

# HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENT REPORT

The Gambia | January – June 2026



## Monitoring, Documentation and Accountability

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## About this Report

This report presents incidents identified through EFSCRJ monitoring for the period January to June 2026. It is intended to support public awareness, institutional accountability, and evidence-based advocacy on the protection of human rights in The Gambia.

**Important qualification:** The report records allegations and publicly reported events. Inclusion does not amount to a judicial finding of guilt. Where investigations or proceedings were ongoing, all persons concerned retain the presumption of innocence and the right to due process.

| <b>Contents</b>                                | <b>Page</b> |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Executive Summary                              | 3           |
| 1. Introduction                                | 3           |
| 2. Scope, Methodology and Limitations          | 4           |
| 3. Legal and Human Rights Framework            | 4           |
| 4. Overview of Recorded Incidents              | 5           |
| 5. Thematic Findings                           | 6           |
| 6. Chronology of Incidents                     | 7           |
| 7. Institutional and Accountability Assessment | 13          |
| 8. Recommendations                             | 13          |
| 9. Conclusion                                  | 15          |
| 10. Appendix: Incident Classification          | 16          |

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice monitored 17 incidents occurring from January to June 2026. The incidents included alleged arbitrary re-arrest, arrests, and use of force during a peaceful civic gathering, child abuse and rape, fatal interpersonal violence, road traffic deaths, fires, suspected irregular migration, an unexplained death, and a violent assault.

The record points to three urgent human rights priorities. First, law-enforcement conduct requires stronger safeguards against arbitrary arrest, excessive force, and interference with peaceful assembly. Second, children and other vulnerable persons require faster protection, survivor-centred services, and transparent case follow-up. Third, repeated deaths and serious injuries from violence and road crashes highlight the State's duty to prevent foreseeable harm, investigate deaths promptly and ensure access to justice.

The incidents do not by themselves provide a complete national prevalence picture. They nevertheless reveal recurring protection and accountability gaps. In several cases, the public record available to monitors did not establish whether investigations had concluded, charges had been filed, survivors had received support or responsible officials had been held accountable.

**Key Findings:** Six of the 17 incidents occurred in June and five in May. At least nine involved death, serious injury or a grave threat to life or bodily integrity. Three directly concerned the conduct of law-enforcement authorities or restrictions on civic space.

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## Priority Calls

1. Investigate all allegations of arbitrary arrest and excessive force independently, promptly, and transparently, and hold responsible officers accountable.
2. Protect peaceful assembly and ensure that policing is lawful, necessary, proportionate, and consistent with constitutional rights.
3. Provide immediate protection, medical care, psychosocial support, and child-sensitive justice services to child survivors.
4. Strengthen homicide, unexplained-death, road-safety, and fire investigations and provide timely public information without prejudicing proceedings.
5. Publish follow-up information on the status and outcome of the incidents documented in this report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

EFSCRJ is an independent civil society organization dedicated to advancing human rights, democratic governance, accountability, transparency, and constitutionalism in The Gambia. Human rights monitoring is central to this mandate because credible documentation enables

victims, institutions, and the public to identify violations, demand remedies and prevent recurrence.

This half-year report refines and consolidates the incidents recorded by EFSCRJ monitors from January to June 2026. It organizes the material chronologically and thematically, corrects internal date classification, identifies applicable rights, and sets out practical recommendations to state institutions.

## **2. SCOPE, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS**

### **2.1 Sources and Approach**

The report is based on monitoring of publicly available information, principally the Gambia Police Force Facebook page, media reports, information released by public institutions, and other open sources. EFSCRJ reviewed the recorded accounts, classified the incidents by date and theme, and assessed the human rights concerns they raise.

### **2.2 Evidentiary Standard**

The report distinguishes allegations from established facts. Descriptions such as alleged murder, rape, abuse, or unlawful conduct reflect the status of the available information and do not determine criminal responsibility. Criminal responsibility can only be established through a competent, independent, and impartial judicial process.

### **2.3 Limitations**

The monitoring record is incident-based and does not constitute an exhaustive census of human rights violations in The Gambia.

The source notes did not consistently include interviews with victims, witnesses, authorities, or service providers, nor copies of official investigation or court records.

Several cases were ongoing when recorded, and subsequent developments may not be reflected.

The record reflects the information available to monitors at the time and may require updating as official investigations, prosecutions, or inquests progress.

The report therefore avoids definitive findings where facts remain disputed or unverified.

