down and an order was given to shoot them.

The witness stated that when the order was given by Sanna Sabally to shoot them and whilst the soldiers prepared to take position, he managed to go behind the truck in order not to participate in the killings. After the shooting, the dead bodies were taken to Yundum Barracks and handed over to soldiers. Three other soldiers namely Ebou (EM) Ceesay, Fafa Nyang and Basirou Camara were shot dead at Yundum Barracks (he did not state by whom) and the convoy left for the State House to brief Yahya Jammeh. According to the witness, he did not participate in any burial nor did he witness the burial.

Moving on from the 10th/11th November 1994 events, the witness recalled when Sanna Sabally was arrested on a Friday in 1995. The witness was informed by his brother of the arrest and told to go to the State House. He went to the State House and asked Edward Singhateh what had happened. Edward Singhateh told him that “Sanna Sabally was trying to make a fool of himself because he was trying to kill the Chairman”. The witness said he then went home and when he reported to work on Monday, he met Almamo Manneh and Tumbul Tamba who told him to join them and go to the National Intelligence Agency, NIA Headquarters.
The witness told the Commission that he refused to go with them initially but subsequently went to the National Intelligence Agency, NIA. He said that whilst at the NIA, he met Sadibou Hydara and Sanna Sabally’s guards (Baba Njie, Babucarr Njie, Zakaria Darboe, Dembo Gibba, Lamin Drammeh, Lama Barry, Alkali Jallow and one Ol Pa) and asked to sit until evening. Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara had already been taken to Mile 2 Prison.

In the evening, they were told by one Fraiser Joof that they were going to be taken to Mile 2. They spent the night at Mile 2 and the next day brought back to the NIA. The witness was interrogated and threatened to be tortured with the electrocuting machine. The others were also interrogated and then returned to Mile 2.

J.C.B. Mendy told the Commission that whilst at the NIA, he clearly heard Barakatu Colley, Sanna Sabally’s wife, screaming “they want to kill me”.

He further told the Commission that he was detained for 641 days (18 months) at the remand wing of Mile 2, was never told the reason for his arrest, taken to court nor given access to a lawyer. Though he remarked that the conditions at Mile 2 were deplorable, he stressed that he was never tortured whilst there. The witness said he did not consider his victimisation as such.

Upon his release, he went to the Army Headquarters where he was told by Baboucarr Jatta that Yahya Jammeh said “let bygones be bygones” and they should return to work in two weeks. A few days after his release, the Farafenni attack took place. The witness was called at the NIA Headquarters again and told that he had been heard during the Farafenni attack together with Sheriff Gomez. The witness denied being present and told them that he was with Baboucarr Jatta at the time. He was subsequently released.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Torture
Babucarr Njie Ponkal, Baba Njie alias B.A. Njie, Zakaria Darboe, the late Albert Gomez, Alhagie Kanyi
Extra-judicial killing
Sanna Sabally, J.C.B. Mendy
Arbitrary detention
Fraiser Joof

Still serving in the army at time of mention.
WITNESS NAME: Lamin COLLEY

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 20th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994 coup, Alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup and death of Fafa Nyang

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Private soldier and medic in the Gambia Armed Forces, GAF

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Participated in the killing of Fafa Nyang on 11th November 1994

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Warrant Officer Class 2 in the Gambia National Army

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Lamin Colley testified before the Commission that on 21st July 1994, he was part of the medical personnel assigned to cover the guard of honor at the airport for President Sir Dawda K. Jawara returning from an overseas trip. He said he saw some officers being searched but could not tell for what purpose. He specified that he saw Yahya Jammeh being searched at the airport and that a pistol was found on him. The guard of honor took place and the witness went back to Yundum Barracks where he was posted at the time.

The witness stated that on 22nd July 1994, between 7-9am he saw soldiers moving out and heard there was a military takeover. He said as no one requested medical personnel to accompany them he stayed at the barracks and continued his work.

He added that after 22nd July 1994, he did not see many changes in the camp. He heard of senior officers being arrested but he did not know the reason for the arrests.

Moving on from the 22nd July 1994 coup, witness Colley recalled that on 10th November 1994 in the afternoon, he saw the Council members (Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Sadibou Hydara) and Peter Singhateh entering the camp calling for an impromptu meeting near the clinic with soldiers and officers whose names he could not remember. He could not recall if Yankuba Touray was present. He said as he was standing by the clinic gate, he heard Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh and Sadibou Hydara say “if any of the soldiers want to misbehave or otherwise, they will pay a higher price”. He could not remember anything else being said during the course of the meeting.

According to the witness, at the end of the meeting which lasted about 45 mins to an hour, Edward Singhateh fired shots in the air. The witness believed this was a warning to the soldiers and officers. On the same day, at around 10-11pm, the witness heard gunshots coming from the direction of the main yard. As a medic residing in the camp he decided to step out and see what was happening. He met up with Edward Singhateh and Sadibou Hydara and was told that there were soldiers who wanted to counter the 22nd July coup and that there would be a massive crack-down on those involved in this plan. He said realised that the meeting that had taken place earlier on was in relation to this.

Witness Colley stated that the situation was chaotic at Yundum Barracks with soldiers running around and collecting weapons. After Edward Singhateh spoke to him, Sadibou Hydara asked the witness why he was here at this time of the night. He explained that he was part of the medical personnel and was residing at the camp. He added that it was therefore his responsibility to check what was going on and see if anyone needed medical attention.
and realised that the accidental discharge had killed him, a colleague he was trying to help. He specified that the bullet had landed on Fafa Nyang’s left jaw who was lying down flat on his belly with his head tilted and facing east. He heard a voice supposedly that of Sanna Sabally say “Get out of here”. He recalled seeing a crowd coming towards him and at the front were Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh, Sanna Sabally and Peter Singhateh armed and looking furious.

On the particulars of the killing of Fafa Nyang, the witness testified that the night before, he had grabbed an AK47 from the armoury, cleared, cocked it then put it on safe mode to avoid any accidental discharges and kept it in case of an attack. However, the next day in the early morning, when he grabbed it, he did not check whether it was still on safe mode.

On the suggestion by the Counsel that there must have been a magazine with live rounds the safety catch moved and his hands on the trigger to squeeze the trigger, the witness maintained it was an accidental discharge.

Witness Colley refuted previous testimonies that stated he had intentionally shot and killed Fafa Nyang. He further added that his intention was to help him but that Allah had decided it was to be the end of Fafa Nyang. The witness stated that he was never questioned about Fafa Nyang’s killing and never discussed it until the TRRC. He also said that he had the intention of speaking to Fafa Nyang’s family but he did not know how to apologise to them.

Witness Colley stated that he did not see anyone else killed or heard of any other killings on the day until a few days later when he heard soldiers were captured and taken out to the bush to be killed. He also was not aware of where the executed soldiers were buried nor where Fafa Nyang was buried and never enquired.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Order to kill
Sanna Sabally

---

5 Different from the Ebrima Njie who was shot after the military takeover.
WITNESS NAME: Babucarr SANYANG

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 20th & 21st March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994, Alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup and arrest and torture of the witness

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Lieutenant Colonel in the Gambia National Army & Commander training task force at the Gambia Armed Forces.

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Witness to the event (22nd July and 11th November)/Victim (January 1995)

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Lieutenant Colonel in the Gambia National Army & Commander training task force at the Gambia Armed Forces.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Babucarr Sanyang testified before the commission that upon his return from his mission with ECOMOG in Liberia in 1991, there were demonstrations by soldiers regarding unpaid allowances. The soldiers were arrested and taken to court, with some being convicted. The witness stated that he believed the allowances were later paid.

The witness stated that on 22nd July 1994, he was at Farafenni Barracks and he and his colleagues were informed about an emergency in Banjul. They were immediately put on standby and asked to get their AK47s from the armoury. An hour later, at around 12pm they were given instructions that some soldiers should be deployed at Barra under the command of then Lieutenant Sam Gibba and then Lieutenant Yankuba Touray.

Babucarr Sanyang said that once they boarded the ferry, Yankuba Touray gathered the men and much to their surprise informed them that there was a military coup taking place in Banjul.

The witness further added that immediately after the group dispersed, he heard Sam Gibba say categorically in Wolof that he would not be part of any coup; but specified that Sam Gibba did not make his position known in the presence of Yankuba Touray.

The witness also observed that Yankuba Touray and L.F. Jammeh were eager to leave Farafenni Barracks and get to Banjul, which Touray did shortly after their arrival in Barra.

He remarked that the remaining soldiers went to Barra and crossed to the Navy Headquarters. Later that same day, Yankuba Touray came to the Navy Headquarters to verify if they had crossed and once confirmed left. The witness said that he did not see Yankuba Touray again until he heard that he was Secretary of State.

After two days spent at the Navy Headquarters, they went to the State House where he was informed that in the last two days soldiers had taken Yundum Barracks and the State House without resistance. He was persuaded to go and meet the Council members on the premise that he could be promoted. The witness said he was not interested in being promoted in such a manner, as he believed in being promoted on merit.

Bubacarr Sanyang said that he stayed at the State House until August or September before being transferred to Yundum Barracks, which at the time was headed by Lieutenant Basirou Barrow. There he was to replace Sergeant Nyang Kabareh.

Moving on from the 22nd July 1994 coup, the witness
indicated that prior to the 11th November 1994 event, there were complaints from senior officers about the fact that promises made by the Council members during the military take over remained unfulfilled. These included monetary benefits, promotion, and accommodation.

He also indicated that around October 1994 there were complaints about rice shortage in town, though not in the barracks, which affected the families of the troops and thus impacting their morale.

The witness said around that time, he held a meeting with Basirou Barrow regarding these issues and the soldiers’ recalcitrant attitude. He further disclosed that Basirou Barrow told him that the Council members were liars who had made empty promises.

He also recalled when one day Adjutant Alieu Bah made a statement regarding how long they had been waiting without seeing the promises made by the Council members being fulfilled and asked the witness to make sure the command was aware of it.

