



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA)

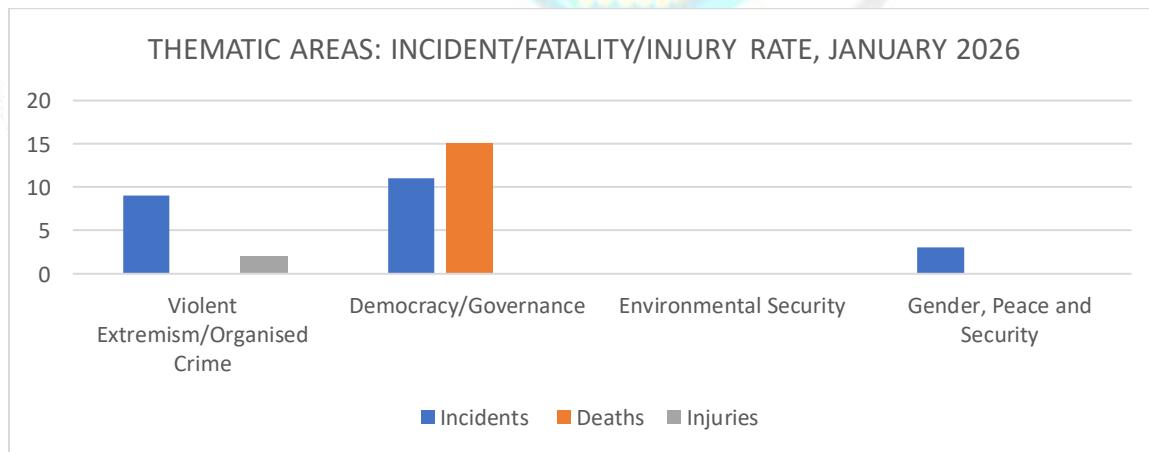
(JANUARY, 2026)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of twenty-three (23) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹ as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents resulted in fifteen (15) fatalities and two (2) injuries arising from a range of causes including road accidents, drug trafficking, illegal migration, and assault reported during the month.²

As depicted in the thematic graph below, the *Democracy and Governance* theme and *Organised with a total of eleven (11) incidents, while *Crime and Violent Extremism* theme recorded nine (9) incidents. The *Gender, Peace, and Security* theme recorded three (3) incidents while the *Environmental Security* theme registered the lowest with no incident for the reporting period.*

Geographically, Banjul registered the highest number of incidents with a total of twelve (12), followed by the Kanifing Municipality with six (6) incidents. The West Coast Region recorded three (3) incidents, while the North Bank Region reported two (2) incidents. No incidents were recorded in the Central River Region, Upper River Region and Lower River Region during the reporting period.

