



WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING
WAN POLICY BRIEF
NOVEMBER 26, 2016

**December 1 Elections in THE GAMBIA:
Rumors, Realities and Responses**

1.0 INTRODUCTION
On 20 November 2015, at a press briefing the former Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Alhaji Moustapha Carayol announced the dates for 19th Presidential, National Assembly and local government elections in The Gambia for the 2016 & 2018 elections. This announcement indicated a number of strategies to ensure free, fair and credible elections including: partnership with the Democratic Party (DP) when it entered the party politics arena; resources, time and conduct of the election process; and the IEC's role in ensuring the integrity of the election process. There was international condemnation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), United States of America, the European Union and United Nations. The Gambia government is investigating the deaths of the two candidates who were arrested during the 2015 elections. The National Assembly passed the Elections Amendment Bill on 21 July 2015. The Bill provided with public financing, strict regulation of campaign financing, and a ban on the use of state resources for political parties. The Bill also provided for the investigation of the deaths of the two candidates who were arrested during the 2015 elections.

2.0 CHRONOLOGY OF REPORTS AND REALITIES OF THE ELECTION PROCESS
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