Bubacarr Sanyang told the Commission that Basirou Barrow eventually spoke to the soldiers and told them that the issues raised would be taken care off. Shortly afterwards and before the 11th November 1994 event, Basirou Barrow was transferred to the Army Headquarters and Captain Momodou Marong was appointed as the Commanding Officer of Yundum Barracks.

Witness Sayang said he had a meeting with Captain Marong when he reported at Yundum Barracks and briefed him about the welfare of the troops and the behaviour of the officers, which had been difficult to manage. The witness said that Captain Marong addressed the soldiers after which there was some improvement in their behaviour.

He disclosed that there was a scheduled rehearsal on Thursday 10th November 1994 in view of the Remembrance Day parade that was to take place on 13th November. However, the officers did not turn up and the witness decided instead to proceed with the issuance of uniforms, as the Council members would be visiting the camp to brief them about the soldiers’ concerns.

He said he saw the Council members (Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh and Yankuba Touray), accompanied by then Army Commander Baboucarr Jatta and two officers from Headquarters arrive. When they arrived, some senior officers lined up to welcome them amongst them then Commanding Officer Captain Marong, Bakary Manneh Nyancho, Alieu Bah, Abdoulie Bah, Buba Jammeh, Lamin Jarju, Gibril Saye and Lamin Darboe.

The witness said that he believed that the Council members had probably received information about the alleged planned coup and collected names and details of those officers that were suspected of being part.

The officers greeted the Council members and they were ushered to the parade grounds where the meeting was held. The witness told the Commission that he wasn’t present at the meeting as he did not have any grievances and therefore did not think it was necessary for him to attend.

He disclosed that whilst in his office making preparations for the Remembrance Day parade, he heard a gunshot from the direction of where the meeting was taking place. He left his office and upon arrival, he heard Edward Singhateh, say “we the council we are not afraid of anybody and whoever is part of it, let them change their mind or else they will be dealt with severely.”

After 10-15 minutes, the witness left the meeting and went back to his office. The Council members also left and the soldiers came back. A vehicle was loaded with the materials that would be used to mark the field for the Remembrance Day parade and together with Gibril Saye, Bakary Manneh, Buba Jammeh, Ebou (EM) Ceesay and himself, they left for Banjul. On their way, they dropped officers at their various residences and he got to Macarty Square very late to mark
the field after which he returned to Yundum Barracks. Whilst on the way, he said he met then Corporal Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai who informed him that soldiers had started converging at Yundum Barracks and he could not understand why. The witness said he initially thought it was in respect to the parade and therefore proceeded to Yundum Barracks. On their way, around Banjulinding, Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai again repeated that he could not understand why the soldiers were converging at Yundum and did not believe it was safe for them to go back to the barracks. The witness did not heed his advice and proceeded. When they got to Yundum Barracks he confirmed with an officer that everything was fine and upon headed home after 8pm.

Whilst home, he received a phone call from the late Corporal Jamboy Sowe (a military police officer) who told him that he had a list with his name and information that there would be a change of government thus warning him to leave the camp. The witness said he did not take the warning seriously because he was never informed of any plans to be carried out that night and he also could not remember doing anything wrong during his time as RSM.

Bubaccar Sanyang testified that whilst he was trying to lock his window, he saw Corporal Alhagie Kebbeh who motioned him to come out. He told the witness that all the men at Yundum Barracks were ready and that he (the witness) should go and mobilise them for the mission. He did not state where these instructions were coming from. The witness who was surprised by Kebbeh’s statement asked what mission he was referring to. Alhagie Kebbeh replied that they wanted to change the Council, as they had not fulfilled their promises. The witness underlined that it was upon realising that he was being given orders by a subordinate that he came to understand that things were serious.

He said as he left his house, he saw Basirou Camara with Alhagie Kebbeh and told them that he would join them at the camp, but he maintained a short distance with them and dashed into the bushes. After going to his family compound in Lamin village, he went to a hideout where he spent the night. He decided to return to Yundum Barracks the next day on 11th November 1994 to see what was going on and arrived there between 6:30 and 7am.

Shortly after arriving at Yundum Barracks, he was stopped together with one Jallow by Malafi Corr who escorted them at gunpoint to the guardroom. He explained that at the guardroom, the situation was chaotic and he saw a lot of soldiers with their weapons and as soon as they entered the guardroom, he spotted Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai. He indicated that an order was given for him (the witness) to be detained. He said he saw Fafa Nyang, Abdoulie Bah (who was only wearing his underwear) and Captain Marong, sitting on the floor in the corridor. Captain Marong asked him why he had not informed him despite these events occurring, to which Sanyang replied that he had sent for Captain Marong last night but they could not find him. He also added that the cells in the guardroom were filled to capacity.

After an hour, the Council members came and Sanna Sabally instructed Batch Samba Jallow to release the witness together with Captain Marong. The witness stated that the Council members did not question him and he went straight to his office. He then went to Captain Marong’s office to discuss last night’s events but he (Captain Marong) had moved to the Officer’s Mess with the Council members. The witness said that he overheard

**Sanna Sabally** say, “Yes sir, yes sir… we would do exactly this to set an example.”

He told the Commission that he presumed that Sanna Sabally, who was second in command, must have been speaking to his superior, Yahya Jammeh. He said after the conversation, Sanna Sabally
ordered that Fafa Nyang be brought. The witness said that although he did not know exactly what was about to happen to Fafa Nyang, he did not want to witness it and left. On his way, he met up with Batch Samba Jallow escorting Fafa Nyang and a few minutes later, he heard a gunshot. He went to Captain Marong’s office and saw him wiping what he believed to be tears from his face with a handkerchief.

He said whilst still in Captain Marong’s office, he peeped outside and saw

**Fafa Nyang’s lifeless body** lying on his back by the truck near the cookhouse with **blood oozing** from his back.

According to the witness, this was the last time he saw Fafa Nyang’s body. He assumed the gunshot he had heard had **killed** him. He also said he only saw Fafa Nyang’s body from afar and therefore could not state whether he had received any blows to the head. He also could not ascertain who had **killed** him (as he was not present at the time the shot was fired), however he recalled Alhagie Kanyi, J.C.B. Mendy, Batch Samba Jallow and Alfusainey Susso as present. He could also not recall seeing Baboucarr Jatta near the body.

He said he finally saw the Council members leave and stressed that Captain Marong was categorically against any summary executions and condemned the actions of the Council members behind closed doors.

He went back to his office upset and later in the day, around 2-3pm, the Council members came back again led by Sanna Sabally together with their orderlies and accompanied by Baboucarr Jatta and Peter Singhateh. He explained that upon their arrival they went to the Officers’ Mess and he saw a Land Rover parked around the guardroom.

The witness revealed that Gibril Saye, Lamin Darboe, Lamin Jarju, Buba Jammeh, Bakary Manneh Nyancho, Abdoullie Bah and Amadou M. Sillah were removed from detention and put inside the parked Land Rover. He saw Alhagie Kanyi sitting at the back of the Land Rover and the convoy left the camp. The witness stated he believed they were being taken to Mile 2 Prison. Upon prompting, he said that he could not recall who had called the names of the officers out.

Babucarr Sanyang told the Commission that hours later, as he was thinking about how to get his parade going seeing he no longer had enough officers, he saw Sanna Sabally’s convoy consisting of the Council members and their orderlies (including J.C.B. Mendy and Mustapha “Churro” Touray), Batch Samba Jallow, then Army Commander Baboucarr Jatta and Peter Singhateh return. He could not remember seeing Alhagie Kanyi coming back but he said he must have been there. The Land Rover also returned and was parked near the Officer’s Mess and the cook house.

**It contained dead bodies covered with leaves and legs were sticking out.**

He stressed that he could not see whose bodies were under the leaves and that he could not ascertain what had transpired wherever they had gone, as he had not gone with them. When they came back, he along with other officers went to the truck. He confirmed that it was the **lifeless bodies** were those of the officers who had earlier left alive with the convoy and indicated that they had been **summarily executed**.

In response to as to why at every point in time there was a shooting going on or when there was a significant event happening, he was in his office, the witness said it was a tactical move. According to the witness, he was trying to avoid being associated with any of the actions of the Council members. However, he had to come out from time to time to ensure that he was not being suspected of being against the Junta.

Continuing with his testimony, witness Sanyang said that after seeing the lifeless bodies of the officers lying in the truck, he went back to his office. Whilst there, one Fafa Jobe came to him and told him that
Paul “Papu” Gomez had said that the witness could provide men for the burial. The witness said he told him to go to the Quick Reaction Force Sergeant who would provide them with whatever they needed. Fafa Jobe left and never came back.

The witness stated that he then went towards the cook house and he saw J.C.B. Mendy, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Lamin Colley, Alfusainey Susso (orderly), Ensa Mendy, Baba Njie, Mustapha “Churro” Touray, one Corporal Albert Mendy (now deceased) and Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai burying the dead officers under the supervision of Paul “Papu” Gomez. He categorically refuted providing any men and/or supervising the burial. He said he was only there when the process was at the tail end of it. He did not witness the digging of the ditches. He remarked that those ditches were dug well before 1994 which he recalled indirectly taking part in their digging at the time which were intended for toilets as at the time Yundum Barracks lacked proper toilets and soldiers used to go to the nearby primary school to use the toilets there. He said the ditches were not turned into toilets because of financial issues and they ended up being used as dumping sites.

Bubacarr Sanyang specified that he did not witness any digging nor did he witness any burial of the dead men. He witnessed the orderlies putting sand over one of the ditches. He said one of the ditches was already covered and that he later found out that it was where they had buried Abdoulie Dot Faal, Basirou Camara, Basirou Barrow and Fafa Nyang. On where they got the sand from if the ditches had already been dug, the witness could not say.

After the burials, Basirou Camara and Ebou (EM) Ceesay were called up from the cells and then summarily executed in Yundum Barracks. The witness said he was in his office when Batch Samba Jallow came for Basirou Camara and Ebou (EM) Ceesay in the guardroom and escorted them to the Officer’s Mess. The witness stated that he heard shots being fired, went to see and saw the lifeless bodies of Basirou Camara and Ebou (EM) Ceesay. He believed Ebou (EM) Ceesay had been shot in the head because there was a gap at the back. He could not ascertain where the entry points had been for Basirou Camara as he did not get close enough. Lamin Colley and Babucarr Mboob (military police personnel) then dragged the lifeless bodies.

