

## NOMINATION FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2021:

# **Abubacarr Tambadou**

NOMINATOR:

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**Abubacarr Tambadou, as attorney general and justice minister of Gambia, was the person who initiated and filed the historical genocide case against Myanmar before the International Court of Justice.**

While other world leaders hesitated and preferred silence when atrocities were being committed on racial and political grounds with impunity in 2017, against the Rohingya population of Myanmar, Abubacarr Tambadou acted in the finest spirit of Alfred Nobel's will.

Persecution and suppression of minorities is a cause of revenge, refugee flows, and rearmament, as well as conflict between states. Accountability is needed both through individual criminal law responsibility and at the level of state responsibility. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Hague is a peaceful global mechanism for establishing state responsibility for wrongdoing. The UN Genocide Convention is based on the principle of genocide being a jus cogens crime under international law. All member states have basic obligations owed to the international community as a whole. Far too often these obligations are neglected.

Abubacarr Tambadou, at the time the justice minister of the Gambia, travelled to Bangladesh in 2018 to visit the Rohingya refugee camps. He had prior experience with genocide as former prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda. Tambadou and the Gambian government brought a case before the ICJ, accusing Myanmar of genocide under the Genocide Convention. This is the first case in history where a state has sued another state for serious violations of international law before the ICJ without the state being directly affected by the alleged human rights violations. Notably, this was done by one of the smallest and poorest states in the world! Such willpower and courage by peaceful means, in the spirit of solidarity with victims and the brotherhood of man, is commendable and indeed necessary in our times. On 23 January 2020 the ICJ indicated provisional measures against Myanmar.

Throughout his life and career, Mr. Tambadou has consistently worked in the interest of peace and justice, two pillars intrinsically linked in any society based on rule of law and peaceful coexistence.