



NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA)

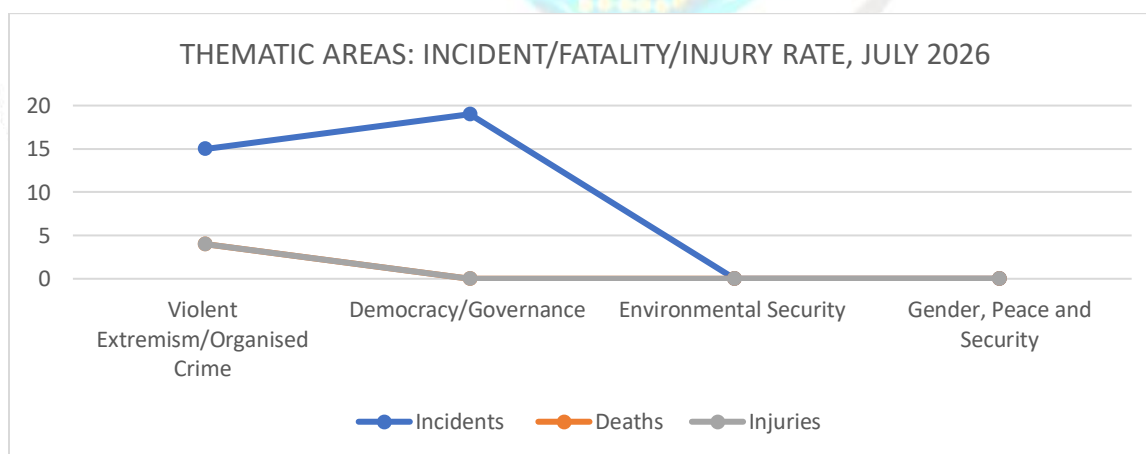
(JULY, 2026)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of thirty-four (34) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS),¹ as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents included four (4) fatalities and nine (9) injuries arising from a range of causes namely: road accidents, murder and drug trafficking.²

As depicted in the thematic graph below, the *Democracy and Governance* theme recorded the highest number of incidents with nineteen (19) incidents, while the *Organized Crime and Violent Extremism* theme recorded a total of fifteen (15) incidents during the reporting period. No incidents were recorded on Environmental Security theme and Gender, Peace and Security theme.

Geographically, Banjul registered the highest number of incidents with a total of sixteen (16), followed by the West Coast Region with eight (8) incidents. The Kanifing Municipality recorded seven (7) incidents, while Lower River Region, Central River Region and North Bank Region recorded one (1) incident each. No incidents were recorded in the Upper River Region.

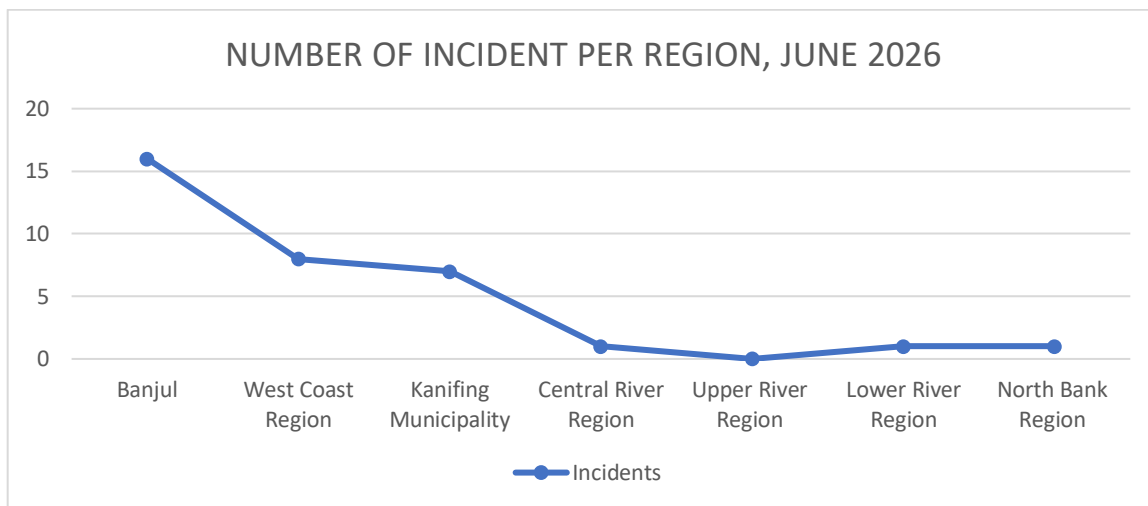


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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