Upon being asked if the killing of Basirou Camara and Ebou (EM) Ceesay had happened before he had gone to check the ditch being covered, he said it was a long time ago and therefore had a hard time recollecting details and sequence of events. He did remember Babucarr Mboob and Lamin Colley participating in the burial either.

Witness Sanyang said that on 13th November 1994, the Remembrance Day parade took place as scheduled but soldiers’ morale was low following the 11th November summary executions.

The witness then discussed his detention on the 27th January 1995. On that particular day, at around 2-3pm, he was called into the office of the late Vincent Jatta then Commanding Officer of Yundum Barracks. He said he and one Lamin Sambou were told they were needed in Banjul and that two vehicles were coming for them. When the vehicles arrived, the witness saw the State Guard Personnel, Alhagie Martin stepped out and the witness was asked to come out and ordered to hand over whatever he had in his possession. The witness complied and he boarded the vehicle.

Alhagie Martin, late Corporal Ndure, Pa Senghore, Batch Samba Jallow and others whose name he could not remember took him to Mile 2. Once there, Batch Samba Jallow approached Alhagie Martin, drew his pistol and said to him “Oga, let me finish them”. The then head of Mile 2 Antu Saidy intervened and Batch Samba Jallow desisted. They were told they were under arrest-though the reason was not stated, processed and escorted to the maximum security wing 1. He also added that he did not know at the time that Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Jakary Adabo, Babucarr Njie, Lamin Drammeh, Abdou Manneh and Omar Sonko (orderly to Sadibou Hydara) were already there.
Babucarr Sanyang further testified that he eventually saw Sanna Sabally who revealed that after his arrest, he was severely tortured and during the torture, he had mentioned the witness’ name as one of those going to his house once.

A week later, Sanna Sabally was removed from his cell and taken for questioning at the admin block. He came back in what the witness described as “a terrible condition”. The witness said he could see lacerations and bruises on his body. Sadibou Hydara was then taken and when he was brought back, he was moaning and needed support.

Witness Sanyang stated that he was later escorted in handcuffs and chains to security wing number 4 where by a blow to the head he was forced to sit down. Alhagie Martin started questioning him about Sanna Sabally. Alhagie Martin informed the witness that they had been told he was part of a coup plan. The witness denied and Alhagie Martin instructed the men at his side, Pa Senghore and late corporal Ndure, to handle the witness.

A plastic bag was put over the witness’ head from behind (the witness could not say who exactly had done so) and they started beating him as he was being suffocated.

The witness said he asked Alhagie Martin why he was doing this and he asked the witness to tell the truth about Sanna Sabally. The witness said he knew nothing and they repeated the same process until he blacked out. He was beaten on the head with an object but he could not say what as he had blacked out. He also said that whilst he was being tortured, he felt something injected into his body but he could not say what.

The witness said that he has suffered health complications as a result and has sharp pains in his back and chest up to today. During his army training trips to Ghana, Nigeria, Turkey, and America respectively, he visited several hospitals but was never diagnosed and has still not been treated for his medical problems.

He said he was detained for 6 months and during this time his family was not given access to visit him.

The witness recalled that on 7th September 2017, he was transferred from Yundum Barracks to the joint headquarters under the Inspector General’s office and appointed Deputy to Alhagie Martin, the same person who had supervised his torture and nearly taken his life. He was appalled and raised his grievance to his superiors who told him to take it in good faith. He was finally advised by one of them to testify at the TRRC.

Babucarr Sanyang stated that Alhagie Martin has never apologised to him nor has he shown any remorse for what he did to him.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Order to kill
Yahya Jammeh
Burial of executed soldiers
J.C.B. Mendy, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Lamin Colley, Alfusainey Susso, Ensa Mendy, Baba Njie, Mustapha “Churro” Touray, Albert Mendy, Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai
Supervised burial
Paul “Papu” Gomez
Arbitrary arrest
Alhagie Martin, Corporal Ndure, Pa Senghore, Batch Samba Jallow
Torture
Alhagie Martin, Pa Senghore, Corporal Ndure
WITNESS NAME: Sulayman Alieu JACK

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 25th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: 22nd July 1994 coup

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Permanent Secretary at the office of the Vice President and at the Ministry of Defence

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Dismissed by the Junta after the 22nd July 1994 coup

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Gambian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness Jack stated that based on his own personal observations, the political situation in the country was overall fluid especially after the 1990 People’s Progressive Party, PPP congress in Mansakonko when Sir Dawda Jawara announced that he was going to step down.

The situation changed when Sir Dawda Jawara decided to run again for President and appointed Saihou Sabally as Vice President, virtually surrendering all his responsibilities to him. He transferred the Defence and Women Affairs to Saihou Sabally and that did not go down well with a lot of people as he was seen as de facto Prime Minister. The witness added that this transfer of portfolio to Saihou Sabally essentially made him the most powerful person in The Gambia after the President.

Sulayman Alieu Jack remarked that before Saihou Sabally was appointed to those positions he had a court case against a journalist called Sanna Manneh for defamation. Sanna Manneh had alleged that Saihou Sabally was corrupt which had affected his reputation. The witness added that he believed that Saihou Sabally was not popular within the army because of the allegations and the rumours about his behaviour and the corruption. He was nonetheless made Vice President and Minister of Defence. There were different factions within the People’s Progressive Party including the Bakary Dabo faction and the Saihou Sabally faction.

The witness testified that at the time of the coup d’état, there was a lot of dissatisfaction within the army in terms of facilities and amenities that are accepted for a military organisation. Accommodation was a problem and soldiers had to live outside of the barracks, which had an impact on their movements to and from the barracks. After close of business, soldiers would be seen lining the street trying to get a lift to go home, the same happened on their way back to the barracks.

He also discussed the case of the Nigerian Army Training Team who assumed command of the army not only as army commanders but also as unit commanders which were positions that Gambians should have occupied. Civilian oversight at that time was very minimal, there was no parliamentary committee on defence and security at the time.

The witness said that they essentially inherited a situation whereby the civil servants’ administrators were not specialist in defence matters nor specialist on security issues. There was a lack of coherent policy in defence that would ensure that the staffing
in the ministry will reflect the policy that was put in place.

He additionally explained that most of the foot soldiers were from the Foni, whilst the officers were spread unevenly as there were ethnic rivalry and regional imbalance in the army.

The witness told the Commission that the command structure in the army was very poor as Major Dada Jobe was honourably retired and replaced with Colonel Gwadabe who was highly perceived as a serial coup-maker. He further stated that around 22nd July 1994, Dada was no longer around and Colonel Gwadabe was in Nigeria eventually creating a command vacuum.

He said he considered the amalgamation of the Gendarmerie and the Police a **big mistake** which made it difficult for the army to push back against the coup-makers.

Finally, he said that the National Security Service NSS, was deficient in terms of their capacity to do proper analysis of the security. The focus was on Kukoi Samba Sanyang mobilising people and trying to invade The Gambia, and not on the army.

Sulayman Alieu Jack said that in the morning of 22nd July 1994, he received information that soldiers at Yundum Barracks had broken into the armoury, armed themselves and were coming to Banjul. The witness stated that he informed Saihou Sabally as soon as he arrived in his office but noticed that he was confused. He informed Saihou Sabally that the Americans were also present and he (Sabally) requested him to bring them to his office. Saihou Sabally informed the Americans of the news he had just gotten and excused himself to go see the then President.

He said Saihou Sabally came back and informed the Americans that the President had tasked him to make two requests to the Americans: The first one was to evacuate his family to the vessel the witness said was not true as he came to find out about a year later when Sir Dawda Jawara refuted making such a request. The second request was for the Americans to provide support to stop the coup. After a brief consultation between Ambassador Andrew Winter and the Captain, the agreed to evacuate the President and his family to their boat but explained that they did not have the power to authorise an intervention of American troops, and would need to contact Washington for that.

The witness further said that after President Jawara left the State House, he stayed there for another 10-15 minutes before being advised by one Musa Jammeh, a state guard, to leave. He disclosed that he went to the Police Headquarters where he saw the then Inspector General of Police, IGP Pa Sallah Jagne and Major Amadou Suwareh was telling the IGP that the situation was getting hopeless and troops were advancing towards Banjul.

Witness Jack sad he went to the American vessel where he found the President and his family, Saihou Sabally, Bakary Dabo, Lamin Momodou Gassama and Kaba Bayo who was the head of the presidential guard at the time. Kaba Bayo later said that the troops had crossed the bridge and were advancing towards Banjul. They understood that the coup-makers had some demands they wanted to put before the political leadership. The President accepted to hear them out and asked for someone to talk to them to work out the logistics of a meeting. None of the politicians onboard volunteered, so Kebba Ceesay - the security adviser-, one Nigerian -whose name he could not remember- and the witness decided to go.

The three men proceeded to Banjul and when they got to Banjul City Council there were stopped by Edward Singhateh who was leading the advancing troops. He asked the Nigerian security adviser to leave and instructed one of his soldiers to **detain** Kebba Ceesay and the witness. They were taken to the State House
where they could see the State Guards being disarmed as they entered the complex. The witness said that he felt sad as this was the end of their democracy.

He explained that they were then taken to Yundum Barracks and detained in an office. He recalled seeing Ndure Cham and one Cherno Jallow, who appeared to be part of the coup-makers. The witness was released the following day but Kebba Ceesay was not. He added that he was neither mishandled nor tortured. He was asked to report to the office on Monday, which he did and continued working as a civil servant until October 1994 when there was a mass retirement of permanent secretaries including himself.

