



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA)

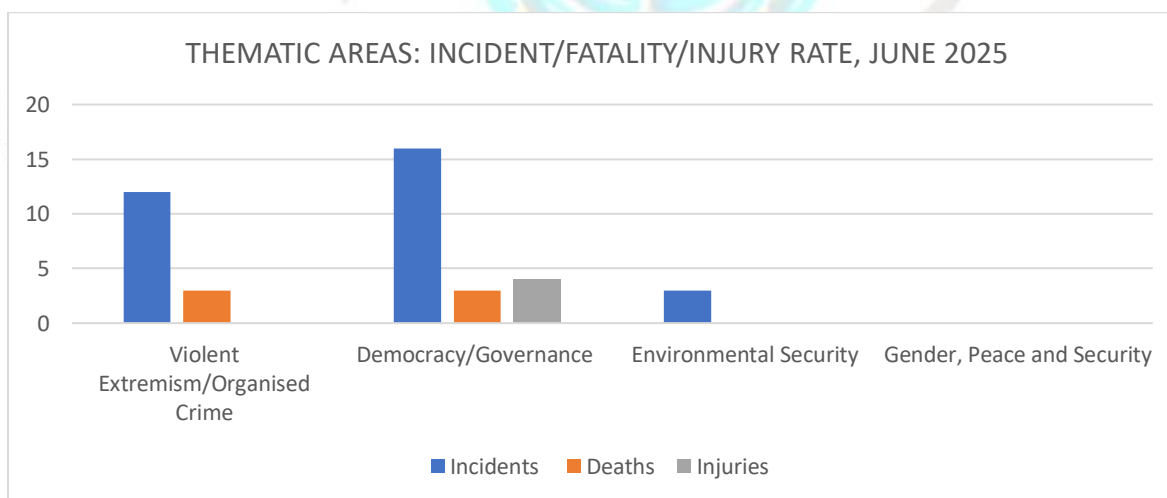
(JUNE, 2025)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of thirty-one (31) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹ as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents resulted in six (6) fatalities and four (4) injuries. The incidents were linked to various causes, including suicide, murder, road traffic accidents, drug seizures, and bushfires in the month.²

As illustrated in the thematic graph below, Democracy and Governance theme recorded the highest number of incidents, with sixteen (16). while Organised Crime and Violent Extremism theme accounted for twelve (12) incidents. Environmental Security theme recorded three (3) incidents while Gender, Peace, and Security theme reported no incident in the month.

Geographically, Banjul registered the highest number of incidents with a total of nineteen (19), followed by the West Coast Region with six (6) incidents. The Kanifing Municipality recorded four (4) incidents, while both the Central River Region and the Upper River Region each reported one (1) incident. No incidents were recorded in the Lower River Region and the North Bank Region during the reporting period.

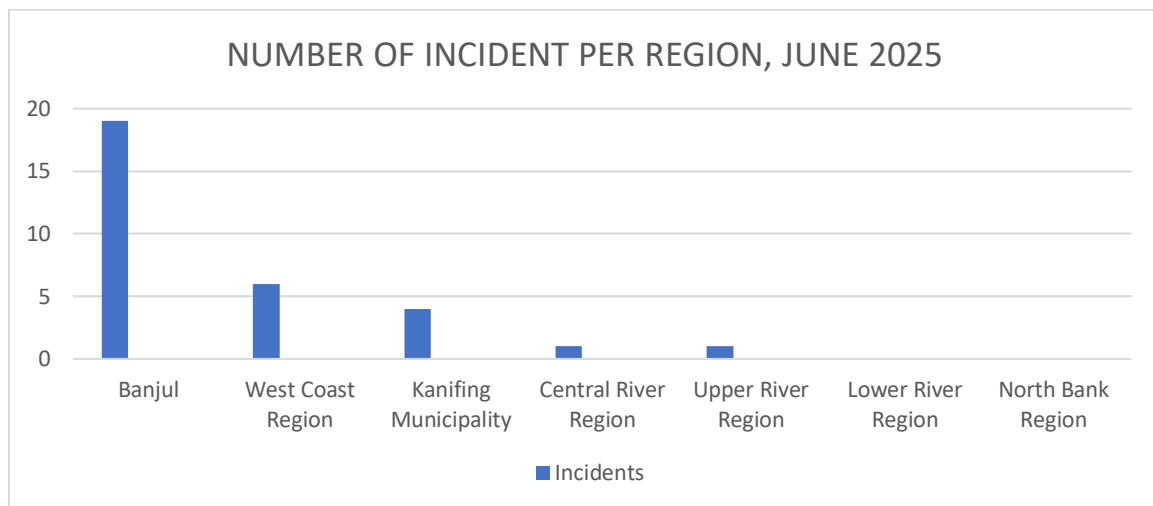


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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, The Gambia witnessed a series of incidents highlighting the increasing threats posed by organised crime and emerging patterns of violence. While no direct incident of violent extremism was recorded, the enabling conditions including community-state mistrust, porous borders and localised grievances remain visible. In Serekunda Market, street vendors protested against daily raids by municipal police officers⁵, alleging persistent harassment and unfair treatment. The ongoing tension created an atmosphere of uncertainty and potential unrest, coupled with growing mistrust between state actors and informal economic communities.

