

## Democracy in the Gambia: Moving towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS: [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) stands for strong democracies in the Global South, which should be able to bring **education** and a **life of dignity and freedom from debilitating poverty**. This can be done through **good governance and unity among the countries of the Global South**.

*It is disconcerting to find President Adama Barrow's government not able to shed superstitious and beliefs of the dark ages of humanity. But, [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) believes that whereas we should always be clear about what is right, we should permit President Adama Barrow and the 55 Members of the National Assembly to manage the Gambia, as they wish. Meanwhile, let the world maintain **an active contact and interaction with the Gambians** so that they can graduate out from the previous centuries and move towards their own renaissance.*

March 30, 2024: **Banjul**, The Gambia: **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**: Today, FGM is considered as a human rights violation and it can lead to severe health problems.

In the Gambia, FGM was banned in 2015 during the autocratic 22-year tenure of former President **Yahya Jammeh**, who opposed the practice.

The Gambia has an elected President, **Adama Barrow**, who is now in his second term.

About **Adama Barrow** as a BUILDER: On 12 June 2019, **Adama Barrow** received the **Great Builder Super Prize award** which is The **Africa Road Builders Babacar Ndiaye Trophy**, for his leadership in building the Senegambia Bridge. It is 1.9 Km and 12 m wide. Designed by a Tunisian company, it was built by the Arezki Group of **Adama Barrow** jointly with a Spanish company.

The Senegambia bridge, also known as the Trans-Gambia Bridge, is a bridge in The Gambia that carries the Trans-Gambia Highway connecting northern

and southern Gambia. It also provides access to the isolated **Casamance province of Senegal** from the rest of Senegal.



**Adama Barrow** (born 15 February 1965)

*3rd President of the **Gambia** (from 19 January 2017)*

*Political party: **National People's Party** (2019–present); **Independent** (2016–2019);*

***United Democratic Party** (2007–16); **National Reconciliation Party** (2006–2007)*

*Other political affiliations: **Coalition 2016** (2016–2019)*

**POLITICAL CAREER:** **Adama Barrow** became the treasurer of the **United Democratic Party**, an opposition party, and then became **party leader in September 2016** after the previous leader was jailed. Barrow was then chosen as the **UDP candidate in the 2016 presidential election**. Six other parties joined UDP to form **Coalition 2016**. The **Coalition 2016** adopted **Adama Barrow** as its candidate.

Barrow won the 2016 presidential election with 43.34% of the vote, defeating long-time incumbent **Yahya Jammeh**. Jammeh initially accepted the result, but later

renege on this, and **Barrow** fled to **Senegal**. At the Gambian embassy in Senegal, on 19 January 2017, **Barrow** was sworn in as the President of the Gambia. **Jammeh** was forced to leave the Gambia and go into exile on 21 January. **Barrow** returned to the Gambia on 26 January.

In November 2021, Adama Barrow announced his candidacy for the 2021 presidential election, and was re-elected.

---A BACKGROUNDER on **Yahya Jammeh**, ruler of the Gambia from 1994 to 2017--



***Yahya Abdul-Aziz Jemus Junkung Jammeh (born 25 May 1965)***  
***2<sup>nd</sup> President of the Gambia (6 November 1996 – 18 January 2017)***  
***Chairman, Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council (22 July 1994 – 6 November 1996)***  
***Colonel, National Gendarmerie (1984–1996)***

In July 1994, **Yahya Jammeh** came to power by leading a bloodless coup d'etat that overthrew the elected government of **Sir Dawda Jawara**.

He ruled as **Chairman, Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council** from 22 July 1994 to 6 November 1996. He was elected President in the 1996 election. **Jammeh** was re-elected as President in 2001, 2006 and 2011, but lost to **Adama Barrow** in 2016.

Three decisions: 1. In 2013, Jammeh **withdrew the Gambia from the Commonwealth of Nations**. 2. In 2016 he began the process of **withdrawing the**

country from the International Criminal Court. 3. In 2017, he declared the nation an Islamic republic.

All the three have been rescinded by President Adama Barrow's Government.

---- A BACKGROUNDER on *The Republic of Gambia* ----



**The Republic of Gambia, GDP: \$2.4 Bn, (185<sup>th</sup>); GDP/capita: \$903 (180<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Population: 2.5 Mn (144<sup>th</sup>)- (2013 census), Density: 176.1 Km<sup>2</sup> (74<sup>th</sup>); Area: 11,300 Km<sup>2</sup> (159<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Capital: Banjul, on St Mary's Island, where the Gambia River enters the Atlantic Ocean, connected to mainland through bridges and ferries**  
**Population of Banjul: city only: 31,300; metro (city & Kanifing Municipal Council): 0.4 Mn**  
**Other cities: Brikama (Population: city only 0.1 Mn, LGA: 0.73 Mn); Serekunda (Population: 0.34 Mn)**

The Republic of Gambia is the **smallest country** in continental Africa. It is **surrounded by Senegal**, except for its western coast on the Atlantic Ocean. It is situated on both sides of the lower reaches of the Gambia River, which flows through the center of the country and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The national namesake river demarcates the elongated shape of the country.

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