The witness categorically refuted having any prior knowledge of the planned coup nor making arrangements to facilitate it. He also believed that Saihou Sabally and Bakary Dabo were behind the coup. He said that he never thought Bakary Dabo would ever conspire to overthrow a democracy that has been in existence for quite a long time.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**

Ordered arbitrary arrest and detention

Edward Singhatheh
WITNESS NAME: Modou Lamin BAH (M.L. Bah)

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 26th March 2019

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

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Orderly to Lieutenant Colonel Odu, Nigerian Commanding Officer of the First Infantry Battalion

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Participated in July 1994 coup

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Not Stated

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Modou Lamin Bah (M.L. Bah) testified before the Commission that the arrival of the Nigerian officers had a positive impact on the army. Certain incentives were introduced into the system such as transport allowances and house rent. Though the witness felt like the presence of the Nigerians was timely in terms of improved welfare for the soldiers, he stated that the general feeling from the Gambian soldiers was that of discontentment as they felt that Nigerians were occupying positions they should have occupied.

M. L. Bah stated that he had prior knowledge about the plan to take over the government. The witness said that around June 1994, he complained to Adjutant Sheriff Gomez that his house rent was not being paid. After Sheriff Gomez refuse to remedy to the situation, Edward Singhateh who was also in the office intervened and asked the witness to wait for him outside. Witness Bah did as told and after Edward Singhateh also stepped out, they headed to his office. Once there, Edward Singhateh told him that they were planning a coup that would benefit people such as the witness, and as he was close to a senior officer, he could be useful in acquiring information for their plan. Edward Singhateh further added that should the coup succeed, all the soldiers would be compensated; should it fail, the coup-makers would flee after assassinating the seniors officers and looting the Central Bank. The witness said he did not outright agree to be part of the plan.

The witness stated that although Edward Singhateh never gave him the specifics of the plan, he eventually came to learn that upon Sir Dawda Jawara’s return from his overseas trip, Yahya Jammeh was to seize the President and fire a warning shot for Sanna Sabally to come from Yundum Barracks with an armed force and arrest the President and the ministers.

Although he was never told when exactly the coup would take place, on the 21st July 1994, he could tell from Sanna Sabally and Edward Singhateh’s body language that something was going to happen.

M.L. Bah revealed that whilst the guard of honor was assembled prior to the arrival of President Jawara, Yahya Jammeh was disarmed by Lieutenant Colonel Odu who asked him what he was doing at the airport when he should have sent his juniors to the airport. He further told the Commission that after receiving Sir D.K. Jawara who went to the State House, the officers retired to the barracks.

Witness Bah remembered that whilst at the barracks, Yahya Jammeh went to see Lieutenant Colonel Odu in his office. The witness who was standing at the door and had not fully closed it heard Yahya Jammeh asking why he had disarmed him. Lieutenant Colonel Odu responded saying “you know that we are not going to allow this to happen at the airport, now that he is in his house, go after him.”
M.L. Bah told the Commission that Yahya Jammeh asked how they could get to his residence and Odu explained that there was going to be a military exercise with the Americans the next day which they could use as an opportunity to do whatever they wanted to do. Yahya Jammeh then smiled and left Colonel Odu’s office.

Momodou Lamin Bah said that later that day he saw some gendarmerie officers patrolling around Yundum Barracks and heard on the walkie talkie the names of Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh and Yahya Jammeh being called out to be arrested. He then observed that Lieutenant Colonel Odu called the Inspector General Police, Pa Sallah Jagne asking him to withdraw officers around Yundum Barracks and warned him that failure to do so would have serious consequences. The gendarmerie officers were thus withdrawn.

Late that night, the witness together with colleagues encountered Yahya Jammeh, Edward Singhateh and Sanna Sabally at the guardroom. He stated that Almamo Manneh and Basirou Camara assigned with the task of handling the armoury and transport were nowhere to be seen; so the group broke into the armoury.

The witness told the Commission that he took a light machine gun, ammunition and four grenades, adding that Abdou Kareem Bah⁶ and Batch Samba Jallow jumped over the fence to the main highway where they commandeered a truck and two mini-vans to take them to Banjul.

M. L. Bah explained that at the training school, they arrested police and National Security Service officers conducting training. They encountered little resistance as they continued towards the administrative block where arrested officers were put in the truck and escorted to Yundum Barracks. Sanna Sabally called the other group to find out the whereabouts of those who were at Denton Bridge. Sanna Sabally took some men and went to Denton Bridge. The witness added that when Sanna Sabally was leaving he ordered him (M.L. Bah) and one of the most senior officers to take charge of the barracks. All the officers -Sait Darboe included- were deployed in strategic positions in the barracks.

The witness explained that he stayed at Fajara Barracks from Friday to Monday, until a communiqué was issued from the Council ordering all soldiers to return to their barracks. He returned to Yundum Barracks after a new government was put in place. This new government constituted of Yahya Jammeh (Chairman of the Council), Sanna Sabally (Vice Chairman), Edward Singhateh (Minister of Defense), Yankuba Touray (Minister for Local Government and Lands) and Sadibou Hydara (Minister of Interior).

⁶Driver to Colonel Odu. Not the same as Abdou K. Bah, former orderly of Saihou Sabally and who testified on 25th February 2019.
M.L. Bah told the Commission he was transferred to the Army Headquarters as the orderly to the Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Baboucarr Jatta on 8th November 1994.

The witness testified that the promises the Council members had made were never fulfilled and, in the end, created disgruntlement among some soldiers. There were also rumors of a coup d’etat by some of the angry soldiers.

He recalled that he had meetings on two occasions with soldiers including Ansu Sonko, Alhagie Kanyi, Basirou Camara, Lamin Bojang to vent their anger and frustration about the unfulfilled promises of the Council members. In those meetings, it was agreed to remove them and replace them with others.

The witness further disclosed that on the 10th November 1994, the Council members (except Yahya Jammeh), their escorts (J.C.B. Mendy, Babucarr Njie aka Ponkal, B.A. Njie, Zakaria Darboe, Batch Samba Jallow, Lamin Marong, Mustapha “Churro” Touray, Lamarana Barry, Ensa Mendy), Baboucarr Jatta and the witness held a meeting at Yundum Barracks where Sanna Sabally warned about the consequences of being caught staging a coup. When Edward Singhateh spoke, he admonished that if anything was wrong, it should be reported to him as the Defence Minister. He then fired two shots into the air. The witness explained that this did not go well with the soldiers who considered the shots as threats. They left Yundum Barracks at around 6pm and the witness went home, at the “Bahamas”.

The witness told the Commission that he was in his residence on the night of 10th November 1994 when Alhagie Kanyi and Ebrima Ceesay knocked on his door and asked him to report at the camp but he refused to go. M.L. Bah went into his house, picked his gun, left the barracks and went to Banjulinding to see Baboucarr Jatta to warn him not to go to the barracks. Baboucarr Jatta told the witness to spend the night in his (Jatta’s) residence but he declined and left for the barracks.

He said on his way to the barracks at around 11pm, he saw Basirou Barrow’s car coming towards him but he docked down as he did not want to join him and after Barrow disappeared out of his sight.

The witness testified that he got home and slept through the night without hearing any of the gunshots although his residence was very close to Yundum Barracks. On 11th November, at around 6am, a soldier who was hiding in his house (unbeknownst to him) informed him about the events during the night. The witness said he saw Sanna Sabally and the other Council members by the guardroom, holding a list and ordering that anybody who saw the persons whose names were mentioned on the list should kill them. The killer would have no case to answer. The names called out were those of Gibril Saye, Buba Jammeh, Lamin Darboe, Bakary Manneh Nyancha, L.F Jammeh and Abdoulie Bah aka Achopi amongst others.

M.L. told the Commission that at around 8am, he saw a military truck parked around the guardroom with Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal lying inside most likely dead and he heard Sanna Sabally saying: “Look at them, they want to be president.” He also heard Edward Singhateh instruct Alhagie Kanyi to go and bring Fafa Nyang whose hands were tied.

He said Edward Singhateh ordered Fafa Nyang to run for his life and was the first to fire at Fafa Nyang hitting him in the back and when he fell down, Lamin Colley the medic finished him deliberately.

The witness told the Commission that Lamin Colley lied when he said it was a negligent discharge that killed Fafa Nyang to cover himself from responsibility.

The witness revealed that after the death of Fafa Nyang, he moved towards the guardroom and informed
Baboucarr Jatta that his driver, Babucarr Ngum was in the cell. Baboucarr Jatta asked him to make arrangements to secure Ngum’s release, which he did after meeting both Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai and Batch Samba Jallow.

Sanna Sabally, Sadibou Hydara, Edward Singhateh and Yankouba Touray left but later returned with Boubacarr Jatta, Peter Singhateh and their orderlies (J.C.B. Mendy, Lamin Marong, Batch Samba Jallow, B.A. Njie, Mustapha “Churro” Touray and Ensa Mendy). The names of Gibril Saye, Buba Jammeh, Lamin Darboe, Abdoulie Bah Achopi, Amadou M Sillah were called out and they boarded a Land Rover. Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai climbed into the front of the Land Rover, Alhagie Kanyi at the back and the convoy left towards Brikama. Two hours later, at around 4pm, they returned with the Land Rover filled with dead bodies covered with leaves. They parked the vehicle near the cook house. The witness added that he saw Gibril Saye’s long legs hanging out.

He then saw the Council members go around the fence behind the cook house and map out a place to bury the bodies. The bodies were buried and he pointed out that Alhagie Kanyi (who was like a “crazy guy” at the time) and Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai participated in the burial of the fallen soldiers.

The witness also recalled that whilst the graves were being dug, he saw Basirou Camara with his hands tied escorted by Edward Singhateh and Alhagie Kanyi and he heard gunshots. He believed Basirou Camara had been shot as he never saw his body again. He could not ascertain who had fired the shot but believed it was Edward Singhateh and Alhagie Kanyi. He left the camp at around 5-6pm together with Baboucarr Jatta and his driver.

One day in 2008, the witness (who was now working for the military police) said he that at around 6am Babucarr Bah, Borra Colley and Alhagie Camara came to arrest the witness on orders from the Chief of Defense Staff, CDS Lang Tombong Tamba, accusing him of taking 22,000 euros from a diamond dealer called Momodou Ceesay. CDS Lang Tombong Tamba warned the witness that if he did not return the money, he would take him to Mile 2 Prison.

