



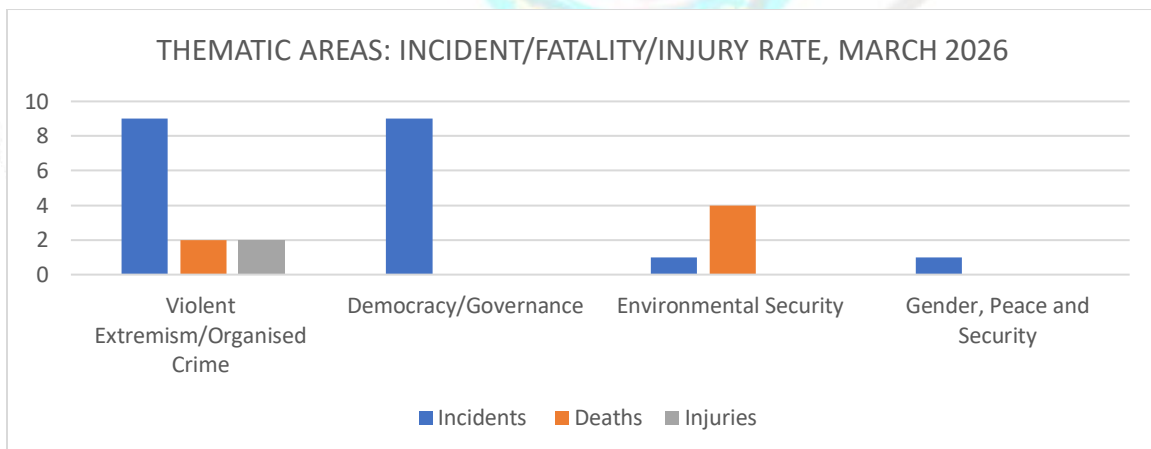
# NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA) (MARCH, 2026)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of twenty (20) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)<sup>1</sup> as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents resulted in six (6) fatalities and two (2) injuries arising from a range of causes including murder, fraud, drug, and assault reported during the month.<sup>2</sup>

As depicted in the thematic graph below, the *Democracy and Governance* and *Organised Crime and Violent Extremism* themes recorded a total of nine (9) incidents each, while the *Gender, Peace, and Security*, and *Environmental Security* themes reported one (1) incident each.

Geographically, Banjul registered the highest number of incidents with a total of eight (8), followed by the West Coast Region with five (5) incidents. The Kanifing Municipality recorded four (4) incidents, while the North Bank Region, and the Central River Region reported one (1) incident each. No incidents were recorded in the Upper River Region and Lower River Region during the reporting period.

