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INSIDE INDIA'S DEADLY PHARMA INDUSTRY, ONE YEAR AFTER 77 GAMBIAN KIDS DIED OF AKI

**GAMBIA SEDUCED BY CHINA
SPREADING MILITARY TENTACLES IN
AFRICA**

**U.S INDICTS GAMBIA ON ILLEGAL,
UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED
FISHING**

**THE GAMBIA ON ENERGY OFFENSIVE
WITH 5 DEALS SIGNED IN 2023**

COLUMBIA APPREHENDS INFAMOUS COCAINE EXPORTER TO GAMBIA



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TABLE OF CONTENT

INTO INDIA'S DEADLY PHARMA INDUSTRY, ONE YEAR AFTER 77 GAMBIA KIDS DIED OF AKI.....2

- Poor quality, inadequate staff training, inferior medications, tainted data integrity, and more.....2

GAMBIA SEDUCED BY CHINA SPREADING MILITARY TENTACLES IN AFRICA.....3

- What China gives in the right hand, China takes back with the left hand.....4
- China's Legacy of predatory investment in The Gambia4

U.S INDICTS GAMBIA ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING.....5

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by the vessel F/V Kiki6
- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by the vessel F/V Lucas6
- Gambia failed to meet basic reporting obligations for three consecutive years.....6
- A window for remedy opened between the United States and The Gambia.6

THE GAMBIA ON ENERGY OFFENSIVE WITH 5 DEALS SIGNED IN 20237

- The Green Hydrogen Agreement between The Gambia and H2 Gambia7
- Agreement on Wind Farms between NEK Umwelttechnik AG and The Gambia.....7
- The Energy Cooperation Accord between Ivory Coast and The Gambia8
- EU Signs New Global Gateway Grant with The Gambia8
- Agreement on Crude Oil Exploration between GNPC and NNPC.....8
- Energy Investors' Corporate Tax Holiday in The Gambia8

COLUMBIA APPREHENDS INFAMOUS COCAINE EXPORTER TO GAMBIA.....9

INSIDE INDIA'S DEADLY PHARMA INDUSTRY, ONE YEAR AFTER 77 GAMBIAN KIDS DIED OF AKI



According to India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organization, the country's drug regulator has ordered 76 out of 237 pharmaceutical companies to stop production because of subpar manufacturing standards found during risk-based inspections conducted since December 2022. (CDSCO).

Chandrashekhar Ranga, India's Deputy Drugs Controller at the CDSCO, disclosed the information during a live webinar on November 18 titled "Risk Based Inspections in India - An Overview," which gambij.com was able to access.

Chandrashekhar Ranga claims that the Risk-Based Inspections conducted in 2022 and 2023 were prompted by concerns from The Gambia, which led to the nationwide inspection program's inception. "These inspections are being conducted by state drug inspectors and the Central Drugs Standard

Control Organization (CDSCO) as part of a broad national campaign against counterfeit and subpar medications. This came after a rift over claims that cough syrups made in India killed children in the Gambia, an African country "He stated.

The US, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and the Gambia all expressed concerns about the quality of Indian medications in the wake of the WHO's and The Gambia's accusations.

However, the CDSCO's Deputy Drugs Controller stated that the inspections carried out in response

to these complaints revealed a "high NSQ rate," or a significant percentage of non-standard quality products made in numerous Indian pharmaceutical industry facilities.

"According to him, show causes notifications have also been sent to more than 75% of the firms. Thus far, 15.1% of the samples obtained from these production plants have been deemed to be of substandard quality (NSQ). Phase IV of these inspections is presently being carried out by the regulator "said the Deputy Controller of Drugs

Poor quality, inadequate staff training, inferior medications, tainted data integrity, and more

The CDSCO official stated that the inspection sites were chosen using six criteria: information obtained through intelligence, reports from state labs, reports from CDSCO-affiliated labs, reports from international regulatory agencies, a nationwide survey carried out by the National Institute of Biologics (NIB), and information from all 130 oxytocin injection manufacturers.