M.L. Bah explained that he was detained at the military police cell for six months, adding that the former CDS ordered his dismissal from the army. He said that he and others (including Bala Musa Saidy) were taken to Police Headquarters for questioning, and then arraigned and charged with conspiracy and robbery with violence. He lamented that they were denied bail and taken to Mile 2 for four years, six months and ten days on remand until 6th November 2012 when they were acquitted and discharged by the court. The witness tried to appeal for reinstatement into the army but he got a letter threatened him with court martial.

After receipt of this letter, he fled to Senegal and returned after the 2017 impasse. He added that he came back to try to be reinstated in the army upon his return but he was denied.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Order to kill
Sanna Sabally
Extrajudicial killing
Edward Singhateh, Lamin Colley
Burial
Alhagie Kanyi, Buba Jammeh aka Kanilai
Arbitrary arrest
Babucarr Bah, Borra Colley, Alhagie Camara, Lang Tombong Tamba
Mariama Marong Baldeh was the second wife of Basirou Barrow. They were married for five years in 1994 and the couple had two girls, one was two years old and the other one five months old.

Mariama Marong Baldeh remembered that Basirou Barrow was not promoted after the 22nd July 1994 coup.

Mariama Marong Baldeh said that on 10th November 1994 Basirou Barrow left in the morning for work. In the evening, he came to pick her up from work at 8.20pm, they went home and had dinner together. After dinner, Basirou Barrow told her that he was going for his night shift at the camp.

This was the last time she saw him.

When asked, Mariama Marong Baldeh said that she did not notice anything unusual in Basirou Barrow’s behaviour. He did not say anything about the members of Council that day. But previously, the witness remembered that there had been one day, when her husband had come back from work “not feeling happy”. Basirou Barrow told her that they were having small issues with the Council members: “There are things we agreed on when this 22nd July happened, but it is like it is no more happening”. She asked why he did not quit the army. He responded that “it is not like that in the army”. Mariama Marong Baldeh remembered that Basirou Barrow once told her that when they took over, it was agreed that after six months they would go back to the barracks and that they would hand [the power] back to the civilians, but that they had changed their mind and want to stay for two years, “and that doesn’t work with me”.

WITNESS NAME: Sunkary YARBOU & Mariama MARONG BALDEH

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 27th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: Killing of Basirou Barrow during the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Wives of Basirou Barrow

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Searched for Basirou Barrow’s whereabouts

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Sunkarr Yarbou works from home and Mariama Marong-Baldeh is a nurse

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: In 1994, Sunkary Yarbou was married to Basirou Barrow for about ten years and the couple had three children: Lamin (7), Fatou (3) and Abdoulaziz was 9 months old in 1994.
Sunkary Yarbou said that on 11th November 1994, as they had realised that Basirou Barrow had not returned home, people started coming to their house. One woman, a relative, came running into the house and asked about Basirou and said that she heard “things being said”. The wives waited for the whole day while people were coming and going. Around 5pm, she decided to go out to find out what was going-on. As she reached Westfield, she saw people grouped together and listening to BBC Focus on Africa. She stood there listening and heard that Basirou Barrow had been killed. She bended down and could not stand-up again. The taxi drivers around noticed her pain and put her in a car and drove her home. When she returned the whole house was filled with people who were in tears.

Mariama Marong Baldeh stated that on that day, 11th November at 7am there was an announcement made over the radio by Sanna Sabally about an attempted coup d’état, which had resulted in the death and arrest of soldiers. She added that they started panicking at home. Neighbours and friends came enquiring about Basirou Barrow. It was a total confusion in the house. She pointed out that they did not have mobile phones at the time and could not get hold of information. After some time, one of her aunt’s from Brikama came and asked if they had already done the burial. Witness Baldeh was surprised and asked her to clarify what she was referring to exactly. Her aunt realised she was still not aware of what had happened and rephrased the question to say she was referring to the soldiers that had been killed.

She further stated that whilst Sunkary Yarbou was out trying to get hold of information regarding their husband, she stayed at home with the children. She said that at around 4.30pm, she took her radio, tuned into BBC Focus Africa and heard the presenter questioning the former President Sir Dawda Jawara about the coup leader who was said to be Basirou Barrow. She said that they had not pronounced the name correctly but she still knew they were referring to her husband. She said she was in a state of shock and could not cry. After 20 minutes, she heard Sunkary Yarbou crying outside. She said it was a very emotional period for her. She added that when the news was announced, one of her sisters-in law took the kids with her.

Witness Yarbou said that at around 2-3am on 12th November 1994, whilst they were still grieving, soldiers came to their house to retrieve Basirou Barrow’s belongings as they supposedly belonged to the army. Mariama Baldeh added that there were four or five soldiers, three in her room searching the closet and two standing outside with their guns. She said she only recognized one Private Yusupha Ceesay.

Witness Baldeh recalled that later that day (12th November 1994), National Intelligent Agency, NIA officers arrested and took both of them to the headquarters in Banjul. When they entered the main building, the women were separated. Mariama Marong Baldeh said she was taken to a small office and after 40 minutes, she was taken to one Mouniro Darboe’s office. Upon entering his office, he said to her in Mandinka: “it is unfortunate but it is your husband who killed himself”.

She said she did not comment as someone was behind her and she was scared. He then questioned her about which officers and ex-ministers from the Jawara government had been visiting them between October and now. She said no one visited her husband. He then told her to cooperate, as they knew that her husband was having meetings with people in their compound. She denied being aware about anything. After 20 minutes, they took her back to the office where she had first been taken and waited for a long time. She was then taken to the then NIA director, Samba Bah who asked the same questions. She said whilst she was there, Edward Singhateh and Sanna Sabally came into the office and asked that she be taken out. After 15 minutes, they came back for her, and took her to Samba Bah’s office. He told her to tell the truth as no one would harm her.
She told him she had told him the truth. She was then taken back to the first office and after an hour or so, she was told to leave the premises.

Sunkary Yarbou explained that upon arriving at the National Intelligence Agency, they took her straight to Samba Bah who was seated with Baboucarr Jatta. They questioned her about Basirou Barrow’s houses and children. They then asked her about a sacrifice performed in their house. She said she did not know anything. She was then released and asked to go home.

Mariama Marong Baldeh further testified that they requested for Basirou Barrow’s body but the army refused.

She said one of Basirou Barrow’s godfather tried to retrieve the dead body. He went to see Sadibou Hydara’s father as he knew him but he told him that he had spoken to his son and he said that it was not possible.

Mariama Marong Baldeh said that since they had not received the body and had heard that some soldiers had escaped she was still hopeful that he was still alive. She added that around February 1995, a man came to them and claimed that Basirou Barrow was alive in Casamance, providing her with an address. She said she went to Casamance and spoke to the Alkalo (Village Chief). He confirmed that there were some soldiers who had run away from The Gambia and who were living there. She showed Basirou Barrow’s photo and he confirmed that he was not there. He called one of the soldiers and he confirmed that Basirou Barrow had been killed. She said upon returning home, she cried for the first time since 11"th November 1994 as her hopes were shattered and it was for her the day he died.

Sunkary Yarbou declared that Basirou Barrow’s death affected many people, as he was a very good man. It led to the death of his father and affected his elderly mother’s health as she would also get information claiming that her son had gone out to kill people and was killed as a result “like a chicken, like a dog”.

Following her husband’s death, Sunkary Yarbou had to find ways to sustain the family financially as well as coping with the emotional difficulties. She started cooking and selling food because she did not want her children to become street children – she worked from 6am to 7pm to pay for the school fees and only saw her children in the evenings. Things were really very difficult because previously Basirou Barrow did everything for the family and his children. Without him, she provided for the family and despite the hardships ensured that her kids were educated. But it was difficult for her children to find a job. Sunkary Yarbou said that for “22 years we were living in tears”. All these years, there were many allegations against Basirou Barrow: “they made him look like a bad person, they said these were the bad soldiers, the enemies of the State”. But according to her, her husband had foreseen at a very early stage what would happen in the next 22 years based on what happened in the first three months.

Mariama Marong Baldeh explained that her husband’s death made her leave Bakoteh and live with her sister, which she never wanted. His disappearance also caused the death of her father and mother in law. She also had to change jobs in order to earn more. She had to leave her children with Sunkary and took a posting far away. She only returned after one year and seven months.

She remembered that one day in the year 2000, she met Almamo Manneh, who used to be very close to Basirou Barrow at the Hospital where she worked. His wife had been admitted there. He accused the witness of not having given his wife medication fast enough. He threatened her “if you don’t want to accept this government, then it is better that you resign”. She
got really scared because she knew that Almamo Manneh was very close to Yahya Jammeh and she was aware that it was Yahya Jammeh and the Junta members who killed her husband unlawfully. After five days, Edward Singhateh called her to tell her that he had instructed a soldier to bring her husband’s car to the maternity where she was working. She was suspicious because in all these years they had never returned the car and suspected that Almamo Manneh had spoken to Edward Singhateh. She resigned the very same evening to the surprise of her colleagues.

She then worked at a pharmacy but had to do two shifts to make ends meet. For almost 10 years she worked for 12 hours a day, six days a week. She only saw her kids on Sundays. She did this because she wanted her daughters to have the best education. She eventually opened a drugstore. And while her daughters had very good results, because of her affiliation none of them had any chance to get a scholarship under that government, even though they applied to many of them and had better marks that those who got them. Her youngest daughter finally managed to get a scholarship in the US and will soon start a PhD.

In her final remarks on behalf of the Barrow family, Mariama Marong Baldeh that they had long waited to being able to tell their stories to all Gambians. She read a statement and said that their beloved husband, Lieutenant Basirou Barrow was a patriotic citizen, a great soldier, someone who would never betray his country for selfish and greedy reasons. Contrary to what was said by the Junta members, he was never a rebellious soldier. The Junta accused Basirou Barrow of leading his fellow soldiers to burn down gas stations in the greater Banjul area on 11th November 1994 and use that as a justification to unlawfully execute them. Knowing the man she married, the father of their kids, she can attest to the fact that he never harboured such evil and unlawful thoughts, especially towards his beloved country. Her husband lawfully and wholeheartedly served his country until the time of his death.

