

# Yahya Abdul-Aziz Jemus Junkung Jammeh

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Born : 25 May 1965

## GAMBIA

President, defence minister



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## Training/education

**1994:** Military science diploma, Port McClellan, Alabama (US).

**1 April 1984:** Joins National Gendarmerie.

**1983:** Graduates from Gambia High School, doing well in geography, English, French, biology and physics.

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## Professional experience

**21 March 2006:** Orders round-up of soldiers, MPs, civilians and journalists after failed coup. At least six vanish after supposedly escaping.

**July 2005:** Says in radio and TV broadcast he has allowed “too much freedom of expression” in the country.

**16 December 2004:** Blocks investigation of murder of The Point editor Deyda Hydara, also local correspondent of *Agence France-Presse* and Reporters Without Borders, while he was being watched by intelligence service.

**13 December 2004:** Pushes harsh measures through parliament to gag the privately-owned press.

**April 2004:** Calls on journalists to obey his government “or go to hell.”

**20 October 2001:** Wins presidential election in first round of voting.

**10-11 April 2001:** Orders security forces to fire on demonstration against police brutality, killing at least 14 students and schoolchildren.

**2000:** UN says he has allowed Liberian President Charles Taylor to smuggle diamonds out of Sierra Leone through Gambia. Arms for Sierra Leone RUF rebels also pass through the country using Ukrainian intermediaries.

**July 2000:** Says that those who undermine peace and stability will be buried “six feet under.”

**27 September 1996:** Elected president with 56% of vote, opposition parties banned.

**22 July 1994:** Stages military coup and becomes head of state, government and armed forces. Bans all political parties.

**23-24 February 1992:** Officer in charge of guarding Pope John Paul II during visit to Gambia.

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## Hobbies/interests

Wrestling, tennis, hunting, motor-cycling, livestock, herbal medicine, the Internet, titles and decorations (including Libya’s Grand Order of Bravery).

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