During the reporting period, security agencies responded to multiple violent incidents across The Gambia. Reported cases included assaults in Ebo Town,⁵ Pirang,⁶ and Ndungu Kebbeh,⁷ as well as violent robberies, gang-related activities, and serious attacks involving juveniles in Banjul and Tallinding.⁸ The Gambia Police Force started investigation into two suspected murder incidents in Wellingara Demba⁹ and West Coast Region, while another murder suspect was arrested in Latrikunda German.¹⁰ Similarly, authorities arrested an armed suspect in Daru Busumbala¹¹ and dismantled alleged criminal networks, including members of the Oryx Gang. DLEAG arrested 20 suspects in anti-drug operations, seizing various narcotics.¹²

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026), Police respond swiftly to alleged assault in ebo town Arrest Suspect. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Czs1VJ2oi/>

⁶ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026), Police Investigate alleged assault causing actual bodily harm. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18tbM6RjtU/>

⁷ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026), Police investigate alleged assault causing grievous bodily harm in Ndungu Kebbeh. Available at: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid079iVWfSGKuZMoep6U6Fgkwt2HtgrzTobJX387pSU2Bd7CznALBafw3UsztSWv1yXl&id=100070031176300&mibextid=Nif5oz

⁸ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026), Police Investigate Fatal stabbing involving two minors in Tallinding. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EsPPpsieO/>

⁹ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026) Police investigate suspected murder in Wellingara Demba, CRR South. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19XDCV1Mzy/>

¹⁰ The Point (2026), Police nab 'principal suspect' over Latrikunda German killing. Available at: <https://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/headlines/police-nab-principal-suspect-over-latirikunda-german-killing-2>

¹¹ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026), ACU Arrests Suspect Armed with Dangerous weapons during evening patrol Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ESpuL8qBi/>

¹² Official Narco-mag Dleag-gambia.org. Dleag nabbed a resident of Batokunku for plantation of cannabis sativa. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1HyZhkt2Pr/>

Additionally, two men were sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for armed robbery,¹³ reflecting intensified law enforcement efforts against violent crime and organized criminal activities.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

On democracy and governance theme, significant developments in migration, security governance, and the politics were recorded in the reporting period. The Gambia Navy intercepted 112 suspected irregular migrants off the coast of Faraba,¹⁴ while a separate migrant boat carrying about 270 people, interception by the Mauritanian Navy, with approximately 234 feared dead.¹⁵ On road safety, a fatal road accident in Jiffin claimed three lives.¹⁶ The Supreme Court declared the 2025 dismissal of the former Auditor General unconstitutional,¹⁷ ordering government compensation. Also, border tensions escalated between Senegal and The Gambia, after Senegalese military personnel demolished sections of fencing at the disputed Bullock Military Camp.¹⁸

The National Human Rights Commission called for investigations into unlawful killings that happened in 2025.¹⁹ The government launched the National Identity Management System (NIMS) to strengthen digital governance. The Independent Electoral Commission removed over 14,000 duplicate voter registrations, registered two new political parties, and reaffirmed its independence ahead of December polls. Meanwhile, the United Democratic Party withdrew from opposition coalition talks,²⁰ while debate over President Barrow's possible third term bid heightened political tensions ahead of the 2026 elections.²¹

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

During the reporting period, no environmental security incidents were recorded. While this reflects a relatively stable situation, continuous monitoring remains essential to detect potential risks at an early stage. Ongoing surveillance is particularly important given the country's

¹³ Kerr Fatou (2026) Two Men Sentenced to 20 Years for Armed Robbery in Tallinding. Available at : <https://www.kerrfatou.com/two-men-sentenced-to-20-years-for-armed-robbery-in-tallinding/>

¹⁴ Kerrfatou.com (2026) The Gambia immigration Department intercepted illegal migrants. Available at : <https://www.kerrfatou.com/gambia-immigration-intercepts-20-irregular-migrants-in-border-security-operation/>

¹⁵ Official Ebrima migrant's situation Facebook page (2026), 234 feared dead after authorities rescued 38 survivors. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1R4KZme6LD/>

¹⁶ Official Facebook Page of The Gambia Police Force (2026), Police Investigate Fatal Road traffic Accident in Jiffin, lower River Region: Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1NMKpgNytU/>

¹⁷ The voicegambia.com (2026) Supreme Court Declares Auditor General's Removal Unconstitutional. Available at: <https://www.voicegambia.com/supreme-court-declares-auditor-generals-removal-unconstitutional/>

