



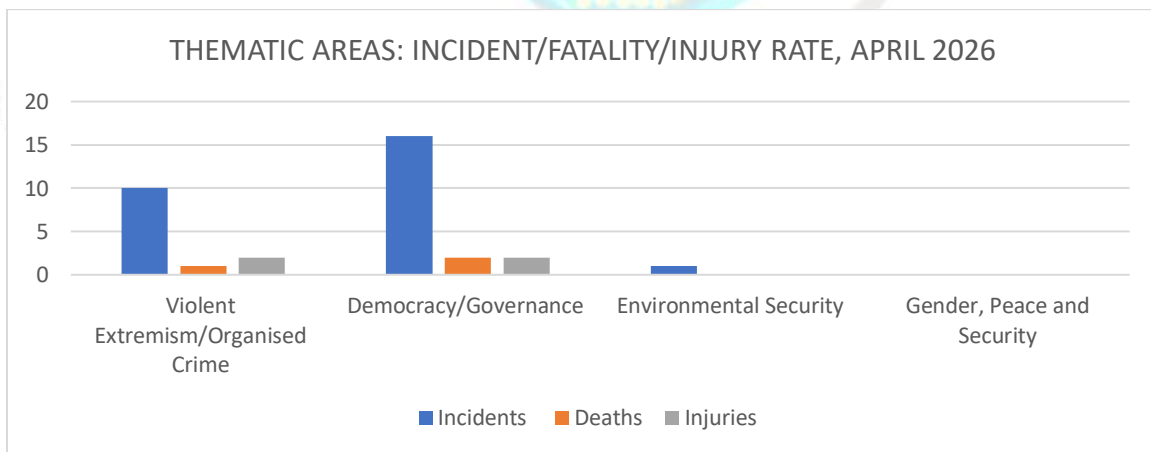
NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA) (APRIL, 2026)

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 three (3) fatalities and four (4) injuries arising from a range of causes including fire outbreak and assault reported during the month.²

As depicted in the thematic graph below, the *Democracy and Governance* recorded the highest number of incidents, with a total of sixteen (16) incidents, while *Organised Crime and Violent Extremism* theme recorded ten (10) incidents. The *Environmental Security* theme registered one (1) incident, while the *Gender, Peace, and Security* theme reported no incident.

Geographically, Banjul registered the highest number of incidents with a total of thirteen (13), followed by the West Coast Region with nine (9) incidents. The Kanifing Municipality recorded four (4) incidents, while the Central River Region reported one (1). No incidents were recorded in the Upper River Region, the North Bank Region and the Lower River Region during the reporting period.

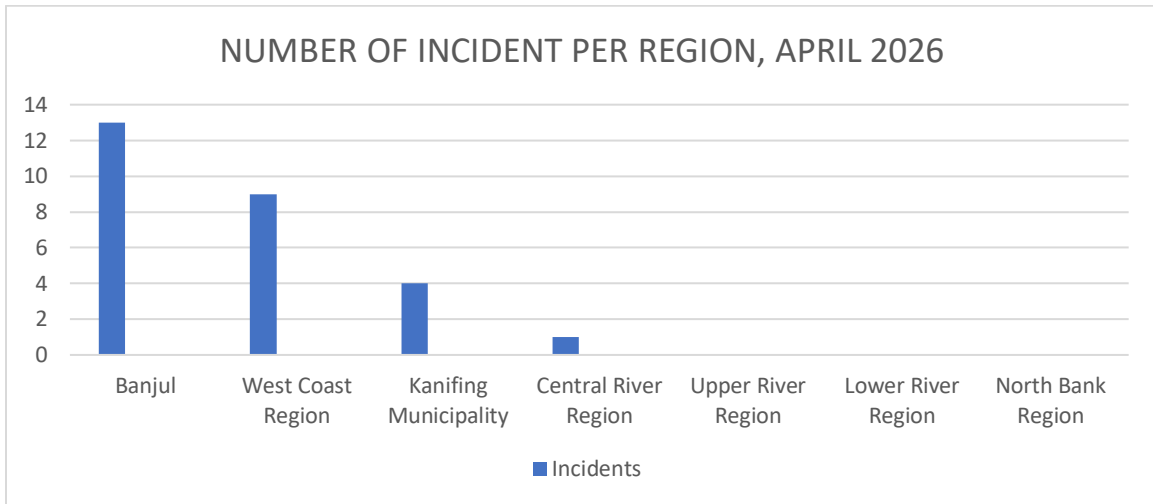


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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