She thanked Allah for given them the chance to reaffirm to all Gambians that Lieutenant Basirou Barrow was unlawfully, unjustifiably and inhumanly murdered. May his soul and that of his colleagues’ rest in peace. She said that she hoped that the truth will be revealed and justice served.

She encouraged other family members of victims of 11th November, especially the wives, to come forward and testify about the pain, challenges, hardship they faced because of the loss of their loved-ones. As only the victims can talk about what they faced. She urged all the victims to share their stories so that justice can be given.

She concluded in asking for the remains of Basirou Barrow, so that he can be given a proper burial, so that his soul can rest in peace. She also expressed her gratitude to the TRRC.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Extrajudicial killing (11th November 1994):
Junta members
When her husband came back, he went to their room and picked up their child who was sleeping. He held him close to his chest for a while as a goodbye hug. He laid the child back on the bed and told her he was going to the field.

That was the last time she saw him.

This was around 12-1am.

She said after that, whilst in her house, she heard gunshots but stayed indoors. At around dawn, some men knocked on her door and asked for the keys to the armoury. As she was very suspicious, she did not open the door, nor did she peep through the hole, she just told them that she was not aware of any keys to the armoury being in their possession.

The witness said that at daybreak, when it was bright outside, she got out of the house and was in a confused state. She walked about barefoot without realizing and noticed broken glass scattered around.

She went to the medic and asked for Matarr Jobe. He came out, shouted “get out, get out of this place” and gave her 10 dalasi. She did not understand his reaction. She asked about Abdouli Dot Faal and he...
told her that he had been captured and taken to Mile 2. She enquired about Fafa Nyang and Matarr Jobe informed her that he had been captured and killed. She said she was very distressed as Fafa Nyang and her husband were very close and if he had been killed, there was a high probability that Abdoulie Dot Faal would be to.

The witness proceeded with her testimony by explaining how on her way to her room, she saw her brother who had arrived at the barracks. He asked her to leave immediately as he had been informed that her husband had been killed. They packed a few things into a suitcase and left for her brother’s house.

Awa Njie explained that the next day, on 12th November, Fatou Sowe, Fafa Nyang’s wife came to her house. She highlighted that Fatou Sowe was still unaware about Fafa Nyang’s fate and she told her that Fafa Nyang had been killed.

The witness then got a phone call from one Ndey Mbaye, a police officer who confirmed that Abdoulie Dot Faal had been killed.

She said she shouted and fainted. Following confirmation of Abdoulie Dot Faal’s death, her mother came from Farafenni to pick her up as there were rumors at the time that Sanna Sabally was going around and arresting anyone who was dressed in mourning clothes. She said she left with her mother for Farafenni.

Awa Njie testified that about two months after her husband had been killed, six armed soldiers came to her house and told her that they had come to arrest her. They told her that there was a box in her room and they wanted to know what was inside the box. When she told them she did not know anything about any boxes, one of the men said in Mandinka “if you do not speak up, I will tie you and take you to the Chairman”. She insisted she did not know anything about any boxes, but the soldier refused to believe her. He took out his gun and said “if you don’t speak up, we will kill you”. She said at that moment she was very angry and defiantly told them to either get out or to take her to the Chairman. She told them this was not the army camp. The other two soldiers, Alkali Ceesay who she is related to and one Wuri Jallow convinced their colleagues to leave. Before leaving, he said that they would come back for her tomorrow at 8am and take her to the army camp. On being related to one of the soldiers, she said that this was one of Yahya Jammeh’s tactics to divide and conquer.

The witness added that the men did not return the next as they said they would.

On speaking about how her husband’s death affected the family, she said that

she learnt that he had been shot but did not immediately die and was buried alive in a mass grave.

She said it was very difficult for her to hear that and think about how he had died.

After her husband’s death, she struggled financially as her husband was the breadwinner. She added that no one wanted to employ her because she was Abdoulie Dot Faal’s widow. She said she eventually got a job for six months at the peace corps training Americans on Gambian culture and language.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:

None
On the morning of 11th November 1994, the witness stated that she felt sick and decided not to go to work. She left her home at around 8 am to go to the phone booth to inform the school she was employed at of her absence. She met her husband’s brother, Sheriff Bah, who asked her if she was aware of what had happened. He explained that he had heard that soldiers were killing each other at Yundum Barracks.

Matty Sallah said she called the Barracks’ guardroom numerous times that day to ask about her husband and was told he was in a meeting each time. She noticed that something was different as usually those responding would be very pleasant, exchange pleasantries and if her husband was not around, they would send someone to find him.

At the end of the day, the witness explained that she decided to go to the barracks to see for herself. She arrived at the main gate and met two soldiers whom she didn’t know standing. She asked about her husband and was told that he was busy. The general atmosphere at the camp was different from usual, very tense. The witness pleaded for the soldiers to let her enter the camp but she was denied access. As she tried to sneak inside, one soldier grabbed her by the arm and told her in “lady, if you want peace, go home”. She stood outside for a long time, trying to see inside the camp. After a long time, she went eventually went home.

When she reached home, she heard on the radio that there was an attempted coup d’etat and that some soldiers were killed namely Basirou Barrow, Abdoulie Dot Faal, Fafa Nyang and Gibril Saye.

As her husband’s name had not been mentioned, she was still hopeful that he was alive.

The witness said the next day she continued to enquire about her husband but she was always told that he was busy whenever she called. On Sunday, whilst
she was in the kitchen, she was told that soldiers had entered her room. She rushed there and asked them what was happening and what they were looking for. She recognized one soldier, who told her not to worry “it’s nothing” but the soldiers ran away suddenly. She went into her room and noticed that the room had been searched. At that point, she thought that her husband had maybe ran away and that they were searching for him.

She therefore **hoped** that he was **alive**.

In the following days and weeks, the witness asked many people about the whereabouts of her husband but no-one gave her any information. Abdoulie Bah’s uncle even went to see Sanna Sabally to ask about his nephew’s whereabouts but Sanna Sabally “belittled him” and did not give him any news.

Months later, one soldier that she knew personally came to her mother’s house and told her he believed that her husband was among those who were killed but pleaded to keep his name secret and she promised she would. She did not believe him at the time because there had been no official announcement that Bah had been killed but it was still very unpleasant to hear and she and her family cried bitterly.

After her husband’s **disappearance**, the family lived a **very difficult life** but continued to hope that there would be a day when Abdoulie would return. His mother remained hopeful until her death.

Abdoulie’s disappearance shook up the family because he was the first born and he was the head of the household. Each time the witness looked at her child, she thought that he would grow up without knowing his father – and his other children too. His disappearance also had a financial impact on the family, especially on his children.

In 2004, the witness said she was posted at the Brufut school. She realized that Ousman, the first son of her husband was attending this school. She introduced herself to him and gave him money for his school lunches. She used to take him to her house at the weekends so that he could play with his half-brother Omar. She said she left The Gambia in February 2005 to the UK to join her new husband.

In her concluding remarks, Matty Sallah said that events around 11<sup>th</sup> November 1994 should never happen again in The Gambia because all the soldiers are from the same mother and father. She pleaded to the government to take care of the soldiers because they are the guardians of the Nation. At the root of 11<sup>th</sup> November event was the dissatisfaction of the soldiers.

She also pleaded to the government that those who are responsible for what happened be brought to **justice**. She asked that the **bodies** of those who **died** be returned to their families. She said she received confirmation of the **killing** of her husband for the first time through the TRRC.

**PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:**
None
Mbaya Demba said that she cried a lot and was confused and scared because she had a young child. People came to her house to express their condolences, console her and tell her to keep faith.

A few days after her husband’s death, the in-laws came and told the witness that she had to vacate the house as the person who paid the rent, her husband, had passed away. She moved out but she was not allowed to take any of the marital furniture she shared with her husband, not even the mattresses or her own bed. Demba Gassama, one of Gibril’s brothers, later bought her a bed.

The witness said she sold food to provide for her family supported regularly by Amie Gassama, one of her aunts.

After two years, Landing Saye, Gibril’s younger brother and their father, came to pick-up the children. Mbaya Demba’s uncle came to discuss the issue and said that it was no problem, that the children “belong to all of us”, and since they are men and the witness is a woman, she had to release the children to them.

They took them away. She often cried because she missed her children and felt that they “were not in happiness”.

Sadibou Hydara replied in The Daily Observer that Gibril Saye died in the camp in an attempted coup.
to Europe and she had to asked her brother to send him money to escape from Libya. He finally reached Italy. Her other son, Alieu, dropped out of school at grade 11 and has experienced serious mental disorder ever since. He was even arrested once and charged with attempted rape. She has received little support from her family regarding Alieu’s condition. Mbaya Demba believes that if their father had lived, Alieu would never had turned that way. When he goes out, people look at him and that pains her. He sometimes insults her, but she knows that he has mental health problems. In the house, he always wants to be by her side. She now suffers from high-blood pressure. Her current husband shows her much sympathy and supports her.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
None

After two years, Landing Saye, Gibril’s younger brother and their father, came to pick-up the children. Mbaya Demba’s uncle came to discuss the issue and said that it was no problem, that the children “belong to all of us”, and since they are men and the witness is a woman, she had to release the children to them.
WITNESS NAME: Omar SAYE

TRRC HEARING DATE(S): 28th March 2019

EVENT(S) DISCUSSED: Death of Gibril Saye during the alleged 11th November 1994 failed coup

POSITION BEFORE THE EVENT(S): Brother of Gibril Saye

ROLE DURING THE EVENT(S): Tried to find the whereabouts of his brother

POSITION HELD AT TIME OF TESTIMONY: Unknown

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY: Witness Omar Saye was brought in to put into the record documents that he possessed showing the efforts of his family to establish the fate and whereabouts of late Gibril Saye as well as efforts to collect his entitlements from the government, which he served for several years.