¹⁸ The Alkamba Times (2026), Bullock Camp Demolition – Inside Senegal's Military 200m Strike on the Gambia Military Camp. Available at: <https://alkambatimes.com/tat-exclusive-bullock-camp-demolition-inside-senegals-military-200m-strike/>

¹⁹ The voice Gambia (2026), NHRC Urges Police To Investigate All Cases Of Unlawful Killings. Available at: <https://www.voicegambia.com/nhrc-urges-police-to-investigate-all-cases-of-unlawful-killings/>

²⁰ Kerrfatou.com (2026), UDP Withdraws from 2026 Coalition Talks. Available at: <https://www.kerrfatou.com/udp-withdraws-from-2026-coalition-talks/>

²¹ The Standard.gm (2026), Groups clash over Barrow's third term bid. Available on : <https://standard.gm/groups-clash-over-barrows-third-term-bid/>

vulnerability to climate change, illegal exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, bushfires, flooding, coastal erosion, and pollution. Sustained environmental monitoring, coupled with community awareness and timely reporting.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

During the reporting period, no incidents related to Gender, Peace and Security were recorded. Nevertheless, continuous monitoring remains essential to detect emerging concerns, promote gender-responsive peacebuilding, and support timely preventive interventions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Security institutions, including The Gambia Police Force and DLEAG, should strengthen intelligence-led policing, community policing, and inter-agency coordination to address violent crime, organized gangs, drug trafficking, and cross-border criminal activities. Authorities should also enhance early warning mechanisms, accelerate investigations and prosecutions, improve victim support services, and expand public awareness and youth-focused crime prevention initiatives to reduce violence and improve public safety.
- b. Ahead of the elections, The Gambia Police Force and other security agencies should receive targeted, scenario-based training on public order management that emphasizes proportional use of force, crowd control without escalation, and de-escalation techniques tailored to political rallies and protests. This training should be paired with refresher modules on human rights standards—covering freedom of assembly, expression, and non-discriminatory treatment of political actors and voters—delivered in partnership with bodies such as the National Human Rights Commission or civil society human rights organizations. Additionally, security personnel should be trained in structured intelligence-sharing protocols across agencies (police, State Intelligence Services, immigration, and local government) to enable early identification and rapid response to election-related threats, alongside community-based policing approaches that build trust, encourage local reporting of tensions, and position officers as neutral, approachable figures within their assigned constituencies.
- c. In Kanifing Municipality, Banjul, and West Coast Region—areas with dense, diverse, and politically active populations—social cohesion efforts should prioritize inclusive, multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms that bring together traditional and religious leaders, youth and women's groups, political party representatives, and local government structures to preemptively address flashpoints such as land disputes, inter-party rivalries, or historical grievances. These platforms should be complemented by targeted community outreach and peace

messaging campaigns, delivered through local radio, town hall meetings, and youth-led initiatives, that promote tolerance, discourage hate speech and incitement, and reinforce shared civic identity ahead of and during the electoral period. Given the urban density and youth population concentration in these three areas, special attention should be given to engaging young people directly—through sports, arts, and peace clubs—as a preventive measure against their mobilization for electoral violence.

d. State institutions, political parties, civil society organizations, and electoral stakeholders should promote inclusive dialogue, uphold the rule of law, respect judicial decisions, and safeguard the independence of democratic institutions. Civic and voter education, peaceful political engagement, and effective electoral dispute resolution mechanisms should be strengthened to reduce tensions and foster credible, transparent, and peaceful elections ahead of the 2026 electoral process.

CONCLUSION

The reporting period presents a complex security and governance landscape in The Gambia. It reflects a complex security and governance environment characterized by rising violent crime, organized criminal activities, migration challenges, and increasing political tensions ahead of the 2026 elections. While law enforcement agencies and state institutions have demonstrated commitment through arrests, investigations, judicial rulings, and electoral reforms, sustained efforts are required to address the underlying drivers of insecurity and political polarization.

Strengthening the rule of law, promoting inclusive dialogue, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and safeguarding the independence of democratic institutions will be critical to maintaining peace, public confidence, and national stability. Continued collaboration among government, civil society, communities, and development partners remains essential to fostering a secure, democratic, and resilient The Gambia.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JULY 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	15	4	4
Cybercrime/Fraud	-	-	-
Physical/Armed Assault	5	4	4

Illicit Drug Trafficking	3	-	-
Homicide	4	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>	19		
Demonstration (peaceful)		-	
Intimidation and Threats		-	-
Arrest/Detention	5	-	-
Road Accident	2	-	-
Illegal Migration	2		
Election-Related Violence	1	-	-
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion	1		
<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	-	-	
Human Trafficking	3	-	-
Total	34	4	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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