The reporting period highlights a persistent pattern of criminal activity across the West Coast Region and Greater Banjul Area in The Gambia, with cases ranging from violent offences to organized criminal conduct. Incidents such as the alleged killing of a son in Busumbala, assault and stabbing cases in Brikama Dirimakolong, and grievous bodily harm in Lamin Village point to a worrying prevalence of interpersonal and community-level violence. Additionally, domestic threats, including a case in Sinchu Alagie, West Coast Region involving a son allegedly threatening to kill his mother⁵, reflect underlying social tensions that can escalate into violent extremism if left unaddressed. On the organized crime front, cases of fraud—such as the Malian national accused of obtaining D2 million (\$27228) under false travel promises⁶—alongside theft⁷, drug trafficking⁸, and possession of large quantities of illicit substances (including ecstasy and cannabis)⁹, demonstrate the existence of coordinated and opportunistic criminal networks operating within communities in The Gambia. The involvement of a minor in drug trafficking further underscores the vulnerability of youth to exploitation by criminal groups.

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ The Standard Newspaper (2026). Man remanded for allegedly attempting to kill mother. <https://standard.gm/man-remanded-for-allegedly-attempting-to-kill-mother/>

⁶ The Standard Newspaper (2026) Malian in court for allegedly defrauding 19 people of over D2M, <https://standard.gm/malian-in-court-for-allegedly-defrauding-19-people-of-over-d2m/>

⁷ The Voice (2026) Court Fines Man D6,000, Orders D11,000 Compensation for Theft. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/04/14/court-fines-man-d6000-orders-d11000-compensation-for-theft/>

⁸ The Voice (2026) Court Fines Man D75,000 for Possessing Cannabis. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/04/16/court-fines-man-d75000-for-possessing-cannabis/>

⁹ The Standard Newspaper (2026) Boy, 16, arrested with 1,654 ecstasy pills hidden in TV set. <https://standard.gm/boy-16-arrested-with-1654-ecstasy-pills-hidden-in-tv-set/>

From an analytical perspective, while these incidents do not directly indicate structured violent extremist activity, they reveal an enabling environment characterized by weak social cohesion, economic hardship, and increasing criminal opportunism—factors often associated with the risk of radicalization. The concentration of arrests and prosecutions suggests that law enforcement agencies are actively responding; however, the recurrence of such crimes indicates the need for more preventive, community-based approaches. Organized crime, particularly drug trafficking and financial fraud, can serve as a gateway to more sophisticated transnational criminal networks.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

The reporting period reflects a mixed trajectory in The Gambia’s democracy and governance landscape, characterized by both institutional activity and rising public tension. On the rule of law front, the High Court’s acquittal and discharge of suspects in the Sukuta Jabang police shooting case demonstrates judicial independence, yet the subsequent protests in Westfield and other urban areas over the re-arrest of acquitted individuals point to growing public mistrust in law enforcement compliance with court decisions. Similarly, the arrest of a National Assembly Member over alleged electoral malpractice and the detection of over 2,000 suspected double registrations by the Independent Electoral Commission¹⁰ highlight both enforcement of electoral laws and systemic vulnerabilities within the voter registration process¹¹. Governance concerns are further reflected in allegations of political interference at the local level, such as the reported confiscation of an Nyangen Village Alkalo’s official stamp due to perceived opposition affiliation¹², raising questions about decentralization and administrative neutrality. Meanwhile, efforts such as the appointment of a special prosecutor to address past human rights violations during Jammeh’s era¹³ and the hosting of regional discussions on gender-based violence signal continued commitment to justice and policy reform.

These developments suggest a democratic system under strain but still functioning with active institutional engagement. Public dissatisfaction, as revealed by the Centre for Policy Research and Strategic Studies survey¹⁴, combined with protests and increasing political awareness, indicates a citizenry that is both more engaged and more critical of governance outcomes. While this can

¹⁰ Kerr Fatou (2026). Electoral Commission Flags More Than 2,000 Suspected Double Registrations. Available at: <https://www.kerrfatou.com/electoral-commission-flags-more-than-2000-suspected-double-registrations/>

¹¹ Alkamba Times (2026) Gambian Lawmaker Arrested Over Alleged Birth Certificate Fraud in Voter Registration. <https://alkambatimes.com/gambian-lawmaker-arrested-over-alleged-birth-certificate-fraud-in-voter-registration/>

¹² Kerr Fatou (2026) Nyangen Alkalo Alleges CRR Governor Confiscated Official Stamp Over Son’s Political Affiliation, <https://www.kerrfatou.com/nyangen-alkalo-alleges-crr-governor-confiscated-official-stamp-over-sons-political-affiliation/>

