



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA)

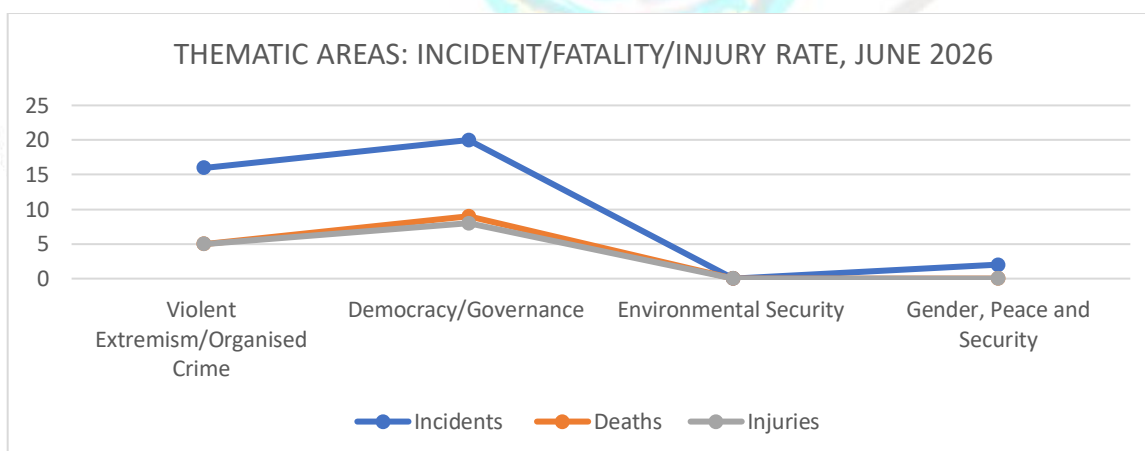
(JUNE, 2026)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of thirty-eight (38) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹ as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents resulted in fourteen (14) fatalities and thirteen (13) injuries arising from a range of causes including road accidents, murder, drug trafficking and assault reported during the month.²

As depicted in the thematic graph below, the *Organised Crime and Violent Extremism* theme recorded a total of sixteen (16) incidents, while the *Democracy and Governance* theme recorded the highest number of incidents with twenty (20) incidents. The *Gender, Peace and Security* theme registered two (2) incidents, during the reporting period.

Geographically, Banjul registered the highest number of incidents with a total of twenty -three (23), followed by the West Coast Region with seven (7) incidents. The Kanifing Municipality recorded five (5) Upper River Region recorded two (2) while Central River Region recorded One (1) incident.

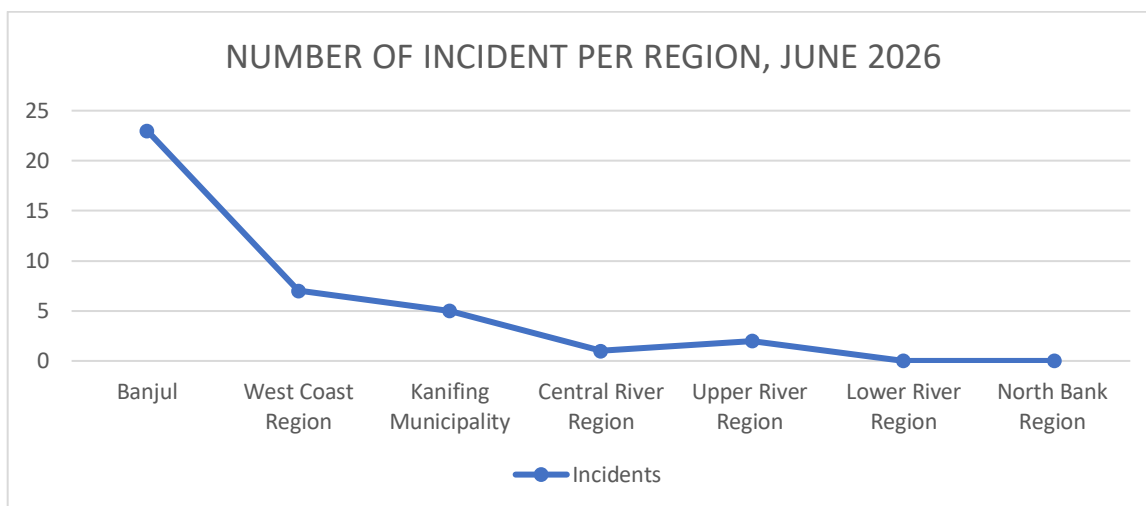


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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 persistent and growing concerns related to organized crime, violent crime, drug trafficking, fraud, and public disorder across The Gambia, reflecting continued security and law enforcement challenges nationwide. A notable trend is the increasing occurrence of violent incidents in public spaces and residential communities, particularly within the West Coast Region.

