



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA)

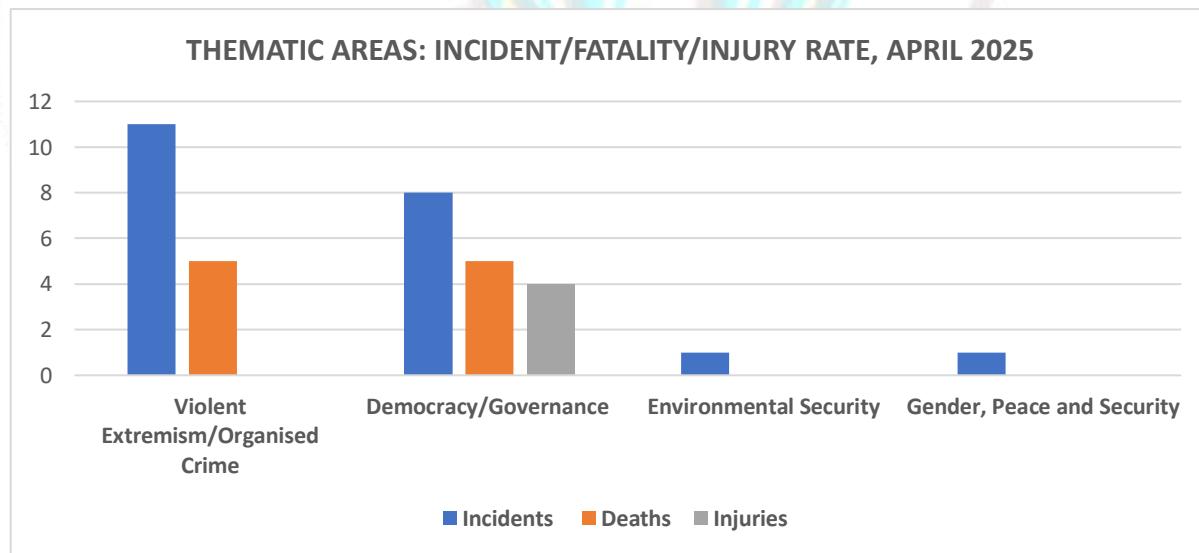
(APRIL, 2025)

1. INTRODUCTION

In April 2025, a total of 22 incidents were documented through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹ as part of the Monthly Conflict Census. These incidents resulted in ten (10) fatalities, and four (4) injuries stemming from various causes including murder, suicide, road accidents, and other related incidents recorded in the month.²

As illustrated in the thematic graph below, Organised Crime and Violent Extremism theme accounted for the highest number of incidents, with eleven (11), followed by Democracy and Governance theme, which recorded eight (8) incidents. The Environmental Security and Gender, Peace, and Security themes each reported one (1) incident.

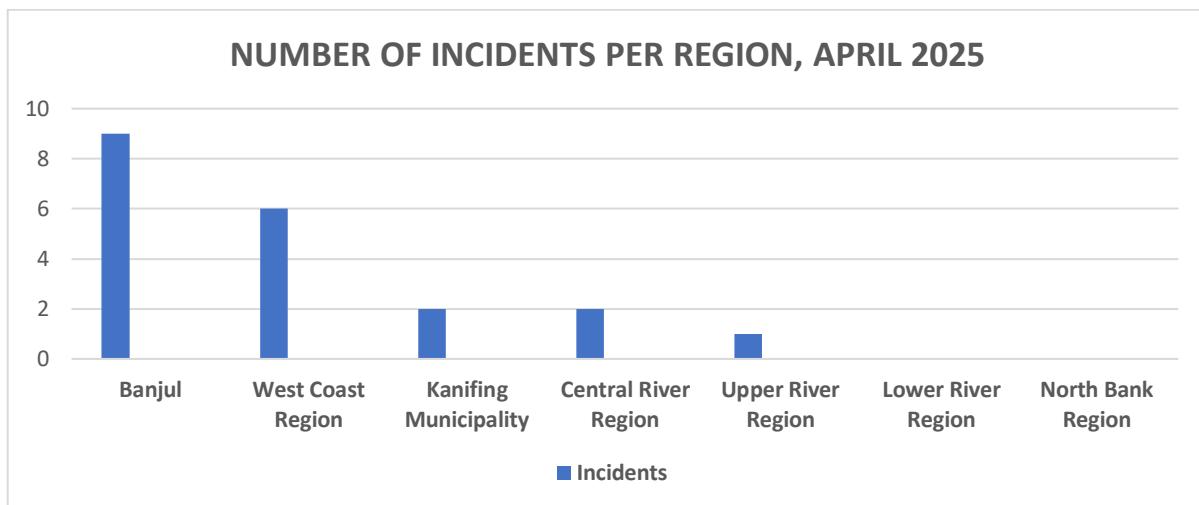
Geographically, Banjul recorded the highest number of incidents with nine (9), followed by the West Coast Region with six (6). The Kanifing Municipality and Central River Region each recorded two (2) incidents, while one (1) incident was reported in the Upper River Region. No incidents were recorded in the Lower River Region and the North Bank Region during the reporting period.



