

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 urges the government to provide protesters who were hurt and in need of medical attention with 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.

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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.

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