The Gambia Police Force also launched investigations into several cases in the month, including the death of a man found lifeless in Brufut⁶, a suspected murder involving a Senegalese national in Brikama⁷, and a suicide case in Old Yundum.⁸ These incidents have heightened concerns around public safety, mental health, and community-police relations.

Drug-related crimes continues to dominate the organized crime landscape. The Drug Law Enforcement Agency-The Gambia (DLEAG) arrested 26 individuals across the West Coast Region,

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Teargas Flows as Police Disperse Vendors in Serekunda Market Standoff. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/teargas-flows-as-police-disperse-vendors-in-serekunda-market-standoff/> (Accessed May 29, 2025).

⁶ Official Page of The Gambia Police Force (2025). POLICE INVESTIGATE DEATH OF 33-YEAR-OLD IN BRUFUT. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/PolisoMagazine> (Accessed June 7, 2025).

⁷ Official Page of The Gambia Police Force (2025). POLICE INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED MURDER IN SUBAWARD, BRIKAMA. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/PolisoMagazine> (Accessed June 8, 2025).

⁸ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2025). POLICE INVESTIGATE SUSPECTED SUICIDE IN OLD YUNDUM. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/PolisoMagazine> (Accessed June 13, 2025).

Kanifing, and North Bank Region,⁹ with significant seizures including 72 bundles of cannabis, kush, and hashish. Notably, the involvement of a former principal magistrate in a drug trafficking and corruption case,¹⁰ reflects deepening concerns about institutional integrity. The arrest of a 22-year-old Brazilian national in possession of over 16,000 ecstasy pills at Banjul International Airport, and another suspect at the Amdalai Border Post, points to transnational trafficking networks using The Gambia as a transit hub. These incidents further highlight the country's vulnerability to global drug syndicates.¹¹ Additionally, gang violence escalated in the period, with a violent clash between rival gangs in Sinchu Alagie, West Coast Region in The Gambia, leaving four individuals injured.¹²

As part of The Gambian's Navy maritime security operations, 176 individuals were rescued at the sea and 12 illegal fishing vessels seized.¹³

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

The Gambia continues to witness significant developments in its democratic governance landscape, marked by institutional reforms, political engagements, and growing civic participation. A major development is the ongoing National Assembly inquiry into the sale of former President Yahya Jammeh's assets. The process, which is expected to run over a 120-day period, has identified more than six witnesses to testify before a seven-member committee.¹⁴ This inquiry is widely viewed as a test of the state's commitment to transparency and accountability. It also reflects a broader institutional shift toward an improved legislative oversight, as seen in the Assembly's recent decision to deny the State Intelligence Services (SIS) access to its investigation into the controversial \$30 million Russian oil deal involving Apogee FZC and Creed Energy Limited.¹⁵ This move underscores the Assembly's growing assertion of independence and its role in strengthening democratic oversight. Meanwhile, the debate on presidential term limits has emerged as a central issue in the constituency consultative dialogues on the 2024 draft constitution, involving diverse stakeholders such as community leaders,

⁹ Paradise TV (2025).

¹⁰ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Former Principal Magistrate Faces Drug Dealing and Corruption Charges in Banjul. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/former-principal-magistrate-faces-drug-dealing-and-corruption-charges-in-banjul/> (Accessed June 20, 2025).

¹¹ Official Facebook page of the Drug Law Enforcement Agency The Gambia (2025). DLEAG's Airport Command and JAIF Personnel Arrest a Brazilian National with Over Sixteen Thousand Pills of Ecstasy. Available at: dleag-gambia.org (Accessed June 22, 2025).

¹² Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2025). POLICE ARREST FOUR IN ONGOING GANG CLASHES IN SINCHU ALAGIE. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/PolisoMagazine> (Accessed June 11, 2025).

¹³ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Navy rescues 176, arrests 12 illegal fishing vessels in six months. Available at: <https://standard.gm/navy-rescues-176-arrests-12-illegal-fishing-vessels-in-six-months/> (Accessed June 20, 2025).