According to the CDSCO's Deputy Drugs Controller's presentation, a common pattern was found during the four phases of the inspection. Chandrashekhar Ranga, India's Deputy Drugs Controller at the

CDSCO, stated that "there were major difficulties in relation with data integrity."



A "Lack of vendor qualification standard" and a "Lack of a specific section for potent items" were also discovered during the inspections. "Lack of SOPs or failure to follow SOPs" and "Lack of freedom of

thought and speech to the technical team" are two more grave shortcomings.

Another recurring pattern discovered during earlier inspections was present in every pharmaceutical facility that was examined. India's Deputy Drugs Controller at the CDSCO stated, "Food supplements were made on the same premises where drugs were manufactured."

Along with a lack of uniform batch size, research and development, and poor product understanding during formulation, he added, "Lack of facilities for the licensed products"

and "Lack of methods to prevent cross-contamination" have also been identified.

Other major problems discovered in these audited pharma production facilities include "Water system not validated", "Raw materials and final goods not tested", "Poor microbiology lab facilities" and "Analytical method not validated".

Following these inspections, the Indian drug authority revoked the licenses of fifteen companies and directed that 76 out of 237 pharmaceutical enterprises cease their drug manufacture. Show cause orders have been sent to 179 people.

It has been determined that more than 15% of the samples taken from these production facilities are not of

standard quality. As a result, warning letters regarding inconsistencies have been delivered to 35 units.

According to Chandrashekhar Ranga, India's Deputy Drugs Controller at the CDSCO, the Indian drug regulator is presently conducting Phase IV of these inspections, with 51 pharmaceutical companies having already been inspected.

GAMBIA SEDUCED BY CHINA SPREADING MILITARY TENTACLES IN AFRICA

The People's Republic of China is working hard to establish stronger military ties and a more consistent military presence in African countries.

This ambition was reaffirmed at China's recently concluded third China-Africa Peace and Security Forum... And Gambia likes it.



H.E. Ambassador Liu Jin met with Hon. Sering Modou Njie, Minister of Defense Chinese Ambassador to The Gambia handed over a batch of logistic equipment to Gambia Armed Forces

Chinese officials believe that China-Africa security cooperation must take on a new dimension and be successfully implemented in order to validate China's ambitious goals of exercising both soft and hard power globally.

With China's influence growing by the day, the country's diplomatic doctrine that security must be bolstered by economy is now banking on Africa, and strategically important countries like The Gambia, as a key component in addressing its various security challenges.

In doing so, China engages in a quiet seducing soft military diplomacy that insists on what the Chinese State believes.

Defense chiefs from nearly 50 African countries, including Gambia's

former Chief of Defense Staff Gen. Yankuba Drammeh, as well as over 100 African Union senior representatives, attended the meetings in Beijing from August 28 to September 2nd, 2023.

"In the future, China will strengthen military cooperation with Africa in a variety of fields such as joint exercises, peacekeeping and escorting, military education, and professional training in order to inject more certainty, stability, and positive energy into a turbulent world," Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister General Li Shangfu told his African counterparts. Sering Modou Njie, The Gambia's Defense Minister, provided China with a relatively open and receptive ear. Denying the adage that "China is attempting to expand its

geopolitical influence through its promoted Global Security Initiative (GSI) with Africa," Sering Modou Njie stated: "African-Chinese cooperation serves their respective interests, with defense and security cooperation being of particular importance."

Li Shangfu responded that China adheres to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. "China never imposes its will on others or meddles in African countries' internal affairs. Its aid to Africa, including military aid, is unconditional, and all security work is always done in consultation with the African countries involved "According to Li Shangfu

What China gives in the right hand, China takes back with the left hand

The Gambia owed China \$12 million in debt, which China cancelled in 2017. Since then, China has benefited from multimillion-dollar projects in The Gambia ranging from infrastructure to fisheries to energy. However, during the recently concluded September 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi, China, in a striking yet unsurprising exception, stepped aside from a broad consensus within the group to come to the aid of three Low Income Countries, namely The Gambia, Ethiopia, and Ghana. India, as host and then G20 chair, advocated for progress in a debt relief proposed program for The Gambia, Ethiopia, and Ghana. The intended debt relief mechanism, however, would be linked to climate issues, which China does not like.