¹ news.wanepsystems.net

² WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): news.wanepsystems.net

³ news.wanepsystems.net



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁴

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

In April 2025, The Gambia Police Force intensified efforts to tackle organized crime through a series of high-profile operations. A key achievement was the successful collaboration with Senegalese authorities to re-arrest a suspect allegedly involved in the murder of Mr. Ebrima Ceesay, demonstrating strengthened regional cooperation in tackling cross-border crimes. Similarly, joint security efforts led to the arrest of a fugitive who escaped from Mile II Prison in 2020 and was wanted for the murder of Mr. Buba Jammeh during a land dispute in Gunjur and Berending, West Coast Region in The Gambia. These actions highlight the Police Force's commitment in resolving long-standing cases and enhancing regional security ties.

Concurrently, The Gambia witnessed a concerning rise in violent incidents and social unrest. Multiple cases of suspected suicides were reported in the Central River Region⁵ and Farato⁶, with victims found hanged in bushy areas under unclear circumstances. Additionally, a brutal stabbing incident in New Yundum and an assault case involving a woman who intervened in an attempted sexual assault⁷ further reflect growing community safety challenges. In separate developments, The Gambia Drug Law Enforcement Agency arrested individuals in possession of 65 packages of cannabis at the Banjul International Airport⁸, while a raid in Bakau uncovered a significant amount of counterfeit currency.⁹ Furthermore, a suspected case of baby dumping in Sanyang, West Coast

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ The Gambia Police Force Official Facebook Page (2025). Police investigate suspected suicide in Sami Pachonki. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/PolisoMagazine> (Accessed April 4, 2025)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Woman protecting minor from sexual assault killed. Available at: <https://standard.gm/woman-protecting-minor-from-sexual-assault-killed/> (Accessed April 2, 2025).

⁸ Official Facebook page of DLEAG (2025). Weekly updates.

⁹ The Gambia Police Force Official Facebook Page (2025). Police recover large sums of counterfeit foreign currency in Bakau operation, suspect in custody. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/PolisoMagazine> (Accessed April 16, 2025).

Region, underscores the need for increased public awareness and social support systems. These incidents indicate rising security and social issues, reinforcing the need for holistic responses involving law enforcement, community engagement, and policy reforms.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Recent developments across The Gambia, highlight challenges in governance structures and institutional accountability. A tragic fire outbreak at the Navy Camp in Banjul,¹⁰ reportedly caused by a fuel tanker explosion linked to a local petroleum dealer, resulted in two fatalities and four injuries. This raises concerns about safety protocols and regulatory oversight in handling hazardous materials at military installations. In a separate incident, tensions escalated during a Banjul City Council meeting, leading to the arrest of the Crab Island Ward Councillor, Mr. Sheikh Jaw. The altercation was reportedly triggered by a leaked audio recording in which Mr. Jaw referenced an alleged promise by the Mayor to allocate 2 million dalasi to Ward Development Committees, underscoring ongoing disputes over resource allocation and transparency within local governance structures.¹¹

At the national level, a Gambian parliamentarian appealed to U.S. President Donald Trump to lift the suspension on USAID funding¹², stating that the halt jeopardizes progress in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. Additionally, the Supreme Court convened to hear a constitutional suit filed by civil society actors - Sait Matty Jaw, Madi Jobarteh, Pa Samba Jaw, and Bubacarr Nyang, challenging the legality of the Minister of Finance's presentation of the 2025 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.¹³ The case reflects increasing civic engagement and judicial scrutiny of executive actions.

Meanwhile, The Gambia Police Force confirmed a fatal road traffic accident near Alluhareh Bridge in the Upper River Region, involving a truck transporting goods from Kombo to Basse, which resulted in three fatalities.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

The market dumpsite at Old Yundum has become a growing public health concern due to the significant accumulation of uncollected garbage. The increasing accumulation of uncollected waste at the Old Yundum market dumpsite has raised public health concerns. Residents , attribute

¹⁰ Paradise TV Gambia.