¹³ The Voice Newspaper (2026) Gov’t Appoints British Barrister To Prosecute Jammeh-era Crimes. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/04/09/govt-appoints-british-barrister-to-prosecute-jammeh-era-crimes/>

¹⁴ Kerr Fatou (2026) CepRass Survey Finds Widespread Public Dissatisfaction with Key Services in Gambia. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/ceprass-survey-finds-widespread-public-dissatisfaction-with-key-services-in-gambia/>

strengthen accountability, it also raises the risk of instability if grievances—particularly around justice, electoral integrity, and service delivery—are not addressed transparently. The recurring issue of irregular migration¹⁵, as evidenced by multiple interceptions by The Gambia Immigration Department, further underscores governance gaps related to economic opportunity and youth disenfranchisement.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

The reporting period recorded a notable environmental security incident involving illegal exploitation of natural resources, as the Brikama Magistrates' Court convicted a truck driver for transporting timber without the required permit, in violation of Section 87(3) of the Forestry Act 2018¹⁶. This case highlights the continued pressure on forest resources and the persistence of unauthorized logging and timber trafficking, which pose risks to biodiversity, climate resilience, and local livelihoods. The successful prosecution demonstrates a degree of enforcement of environmental regulations. However, the occurrence of such offences suggests gaps in monitoring, compliance, and deterrence mechanisms.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

During the reporting period, no incidents were recorded under the Gender, Peace, and Security theme. This absence of reported cases may suggest a relatively calm environment with no immediate gender-related security threat. However, this should be interpreted with caution, as underreporting remains a common challenge in this sector due to stigma, limited reporting mechanisms, and social barriers. The lack of incidents presents an opportunity for stakeholders to strengthen preventive measures, enhance community awareness, and improve reporting systems to ensure that any hidden or emerging issues are captured and addressed promptly. Continued monitoring and proactive engagement with women, youth, and vulnerable groups remain essential to sustaining peace and advancing gender-responsive security efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The Ministry of Interior in partnership with civil society should strengthen community-based prevention by establishing localized early warning and response mechanisms that integrate law enforcement, community leaders, and youth groups to identify and address drivers of crime—

¹⁵ Kerr Fatou (2026) Gambia Immigration Department Detains 107 Migrants in Coordinated Operations Across Five Communities. <https://www.kerrfatou.com/gambia-immigration-service-detains-107-migrants-in-coordinated-operations-across-five-communities/>

¹⁶ The Voice (2026) Court Fines Driver D5,000 For Illegal Timber Transport in Kafuta. <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/04/15/court-fines-driver-d5000-for-illegal-timber-transport-in-kafuta/>

such as drug abuse, unemployment, and social tensions—before they escalate into organized criminal activity or potential radicalization.

b. The Gambia government should encourage and enhance public trust in institutions by ensuring strict adherence to the rule of law, particularly by security agencies respecting court decisions, while the Independent Electoral Commission should intensify verification systems and transparency measures in voter registration to address irregularities and reinforce electoral integrity.

c. The Ministry of Forest should improve forest governance by increasing surveillance and enforcement in high-risk areas, while empowering community forest committees to collaborate with authorities in monitoring and reporting illegal logging activities, thereby strengthening compliance with the Forestry Act and deterring timber trafficking.

d. The government should establish confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms at community level, supported by awareness campaigns and partnerships with civil society, to address underreporting and ensure early detection and response to gender-related security threats.

CONCLUSION

The reporting period underscores a multifaceted security environment in The Gambia, marked by ongoing challenges in organized crime, governance tensions, environmental management, and potential gaps in gender-responsive reporting. While institutional actions reflect a commitment to enforcement and reform, recurring incidents and public dissatisfaction highlight the need for stronger preventive measures, enhanced transparency, and deeper community engagement. Addressing underlying drivers such as youth vulnerability, weak service delivery, and limited accountability will be critical to building trust and resilience. A coordinated, inclusive approach involving government, civil society, and local communities will be essential to sustaining peace, strengthening democratic governance, and promoting long-term security.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR APRIL 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).			
Cybercrime/Fraud	3	-	-
Physical/Armed Assault	2	1	2

Illicit Drug Trafficking	1		-
Homicide			
Suicide			-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	2	-	
Good governance action	6		
Intimidation and Threats	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	3	-	-
Road Accident	2		
Irregular Migration	3		
Election-Related Violence/irregularities of Voter registration	2		
Fire Outbreak	1	2	2
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			
Illegal Timber logging	1	-	<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
Flood/Rainstorm			-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape			
Human Trafficking		-	-

Total	27	3	4
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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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