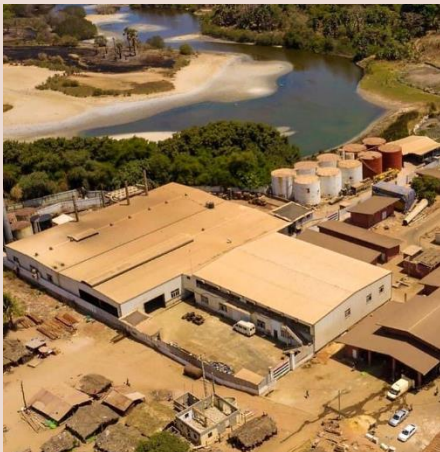
While G20 members did not yield to China's position, our source indicated that China's opposition stems from what many see as Beijing's predatory lending practices, which contribute to unsustainable debt burdens.

Meanwhile, G20 members agreed that financial inclusion is critical to making progress toward achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). With the exception of China, the other nineteen countries came close to reaching an agreement on managing the debt vulnerabilities that have engulfed a number of countries in the Global South.

People familiar with the talks told GambiaJ that the Indian presidency has been able to nudge the members to find a definite solution to this issue at a time when the

pandemic and war have increased debt vulnerabilities across countries. Finally, a framework for the three African countries has been prepared. While technicalities must still be worked out, the final G20 declaration, written in carefully crafted language to avoid upsetting China, states: "As Leaders of the G20, the premier global forum for international economic cooperation, we resolve to act in concrete ways through partnerships." We pledge to better incorporate developing-country perspectives, including LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, into future G20 agendas and to strengthen developing-country voices in global forums.

China's Legacy of predatory investment in The Gambia – The Coastal Fishmeal Processing Plants



Golden Lead a Chinese fishmeal factory stationed right on the shores of Gunjur beach

In The Gambia, a Chinese fishmeal factory, known as Golden Lead, was one of the outcomes of the diplomatic ties between The Gambia and China, which were restored in 2016 after Jammeh severed relations with Taiwan. China has since become a major investor and creditor in The Gambia, cancelling \$12m of debt and providing \$28.7m

for agricultural and fisheries projects in 2017.

The factory, which was established in 2015 under the former regime of Yahya Jammeh, has been accused of polluting the nearby wildlife reserve, causing mass fish deaths and health problems for the local community. Since then, The Gambia has been facing a serious environmental and economic crisis due to the presence this Chinese fishmeal factory in the coastal town of Gunjur even though the current president, Adama Barrow, has expressed his gratitude and friendship to China on several occasions. The factory has also been criticized for exploiting the local fish resources and creating unfair competition for the Gambian fishermen.

However, the environmental and social impacts of the Chinese fishmeal factory have raised serious concerns among the Gambian people, especially those living in Gunjur and nearby areas. In 2018,

the Bolong Fenyo lagoon, a protected wetland that hosts diverse bird and marine life, turned red and was filled with dead fish. The National Environment Agency (NEA) sued Golden Lead for allegedly discharging wastewater into the lagoon without proper treatment. The case was settled out of court after the factory paid a fine of \$25,000 and agreed to install a proper waste management system. Despite this, the factory has continued to operate without much oversight or regulation from the authorities. The residents of Gunjur have complained about the foul smell emanating from the factory, as well as the skin problems they have experienced after swimming or fishing in the sea near the factory. However, there is no conclusive evidence that links these issues to the factory's activities. The Chinese fishmeal factory has also been affecting the livelihoods of the Gambian fishermen, who have

been struggling to compete with the Senegalese fishermen who supply most of the fish to Golden Lead. The factory pays \$5 per basket of fish, which is much lower than the market price of \$15. Some fishermen accept this offer because it guarantees a sale, while others refuse to sell their fish to Golden Lead. This has resulted in less fish

available for local consumption and higher prices for consumers. The Chinese fishmeal factory in Gunjur is a clear example of how foreign investment can have negative consequences for the environment and society of a host country. The Gambia needs to balance its economic interests with its ecological and social

responsibilities, and ensure that its natural resources are used sustainably and equitably. The Gambian government should also monitor and regulate the activities of Golden Lead and other foreign companies operating in the country, and hold them accountable for any violations or damages they cause.

