

PRESS STATEMENT

August 25, 2025

WADEMOS CALLS FOR RELEASE OF PROTESTERS ARRESTED OVER INTERNET PRICE REGULATION DEMONSTRATION IN THE GAMBIA

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network has taken notice of the recent arrest and detention of some concerned citizens of The Gambia who were protesting the sudden hikes in internet tariffs in the country following the controversial price floor set by The Gambian Public Utilities Regulatory Agency.

In recent times, the Network has observed with concern an increasing government pushback against the right to gather and protest peacefully, which is a legitimate part of being an active citizen according to the 1997 Gambian Constitution and regional laws like the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

The Network, in solidarity with the citizens of Gambia, condemns the clampdown on the civil and political liberties of Gambians, including their right to protest, and calls for their immediate and unconditional release.

Additionally, the Network calls for protesters who were hurt and in need of medical attention to have immediate access to the necessary treatment.

It is the conviction of the Network that governments should not appear to be arbitrary in their policy decisions but resort to deliberate engagement and dialogue with citizens, as democracy and good governance require.

The government and the security agencies in The Gambia should remember the duty they have to uphold the rights of citizens and safeguard democracy and also take cognizance that this honorable duty inextricably entails safeguarding the rights and the duty of citizens to hold public institutions and power accountable.

The WADEMOS Network remains committed to its mission of championing the rights and freedoms of all people in The Gambia and in West Africa.

-End-

Solidarity for Democracy | Solidarité pour la Démocratie

Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) | Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) | WANEP | Center for Democracy and Development-West Africa (CDD-West Africa), Nigeria | StatView International, Guinea | Center for Democratic Governance (CDG), Burkina Faso | Africivistes, Senegal | Sindicato de Jornalistas e Tecnicos de Comunicacao (SINJOTEC), Guinea-Bissau | Association Femmes Leadership et Development Durable (AFLED), Mali | Network of Women Leaders for Development (RFLD), Benin

About WADEMOS

WADEMOS is an independent and non-partisan network of diverse national and transnational civil society organizations and civic groups working to promote and defend democracy, good governance, and inclusive development in the West Africa region. WADEMOS mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective voice and power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, resources, and opportunities within the West Africa region to advance its mission. The current membership of WADEMOS stands at 47 spread across West Africa. The WADEMOS Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana.

For more information and media interviews, please contact:

Name: Jonah Eledi

Designation: Communications and Digital Platforms Officer

Email: j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org

Phone Number: +233 26 373 5330

Solidarity for Democracy | Solidarité pour la Démocratie

Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) | Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) | WANEP | Center for Democracy and Development-West Africa (CDD-West Africa), Nigeria | StatView International, Guinea | Center for Democratic Governance (CDG), Burkina Faso | Africivistes, Senegal | Sindicato de Jornalistas e Técnicos de Comunicação (SINJOTEC), Guinea-Bissau | Association Femmes Leadership et Développement Durable (AFLED), Mali | Network of Women Leaders for Development (RFLD), Benin