

# Gambian editor held over political defections article

Gambian police arrested a newspaper editor on Monday over an article about politicians deserting the ruling party, a security source and his staff said.



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Liberian national Musa Sheriff, who owns and publishes the thrice-weekly *The Voice*, is being held at a police station a few miles outside the capital Banjul, one of his sub-editors said.

"He was picked up Monday morning from his office by four officers in plain clothes who identified themselves as operatives of the National Intelligence Agency," the employee said.

He said Sheriff was arrested over a December report stating that 19 members of the ruling Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) had defected to the main opposition group.

The APRC has denied the report.

"He has been charged with publishing false information and will soon be arraigned in court," a security source said.

A sliver of land nestled within Senegal with a narrow strip of Atlantic coast, The Gambia is ruled with an iron fist by President Yahya Jammeh, who is often accused of muzzling journalists, among other rights abuses.

Source: AFP via I-Net Bridge