## **3. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK**

The incidents engage obligations under the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia, relevant national legislation, and regional and international human rights instruments binding on the State. The principal standards include but not limited to:

- The rights to life, personal liberty, security, dignity, fair trial, and protection from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment;
- The freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, expression, and movement;

- The special protection owed to children against violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect;
- The duties to prevent foreseeable harm, investigate potentially unlawful deaths and serious violence, prosecute where evidence warrants, and provide an effective remedy;
- The principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, accountability, and non-discrimination in law enforcement.

Relevant national instruments include the 1997 Constitution, the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2023, the Criminal Offences Act 2025, the Children's Act (amended) 2015, the Women's Act (Amended) 2015, the Police Act, the Public Order Act, road traffic legislation, and applicable criminal procedure law.

Regional and international standards include the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### 4. OVERVIEW OF RECORDED INCIDENTS

| Date   | Location      | Category                     | Recorded account/status                                     |
|--------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 Jan | Daru Foday Ba | Road safety                  | Grade 3 pupil killed in road crash                          |
| 30 Jan | Kanifing      | Fire/public safety           | Fire at GTSC headquarters                                   |
| 24 Feb | Njaba Kunda   | Fire                         | Family displaced; investigation reported ongoing            |
| 26 Feb | Kerewan       | Fire                         | Victim reportedly lost belongings and documents             |
| 31 Mar | Mile 2/Brufut | Liberty and due process      | Bojang siblings re-arrested after acquittal, later released |
| 19 Apr | Barra         | Migration/protection         | 32 persons intercepted before suspected irregular journey   |
| 5 May  | Brikama       | Violent assault/police force | Three injured; suspect shot during arrest                   |
| 8 May  | Westfield     | Assembly/arrest              | GALA members and executives arrested                        |

| Date   | Location                | Category                         | Recorded account/status                                      |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 May  | Westfield               | Use of force                     | Alieu Bah allegedly injured during arrest                    |
| 9 May  | Banjul Ferry Terminal   | Unexplained death                | Omar Bah found dead in his truck; no official cause reported |
| 10 May | Tujereng                | Child protection                 | Child allegedly found tied at guardian's residence           |
| 8 Jun  | Coastal Road            | Sexual violence/child protection | Nine-year-old allegedly raped                                |
| 10 Jun | Drimakolong, Brikama    | Fatal violence                   | Ba Musa Sabally allegedly beaten; later died                 |
| 15 Jun | Fajara                  | Fatal violence                   | Yunusa Mbaye allegedly stabbed to death                      |
| 16 Jun | Nema Wellingara         | Unexplained/alleged murder       | Kebba Sarr found dead; suspect held                          |
| 21 Jun | Yorro Beri Kunda, (YBK) | Road safety                      | Seven reported dead and 19 seriously injured                 |
| 21 Jun | Faji Kunda              | Fatal violence                   | 20-year-old allegedly stabbed at a nightclub                 |

## 5. THEMATIC FINDINGS

### 5.1 Law Enforcement, Liberty, and Civic Space

Three recorded incidents directly raise concerns about state conduct: the re-arrest of Ousainou and Amie Bojang immediately after their acquittal and release; the arrests of GALA members and executives during an 8 May gathering at Westfield; and the alleged forceful arrest and injury of Alieu Bah. These cases engage the rights to liberty, due process, physical integrity, and peaceful assembly.

A court-ordered or unconditional release must be respected. Any subsequent arrest must have a clear, lawful, and independently reviewable basis. Likewise, the policing of assemblies must facilitate peaceful participation. Force may only be used when lawful, strictly necessary and proportionate to a legitimate objective.



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## **5.2 Rights of Children and Protection from Sexual Violence**

Two incidents involved children: a boy allegedly found tied by his ankles at his guardian's residence in Tujereng, and the alleged rape of a nine-year-old girl near Coastal Road. Both require urgent, child-centred protection, medical and psychosocial care, confidential case management, effective investigation and safeguards against retaliation or further trauma.

The release of a suspect, while investigations continue does not itself establish wrongdoing by authorities; however, institutions should communicate the lawful basis and protective measures in place, consistent with the child's privacy and the integrity of the investigation.

## **5.3 Right to Life, Violent Crime, and Unexplained Deaths**

The June record contains four fatal violence or suspected murder cases, while a truck driver was found dead at the Banjul Ferry Terminal in May. These incidents raise the State's positive obligation to prevent violence where risks are known, protect persons in danger, preserve evidence, investigate deaths effectively and ensure fair proceedings.

## **5.4 Road Safety and Preventable Death**

Two fatal road incidents were recorded: the death of Grade 3 pupil Mamadi Nije at Daru Foday Ba and a crash at YBK in the Central River Region that reportedly killed seven passengers and seriously injured 19. The cases highlight the need for safer road design, speed management, visible signs, enforcement, vehicle roadworthiness, emergency response, and transparent crash investigation.