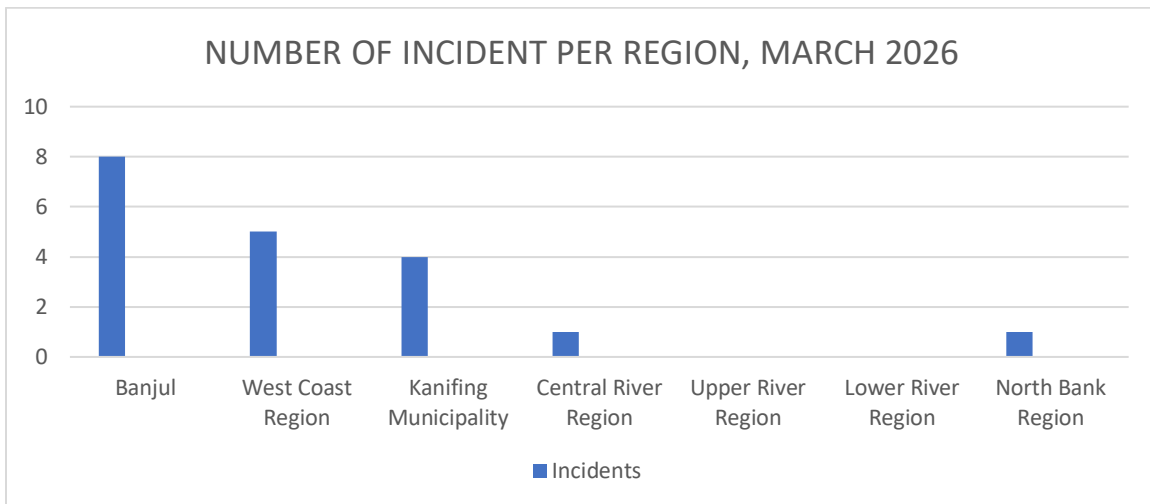


Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> news.wanepsystems.net

<sup>2</sup> WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): news.wanepsystems.net

<sup>3</sup> news.wanepsystems.net



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>4</sup>

## 2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

In the reporting period, incidents across the Kanifing Municipality and Banjul jurisdictions point to a concerning pattern of interpersonal violence<sup>5</sup>, drug-related offences<sup>6</sup>, and economic crimes, reflecting persistent pressures on community safety and law enforcement capacity. Cases of assault, including one resulting in a custodial sentence and another escalating to a fatal stabbing<sup>7</sup>, underscore the prevalence of conflict escalation at the community level, often linked to domestic disputes. At the same time, multiple arrests and prosecutions related to possession and trafficking of cannabis and other illicit substances indicate both the continued circulation of drugs<sup>8</sup> and the proactive posture of the Drug Law Enforcement Agency. However, allegations of misconduct by enforcement officers<sup>9</sup> risk undermining public trust, highlighting the need for accountability mechanisms alongside enforcement efforts. The recurrence of fraud-related cases<sup>10</sup>—particularly obtaining money by false pretence<sup>11</sup>—also suggests rising economic vulnerabilities that may be driving opportunistic crimes.

<sup>4</sup> news.wanepsystems.net

<sup>5</sup> The Voice Newspaper (2026). Man Gets One-Month-Imprisonment for Assault Causing Harm. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/03/03/man-gets-one-month-imprisonment-for-assault-causing-harm/>

<sup>6</sup> The Voice Newspaper (2026) Two Arraigned for Possession of Cannabis in Kanifing Court. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/03/04/two-arraigned-for-possession-of-cannabis-in-kanifing-court/>

<sup>7</sup> Kerr Fatou (2026). Police Investigate Fatal Stabbing in Manjai Kunda. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/police-investigate-fatal-stabbing-in-manjai-kunda/>

<sup>8</sup> Alkamba Times (2026) DLEAG Intensifies Crackdown: Senegalese National Among Dozens Arrested in Drug Busts Across Gambia,

<sup>9</sup> The Standard Newspaper (2026) Man claims DLEAG agents conducted 4am 'terror raid' on his home. <https://standard.gm/man-claims-dleag-agents-conducted-4am-terror-raid-on-his-home/>

<sup>10</sup> <sup>10</sup> The Voice Gambia (2026), Man Charged with Defrauding 13 People of \$4,200 in Kanifing. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/03/17/man-charged-with-defrauding-13-people-of-4200-in-kanifing/>

<sup>11</sup> The Standard Newspaper (2026) Arraigned ex-GRA staff faces another fraud case, <https://standard.gm/arraigned-ex-gra-staff-faces-another-fraud-case/>

Beyond urban crime trends, the reported tensions along the Foni border with Senegal introduce a broader security dimension with potential cross-border implications<sup>12</sup>. The spillover of violence linked to the Casamance conflict, evidenced by gunfire and civilian displacement in border communities, signals a fragile security environment that could exacerbate internal vulnerabilities if not contained. Together, these developments reveal a dual challenge: managing localized criminality while remaining alert to external security threats. Simultaneously, coordinated diplomatic and security engagement with Senegal will be essential to mitigate the risk of escalation and protect border communities from the destabilizing effects of the Casamance conflict.

