

# Gambia

Gambia is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: African System



Gambia has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Additionally, Gambia has accepted the

jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Gambia to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR considered a series of alleged violations, including arbitrary detention, torture, kidnappings, extrajudicial killings, and restrictions on the freedom of expression and movement, which followed a military coup in July 1994. The ACHPR found the State in violation of numerous provisions of the African Charter and recommended it harmonize its domestic laws with the Charter. See ACommHPR, [Sir Dawda K. Jawara v. The Gambia](#), Communication No. 147/95-149/96, 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 11 May 2000.

Gambia has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted one mission to Gambia on prisons and conditions of detention, in [1999](#).

Gambia has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Gambia is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Gambia's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Gambia has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Gambia has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the [ICCPR](#).

Gambia has ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC addressing the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Gambia has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty it has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Gambia has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Gambia has also ratified [the optional protocols](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Gambia has accepted the inquiry procedure of the CRPD.

Gambia has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Gambia to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions conducted a visit to the Gambia in November 2014 and published a [report](#) on that visit in May 2015.

For more information on Gambia's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/GMIndex.aspx>

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