



Press release

The West African Human Rights Defenders Network (ROADDH / WAHRDN) is very concerned by the current situation in Gambia. In fact, Yahya Jammeh, who led this state for the past 22 years, had recognized his defeat and congratulated his opponent for his victory of the presidential election held in 1 December 2016.,.

A week after the proclamation of results, the outgoing president, in a televised statement, accused the electoral commission of having committed "unacceptable errors" and called for the organization of a new ballot.

Seeing this worrying situation, which may undermine the peaceful transition that was under way, and further, weakening the work of Human Rights Defenders, the ROADDH / WAHRDN reiterates its call:

- To all stakeholders to demonstrate utmost restraint and abstain from any violence.
- To ensure the safety of the newly elected president and all gambians
- To the international community to take all necessary measure to avoid bloodshed in The Gambia.
- To the outgoing President Yahya Jammeh, to respect the choice of the Gambian people and to unconditionally and without delay hand over the authority to the President Adama Barrow.
- To take all measures to ensure human rights in general, and in particular the rights of human rights defenders in accordance with article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 11 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights that the state of Gambia is a party.

Lomé 19th December , 2016