

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF DABA MARENA

An Astrological Perspective on His Arrest, Disappearance, and Death (March 2006)

TRIBUTE

Daba Marena's life and tragic end remain inseparable from one of the darkest chapters in the modern political history of The Gambia. His arrest in March 2006, disappearance shortly thereafter, and the ambiguous confirmation of his death in January 2007 represent not only the fall of a powerful state official but also the moral collapse of an authoritarian system that devoured many of its own architects. While historical records and human rights reports provide the factual framework of this tragedy, astrology offers a symbolic language through which the deeper psychological, collective, and karmic dimensions of these events may be contemplated.

This astrological perspective does not seek to justify suffering, nor does it trivialize accountability. Rather, it explores the energetic climate of the time—how planetary patterns mirrored a moment of extreme fear, paranoia, and violent repression. Even in the absence of Daba Marena's birth data, astrology allows us to examine the *collective horoscope* of the day of his arrest: **21 March 2006**, a date that stands as a threshold moment of fate, consequence, and reversal.

As the ancient axiom reminds us: “As above, so below.”

Historical Context: Power, Fear, and the Machinery of Silence

By 2006, The Gambia had become a state ruled not only by law but by suspicion. The alleged coup attempt of March 21 triggered an immediate and ruthless response. Arrests were swift, accusations broad, and due process almost entirely absent. International human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, soon highlighted Daba Marena's case as emblematic of a wider pattern of enforced disappearances, torture, and suspected extrajudicial executions.

Amnesty International described the episode involving Marena and other detainees as *suspected extrajudicial executions*, emphasizing the absence of credible

investigations, transparent reporting, or independent verification. These concerns were echoed by multiple advocacy groups and foreign governments, further isolating The Gambia on the international stage. Despite widespread rumors, official confirmation of Daba Marena's death did not emerge until January 2007. Even then, no detailed report was issued, no inquiry launched, and no individual held accountable. The silence surrounding his fate became emblematic of the security culture of the time an environment where secrecy replaced justice and fear substituted for law. Ironically, Marena himself had once been a central figure within this system. As Director General of the National Intelligence Agency and later as a regional governor, he was part of the very machinery used to suppress dissent and enforce obedience. Yet in the end, he too became a victim of the same brutal logic of power.

The Astrological Moment: 21 March 2006

The horoscope of **21 March 2006**, the day of Marena's arrest, reveals an atmosphere charged with tension, confrontation, and compulsive action. This was not a neutral sky. It was one marked by sharp planetary conflicts—*T-squares*, oppositions, and volatile alignments—symbolizing a collective state of panic and an obsessive determination to crush perceived rebellion.

Mars in Gemini Opposite the Moon

At the heart of the day's symbolism stood **Mars in Gemini in opposition to the Moon**. Mars represents force, aggression, and coercive action, while the Moon governs the emotional climate, public mood, and instinctive reactions. Their opposition suggests a profound emotional conflict, where fear and aggression fed off one another. This alignment reflects an atmosphere of frantic decision-making, verbal accusations, rushed intelligence, and reactive violence. Gemini's influence emphasizes *information warfare*: rumors, interrogations, forced confessions, and the weaponization of words. The Moon's involvement shows the emotional volatility of the state—panic at the top mirrored by terror below.

The First T-Square: Mars–Moon Square Mercury and Uranus in Pisces

This opposition did not stand alone. Mars and the Moon formed a **T-square** with **Mercury and Uranus conjunct in Pisces**. Mercury governs thought, reasoning, and communication; Uranus symbolizes sudden shocks, rebellion, and radical disruption. In Pisces, these energies operate through secrecy, illusion, confusion,

and deception. This configuration describes a moment where rational judgment collapsed under paranoia. Intelligence became distorted. Accusations were driven not by evidence but by fear and impulse. Uranus injected shock and extremism into Mercury's domain, producing abrupt arrests and brutal measures. Pisces blurred boundaries, allowing lies, half-truths, and covert operations to flourish. Significantly, Mercury and Uranus were also **in opposition to The Gambia's national horoscope**, indicating that these actions ran counter to the nation's long-term stability and moral direction. What occurred was not a defense of the state, but an act of self-destruction by its own guardians.