U.S INDICTS GAMBIA ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING



Xing Xi Wang 1, An Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) Chinese Gambian flagged fishing vessel, off The Gambia in 2020, being escorted to Wharf Njago

The US National Marine Fisheries Service has identified The Gambia and six other nations for trading in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and for violating the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), for violating conservation and management measures (CMMs) and for failing to take appropriate corrective actions after being caught in the act.

Atmospheric Administration and Dr. Richard W. Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Administrator, has been already submitted to the U.S Congress. Essentially, it documents how The Gambia has become a heaven for flagging decommissioned and unfit to sail fishing vessels already deregistered by countries in the subregion.

One instance in the report describes how two vessels flagged to The Gambia were placed on the international commission for the conservation of Atlantic tunas illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing vessel list in 2022. Despite being put to notice by the US National Marine Fisheries Service, no actions were taken by The Gambia to address these vessels per the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas Rec. 18-0845 (and amended per Rec. 21-1346) on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities. Meanwhile in persisting to flagging these vessels, The Gambia violated the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas Rec. 21-13 paragraph 9. The Gambia has also failed to meet basic the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas reporting requirements, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's report.



The arrested Abo Islam and Sabrin en route to the port of Banjul - Photo by Mael Chausseblanche Sea Shepherd Global

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by the vessel F/V Kiki

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas included this vessel in the international illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing vessel list on September 5, 2022, for engaging in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas CMMs. This vessel's IMO number is 7929176, was previously named F/V Lisboa, and previously flagged to Senegal.

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by the vessel F/V Lucas

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas included this vessel in the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing vessel list on May 28, 2022, for engaging in transshipment with vessels included in the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing vessel list. This vessel's IMO number is 9038402, was previously named F/V Maximus, and previously flagged to Senegal.

The US National Marine Fisheries Service notes with concern that the

Senegal's illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing identification in the 2021 report when those vessels were flagged to Senegal.

As noted in the 2021 report, the U.S National Marine Fisheries Service remains concerned when nations use flag State deregistration as a primary sanctioning tool instead of employing proper flag State control measures. As demonstrated here, this allows vessel owners like those who own the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing vessel listed fishing vessels F/V Kiki and F/V Lucas to continue to operate them.

Gambia failed to meet basic reporting obligations for three consecutive years

The US national marine fisheries service also identified The Gambia for failure to meet basic the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas reporting obligations. The Gambia did not submit an annual report, shark compliance checklist or billfish compliance checklist in 2020, 2021 or 2022, and did not submit compliance tables in 2020 or 2022. In 2021, The Gambia reported incomplete Task I data and did not submit fleet characteristics information. In 2022, The Gambia

reported no statistical data. As a result of this missing data, The Gambia remains subject to a complete prohibition on retention of the international commission for the conservation of Atlantic tuna's species pursuant to Rec. 11-1547 until it reports its Task I data, which includes catch and effort data.

A window for remedy opened between the United States and The Gambia.

Following identification in this report for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, including the vessel activities noted above, The Gambia's 2025 certification determination will be based on evidence that The Gambia can satisfy the conditions set out in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Rec. 21-13 paragraph 9.

The US national marine fisheries service will also evaluate evidence that The Gambia has provided the required reports to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and taken steps to control its fisheries through domestic regulations to implement relevant the international commission for the conservation of Atlantic Tunas CMMs.

Negative certification determinations result in the denial of U.S. port privileges and can result in trade restrictions. The Gambia also remains subject to a complete prohibition on retention of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tuna's species pursuant to Rec. 11-1547 until it reports its Task I data, which includes catch and effort data.

