

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2017

Madison-Kanifing Sister City Committee

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Baba Galleh Jallow, Professor of African and World History at LaSalle University, will be available for interviews up to a day prior to his keynote address at the Madison-Kanifing Sister City's "Partnership Evening" Saturday, September 16 at the Comfort Inn and Suites, 4822 East Washington Avenue. The sold-out event begins at 5pm with a social hour. Jallow's talk is anticipated at approximately 7pm.

A former journalist, Jallow served as editor of two major Gambian newspapers before being forced into political exile in 2000. He continued writing for a Gambian audience from the United States. Gambian on-line media outlet Gainako radio refers to Jallow's commentaries on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, as a "beacon of hope and inspiration for the young generation." His most recent book is a collection of essays on Gambian politics titled *Defying Dictatorship*.

Jallow comes to Madison following his first visit to the Gambia in more than a decade. Following last year's election and the transition to a new president, he returned to lecture this summer at the University of the Gambia. His keynote talk is titled "The Gambia in transition: promise, challenge, the role of Africans in the Diaspora and partnership with the West."

"It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of partnership with the Gambia at this time," said Madison-Kanifing Sister City Committee chair Jerreh Kujabi. "With the Partnership Evening, we want to celebrate the work that has already been done, and look forward to new and deepening partnerships. We especially want to emphasize the mutually beneficial nature of this exchange." The "Partnership Evening" will in part support a shipment of medical supplies to the Gambia and educational scholarships for youth in both communities.

Other speakers include Kanifing official representatives; Mayor Paul Soglin; Bernie Micke, Director of the Wisconsin Medical Project; County Supervisor and returned Peace Corps volunteer Michele Ritt; and Madison Alder Samba Baldeh.

Madison's relationship with the municipality of Kanifing, the Gambia, was approved by the Madison Common Council in May 2016. Kanifing is Madison's first and only sister city on the continent of Africa.

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