

NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA)

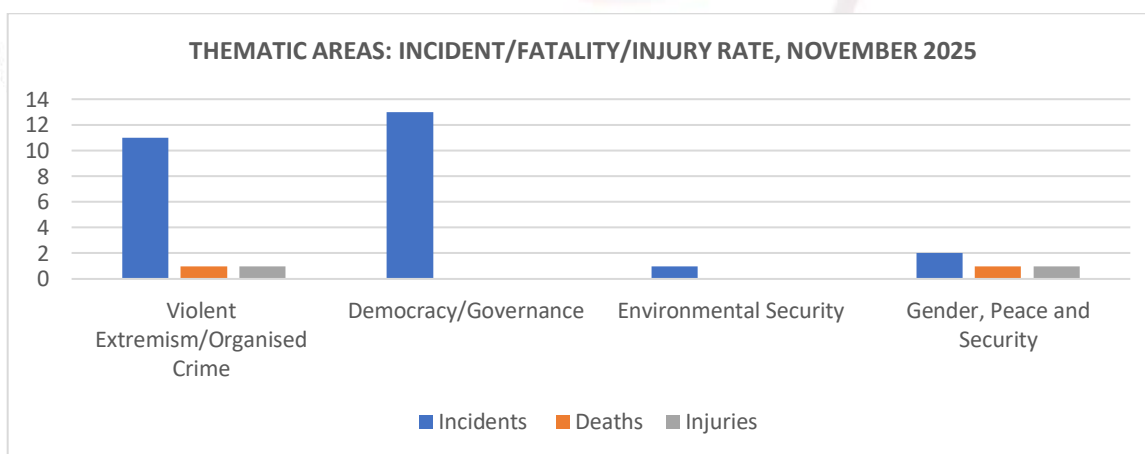
(November, 2025)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of twenty-seven (27) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹ as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents resulted in two (2) fatalities and two (2) injuries arising from a range of causes including physical assault, rape, teenage pregnancy, and murder reported. .²

As depicted in the thematic graph below, the *Democracy and Governance* theme recorded the highest number of incidents with a total of thirteen (13), while the *Organised Crime and Violent Extremism* theme recorded eleven (11) incidents. The *Gender, Peace, and Security* theme recorded two (2) incidents, while the *Environmental Security* theme reported the lowest, with one (1) incident.

Geographically, Banjul recorded the highest number of incidents with a total of fourteen (14), followed by the West Coast Region with nine (9) incidents. Also, the North Bank Region reported two (2) incidents, while the Kanifing Municipality and the Upper River Region recorded one (1) incident each. No incidents were recorded in the Central River Region and Lower River Region during the reporting period.

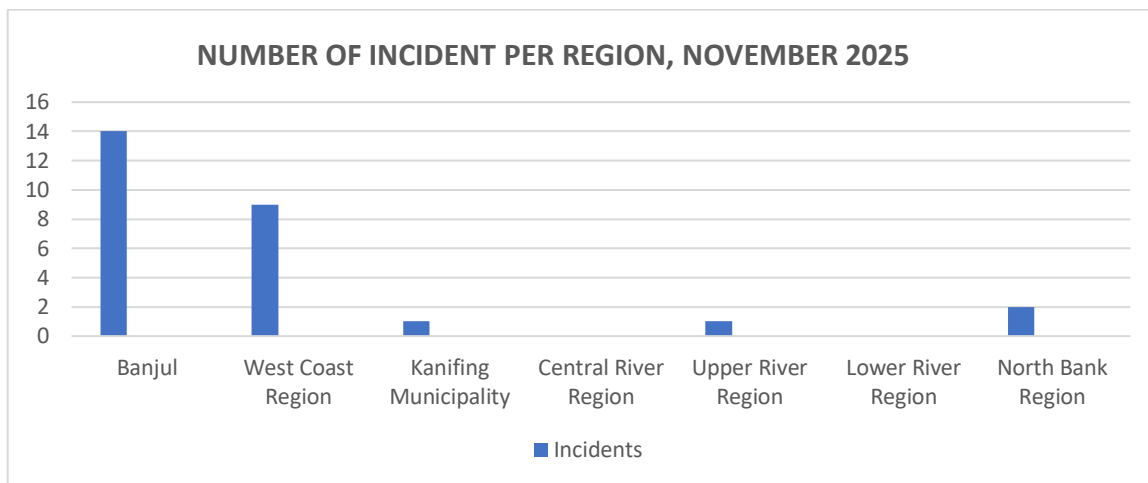


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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

