

REPORT OF SOLIDARITY MISSION TO THE GAMBIA 3-4 JANUARY, 2017

The Senegal-Gambia-Guinea Bissau Women's Forum aimed to participate in the peaceful resolution of the post electoral crisis in Gambia which, is friendly country by carrying out a mission to Banjul from 3-4 January, 2017. The following delegations joined their Gambian sisters to coordinate their actions in negotiation and mediation efforts.



The delegation composed 3 representatives from Women's Platform for Peace in Casamance (WPPC) and 3 representatives from Women's Political Platform of Guinea Bissau (PPM-GB).

The said mission is follow-up activity to the December, 2016 mission organized by the WPPC in Casamance at which a declaration was adopted calling on both sides to give priority to mediation and dialogue.

Objective: The main objective of the mission was to facilitate discussions with the outgoing President Yahya Jammeh and President-elect Adama Barrow. Further, it was meant to support and show their solidarity to their sisters in The Gambia, whilst paying courtesy calls on President Yahya Jammeh and President-elect Adama Barrow.

It is important to note that the dates were confirmed two (2) days prior to the arrival of the delegation to The Gambia. While a courtesy call as paid on the President elect, unfortunately, a response was yet to be received from the office of the outgoing President until the departure of the delegation from The Gambia.



An exchange and information sharing meeting was held with Gender Action Team (GAT) members comprising leaders of women and children's organizations in The Gambia. During the said meeting, a draft advocacy document was discussed as well as the way forward following the implementation of the said mission

A lot of ideas were discussed and adopted. As hosts, the ACDHRS led the discussions of the meeting. The drafting and presentation of a joint statement was entrusted to the Women's Platform for Peace in Casamance, while the PPM-GB was charged with giving the vote of thanks on behalf of The Forum.

Next steps and actions agreed on included:

- A second request for audience should be sent to President Yahya Jammeh, and copied to ECOWAS
- A request for audience sent to the Office of the Vice President as the Minister of Women's Affairs
- Organization of a sit-in at strategic place at a further date
- A request for audience to the President of Senegal by WPPC



Meeting with the President-Elect



On January 4, 2017, a delegation of the Women's Forum and the GAT numbering about 15 representatives were received by the President-elect Adama Barrow at the Kairaba Beach Hotel in Senegambia. The statement of the Forum on that day, for a peaceful resolution of the crisis has aroused emotion.

Welcoming and commending the delegation for their initiative, President elect Adama Barrow reassured the delegation of his willingness and that of the Coalition for Changes and its supporters to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. He reiterated that the Coalition, gives priority to dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy to overcome the current crisis in order to avert instability and violence.

Subsequent to the courtesy call, a press conference was held at the office of the African Centre at which both the print and electronic media were in attendance. They were briefed about the objective of the mission as well as the outcome of the courtesy call including the way forward.

Conclusion

Although there was a semblance of calm around the country, it was evident that many people were afraid that violence would erupt. However, based on the very fruitful discussions held over the period of the mission, the delegation remained hopeful that the crisis would be amicably resolved.