¹⁴ The Standard Newspaper (2025). ASSEMBLY SUMMONS WITNESSES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS ON JAMMEH ASSETS ENQUIRY. Available at: <https://standard.gm/assembly-summons-witnesses-for-public-hearings-on-jammeh-assets-enquiry/> (Accessed June 12, 2025).

¹⁵ The Standard Newspaper (2025). ASSEMBLY REJECTS SIS'S REQUEST TO OBSERVE RUSSIAN OIL INQUIRY. Available at: <https://standard.gm/assembly-rejects-siss-request-to-observe-russian-oil-inquiry/> (Accessed June 4, 2025).

National Assembly Members (NAMs), and youth representatives.¹⁶ The public discourse around constitutional reform reflects a renewed national focus on accountability, the rule of law, and democratic consolidation. However, the return of former President Jammeh to public attention, through audio messages from exile accusing the Coalition 2016 government of oil-related collusion with Senegal, has further politicized the national conversation and risks fuelling division in an already tense environment.¹⁷

Parallel to these developments, the political space is widening with the registration of new actors such as the Reform and Development Party (RDP), launched by Imam Musa Jallow, and the Alliance for Democracy and Development (ADD), led by Mr. Malick Camara.¹⁸ These parties present opportunities for greater political inclusion and ideological diversity. However, their capacity to meaningfully influence the national agenda remains uncertain amid limited resources and organizational infancy. Meanwhile, long-established parties continue to grapple with internal dynamics. President Barrow, in his State of the Nation Address, called on lawmakers to transcend partisan lines and prioritize national interests¹⁹—an appeal that coincides with ongoing internal tensions within the opposition United Democratic Party (UDP). The UDP's leadership struggle, recently saw a temporary resolution to its leadership dispute after party leader Ousainou Darboe declared his intention to contest the 2026 presidential elections.²⁰

In a significant political development, Hon. Amie Colley, Member of Parliament for Foni Brefet has officially joined President Adama Barrow's National People's Party (NPP), marking a notable defection from the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) faction aligned with former President Yahya Jammeh. In response, Jammeh, in an audio statement from exile, strongly condemned her defection and announced her immediate expulsion from his party. Concurrently, the NPP expelled four senior executive members, citing grave constitutional and ethical violations, highlighting the challenges of internal party governance and accountability.

At the regional level, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) extended the mandate of its ECOMIG mission in The Gambia for an additional two years. A communiqué issued at the close of the 67th Ordinary Session in Abuja emphasized the mission's continued

¹⁶ The Point Newspaper (2025). Presidential term limit dominates regional consultative dialogues. Available at: <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/presidential-term-limit-dominates-regional-consultative-dialogues> (Accessed May 29, 2025).

¹⁷ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Jammeh accuses Coalition 2016 leaders of complicity in 'theft' of Gambia's oil to Senegal. Available at: <https://standard.gm/jammeh-accuses-coalition-2016-leaders-of-complicity-in-theft-of-gambias-oil-to-senegal/> (accessed June 2, 2025).

¹⁸ The Standard Newspaper (2025). IMAM ANNOUNCES NEW POLITICAL PARTY. Available at: <https://standard.gm/imam-announces-new-political-party/> (Accessed June 4, 2025).

¹⁹ The Standard Newspaper (2025). BARROW TELLS ASSEMBLY TO RISE ABOVE PARTISAN POLITICS. Available at: <https://standard.gm/barrow-tells-assembly-to-rise-above-partisan-politics/> (Accessed June 20, 2025).

²⁰ The Standard Newspaper (2025). DARBOE ENDS UDP ROW WITH DECLARATION TO CONTEST. Available at: <https://standard.gm/darboe-ends-udp-row-with-declaration-to-contest/> (Accessed June 23, 2025).

importance and directed that its mandate be readjusted to enhance its support to the country's defence and security forces.²¹

Despite these institutional strides, The Gambia continues to witness governance and socio-economic challenges. The unresolved border demarcation between Darsilameh village in The Gambia and neighbouring Senegal raise concerns about potential cross-border conflicts and the need for swift governmental intervention.²² Economically, the announcement of rising bread prices, scheduled for implementation in July 2025,²³ signal economic strains that could have political and economic implications, especially in a fragile economic context. Meanwhile, The Gambia's exposure to external geopolitical dynamics was underscored by ECOWAS concerns over potential U.S. visa restrictions for its member states, a development that could strain diplomatic relations and hinder regional integration efforts.²⁴ Collectively, these developments point to an evolving but fragile democratic process, where institutional reforms, political accountability, and economic governance must be strategically aligned to sustain democratic gains and foster national unity.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

Environmental security remains a critical challenge in The Gambia, with recent incidents highlighting the country's vulnerability to ecological threats and inadequate infrastructure resilience. In the Central River Region, authorities clarified that the recent bushfire impacted the Madina Demba Forest Park—contrary to earlier reports suggesting Kunkilling Forest Park was affected.²⁵ Similarly, the Upper River Region also faced significant environmental damage, with a devastating fire in Sotuma Samba Koi destroying over 1,000 cashew trees and critical infrastructure at a community farming center, posing threats to local livelihoods and food security.²⁶ Meanwhile, the National Roads Authority (NRA) reported an annual expenditure of about GMD 7 million annually on drainage maintenance nationwide.²⁷ Despite these investments, the persistent of poor waste management practices and operational bottlenecks continues to undermine the impact of these interventions.