The headline of the Point newspaper was: “The Cry Of A Distressed Family. Where Is Our Son?” by Ibrahima Saye, father of Gibril and Omar Saye. The article had a picture of Gibril Saye in military uniform. The family was asking for the whereabouts of Gibril Saye.

Extract read out by the Counsel to the witness: “The family strongly disagrees with the statement made by the Minister of Interior and AFPRC’s spokesman, Captain Sadibou Hydara as reported in The Point of Thursday 17th November 1994. In that report the Minister was quoted as having said, among other things, the coup plan had leaked, we were alerted and ready for them. One of the plotters, Lieutenant Gibril Saye was killed on the spot at Yundum where the fighting was brief”. On the next page, the father of Gibril Saye was quoted as follows: “My son was not at the scene of fighting insisted Pa Ibrahima Saye who lives in Banjulinding. I wonder how my son could have been killed at Yundum on Thursday night as stated by Sadibou Hydara in an interview to The Point”. (…) “If there is transparency, let someone tell me where my son is, where he’s been for the last two weeks. He went to Yundum Barracks on Sunday 13th to find out about his son, but all in vain. Both Lieutenant Saye’s mother and sister have also never ceased trying to locate him, but with no success.”

The Counsel then moved on to the Daily Observer Newspaper headline of 7th December 1994: “Lieutenant Saye Died In Shoot-Out Maintains AFPRC, Rejecting Lieutenant Saye’s Father’s claims”. The article showed a photo of the then Minister of the Interior Sadibou Hydara. Extract read by the witness: “The AFPRC has maintained that Lieutenant Gibril Saye was killed in the shoot-out of November 11 military putsch. The Council spokesman and Minister of the Interior Captain Sadibou Hydara in his first exclusive interview with this paper yesterday totally rejected Lieutenant Saye’s father’s story in The Point newspaper that his son did not die in the 11th November early morning shoot-out at Fajara and Yundum Barracks between dissident soldiers and AFPRC loyalists.”

The witness said that the statements made in the newspapers were serious lies.
He said their father petitioned the president at the time, Yahya Jammeh in a series of documents that were given to the Commission namely:

A letter dated 29 March 1995 from Alhagie Ibrahima Saye addressed to the Chairman of the AFPRC – State House Banjul which read: “When I heard Captain Sabally spoke over the radio in the early hours of the morning of 11th November 1994 concerning a coup attempt, I strongly believed that my son was not involved. Fortunately, my son did come to greet me in the morning of 11th November 1994 to allay my fear. I was happy to see him after Captain Sabally had already declared that the coup attempt has been crushed and that some soldiers had lost their lives. I blessed my son and he left to go to work. This was the last time I set my eyes on him. When he failed to return from work, I went to the Yundum military camp to make inquiries. I was told that he was detained. When I returned home, I told my family to keep quiet until we hear from him. We were in state of suspense when we read the following in The Point newspaper published on the 17th November 1994 ‘one of the plotters Lieutenant Saye was killed on the spot at Yundum where the fighting was brief’. This was confusing to us, countless people at home and in the neighborhood had seen Lieutenant Saye on Friday 11th November 1994. It was impossible for him to die in a shoot-out that took place on Thursday night and was seen on Friday morning. I decided to contact the newspaper but we were threatened as follows:

‘The Saye families are foolish and are implicating themselves. They don’t know. If they know what Lieutenant Saye was up to, they would not have said this.’

Captain Jammeh, Lieutenant Saye is my son, he has left a wife and children. We don’t know whether we are to proceed to declare him dead so that the curator) can send letter of administration to share his properties. We have not been visited by anybody to give official confirmation of his death. (...) Please mediate on these facts and help the family to get official confirmation of the affairs of my son. Yours faithfully, Alhagie Ibrahima Saye.”

A letter dated 17 July 1995 from State House addressed to Alhagie Ibrahima Saye

“Subject: Petition on Lieutenant Saye.

Please refer to your petition letter addressed to H.E. the Chairman of the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council and Head of State dated 29 March 1995 and the confidential memo reference MD/C/P/351/(8-0GS) dated 7 July 1995 from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defense.

I am directed to confirm that Lieutenant Saye is dead.

D.O. Jatta, Secretary General.”

A letter from the Department of State for Defense addressed to Alhagie Ibrahima Saye dated 16 September 1997 was also read as follows:

“Subject: On Late Lieutenant Saye’s entitlement

I write to inform you with regret that your appeal for the payment of what you regard as entitlements to late Lieutenant Gibril Saye from the service of the Gambia National Army is not approved.

Permanent Secretary”

The witness said that the family were very hurt by these letters and the short statement about the death of Gibril Saye. The facts were never told to the families.

The witness also shared the following documents with the Commission, which were added to the records:

A petition dated 31 May 1995 by Alhagie Ibrahima Saye addressed to the Chairman of the AFPRC copying the Attorney General and Minister of Justice
A response dated 29 June 1995 from the office of the Chairman – State House Banjul – addressed to Alhagie Ibrahima Saye

Another letter from State House addressed to Alhagie Ibrahima Saye of 17 July 1995

A petition from the Saye family dated 24 October 1996 addressed to the then president of The Gambia.

A letter from the Saye family dated 12 August 1997 addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defense.

And finally, a letter from the Department of State for Defense addressed to Alhagie Ibrahima Saye and dated 16 September 1997.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
None
Vice-Chairman of the AFPRC. After dropping them, Touray told Amat Jangum to put on civil dress and go on patrol on the beach side alongside Fajara as there was a boat coming into the country with arms and ammunition. The witness briefed the two other guards but not the orderlies. Amat Jangum said that he did not have civilian clothes with him and borrowed some from Ensa Mendy. The two other guards did as well because it was an order. Their weapons were locked inside the house.

Yankuba Touray came back driven by Lamin Ndure between 8 and 10 pm. The witness then took the family – wife and children- to Edward Singhateh’s residence in Bakau. After dropping the family, Amat Jangum went back to Yankuba Touray’s residence to pick up the two guards and the driver took them to Fajara Hotel, close to the golf course. The three of them went down to the beach and patrolled. The witness believed this was after 10 pm. Responding to a question, Amat Jangum acknowledged that it was unusual to ask unarmed men to go and patrol to look for a boat full of ammunition. They patrolled but didn’t see anything. It began to drizzle. Amat Jangum said he decided to go back to the residence.

Yankuba Touray came back driven by Lamin Ndure between 8 and 10 pm. The witness then took the family – wife and children- to Edward Singhateh’s residence in Bakau. After dropping the family, Amat Jangum went back to Yankuba Touray’s residence to pick up the two guards and the driver took them to Fajara Hotel, close to the golf course. The three of them went down to the beach and patrolled. The witness believed this was after 10 pm. Responding to a question, Amat Jangum acknowledged that it was unusual to ask unarmed men to go and patrol to look for a boat full of ammunition. They patrolled but didn’t see anything. It began to drizzle. Amat Jangum said he decided to go back to the residence.
his shoes were muddy. The witness said that he was surprised to see Edward Singhateh there. He cannot remember seeing anybody else. Edward Singhateh ordered the witness and the two other guards to go back to patrol. This time they went on foot. Amat Jangum explained that because of the rain “he was fed-up” and decided to go the compound of Captain Ebou Jallow, the former spokesperson of the AFPRC, who was not in the country. In the middle of the night, they returned back to Yankuba Touray’s residence. There was no-one there.

The next day, Yankuba Touray’s wife, Ma Amie Minteh, brought a newspaper and asked the witness if he had seen what had happened, saying that the body of the Finance Minister Ousman Koro Ceesay had been found around Jambur in his Mercedes Benz, which was burned down.

The witness felt sad and surprised when he read the newspaper but he did not suspect anything.

Later, the Freedom Newspaper reported a statement by Ebou Jallow saying that the Minister had been killed at Yankuba Touray’s house and that they had fooled the guards. Then he recalled what had happened that night. Amat Jangum said that he believed the story published by Freedom Newspaper was true because he realized that he had been sent away on purpose.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
None

...body of the Finance Minister Ousman Koro Ceesay had been found around Jambur in his Mercedes Benz, which was burned down.
Jangum told the Commission that after briefing the Council members who were in then Chairman Yahya Jammeh’s office left the State House with about 30 men towards Yundum Barracks. The witness said he did not recall seeing Yahya Jammeh that night however. He said the group was joined by Peter Singhateh on the way.

He said the group entered Yundum Barracks through the back gate and went straight to the camp. They did not meet any resistance there and no shooting. Later there was shooting around the gate, but not inside the barracks. They occupied the barracks: the Council members and their orderlies went at distance to the Guard Room and took over. Other soldiers occupied the Guard room, led by Malafi Corr, Corporal in the State Guard.

They stayed there until around 1 pm, when they heard a Land Rover and Malafi Corr said “Ahooha” (a military term meaning that they are ready for any action) and a voice supposedly that of Basirou Barrow responded “Ahoohah, let’s go and fuck these bastards”. Malafi Corr and the other team members, captured Basirou Barrow stripped him naked and took his jujus from him. The Council members and came Yankuba Touray ordered Malafi Corr to take Basirou Barrow to the cells.

At first, the witness said he could not recall that anything had happened to Basirou Barrow at that time. Upon further questioning, he rectified his testimony and said “during the process of taking the jujus from him, (...) many soldiers attacked him”, confirming that he was hit, kicked and beaten mercilessly. He said he did not see if Basirou Barrow had been butt-struck with guns.

The witness recalled that Abdoulie Dot Faal was apprehended at the Sentry and beaten. When asked if it were the orderlies who did the beatings, he said that while he did not participate, the other orderlies did the beatings. He later changed his testimony,
saying that the orderlies collectively beat Abdoulie Dot Faal mercilessly.

Ensa Mendy said he did not recall if Abdoulie Dot Faal was then taken to the cells.