The Second T-Square: Sun, Chiron, and the Dragon's Head vs. Lilith and Pluto

A second, even more formidable T-square dominated the chart. **The Sun, Chiron, and the North Node (Dragon's Head)** were conjunct in **Aries**, the sign of raw force, survival, and unilateral action. This cluster stood in opposition to **Lilith conjunct the South Node (Dragon's Tail)**, both squared by **Pluto**.

This is a configuration of obsession, elimination, and karmic reckoning.

- **The Sun** represents authority and leadership.
- **Chiron** exposes unresolved wounds and moral fractures.
- **The North Node** points to destiny and collective lessons.

In Aries, these forces act impulsively, aggressively, and without compromise.

Opposing them, **Lilith** symbolizes shadow power, repression, and forbidden violence, while the South Node reflects karmic residue, past actions demanding consequence. Squaring both sides, **Pluto** intensifies everything: obsession with control, fear of exposure, and a ruthless desire to eradicate threats. This pattern reveals an irresistible compulsion to punish, eliminate, and silence. The failed coup became more than a security issue—it transformed into a psychological fixation. Pluto's involvement suggests that the response was driven not by justice, but by terror of losing power.

Resonance with Yahya Jammeh's Horoscope

These transits did not operate in isolation. They directly **activated Yahya Jammeh's natal chart**, magnifying his deepest insecurities. On that day, **transiting Mercury and Uranus moved to conjunct his natal Saturn**, while

simultaneously opposing his natal **Uranus, Mars, and Pluto**. This is a signature of extreme paranoia, defensive aggression, and authoritarian overreaction. Saturn feels threatened; Uranus reacts explosively; Mars lashes out; Pluto seeks total control. In Jammeh's horoscope, **Uranus, Mars, and Pluto in Virgo near the Ascendant**, though technically in the 1st house, were falling back into the **12th house of hidden enemies, fear, and self-undoing**. These planets form part of a **Mystic Rectangle**, a configuration that can offer protection and strategy but under fear, it manifests as ruthless self-defense at any cost. This was not the chart of a confident leader. It was the chart of a man cornered by his own shadow.

Cosmic Irony and Karmic Reversal

One of the most sobering dimensions of this astrological moment is its moral irony. Many of those arrested, tortured, or killed in the aftermath including Daba Marena had once been instruments of repression themselves. They had participated in a system that violated the rule of law, silenced dissent, and normalized cruelty. Astrologically, this reflects **Pluto's karmic law**: power misused eventually turns inward. The same mechanisms of fear and secrecy that sustained authority became weapons against their creators. In this sense, the events of March 2006 can be seen as a *cosmic purge* not divine punishment, but the inevitable consequence of unchecked obsession with control. This does not erase responsibility. Nor does it diminish the injustice of Marena's death. But it reminds us that authoritarian systems devour loyalty as easily as dissent.

A Tribute and a Warning

Daba Marena's story is not merely personal; it is collective. It speaks to an era in Gambian history marked by fear, repression, and unresolved trauma. His mysterious death continues to raise profound questions about accountability, human rights, and the sanctity of life under state power. Astrology teaches that humanity lives under universal laws of **cause and effect**. Actions whether individual or collective generate consequences that cannot be permanently hidden. If they are not confronted in one lifetime, they echo into the next.

May Africa, and indeed the world, come to understand that power without conscience is self-destructive. May the memory of Daba Marena and others like him serve not as justification for cruelty, but as a solemn reminder that justice, transparency, and respect for human dignity are the only foundations upon which true stability can stand.

And may the skies themselves continue to testify that no shadow, however powerful, escapes the law of consequence.