²¹ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Ecomig's mandate extended for 2 years. Available at: <https://standard.gm/ecomigs-mandate-extended-for-2-years/> (Accessed June 25, 2025).

²² Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Darsilameh Villagers Express Border Concerns to CDS Cham. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/darsilameh-villagers-express-border-concerns-to-cds-cham/> (Accessed June 16, 2025).

²³ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Bread prices increase. Available at: <https://standard.gm/bread-prices-increase/> (Accessed June 21, 2025).

²⁴ The Standard Newspaper (2025). ECOWAS reacts to proposed US visa restrictions affecting Gambia, other members. Available at: <https://standard.gm/ecowas-reacts-to-proposed-us-visa-restrictions-affecting-gambia-other-members/> (Accessed June 21, 2025).

²⁵ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Forestry Officials Confirm Burning of Madina Demba Forest Park. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/forestry-officials-confirm-burning-of-madina-demba-forest-park/> (Accessed June 7, 2025).

²⁶ The Point Newspaper (2025). Inferno destroys cashew farm in URR. Available at: <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/inferno-destroys-cashew-farm-in-urr/> (Accessed June 12, 2025).

²⁷ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). NRA Spends Millions on Drainage Cleaning as Public Frustration Grows. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/nra-spends-millions-on-drainage-cleaning-as-public-frustration-grows/> (Accessed June 18, 2025).

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

During the reporting period, no incidents related to gender, peace, and security were recorded in The Gambia. While the absence of reported cases may suggest a period of relative stability, it should not be misconstrued as an indication that gender-based vulnerabilities or risks are absent. Prevailing challenges such as underreporting, social stigma, and limited access to justice and support services often prevent accurate assessment of gender-related risks and impacts. The lack of data highlights the urgent need for more inclusive reporting mechanisms, targeted awareness campaigns, and strengthened institutional responses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. To combat the rising threat of organised crime the Government of The Gambia should strengthen inter-agency coordination among law enforcement bodies such as The Gambia Police Force, the Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DLEAG), and The Gambia Immigration Department. This can be achieved through integrated intelligence sharing platforms, and regular inter-agency operations. Additionally, investment in community policing initiatives and intelligence-led investigations can help detect early signs of radicalisation and gang violence, particularly in urban hotspots.
- b. To consolidate democratic gains and address growing political tensions, the government should prioritize finalizing the 2024 Draft Constitution through inclusive national dialogue and consensus-building with all stakeholders including traditional and religious leaders, women and youth groups, amongst others. This should also include promoting civic education to ensure the public is informed and engaged in the constitutional review process.
- c. The Gambia government should establish and adequately fund the national wildfire prevention and response strategy to include early detection systems, trained local response teams, and sustainable land management practices. Reforestation programs and compensation schemes for affected farmers—such as those in Sotuma Samba Koi—should be implemented to restore livelihoods and ecological balance.
- d. The Government of The Gambia in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and civil society organisations should strengthen gender-responsive peace and security mechanisms. This includes expanding support for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention programs, increasing the presence of trained female officers in security institutions, and integrating gender analysis into conflict early warning systems. The Ministry of Gender and civil society organizations should collaborate to enhance community awareness on gender equality and establish safe reporting channels for GBV survivors.

CONCLUSION

To effectively address the identified challenges across governance, security, environmental, and gender sectors, stakeholders should adopt a coordinated approach that strengthens institutional accountability, expands community-based early warning systems, and promotes inclusive policy reforms. Emphasis should be placed on enhancing transparency, improving environmental risk management, and scaling up support services for vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth, to foster national cohesion and resilience.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JUNE 2025

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	1		
Abduction		-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud		-	-
Extrajudicial killing			
Physical/Armed Assault			
Herder-Community Conflict			
Illicit Drug Trafficking	3	-	-
Homicide	2	2	
Suicide	1	1	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)		-	
Demonstration (violent)			
Strike	1	-	-
Intimidation and Threats		-	-
Arrest/Detention	3	-	-
Road Accident	1	3	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			-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape			
Human Trafficking		-	-
Total	14	6	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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