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Recent developments in The Gambia highlight a complex intersection of governance, political cooperation, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. The disclosure by the Minister of Foreign Affairs that nearly 900 Gambians died in 2025 attempting irregular migration<sup>13</sup> underscores the severity of economic hardship and limited livelihood opportunities driving outward migration. Complementary interventions by the International Organization for Migration and The Gambia Immigration Department—including voluntary returns and interception of migrants—reflect ongoing efforts to manage migration flows, though these remain largely reactive<sup>14</sup>. Meanwhile, institutional tensions, such as the dispute between the Brikama Area Council and the Department of Physical Planning over the Kora Monument project<sup>15</sup>, point to coordination gaps in urban governance. In the political sphere, the signing of a “Harmony Pact” by opposition parties signals a strategic attempt to reduce polarization and foster coalition-building ahead of the December 5 presidential election, suggesting a maturing, albeit fragile, democratic culture.

At the national governance level, increased parliamentary oversight is evident in the National Assembly of The Gambia’s report on the management of assets linked to former president Yahya Jammeh<sup>16</sup>, reflecting heightened demand for transparency and accountability. Similarly, advocacy by The Gambia Press Union for the dropping of charges against a journalist highlights ongoing concerns around press freedom and civil liberties<sup>17</sup>. In the health sector, revelations by the

---

<sup>12</sup> The Standard Newspaper (2026). Lawmaker alerts nation over displacement of Gambians by Casamance conflict. Available at: <https://standard.gm/lawmaker-alerts-nation-over-displacement-of-gambians-by-casamance-conflict/>

<sup>13</sup> Kerr Fatou (2026) Gambia’s ‘Backway’ Toll: 893 Dead, Hundreds More Missing. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/gambias-backway-toll-893-dead-hundreds-more-missing/>

<sup>14</sup> The Standard Newspaper (2026) 79 Gambian migrants sent back from Libya. <https://standard.gm/79-gambian-migrants-sent-back-from-libya/>

<sup>15</sup> Kerr Fatou (2026) Brikama Area Council, Planning Department Clash Over Authority at Kora Monument Site. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/brikama-area-council-planning-department-clash-over-authority-at-kora-monument-site/>

<sup>16</sup> Alkamba Times (2026) Assembly Recommends Sacking Alpha Kapital Over D466 Million Jammeh Assets Discrepancy. <https://alkambatimes.com/assembly-recommends-sacking-alpha-kapital-over-d466-million-jammeh-assets-discrepancy/>

<sup>17</sup> The Standard Newspaper (2026) GPU asks police to drop charge against Journalist Darboe. <https://standard.gm/gpu-asks-police-to-drop-charge-against-journalist-darboe/>

Minister for Health, Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh regarding 847 maternal deaths between 2019 and 2025 present a mixed picture<sup>18</sup>—indicating relative regional progress but also persistent systemic challenges requiring targeted interventions. The State of the Nation Address delivered by Adama Barrow further contextualizes these developments within broader national priorities, serving as both a reflection on government performance and a forward-looking policy framework.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY**

A tragic incident at Cape Point Beach has underscored critical environmental security concerns, particularly relating to coastal safety and risk awareness. The drowning of respected Islamic scholar and educator alongside four of his children during a family outing highlights the dangers posed by unpredictable ocean currents<sup>19</sup>, inadequate safety infrastructure, and limited public awareness of beach hazards. Such incidents point to broader systemic gaps, including the absence of trained lifeguards, insufficient warning systems, and weak enforcement of coastal safety measures. In the context of environmental security, this tragedy emphasizes the urgent need for strengthened coastal risk management strategies, public education on water safety, and improved emergency response mechanisms to safeguard lives, especially in popular recreational areas across Bakau and beyond.