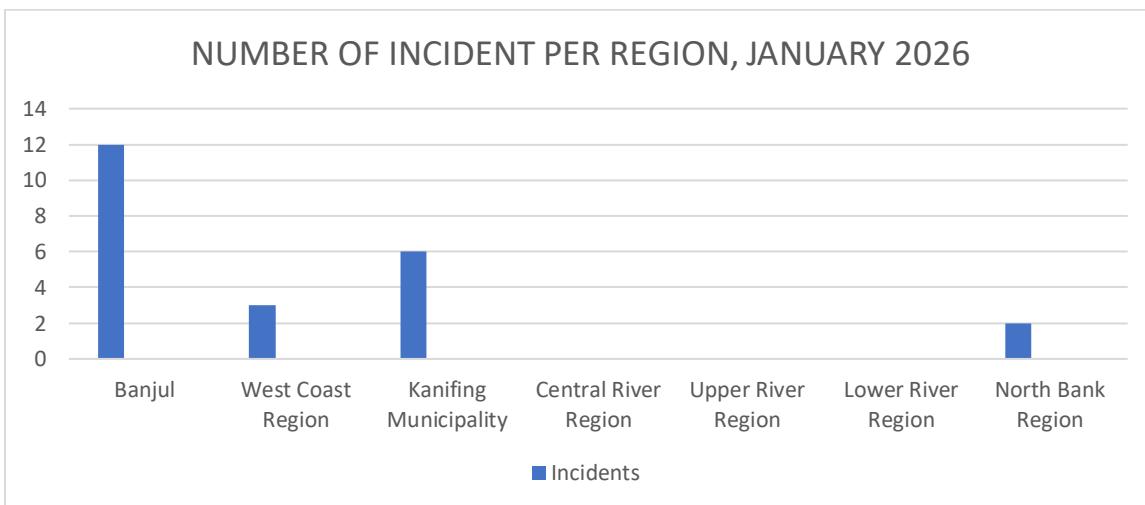


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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 the reporting period, security and law enforcement agencies in The Gambia recorded multiple arrests and seizures in a series of operations across the country. The Drug Law Enforcement Agency The Gambia (DLEAG) reportedly arrested a 55-year-old male resident at the Kalagi Police checkpoint with 13 bundles of suspected marijuana allegedly concealed on his body and inside a pillow.⁵ In separate operations, DLEAG also arrested several suspects, including a Norwegian and a Gambian national, for alleged possession of suspected cocaine and other prohibited drugs.⁶ Additionally, a male resident was reportedly arrested at the Banjul International Airport in connection with the seizure of 37 blocks of suspected cocaine.⁷ As part of nationwide coordinated operations, DLEAG further arrested multiple suspects and seized large quantities of suspected drugs, including over 150 bundles of cannabis recovered from a man arrested in Kanilai village.⁸

Meanwhile, The Gambia Police Force and the courts handled several criminal cases involving violence, robbery, and fraud. A male resident appeared before Magistrate Binta Sowe at the Kanifing Magistrates' Court accused of unlawfully assaulting another man in Fajara, allegedly

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ The Fatou Network (2026) 55 Year Old Gambian Man Arrested With Large Quantity of Suspected Drugs at Kalagi Checkpoint. <https://fatunetwork.net/55-year-old-gambian-man-arrested-with-large-quantity-of-suspected-drugs-at-kalaji-checkpoint/>

⁶ The voice newspaper (2026) DLEAG Arrests Norwegian, Gambian Nationals Over Suspected Cocaine, Others. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/01/08/dleag-arrests-norwegian-gambian-nationals-over-suspected-cocaine-others/>

⁷ Kerrfatou (2026) DLEAG Arrests 31-Year-Old Gambian with 37 Blocks of Suspected Cocaine at Banjul International Airport. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/dleag-arrests-31-year-old-gambian-with-37-blocks-of-suspected-cocaine-at-banjul-international-airport/>

⁸ Voice newspaper (2026) Sibnor DLEAG Unit Arrests Kanilai Resident With Over 150 Bundles of Suspected Cannabis. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/01/13/sibnor-dleag-unit-arrests-kanilai-resident-with-over-150-bundles-of-suspected-cannabis/>

causing actual bodily harm.⁹ Police at the Kanifing Crime Investigation Department (CID) reportedly arrested five suspects linked to a series of motorcycle-related robberies in Kanifing Municipality and nearby areas.¹⁰ In another incident, police arrested three suspects following a nightclub shooting in Fajara, during which one person was injured and a loaded firearm with ten rounds was seized, as investigations continue.¹¹ Separately, a male resident appeared before the Kanifing Magistrates' Court, presided over by Magistrate A. Manneh, facing allegations of defrauding 23 individuals of a total sum of D3 million.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

In the reporting period, The Gambia recorded several tragic incidents alongside intensified efforts by authorities to curb irregular migration. A boat carrying irregular migrants reportedly capsized off the coast near Jinack Village in the North Bank Region, leaving seven people confirmed dead as search and rescue operations continued for those still missing.¹² In another fatal incident, police in Farafenni responded to a road accident on the Farafenni–Jarra Soma Highway, where a collision between a bus and a van reportedly killed seven people at the scene.¹³ Meanwhile, the Gambia Immigration Department (GID), with support from the Gambia Police Force (GPF), intercepted over 100 would-be migrants at Kamalo near Denton Bridge, while security forces separately intercepted 782 individuals attempting irregular migration by boat¹⁴ and arrested four suspected organisers.¹⁵ Authorities also reported intercepting more than 780 migrants preparing to depart for Europe shortly after a deadly maritime incident off the coast that claimed at least 39 lives, underscoring the heightened risks associated with irregular migration.¹⁶