After this event, the witness recalled that the soldiers stayed there for some hours before Sanna Sabally told them to go Fajara Barracks, while Malafi Corr and his men were left in charge of Yundum Barracks.

At Fajara Barracks, soldiers were firing at them. They fired back and entered the barracks. Ensa Mendy explained that they asked junior soldiers to join them but senior officers were arrested.

After a couple of hours, Sanna Sabally paraded some of the captured soldiers at the football field and gave orders to shoot at them. The witness said that they all responded to the command by shooting at them. Two soldiers fell down and the rest started running.

All the Council members fired their shots along with the soldiers, including Yankuba Touray and the witness.

Ensa Mendy did not remember who the two fallen soldiers were and did not know if they were taken away later or not.

After the firing, Sanna Sabally led them to Yundum Barracks. The witness described how Sergeant Fafa Nyang was dragged in by Alhagie Kanyi and Lance Corporal Baboucarr Mboob. The witness said that Fafa Nyang swore that he was not part of the coup plot but Sanna Sabally ordered for him to be taken away and shot.

Fafa Nyang was first shot in the stomach and his intestines were out, but he was not dead. The witness then explained as Nyang “was struggling”, Lamin Colley shot him in the head deliberately.

He confirmed the shot could not have been accidental because a well-trained military man knows that each gun has a safety-catch. The witness agreed with the proposition of an accidental discharge made by Lamin Colley was a fallacy.

The witness then heard that Abdoulie Dot Faal’s body was in a truck, but he did not check for himself. Sanna Sabally ordered the soldiers to bury the dead soldiers. He was present at the burial, observing, but could not remember who participated in the burial. Ensa Mendy explained that Fafa Nyang had been his immediate boss. He was his Section Commander at the Farafenni Army Training School and they had a close relationship. The witness said he cried after he was killed.

Ensa Mendy said that from there they left for the State House and all the Council members went up. The soldiers were served with drinks and were jubilating for successfully foiling the attempted coup. The witness said that he was not celebrating with the others.

After, they left the State House, the witness said he went with Yankuba Touray to his residence and then went home to rest. This was around 3 to 4 pm on Saturday. Jali Musa Sowe, the other orderly and the other security stayed at the residence.

He denied taking part in the execution of soldiers and officers at the firing range around Nyambai Forest, stating the allegation was not true. The witness explained that he only came back to work on Tuesday. The witness said that while he was at home, he heard the announcement on the radio by Sanna Sabally that there had been a foiled coup and soldiers died during cross-fire. The witness agreed that this statement was false and said he even told his friends so.

The witness said he stayed with Yankuba Touray at Kerr Serign his orderly in June 1995. He said Jali Musa Sowe had been replaced by Samba Bah as the second orderly. The witness said the murder of Ousman Koro Ceesay, happened the same day the Chairman of the AFPRC Yahya Jammeh, was leaving
At this moment, the witness said he suspected that something must have happened but he did not know what. He wondered why he and his colleagues had been sent out. The next day, he heard that Ousman Koro Ceesay, the Minister of Finance had been murdered. The witness then suspected that Yankuba Touray had participated in the murder of Ousman Koro Ceesay because he heard that the car was burnt and he made the connection with the burnt uniform and also because of the state of the compound.

Ensa Mendy said Corporal Amat Jangum and four of his men left Touray’s house to locate the ship that Yankuba Touray had mentioned. They were all armed and in military uniform. The witness explained that he was communicating with Yankuba Touray by phone and ask to come back because they had not seen anything but he told him to stay.

At one point, the witness said Yankuba Touray called and asked them to come back. Upon his return, the witness said he noticed water and mud in the house, while earlier during the day the house had been clean. He said he also saw the green fatigue uniform of Yankuba Touray that he had been wearing that day. It had two burn marks on it and was dirty and wet. The witness confirmed that this was not normal. He saw Yankuba Touray wearing shorts entering his room in a different mood than before and looked worried. The witness said he did not talk to Yankuba Touray at that moment and returned to his room.

For the AU-Summit. He said that night, Yankuba Touray told him to go to the beachside, because there was a threat and ordered him to go with the Guard Commander, Corporal Amat Jangum. Ensa Mendy stated that the family of Yankuba Touray was still at the house when he left but had gone upon his return, he later heard that they had gone to the wife’s compound in Banjul.

At this moment, the witness said he suspected that something must have happened but he did not know what. He wondered why he and his colleagues had been sent out. The next day, he heard that Ousman Koro Ceesay, the Minister of Finance had been murdered. The witness then suspected that Yankuba Touray had participated in the murder of Ousman Koro Ceesay because he heard that the car was burnt and he made the connection with the burnt uniform and also because of the state of the compound.

PERSONS ADVERSELY MENTIONED DURING TESTIMONY:
Extrajudicial killing (11th November 1994):
Ensa Mendy (the witness), Lamin Colley, Sanna Sabally, Edward Singhateh, Peter Singhateh, Yankuba Touray
Torture of (Basirou Barrow on 11th November 1994)
Malafi Corr
Extrajudicial killing (Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995)
Yankuba Touray

**Fafa Nyang** was first shot in the stomach and his intestines were out, but he was not **dead**. The witness then explained as Nyang “was struggling”, **Lamin Colley** shot him in the head **deliberately**.
DISCREPANCIES/CONFLICTING TESTIMONIES

J.C.B. Mendy
The testimony of John Charles B Mendy, also known as J.C.B. Mendy conflicts with the testimony of Babucarr Malick Jeng (from session 2) who mentioned him as having escorted and tortured Sanna Sabally and Sadibou Hydara in January 1995 along with Edward Singhateh, Lamin Fatty, Batch Samba Jallow, Alhagie Kanyi, Papu Gomez, Alpha Bah, Mustapha “Churro” Touray, Baboucar Mboob, Jali Musa Susso, Lamaranah Jallow, Medic Colley and Yunusa Barry.

Furthermore, he was named by Alhagie Kanyi (session 2) as having participated in the burial of the executed soldiers on 11th November 1994 which he denied.

Bubacarr Sanyang (session 3) also mentioned him as being present during the killing of Fafa Nyang at Yundum Barracks.

J.C.B. Mendy was also said (in session 2) to being present and to having participated in the torture of detainees on 6th September 1994, dubbed “Night of Terror” by detainees which he denied.

A relative awaits as the remains of captured soldiers executed on 10th/11th November 1994 are being excavated at Yundum Barracks

Photo: Jason Florio
Modou Lamin Bah
Contrary to other testimonies (including that of Sheriff Gomez) that stated that Adjutant Sheriff Gomez had been arrested and had the keys taken from him under threat, Modou Lamin Bah stated that soldiers had already broken into the armoury and were fully armed when Adjutant Sheriff Gomez arrived in the early morning on 22nd July 1994.

The witness said that in the early morning of 11th November 1994, he saw Sanna Sabally and the other Council members by the guardroom, holding a list and ordering that anybody who saw the persons whose names were mentioned on the list should kill them. The killer would have no case to answer. The names called out were those of Gibril Saye, Buba Jammeh, Lamin Darboe, Bakary Manneh Nyancho, L.F. Jammeh and Abdoulie Bah aka Achopi amongst others. However, at this stage, according to other testimonies many of those that were mentioned (Buba Jammeh, Abdoulie Bah Achopi, Bakary Manneh Nyancho) had already been arrested.

Ensa Mendy
The witness testified that on 11th November 1994, at around 3-4pm the Council members and the entourage went back to Yankuba Touray’s residence to rest. The lead Counsel, Essa Faal pointed out that this contradicted the evidence they had and that pointed to the Council members being at Nyambai Forest around that time on that day.

Regarding the killing of Ousman Koro Ceesay in June 1995, Ensa Mendy testified he was part of the patrol sent to the beach by Yankuba Touray while Amat Jangum said that he was only accompanied by two guards and did not mention Ensa Mendy.

Regarding the details of the patrol that night, Ensa Mendy mentioned that they were all armed in uniform when they were sent to patrol the beach the night Ousman Koro Ceesay was killed, which contradicts Amat Jangum’s testimony stating that they were not armed and they were in civilian clothes. In fact, Amat Jangum said that the guards had to borrowed civilian clothes from Ensa Mendy as they did not have any with them.

Lamin Colley
Abdoulie J Darboe (session 2) stated that he had seen Lamin Colley among others beating Fafa Nyang, breaking his back and throwing him 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.

Momodou Lamin Bah (session 3) also said that Lamin Colley had deliberately shot Fafa Nyang.

Babucarr Sanyang (session 3) testified that he saw Lamin Colley and Babucarr Mboob (military police personnel) drag the lifeless bodies of Basirou Camara and Ebou (EM) Ceesay. Whilst Lamin Colley (session 3) stated that aside from Fafa Nyang, he did not see anyone else killed or heard of any other killings on the day until a few days later when he heard soldiers were captured and taken out to the bush to be killed.

Ensa Mendy (session 3) said that as Fafa Nyang “was struggling”, Lamin Colley shot him in the head deliberately. He confirmed the shot could not have been accidental because a well-trained military man knows that each gun has a safety-catch. The witness agreed with the proposition of an accidental discharge made by Lamin Colley was a fallacy.

Babucarr Sanyang
Abdoulie J Darboe (session 2) stated that a few minutes later he heard shouting around the cook house and saw a group of soldiers including Babucarr Sanyang and others (Alhagie Kanyi, Lamin Colley, Buba Jammeh alias Kanilai) beating Fafa Nyang, breaking his back and throw him alive into a pit.

Sait Darboe (session 2) testified the dead bodies of Basirou Barrow and Abdoulie Dot Faal were dragged to the pit by Babucarr Sanyang, Alhagie Kanyi, and others whose name he could not remember.

Bubacarr Sanyang testified that the ditches had been dug prior to the July 1994 coup as they were to build toilets whereas M.L. Bah (session 3) said he saw the Council members go around the fence behind the cook house and map out a place to bury bodies.
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.

www.aneked.org
☑ @theANEKED

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 2006. The current co-publisher is his son, Baba Hydara.

www.thepoint.gm
☑ @ThePointNewspaper

#NeverAgain