¹¹ Foroya Newspaper (2025). Police arrest BAC Councillor following Council Meeting altercation. No. 64/2025

¹² The Standard Newspaper (2024). Gambian MP writes to Trump to lift USAID suspension. Available at: <https://standard.gm/gambian-mp-writes-to-trump-to-lift-usaid-suspension/> (Accessed April 4, 2025).

¹³ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Supreme Court hears suit against NA, AG and finance minister. Available at: <https://standard.gm/supreme-court-hears-suit-against-na-ag-and-finance-minister/> (Accessed April 11, 2025).

the situation to poor waste management practices and the Brikama Area Council's continued failure to enforce effective disposal measures. The unattended waste poses significant health and environmental risks, including the potential for disease outbreaks and contamination, highlighting the need for timely intervention by relevant authorities.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

In the reporting month, a coalition of individuals and civil society organisations, including National Assembly Member Almameh Gibba, activists Yassin Fatty, Nano Jawla, Kaddijatou Jallow, and groups such as Concerned Citizens, Islamic Enlightenment Society, and the Women Association for Islamic Solidarity, filed a civil suit at the Supreme Court challenging The Gambia's national ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).¹⁴ The plaintiffs are seeking judicial interpretation regarding the legality and constitutionality of the ban. This legal move has reignited national debate around FGM, raising complex questions about cultural practices, religious beliefs, and the protection of women and girls from harmful traditional practices. The case signals a critical moment in The Gambia's human rights trajectory, highlighting tensions between legislative authority, cultural autonomy, and the country's obligations to uphold international standards on gender rights and protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Enhance Cross-Border Intelligence Sharing and Operations:** The Gambia government should strengthen formal bilateral and regional security frameworks with neighbouring countries, particularly Senegal, to facilitate timely intelligence sharing, joint investigations, and coordinated operations. This will improve efforts to track fugitives, disrupt cross-border criminal networks, and combat violent extremism effectively.
- 2. Invest in Community Policing and Early Warning Systems:** The Gambia Police Force should expand community-based policing initiatives and integrate local early warning systems to detect signs of radicalization, drug activity, and organized crime. Empower local leaders and youth groups to work with law enforcement to identify potential threats early and foster trust between communities and police.
- 3. Strengthen Forensic and Investigative Capacity of Law Enforcement:** The Gambia government should equip the Police Force and Drug Law Enforcement Agency with advanced

¹⁴ The Standard Newspaper (2024). Supreme Court adjourns for ruling on FGM case. Available at: <https://standard.gm/supreme-court-adjourns-for-ruling-on-fgm-case/> (Accessed April 11, 2025)

forensic tools and training to improve the investigation of violent crimes, narcotics trafficking, and counterfeit operations.

- 4. Implement Public Awareness Campaigns on Crime Prevention and Mental Health:** The Ministry of Interior should launch nationwide campaigns focused on crime prevention, responsible drug use, and mental health awareness. These should include targeted messaging in high-risk areas to address suicide, domestic violence, and youth involvement in criminal activities, while promoting access to social support services.

CONCLUSION

The reporting period reflects a complex and evolving landscape of security, governance, environmental, and social challenges. While commendable progress has been made, particularly in cross-border security collaboration and high-profile arrests, the continued rise in violent incidents, public unrest, and governance disputes underscore the urgent need for a more integrated and community-focused approach to national stability. Addressing organised crime and violent extremism requires not only sustained security operations but also robust public engagement, institutional reform, and preventive strategies. Moving forward, a holistic framework that strengthens governance transparency, reinforces legal safeguards, and promotes social resilience will be crucial in fostering sustainable peace and development in The Gambia.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR APRIL 2025

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
			-
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).			
Abduction		-	-

Cybercrime/Fraud		-	-
Extrajudicial killing			
Physical/Armed Assault	2	1	
Herder-Community Conflict			
Illicit Drug Trafficking	1	-	-
Homicide	2	2	
Suicide	2	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)		-	-
Demonstration (violent)			
Strike		-	-
Intimidation and Threats		-	-
Arrest/Detention	3	-	-
Road Accident	2	5	4
Building Collapse			
Election-Related Violence			
Boat Mishap			-
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion	2		
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			

<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
		-	
Wildlife poaching/trafficking			
Flood/Rainstorm			-
GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape			
Human Trafficking		-	-
Total	14	10	4

Through its National Early Warning System (NEWS), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP- The Gambia) develops and disseminates a monthly bulletin on Human Security at the end of each month to inform the different actors and / or partners and formulates recommendations to different decision-makers for targeted responses to the given alerts.

This monthly monitoring is based on information gathered from the field by the WANEP-(The Gambia) field monitors, and also information gathered from the various national and international media.

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