Several cases were recorded, including the assault and death of a 23-year-old in Brikama Bojang Kunda west coast region,⁵ the ongoing investigation into the alleged murder of a teacher and former Vice President of the University of The Gambia in Fajara,⁶ the suspicious death of a truck driver in Wellingara, west coast region.⁷ Additionally, the alleged murder of a 20-year-old in Fajikunda Hall further underscores rising violent crime in communal areas.⁸

Additionally Law enforcement authorities also arrested and prosecuted individuals involved in fraud, including a travel agency accused of deceiving Hajj pilgrims,⁹ sentencing of three (3) persons to 14 years for obtaining money under false pretenses.¹⁰ Drug-related arrests involved

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ Voice (2026), Brikama Youth Dies After Alleged Assault One Arrested, Three Others Sought. Available at : <https://www.voicegambia.com/2026/06/12/brikama-youth-dies-after-alleged-assault-one-arrested-three-others-sought/>

⁶ The standard (2026) Police investigate murder of ex-UTG student's union VP. Available at : <https://standard.gm/police-investigate-murder-of-ex-utg-students-union-vp/>

⁷ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026).. Police investigate death of a man found in an apartment in Nema. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14k9AeQVghz/>

⁸ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026).. Police investigate alleged murder incident in Piccadilly. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18xPmBU7wY/>

⁹ The Standard (2026) Man arraigned, remanded for allegedly defrauding Over 100 intending pilgrims millions of dalasi. Available at : <https://standard.gm/man-arraigned-remanded-for-allegedly-defrauding-over-100-intending-pilgrims-millions-of-dalasis/>

¹⁰ The point (2026). 2 men get 14 years for armed robbery. Available at : <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/2-men-get-14-years-for-armed-robbery>

46 suspects linked to cannabis, Kush, hashish, ecstasy, and other illicit substances,¹¹ alongside the arrest of six Nigerians connected to scam and illicit activities.¹²

The report further notes rising political tensions following the arrest and assault of a political party leader ahead of national elections.¹³ Overall, these incidents indicate a concerning escalation of organized crime and violence increasingly affecting public spaces and community safety.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Recent developments in The Gambia highlight both democratic progress and emerging governance challenges ahead of the electoral cycle. Key concerns included the Independent Electoral Commission's identification of 24,058 suspected cases of double voter registration, raising questions about electoral integrity,¹⁴ while the deployment of an ECOWAS pre-election mission underscored the importance of safeguarding credible and peaceful elections.¹⁵ Political tensions also intensified with the launch of a new political party¹⁶ increasing concerns over tribal and hate speech, prompting government warnings against inflammatory political rhetoric.

Elsewhere Governance and accountability challenges remained significant. The Commission of Inquiry into Local Government Councils revealed widespread financial mismanagement, abuse of office, and administrative negligence within several councils.¹⁷ Meanwhile, the government's limited recovery of misused public funds highlighted persistent weaknesses in public financial accountability. Industrial action at the Port of Banjul and nationwide protests against National water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) over prolonged electricity shortages further reflected growing public dissatisfaction with service delivery and governance.¹⁸

Additionally, Security concerns were amplified by the interception of One hundred and thirty-Eight (138) irregular migrants, highlighting persistent youth vulnerability, unemployment, and

¹¹ Dleag-gambia (2026) Facebook page. Dleag nab twenty -two persons with prohibited drug. Available at : <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BBUinJks8/>

¹² Gambia Police Force (2026) Facebook page. Police arrest six (6) suspected scammers in old Yundum. Available at; <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CjwUhZQRk/>

¹³ Alkamba Times (2026). Opposition national democratic Party Kebba madi Bojang had been arrested and detained by police. Available at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17g5crqNa5/>

¹⁴ Kerr fatou (2026), IEC Detects Over 24,000 Suspected Double Registrations During 2026 Supplementary Voter Exercise. Available at : <https://www.kerrfatou.com/iec-detects-over-24000-suspected-double-registrations-during-2026-supplementary-voter-exercise>

¹⁵ The standard (2026) Ecawas deploys a pre-election fact-finding mission to Gambia. Available at: <https://standard.gm/ecowas-deploys-a-pre-election-fact-finding-mission-to-gambia1/>

¹⁶ Alkamba Times (2026). Former VP Dr. Isatou Touray Unveils Reform Blueprint as she seeks the presidency. Available at: <https://alkambatimes.com/former-vp-dr-isatou-touray-unveils-reform-blueprint-as-she-seeks-the-presidency/>

¹⁷ The standard (2026) LG COMMISSION SAYS SHERIFFO SONKO, OTHERS AT BAC SHOULD FACE CRIMINAL SANCTIONS. Available at: <https://standard.gm/lg-commission-says-sheriffo-sonko-others-at-bac-should-face-criminal-sanctions/>