In related developments, the GID Operations Unit reported intercepting 2,706 migrants in 2025, marking an increase from 2024, with notable rises among women and children, raising protection and humanitarian concerns for national authorities and partners.¹⁷ Elsewhere, a fire outbreak at

⁹ The voice newspaper(2026) Man Arraigned for Assault in Fajara. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/01/08/man-arraigned-for-assault-in-fajara/>

¹⁰ The Standard newspaper (2026), Police arrest 5 suspects linked to robbery by motorcycle riders. <https://standard.gm/police-arrest-5-suspects-linked-to-robbery-by-motorcycle-riders/>

¹¹ The Standard Newspaper (2026) Police arrest 3, seize loaded gun with 10 rounds in nightclub incident. <https://standard.gm/police-arrest-3-seize-loaded-gun-with-10-rounds-in-nightclub-incident/>

¹² Kerr fatou (2026) Seven Dead, Scores Rescued After Migrant Boat Capsizes off Jinack. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/seven-dead-scores-rescued-after-migrant-boat-capsizes-off-jinack/>

¹³ Point newspaper (2026) Police confirm 7 dead in Farafenni-Soma Highway road accident. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/police-confirmed-7-dead-in-farafenni-soma-highway-road-accident>

¹⁴ The Alkamba Times (2026) Gambia Cracks Down on Irregular Migration: 782 Would-Be Migrants Intercepted, Four Organisers Arrested. <https://alkambatimes.com/gambia-cracks-down-on-irregular-migration-782-would-be-migrants-intercepted-four-organisers-arrested/>

¹⁵ The Point newspaper (2026) Joint operation intercepts 100 would-be migrants at Kamalo. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/joint-operation-intercepts-w-b-m>

¹⁶ The Standard Newspaper (2026) Gambian authorities intercept more than 780 migrants headed to Europe <https://standard.gm/gambian-authorities-intercept-more-than-780-migrants-headed-to-europe/>

¹⁷ The Standard Newspaper (2026). GID intercepts 206 Migrants last year. <https://standard.gm/gid-intercepted-2706-migrants-last-year/>

the Children's Unit of the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital destroyed mattresses, electronic devices, and electrical fittings, affecting nearby rooms, though no injuries were reported.¹⁸ On the legal front, a male resident was arraigned before Magistrate Kebba Baldeh of Brusubi on charges of reckless driving allegedly causing a fatality in Sanchaba, West Coast.¹⁹ In contrast to these challenges, Business Insider Africa ranked The Gambia as the fourth safest country for travelers in Africa and the safest in West Africa, citing political stability and low crime rates.²⁰ Additionally, the People's Democratic Organisation for Independence and Socialism (PDOIS) announced Swaibou Touray as its new Secretary General, succeeding founding member Halifa Sallah, marking a leadership transition within one of the country's longstanding political parties.²¹

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

During the reporting period, the environmental security situation in The Gambia remained stable, with no incidents recorded. There were no reported cases of environmental degradation, resource-based conflicts, illegal exploitation of natural resources, or climate-related security threats across the country. This period of calm suggests sustained community awareness and the continued effectiveness of environmental management and monitoring efforts by relevant authorities and partners, although ongoing vigilance remains necessary given the country's exposure to climate variability and environmental pressures.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

The reporting period highlighted serious gender and protection concerns in The Gambia, particularly affecting women and children. A new study reportedly revealed that fear, harassment, violence, intimidation, institutional silence, and systemic neglect are significantly undermining women's political participation and leadership across the country.²² In parallel, the justice system handled grave sexual violence cases, with a male resident appearing before Principal Magistrate Sallah M'bai at the Kanifing Magistrates' Court on charges of allegedly raping a teenage girl in Old