#### **5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY**

Under the gender, peace, and security theme, the reported conviction and sentencing of two male residents by the Brusubi Magistrates' Court, presided over by Isatou Jallow, to a mandatory five-year prison term for engaging in a homosexual act highlights ongoing tensions surrounding gender rights<sup>20</sup>, sexual orientation, and legal frameworks in The Gambia. The case reflects the continued enforcement of laws that criminalize same-sex relations, raising concerns among human rights observers about the protection of minority rights, social inclusion, and potential stigmatization.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

a. The Ministry of Interior should strengthen integrated community policing and cross-border security coordination by establishing joint intelligence-sharing mechanisms between The Gambia and Senegal, while simultaneously introducing independent oversight bodies to investigate allegations of misconduct within agencies such as the Gambia Police Force and Drug Law Enforcement Agency of The Gambia; this should be complemented by targeted livelihood and

---

<sup>18</sup> Kerr Fatou (2026). Gambia Recorded 847 Maternal Deaths Since 2019, Health Minister Tells Lawmakers. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/gambia-recorded-847-maternal-deaths-since-2019-health-minister-tells-lawmakers/>

<sup>19</sup> The Point Newspaper (2026). Father, 4 children drown in heroic rescue attempt in Bakau. Available at: <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/father-4-children-drown-in-heroic-rescue-attempt-in-bakau>

<sup>20</sup> The Standard Newspaper (2026) 2 GAY MEN JAILED FOR 5 YEARS, <https://standard.gm/2-gay-men-jailed-for-5-years/>

youth employment programs in high-risk communities to address root causes of crime and reduce vulnerability to drug trafficking and violence.

b. The government should enhance institutional accountability and public trust by empowering the National Assembly of The Gambia to fast-track investigations into public asset management and enforce transparency measures, while formalizing inter-agency coordination frameworks between local councils and central government bodies to prevent governance disputes; additionally, support inclusive political dialogue platforms to sustain the momentum of the opposition “Harmony Pact” and promote peaceful electoral processes.

c. There is an urgent need for proactive and coordinated measures by both state and non-state actors to prevent the recurrence of tragic incidents at the beach. This should include the implementation of comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate communities on water safety, particularly on when it is safe to swim and when it is not. Additionally, authorities and relevant stakeholders should ensure the deployment of trained lifeguards at popular beaches, promote the use of life jackets, and establish clear safety guidelines and warning systems. Strengthening these preventive mechanisms will significantly enhance public safety and reduce the risk of similar occurrences.

d. The government should encourage and promote inclusive and rights-based approaches by initiating national dialogue and legal review processes on gender and minority protections, while strengthening the capacity of judicial and security institutions to uphold human rights standards; this should include sensitization programs for law enforcement and community actors to reduce stigma, prevent discrimination, and foster social cohesion.

## CONCLUSION

The reporting period reflects a multifaceted security and governance landscape in The Gambia, characterized by persistent internal challenges and emerging external pressures. While efforts to address organised crime, strengthen democratic accountability, and manage migration dynamics are evident, gaps in institutional coordination, human rights protections, and proactive risk management remain critical concerns. The absence of recorded environmental incidents offers a window of opportunity for preventive action, while developments under the gender, peace, and security theme highlight the need for more inclusive and rights-sensitive approaches. Moving forward, sustained commitment to reforms, strengthened oversight, and integrated policy responses will be essential to stability, build public trust, and ensure long-term peace and resilience across the country.

### CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR MARCH 2026

THEMATIC AREA		VICTIMS
---------------	--	---------

	NO of Attacks.	DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).			
Abduction		-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	3	-	-
Extrajudicial killing			
Physical/Armed Assault	2		2
Herder-Community Conflict			
Illicit Drug Trafficking	2		-
Homicide	2	2	
Suicide			-
<b>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</b>			
Demonstration ( <b>peaceful</b> )		-	
Demonstration ( <b>violent</b> )			
Strike		-	-
Intimidation and Threats	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	1	-	-
Road Accident	3		
Illegal Migration			
Election-Related Violence			
Good governance initiatives	4		-
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion			

<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>		-	<b><u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u></b>
Wildlife poaching/trafficking			
Flood/Rainstorm drowning	1	4	-
<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	1		
Human Trafficking		-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

*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.*

OFF MAMA YAKUME AVENUE, FAJARA, KSMD, TEL +220 2777179, WEBSITE: WWW.WANEP.ORG