"Combating these practices is a top priority of the United States, and we'll work with each identified nation and entity to remedy these activities and strengthen their fisheries management and enforcement practices," said Janet

Coit, assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Where The Gambia, Angola, Grenada, Mexico, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, The and

Vanuatu were identified for alleged IUU fishing in 2020, 2021 and 2022, countries like Costa Rica, Guyana, Senegal and Taiwan received positive certification determinations

for taking actions to remedy the IUU fishing activities for which they were identified in 2021

THE GAMBIA ON ENERGY OFFENSIVE WITH 5 DEALS SIGNED IN 2023



The Gambia Petroleum House hosting the Ministry of Energy Petroleum

The hydrocarbon and renewable energy sectors are becoming more and more interested in the Gambia, which is a very promising energy market. The offshore basin of The Gambia has a lot of potential for oil development because of its closeness to Senegal's 231-million-barrel Sangomar field. The nation also has significant wind energy resources during the months of January and May, and a minimum daily solar production capacity of 4 KWh per m2.

The Gambia has inked five agreements to promote growth and collaboration, underscoring its dedication to developing its energy sector.

The Green Hydrogen Agreement between the Gambia and H2 Gambia

A deal to investigate hydrogen potential in the nation was inked by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of The Gambia and H2 Gambia, a division of HydroGenesis, a British firm that focuses on hydrogen as a resource and energy carrier with a particular emphasis on The Gambia. The agreement, signed during African Energy Week in Cape Town in October 2023, permits a thorough investigation into The Gambia's onshore hydrogen potential to be conducted for a full year. In the event that the study is successful, a new contract will be negotiated to enable the generation of hydrogen.

The program is described by officials of government as being in line with The Gambia's plan to work with international energy companies to improve energy security and affordability. It also advances the nation's ambitions to decarbonize energy while fostering local economic growth. In the event that H2 Gambia Limited finds commercial-scale hydrogen resources in the nation, a new agreement will be inked to permit the production of hydrogen. In order to guarantee energy security and affordability, The Gambia is boosting its energy exploration efforts at this time by forming alliances with international oil, gas, and hydrogen energy businesses.

Director of HydroGenesis Ben Sayers claims that the agreement would maximize the nation's onshore hydrogen potential and allow for the optimization of the whole hydrogen and energy value chain, which will increase employment and economic growth prospects for the local population. Sheick the signing was witnessed by Hon. Abdoulie Jobe, Minister of Petroleum and Energy, and Omar Bittaye, Director of Petroleum at the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, The Gambia. According to reports, the agreement sets the stage for the two sides to work together on studies to ascertain The Gambia's potential for onshore hydrogen production.

Agreement on Wind Farms between NEK Umwelttechnik AG and the Gambia

In September 2023, the Gambia's government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NEK Umwelttechnik AG, a Swiss

renewable project developer, to examine the possibility of producing green hydrogen at large scale and to create onshore and offshore wind

farms. The projects, which will be located along the coast of Gambia, include a 200 MW onshore and 350 MW offshore wind farm.

The effort is in line with The Gambia's climate objectives and seeks to expand access to power throughout the nation. By adding capacity and lowering electricity

The Energy Cooperation Accord between Ivory Coast and The Gambia

In April 2023, The Gambia and Ivory Coast inked an agreement to cooperate on energy matters. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, the Ivory Coast's Minister of Mines, Petroleum, and Energy, and Abdoulie Jobe, the Gambia's Minister of Petroleum and Energy, signed the agreement, which was also accompanied by a bilateral cooperation agreement and an Air Services Agreement.

In addition to energy planning exchange, workforce training, knowledge and information exchange, and energy supply security, the agreement includes cooperation in efficient research, development, trading, distribution, and use of all sources of energy, whether renewable or non-renewable. The intended cooperative activities will be promoted and overseen by a consultation group that will be constituted

EU Signs New Global Gateway Grant with The Gambia

In March 2023, The Gambia signed a grant agreement for the New Global Gateway with the European Union and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The award, which consists of a €24.08 million loan, will be utilized in conjunction with a €8 million loan from the European Investment Bank

costs dramatically, the wind farms will allow excess energy to be transferred to nearby countries. However, in early 2022, NEK began simulating the wind conditions in

to advance the nation's renewable energy systems. The loan is intended to promote the generation, transmission, and distribution of power—both off-grid and on.