Recent developments in The Gambia reflect heightened concerns regarding organised criminal activity, financial crimes and threats to public safety. Law enforcement operations and judicial actions during the period further highlight the diverse forms of criminality and associated threats across communities. The former Registrar General was reportedly arrested for contempt after allegedly providing misleading information to the Parliamentary Select Committee investigating the sale and disposal of former President Jammeh's assets⁵, raising significant legal concern. ⁶ In the reporting month, the Drug Law Enforcement Agency of The Gambia (DLEAG) conducted multiple raids across the West Coast Region, leading to the arrest of seven male residents for possession of substantial quantities of suspected cannabis, ecstasy pills, and hashish⁷. Meanwhile, The Gambia Immigration Department's Migration Management Unit intercepted 82 potential migrants and two suspected agents⁸, indicating the continued operations of smuggling networks exploiting youth vulnerabilities and porous border points.

In addition to these human security concerns, the Banjul Magistrates' Court convicted two individuals for impersonating customs officers⁹, an offence often associated with broader

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ The Point Newspaper (2025). Former Registrar General arrested for contempt, accused of misleading parliament.

<https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/former-registrar-general-arrested-for-contempt-accused-of-misleading-parliament>

⁶ Jollof News (2025). Assistant Ferry Manager Arrested for Allegedly Assaulting Sick Fire Officer at Barra Terminal. <https://jollofnews.gm/assistant-ferry-manager-arrested-for-allegedly-assaulting-sick-fire-officer-at-barra-terminal/>

⁷ The Point Newspaper (2025). seven arrested as DLEAG seizes cannabis, ecstasy, hashish. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/seven-arrested-as-dleag-seizes-cannabis-ecstasy-hashish>.

⁸ The Standard Newspapers (2025). GID arrest suspected migrant smugglers, intercepts 82 would-be migrants. https://standard.gm/gid-arrest-suspected-migrant-smugglers-intercepts-82-would-be-migrants/#google_vignette

⁹ The Point Newspaper (2025). 2 convicted for impersonating GRA officer, <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/2-convicted-for-impersonating-gra-officer>

revenue evasion and smuggling networks, and which carries a maximum penalty of eight years under the Customs and Excise Act. In Brusubi¹⁰, a male resident received a two-year suspended sentence for obtaining D285,000 under false pretences.

Violent crime and community-level insecurity continue to persist. The alleged murder involving two foreign nationals at a Brusubi construction site remains under investigation¹¹, heightening concerns about workplace safety, migrant worker protection and the risks of violence linked to the informal labour markets. Similarly, the reported assault of a Fire Service Officer by a senior Barra Ferry Terminal manager highlights the risks faced by frontline workers. Additionally, a case of theft was reported at Old Yundum, where a female conspired with her children to steal cash and valuables¹².

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

In the reporting period, The Gambia continued to reflect the complex interplay between governance reforms, public accountability, and citizen engagement. Key developments indicate both progress in institutional oversight and persistent challenges across public administration.

The government faced public scrutiny for declining to release the names of diplomatic passport holders,¹³ amid claims that 20,000 passports had been issued. Official records confirmed a total of 3,030, including some awarded to former Senegalese officials. In a step toward strengthening institutional integrity, three candidates were nominated as commissioners for the newly established Anti-Corruption Commission under the 2023 Act of Parliament¹⁴. Meanwhile, multiple labour-related tensions surfaced across key sectors. In the period, Gamtel staff threatened a nationwide sit-down strike over unpaid salaries and outstanding benefits, while employees of the newly renamed Al Port signaled protests over salary delays;. Also, -employees of Bell Company in Bonto staged demonstrations over alleged mistreatment and discrimination. Environmental and community governance concerns also intensified, with the “Gambia First”

