

REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION OF TEN NIGERIANS
ALLEGEDLY KILLED IN THE GAMBIA IN 2005

Further to Tel.No.M.46 dated 17th November, 2008 received by the Mission, we wish to report that available records have indicated that nine (9) Nigerians and not ten were among the fifty-eight (58) foreign national seized by The Gambia Navy on 21st July, 2005. Fifty- fifty (55) were eventually massacre^d by personnel of The Gambia Armed Forces at different locations in around Banjul on 22nd and 23rd July, 2005 respectively. The victims were said to have been seized by personnel of The Gambia Navy while sailing aboard a locally designed Senegalese wooden boat towards a fishing vessel anchored on the high sea to stowaway to Europe. Aboard the boat were nine (9) Nigerians, forty (40) Ghanaians, three (3) Senegalese, three (3) Sierra Leoneans, two (2) Togolese and one (1) Ivorian. The boat was reported to have taken off with all its occupants from the Port of Sally Mbour in Senegal on 21st July, 2008. All available information have indicated that it was nine (9) Nigerians that were involved and not ten (10) as requested.

2. According to our records, the fifty- eight (58) foreign nationals were seized on Gambian territorial waters and brought to The Gambian Naval Base in Banjul and held as "rebels" in the early hours of 22nd July, 2005. They were later debriefed on the directive of the authorities by a combined team of security personnel of The Gambia Armed Forces comprising of officers from the NIA, Army, Navy and Police. After that was done, they were secretly moved to a location at Brufut, a suburb area of Banjul for unknown reasons that fateful day. However, before the authorities ordered the debriefing of the seized foreign nationals, two (2) Ghanaians had escaped by diving into the sea unnoticed on their arrival at the Naval Base. They were presumed to have swum into hiding and safety.

3. While at Brufut the combine team of security personnel searched and disposed the arrested foreign nationals of their valuables, foreign currencies and travel documents. When a Nigerian refused to be disposed of his money and other valuables a scuffle ensued leading to the execution of eight (8) of the foreign nationals on the spot by the members of the combined

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team of security personnel of The Gambia Armed Forces that fateful day. Their dead bodies were later discovered scattered around the vicinity around Brufut and was reported in the Gambian Daily Observer of 25th July, 2005.

5. With this development, the remaining forty- eight (48) foreign nationals were hurriedly divided into groups and taken to different locations for execution. In the process three (3) more Ghanaians escaped while being moved from their initial location at Brufut to new locations where they were to be executed. One of the three (3) escapees proposed for execution along The Gambia/Senegal border around the Cassamance region, escaped on their way into the Cassamance in Senegal. While the other two (2) escapees to "Ghana Town" as they were being move to a different location within Brufut. After these massacres, Gambian authorities embarked on massive arrest of illegal immigrants in the country particularly Ghanaians with the hope of having the other members of the seized boat that have escaped re- arrested and executed if at all they were in the country to cove up the extra judicial killings of these foreign nationals.

6. The escapee to the Cassamance region was said to have reported the killing of his colleagues along The Gambia/Senegal border in the early morning of 23rd July, 2005 to the Gendarmeries Station at Burkiniling village where he was issued a laiser passer (a travel document) to enable him return to Dakar, Senegal. The other two (2) Ghanaians who escaped to "Ghana Town" meet with the leadership of the Ghanaian Community in The Gambia and narrated their ordeal and those of their other colleagues. They were later handed over to the Police Station at Brufut for protection by the Ghanaian Community without any documentation or entry made at the station. Unfortunately, the police thereafter handed them over to the authorities to be executed.

7. The first two (2) Ghanaians who swam and escaped on 22nd July, 2005 at the Gambia Naval Base eventually found their way to

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"Ghana Town" on 23rd July, 2008 and met with the leadership of the Ghanaian Community in The Gambia and report their plight and arrest of their other colleagues by personnel of the Gambia Armed Forces as rebels. To ensure their safety, they were also handed over to the Police Station at Brufut by the Ghanaian Community, but this time this handing over was done after proper and formal documentation, signed by both the Ghanaian Community and the Police officers on duty. This prevented the Police from handing them over for execution. Ghanaian government delegation visited Banjul on 8th August, 2005 on the reported killing of Ghanaians in The Gambia. They held talks with the Gambian authorities and requested for the release of the last two (2) Ghanaians handed over to the Police at Brufut by the Ghanaian Community to the delegation for repatriation. These two (2) were the only Ghanaians released to them as reported alive.

9 According to an investigation conducted by the Mission the fifty- eight (58) ECOWAS citizens seized by the personnel of The Gambia Navy, were not rebels but innocent migrants resident in Senegal. One of the nine (9) Nigerians that were killed, Mr. Omozemoje Paul Enagameh holds a Nigerian Standard Passport No. A1548206 tendered by the Nigerian Community in Dakar, Senegal and also was identified by the Ghanaian survivor who narrowly escaped the Gambian massacre to Dakar through the Cassamance's village of Burkiniling. Details of the other Nigerians could not be obtained because they took along their travel documents while on the trip.

10. Other details about Mr. Enagameh are as follows:

Name:	Omozemoje Paul Enagameh
Passport Number:	A1548206
Date of Birth (DOB):	9 th December, 1976
Place of Birth (POB):	Lagos

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11. For further clarifications, headquarters may wish to contact the Ghanaian authorities over the incidence since the three (3) survivors are Ghanaians and have all been repatriated to Accra, Ghana for their safety. The escapee to Dakar was reported to have been repatriated by the Ghana Embassy in Dakar, Senegal shortly after the two (2) survivors in Banjul were repatriated by the Ghanaian delegation that visited The Gambia on the reported killings of Ghanaians.

COMMENTS

12. Our records further revealed that the Gambian Newspaper, The Daily Observer of 25th July, 2005 reported the discovery of eight dead bodies at Tanji- bird watching site near Brufut about four hundred metres from the newly built Brufut Police Station. The bodies were reported to have been found at different spots within the vicinity and one of the bodies had a broken skull. No report has been made on the other balance of the people in the daily publication.

13. It is also worthy to note that all those reported to have escaped were all Ghanaians and not Nigerians. This means that none among the nine (9) Nigerians survived.

14. Attached herewith are photocopies of the Mission's earlier correspondences and response from headquarters for your perusal, please.

Nigeria High Commission
Banjul
The Gambia