Agreement on Crude Oil Exploration between GNPC and NNPC

An agreement to cooperate in the oil and gas industry was signed in February 2023 by the National Oil Company (NOC) of Nigeria, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), and the National Oil Company (NOC) of The Gambia, the Gambian National Petroleum Company (GNPC). The pact aims to improve energy security for both countries and the larger West African sub-region by focusing on new frontier development, growing the crude oil market, and technology transfer. Drilling operations in The Gambia, seismic data analysis, and geological investigations are among the activities.

Energy Investors' Corporate Tax Holiday in The Gambia

The Gambia is in a seduction mode and doesn't miss any opportunity to attend major energy gatherings around the globe, like the MSGBC Oil, Gas & Power 2023 conference and expo, which took place in Nouakchott on November 21–22 and is the main energy meeting in the West African area. The

The Gambia. Because the first full trial year's results were encouraging, this led to

meeting's objectives are to foster collaboration and offer fresh investment opportunities throughout the region's whole gas value chain.

The Gambia is "doing all we can both above and below ground to make exploration more effective in The Gambia," said Cany Jobe, Director of Exploration and Production at the Gambia National Petroleum Corporation, who is taking advantage of this platform that links foreign investors with energy officials and businesses from the MSGBC area. We've made several changes to our financial terms, including a sliding scale royalties. In an effort to get partners and investors to the table, we have also gone back to using a direct bargaining approach.

In an attempt to duplicate the success of its neighboring oil and gas finds in Senegal and Mauritania, The Gambia intends to expand its offshore exploration. The nation has established an alluring fiscal framework that offers incentives to businesses engaged in the energy sector in order to accomplish this goal. For five years following the signing of the investment agreement, investors are granted incentives such as a corporate tax holiday, depreciation allowance, withholding tax exemptions, and import tax waivers for goods and machinery. Investors must make a minimum investment of \$250,000 in the industry to be eligible for these advantages.

COLUMBIA APPREHENDS INFAMOUS COCAINE EXPORTER TO GAMBIA

Global law enforcement authorities have made significant progress in apprehending a highly elusive drug trafficker in Europe. Diallo Ahmadou Boye, a 32-year-old French national known by the nickname "Mbappé," was ultimately apprehended a fortnight ago after years of eluding law enforcement.

After organizing the importation of a cargo of cocaine from Colombian laboratories to Ecuador, the cocaine was shipped in a cargo container bound to the port of Banjul in the Gambia, according to Colombian police investigations. With such hard evidence on the illicit activity of Ahmadou Boye in possession of the Ecuador and Colombian police, Boye was apprehended in Bogota, Colombia. The Colombian Prosecutor's Office, the Ecuadorian Police, and European authorities worked together to carry out the procedure in coordination with Interpol Colombia. The arrest took place at El Dorado airport, following a red notice issued by Interpol.



"Mbappé" was a major suspect in multiple massive cocaine trafficking schemes, handling the transportation of the drug from South America to numerous ports in Europe and Africa. The United Arab Emirates was the principal base of operations for him.

Gambia, one of the favorite destinations of Modou Boye's Narcotics



Facilitating the supply, transit, and delivery of cocaine to different ports in Europe and Africa, especially The Gambia, was the main goal. Other significant markets for this illegal trade included the Netherlands and France.

The Downfall of 'Mbappé'

"Mbappé" was distinguished by clearly defining duties in his criminal empire and a high level of effectiveness in carrying out illegal activities. Nonetheless, more than two tons of cocaine he loaded from South America were seized following his arrest as a result of a global campaign against drug trafficking.

His downfall resulted from internal strife and a serious impact on his illicit money following this enormous blow to his activities.

Diallo Ahmadou Boye alias "Mbappé's" arrest marks a critical turning point in international drug-fighting efforts. It emphasizes how effective international collaboration is in taking down criminal organizations. But the battle is far from over. Experts caution that "Mbappé's" successors might emerge to take over and fill the void he left after his arrest. Therefore, authorities everywhere need to continue being on the lookout for and pursuing these illegal actions.