¹⁰ Alkamba Times (2025). Gambia Ports Boss Ousman Jobarteh Charged in D20M Economic Crime Storm. <https://alkambatimes.com/gambia-ports-boss-ousman-jobarteh-charged-in-d20m-economic-crime-storm/>

¹¹ The Point Newspaper (2025). Police investigate alleged murder incident at Brusubi Phase II. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/police-investigate-alleged-murder-incident-at-brusubi-phase-ii>

¹² ¹² The Standard Newspaper (2025) Mother, daughter and son arraigned for stealing. <https://standard.gm/mother-daughter-and-son-arraigned-for-stealing/>

¹³ The Standard Newspaper (2025). GOV'T REJECTS CALLS TO PUBLISH LIST OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT HOLDERS. <https://standard.gm/govt-rejects-calls-to-publish-list-of-diplomatic-passport-holders/>

¹⁴ ¹⁴ The Standard Newspaper (2025). 3 Nominated Anti- Corruption commissioners revealed. <https://standard.gm/3-nominated-anti-corruption-commissioners-revealed/>

movement protesting at the Bakoteh Dumpsite, demanding its immediate closure due to public health risks¹⁵.

Broader governance dynamics were also shaped by significant policy, security, and judicial developments. The Ministry of Finance presented a D59.3 billion draft budget for 2026¹⁶, setting the stage for upcoming national fiscal debates. President Adama Barrow adopted a firm posture regarding former President Jammeh's declared intention to return¹⁷, emphasizing adherence to the law and cautioning against threats to national stability. Migration management issues resurfaced following the deportation of eighteen Gambians from Germany.¹⁸ Judicial proceedings at the Brusubi Magistrates' Court involved alleged theft of D878,460 by former Batokunku VDC officials.¹⁹ On security governance, The Gambia launched a military training programme in partnership with the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC)²⁰, aimed at strengthening counterterrorism capabilities. Simultaneously, thirteen (13) civil society organizations called for an accelerated and comprehensive overhaul of the security sector to safeguard democratic gains²¹. Additionally, the Director General of the Gambia Tourism Board appeared before a National Assembly inquiry to clarify land allocation processes within the Tourism Development Area²², reflecting continued scrutiny of public institutions and due process compliance.

Parliamentary oversight of asset management gained prominence following the arrest of the former Registrar General for alleged contempt of Parliament. Reports indicate he provided misleading information to the National Assembly Select Committee investigating the sale and disposal of properties linked to former President Jammeh. Financial accountability concerns were further amplified by the arraignment of the Managing Director of the Gambia Ports Authority before the High Court for alleged misappropriation of over D20 million in public funds. Such cases reveal systemic vulnerabilities in public financial management, including oversight gaps and weak internal controls.

¹⁵ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Protesters demand relocation of Bakoteh dumpsite. <https://standard.gm/protesters-demand-relocation-of-bakoteh-dumpsite/>

¹⁶ The Point Newspaper (2025). Finance Minister tables D59B 2026 draft budget today. <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/finance-minister-tables-d59b-2026-draft-budget-today>

¹⁷ The Standard Newspaper (2025), Jammeh can't come unless I allow it. https://standard.gm/jammeh-cant-come-unless-i-allow-it/#google_vignette

¹⁸ The Standard Newspaper (2025) 18 more Gambians deported from Germany. <https://standard.gm/18-more-gambians-deported-from-germany/>

¹⁹ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Ex-VDC chairman, treasurer of Batokunku arraigned for alleged stealing of village funds. <https://standard.gm/ex-vdc-chairman-treasurer-of-batokunku-arraigned-for-alleged-stealing-of-village-funds/>

²⁰ Jollof News (2025). Gambia Hosts IMCTC Counterterrorism Military Training. <https://jollofnews.gm/gambia-hosts-imctc-counterterrorism-military-training/>

²¹ Alkamba Times (2025). Gambian CSOs Demand Urgent Security Sector Overhaul Amid Democratic Risks. https://alkambatimes.com/gambian-csos-demand-urgent-security-sector-overhaul-amid-democratic-risks/#google_vignette