¹⁸ Kerr Fatou (2026). NAWEC Asks Government for D662M Emergency Funds to Import Power from Senegal. Available at: <https://www.kerrfatou.com/nawec-asks-government-for-d662m-emergency-funds-to-import-power-from-senegal/>

irregular migration pressures.¹⁹ Additional public safety incidents, including fatal road traffic accidents, community security concerns in Tampoto, West coast region,²⁰ investigations into serious road collisions,²¹ the need for strengthened public safety and security concerns.²² Despite these challenges, The Gambia's ranking as Africa's fourth most peaceful country in the 2026 Global Peace Index demonstrates continued progress in peace and democratic governance, while emphasizing the need to address emerging governance, accountability, and socio-economic concerns to preserve national stability.²³

4. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

The reporting period reflects significant progress and continued challenges within the Gender, Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in The Gambia. A major milestone was achieved as The Gambia became the first African country to ratify the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, demonstrating strong political commitment to advancing women's rights and strengthening legal and institutional protections against gender-based violence.²⁴

Additionally, the High Court in Banjul sentenced a male resident to life imprisonment for a violent attack on his wife with a cutlass, which resulted in permanent disability.²⁵ These developments highlight both strengthened legal accountability and the urgent need for sustained prevention and protection measures against gender-based violence nationwide.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Security institutions, including The Gambia Police Force and DLEAG, should strengthen integrated intelligence-led policing and cross-border cooperation to disrupt organised crime networks, while simultaneously expanding community policing and youth engagement programmes in high-risk areas to reduce violent crime, drug trafficking, and public disorder.
- b. The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), government institutions, and civil society actors should enhance electoral transparency and protect civic space by strengthening safeguards for

¹⁹ Kerr Fatou (2026) GID Intercepts 67 Irregular Migrants in Gunjur Medina Salam. Available at : <https://www.kerrfatou.com/gid-intercepts-67-irregular-migrants-in-gunjur-madina-salam/>

²⁰ Gambiana (2026). 11-year-old child died while eight others injured. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1ETgZrfvLW/>

²¹ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026). Police respond to fatal road traffic incident at YBK, CRR. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18ohNRabY6/>

²² The standard (2026) Latriya resident alerts IGP over security concerns. Available at: <https://standard.gm/latriya-resident-alerts-igp-over-security-concerns/>

²³ The standard (2026). Global peace index ranks Gambia as Africa's 4th most peaceful country. Available at : <https://standard.gm/global-peace-index-ranks-gambia-as-africas-4th-most-peaceful-country/>

²⁴ The Point Newspaper (2026). Gambia makes history as first African nation to ratify AU Convention on Ending Violence against Women. Available at: <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/gambia-makes-history-as-first-african-nation-to-ratify-au-convention-on-ending-violence-against-women>

²⁵ Kerr Fatou (2026). Husband Who Attacked Wife with Machete Over Land Dispute Sentenced to Life. Available at: <https://www.kerrfatou.com/husband-who-attacked-wife-with-machete-over-land-dispute-sentenced-to-life/>

freedom of assembly, and scaling up public education on safe migration and anti-trafficking awareness to address youth vulnerability and political tensions.

d. Government, judiciary actors, and social service institutions should improve coordination to ensure timely prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence cases, while simultaneously expanding survivor-centred psychosocial support services and nationwide awareness campaigns to strengthen prevention, protect children, and address the wider psychological impacts of violent crime.

CONCLUSION

The reporting period presents a complex security and governance landscape in The Gambia, marked by persistent challenges across organised crime, democratic governance, gender and human security. While law enforcement agencies and the judiciary continue to demonstrate strong responses through arrests, prosecutions, and convictions, the recurrence of violent crime, drug trafficking, illegal migration, electoral procedures and process, and offences reflects deep-rooted structural and socio-economic drivers that sustain these risks. These include youth unemployment, weak institutional coordination, cross-border criminal networks, and gaps in public trust and providing services and civic engagement.

Overall, the bulletin underscore the need for a more holistic and preventive approach that goes beyond enforcement to address underlying causes of insecurity. Strengthening early warning systems, enhancing institutional accountability, improving inter-agency and regional cooperation, and investing in youth empowerment and public awareness are critical to building long-term resilience. A coordinated, multi-sectoral strategy remains essential to consolidate peace, strengthen democratic governance, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure sustainable national development.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JUNE 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	4		
Cybercrime/Fraud	5	-	-
Physical/Armed Assault	4	4	2
Illicit Drug Trafficking	3	-	-

Homicide	1	-	
Suicide			-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>	4		
Demonstration (peaceful)	2	-	
Intimidation and Threats		-	-
Arrest/Detention	5	-	-
Road Accident	4	10	11
Illegal Migration	2		
Election-Related Violence	2	-	-
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion			
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal fishing	-		
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
		-	
Flood/Rainstorm			-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	2	-	
Human Trafficking	-	-	-
Total	38	14	13

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