¹⁸ The Standard newspaper (2026). Fire outbreak at EFSTH. <https://standard.gm/fire-outbreak-at-efsth/>

¹⁹ The Standard newspaper (2026). Man charged with reckless driving causing death. https://standard.gm/man-charged-with-reckless-driving-causing-death/#google_vignette

²⁰ The Standard newspaper (2026) REPORT SAYS GAMBIA SAFEST COUNTRY IN WEST AFRICA, 4TH IN AFRICA. <https://standard.gm/report-says-gambia-safest-country-in-west-africa-4th-in-africa/>

²¹ The Standard Newspaper (2026). NEW ERA AT PDOIS AS SUWAIBOU TOURAY TAKES OVER available at: <https://standard.gm/new-era-at-pdois-as-suwaibou-touray-takes-over/>

²² Point newspaper (2025) Study exposes fear, harassment as barriers facing women in politics.

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/study-exposes-fear-harassment-as-barriers-facing-women-in-politics>

Jeshwang, in violation of the Sexual Offences Act of 2013.²³ In a separate case, another male resident appeared before Justice Ebrima Jaiteh of the Banjul High Court, facing charges of allegedly raping a 12-year-old boy in Kanifing,²⁴ also in violation of the same Act, underscoring the urgent need for stronger protection mechanisms, accountability, and survivor-centered justice responses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The security and law enforcement agencies should further strengthen inter-agency intelligence sharing, border surveillance, and community-based policing initiatives to disrupt drug trafficking networks, prevent violent crimes, and enhance early detection and response to organised criminal activities.
- b. The Gambia government, in collaboration with civil society and international partners, should intensify preventive measures against irregular migration through strengthened border management, expanded public awareness campaigns, and increased protection and livelihood support for vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.
- c. Relevant authorities are encouraged to sustain and institutionalise proactive environmental monitoring, community engagement, and climate adaptation measures to maintain stability and prevent future environmental or resource-based security risks.
- d. It is recommended that the Government and partners strengthen survivor-centered justice mechanisms, enforce the Sexual Offences Act of 2013, and implement targeted policies and programmes to protect women and children while promoting safe, inclusive, and enabling environments for women's political participation and leadership.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the reporting period reflects a complex security landscape in The Gambia, marked by proactive law enforcement actions against organised crime, persistent governance and migration challenges, relative environmental stability, and serious gender and protection concerns. While coordinated security operations and institutional responses demonstrate the state's commitment to maintaining law and order and safeguarding democratic space, recurring incidents of irregular migration, violent crime, and sexual and gender-based violence highlight underlying socio-economic and protection gaps. Sustaining environmental peace, strengthening justice and accountability mechanisms, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and prioritising inclusive,

²³ The Voice newspaper (2026) Teenager Rape Case: Suspect Arraigned in Kanifing Court. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/01/08/teenager-rape-case-suspect-arraigned-in-kanifing-court/>

²⁴ Voice newspaper (2026) Man In Dock for Raping 12-Year-Old Boy <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/01/14/man-in-dock-for-raping-12-year-old-boy/>
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gender-responsive and preventive approaches will be critical to consolidating peace, protecting vulnerable populations, and reinforcing long-term stability and resilience in the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JANUARY 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	1		
Cybercrime/Fraud	1	-	-
Physical/Armed Assault	1		2
Illicit Drug Trafficking	3		-
Homicide			
Suicide			-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			
Demonstration (peaceful)		-	
Intimidation and Threats		-	-
Arrest/Detention	2	-	-
Road Accident	2	8	
Sea accident/illegal migration	5	7	
Building Collapse			
Election-Related Violence			
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion	1		
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:			

<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
		-	
Flood/Rainstorm			-
GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:	2		
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape			
Human Trafficking1		-	-
Total	18	15	2

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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