²² The Standard Newspaper (2025). Assembly enquires into TDA land allocations linked to Jammeh. <https://standard.gm/assembly-enquires-into-tda-land-allocations-linked-to-jammeh/>

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

The West Africa Bird Study Association (WABSA) condemned the killing of a crocodile that was allegedly intended as a gift to President Adama Barrow during the ongoing “Meet the People” tour²³, raising significant concerns regarding wildlife protection and environmental governance in The Gambia. The incident has sparked public debate on the illegal capture and killing of protected species, highlighting gaps in enforcement of conservation laws and the need for improved public awareness on biodiversity preservation. WABSA’s statement underscores broader environmental security implications of such practices, emphasizing the urgent need for responsible stewardship of wildlife to safeguard ecological balance and uphold national and international conservation commitments.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

In the reporting period, Justice Jaiteh of the Banjul High Court sentenced a male resident to 20 years’ imprisonment for sexually defiling a five-year-old girl, in violation of Section 3(1)(a) of the Sexual Offences Act 2013. This case underscores the severity of sexual violence affecting children and highlights ongoing challenges in child protection. A recent Afrobarometer survey also revealed that Gambian women continue to face significant barriers to equality in education, employment, and political participation, despite ongoing advocacy for gender-responsive reforms²⁴. Additionally, a 14-year-old girl from Pirang in Kombo East District allegedly impregnated by a male resident died at the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital after delivering a baby boy.²⁵ The incident illustrates the urgent need for improved protections against child abuse, early pregnancy, and gender-based violence, and reinforces the importance of integrated interventions in education, health and social protection to address vulnerabilities affecting girls and young women.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The Gambia government should strengthen the operational capacity of the police, immigration, and Drug Law Enforcement Agency The Gambia (DLEAG) through advanced

²³ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Environmentalists condemn killing of crocodile gift to Barrow . <https://standard.gm/environmentalists-condemn-killing-of-crocodile-gift-to-barrow/>

²⁴ Kerr Fatou (2025). Afrobarometer Survey Highlights Persistent Barriers for Gambian Women. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/afrobarometer-survey-highlights-persistent-barriers-for-gambian-women/>

²⁵ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Minor ‘impregnated by guardian’ dies at childbirth, <https://standard.gm/minor-impregnated-by-guardian-dies-at-childbirth/>

investigative training, intelligence-sharing platforms, and expanded community-based policing initiatives to improve early detection and disruption of organised criminal networks.

b. The government in collaboration with development partners should support the full operationalization of the Anti-Corruption Commission and expedite security sector reforms by establishing clear timelines, adequate resourcing, and inclusive consultation with CSOs to bolster accountability and democratic consolidation.

c. The Ministry of Environment should enhance monitoring and enforcement against the illegal capture and killing of protected species by increasing field surveillance, applying stronger penalties, and ensuring consistent prosecution to improve compliance with environmental regulations.

d. The Ministry of Interior in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare should prioritize swift investigations, survivor-centred prosecution, and stringent sentencing for sexual and gender-based violence cases. Efforts should include improving capacity-building for police, health workers, and social workers, and expanding access to shelters, psychosocial support centres, and safe spaces, especially in rural areas, to support survivors of GBV, child abuse, and early pregnancy.

CONCLUSION

The reporting period highlights persistent governance gaps and rising security concerns, across The Gambia. While ongoing reforms such as steps toward operationalising the Anti-Corruption Commission and efforts to strengthen security institutions mark progress, regulatory weaknesses, environmental infractions, and gender-based violence demonstrate enduring structural challenges. Addressing these issues will require sustained institutional accountability, improved coordination across state and non-state actors, and targeted investments in prevention, protection, and enforcement. Strengthening public trust and safeguarding stability will depend on the government’s ability to translate reforms into consistent and measurable outcomes for communities.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2025

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	3	-	-
Physical/Armed Assault	1		1
Illicit Drug Trafficking	2		-
Homicide	1	1	
			-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	3	-	
		-	-
Arrest/Detention	2	-	-
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
<u>Breach of Wildlife Protection Law</u>	1	-	-
		—	
			-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>	2	1	

SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape			1
		-	-
Total	15	2	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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