His Excellency Adama Barrow

Office of The President

State house

Banjul

GAMBIE

May 2024

Dear Sir,

Reports of a possible lifting of the ban on **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** on girls and women, currently under discussion in The Gambia fill me with the deepest concern.

Your country's Parliament has recently debated proposals from members of Parliament (MPs) willing to reverse the ban on FGM, which has been in place since 2015.

Reversing the ban on FGM protecting little and young girls against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment would blatantly violate Gambia's obligations under international law, in particular the prohibition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Art. 16 (1) of the UN Convention against Torture).

The Gambia is also obliged under Art. 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to protect all people, including girls and women, from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Art. 3 ICCPR).

This legal ban is also in line with the UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/77/195), which purpose is to intensify global efforts for the elimination of FGM

Sir, the legal legitimization of FGM would tantamount to immeasurable, lifelong physical and psychological pain for generations of girls and women in The Gambia.

I therefore appeal to you, through the authority of your office, to veto any possible parliamentary resolution repealing the ban on FGM..

I trust you will share this call for more humanity.

Yours faithfully,

Name

Address

Signature

Copy to : S.E.M. Pa Musa Jobarteh Ambassade de Gambie Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 126 B-1050 Bruxelles, BELGIQUE