## **5.5 Fire, Displacement, and Public Safety**

Three fires were recorded in Njaba Kunda, Kerewan and at the GTSC headquarters in Kanifing. The household fires reportedly caused displacement and loss of belongings and important documents. Beyond determining cause, public authorities should support affected persons, strengthen fire prevention and electrical safety, and ensure that emergency services can respond effectively.

## **5.6 Migration, Trafficking, and Protection**

The interception of 32 people in Barra before a suspected irregular migration journey illustrates the protection risks linked to unsafe migration, smuggling, and trafficking. Enforcement should target organizers and exploiters while respecting the dignity, liberty, equality and due-process rights of migrants and prospective migrants.

# **6. CHRONOLOGY OF INCIDENTS**

## **January 2026**

### **i. Fatal road crash kills school pupil**

**Date:** 15 January 2026 **Location:** Daru Foday Ba

A road crash reportedly killed Mamadi Nije, a Grade 3 pupil. Community members called for speed humps and other highway safety precautions.

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**Human rights concerns:** Life, child safety, safe mobility, road design, speed control, and effective crash investigation.

**Required response:** Investigate the crash and urgently assess engineering, signage, and speed-calming measures at the location.

**ii. Fire at GTSC headquarters**

**Date:** 30 January 2026 **Location:** Kanifing

A fire occurred at the main headquarters of the Gambia Transport Service Company. Its cause was reported to be under investigation.

**Human rights concerns:** Workplace and public safety, fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and institutional accountability.

**Required response:** Publish the investigation outcome and implement corrective fire-safety and electrical-safety measures.

**February 2026**

**iii. Fire leaves family homeless**

**Date:** 24 February 2026 **Location:** Njaba Kunda Village

A fire reportedly left Saikou Jaiteh and his family homeless. Police were said to be investigating the cause.

**Human rights concerns:** Safety, adequate housing, protection of property and assistance to displaced persons.

**Required response:** Conclude the investigation, provide emergency support, and publish guidance on prevention.

**iv. Fire destroys belongings and documents**

**Date:** 26 February 2026 **Location:** Kerewan

A fire reportedly caused Suwareh Hydara to lose almost all her belongings, including important documents. The cause was under investigation.

**Human rights concerns:** Safety, housing, property, access to replacement civil documents and recovery support.

**Required response:** Determine the cause, assist the victim, and facilitate replacement of essential documents.

**March 2026**

**v. Re-arrest of Ousainou and Amie Bojang after acquittal**

**Date:** 31 March 2026 **Location:** Mile 2 Prison Gate; subsequent protest in Brufut



Ousainou Bojang and Amie Bojang were re-arrested immediately after leaving Mile 2 Prison following their acquittal and unconditional release in the 2023 Sukuta–Jabang traffic-light shooting case. Their re-arrest prompted protests in Brufut. They were subsequently released.

**Human rights concerns:** Liberty, security, due process, respect for judicial authority, freedom of movement and assembly, and the right to an effective remedy.

**Required response:** Disclose the legal basis for the re-arrest, investigate responsibility for any unlawful deprivation of liberty, and provide an effective remedy where a violation is established.

### **April 2026**

#### **vi. Interception of suspected irregular migration journey**

**Date:** 19 April 2026 **Location:** Barra

Immigration officers reportedly intercepted 32 people believed to be gathering in preparation for an irregular migration journey.

**Human rights concerns:** Life and safety, trafficking and smuggling risks, liberty, dignity, non-discrimination, and due process.

**Required response:** Investigate facilitators and exploiters, assess protection needs, and ensure that all intercepted persons are treated lawfully and humanely.

### **May 2026**

#### **vii. Cutlass attack and police shooting during arrest**

**Date:** 5 May 2026 **Location:** Brikama

A man allegedly attacked three people with a cutlass. Police reportedly shot him while effecting arrest. The suspect and the three injured persons were receiving medical treatment, and proceedings were said to be ongoing.

**Human rights concerns:** Life, bodily integrity, public safety, access to medical care, lawful use of force and fair trial.

**Required response:** Investigate both the attacks and the use of firearms, preserve evidence, support the injured and ensure due process.

#### **viii. Arrests at GALA commemoration**

**Date:** 8 May 2026 **Location:** Westfield

The monitoring record states that 14 GALA members and executives were arrested during a commemoration at the Youth Monument. Police reportedly asserted that the organizers lacked permission to converge, while KMC had authorized use of the space.

**Human rights concerns:** Liberty, peaceful assembly, expression, movement, legality of restrictions and protection from arbitrary arrest.

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**Required response:** Review the arrests independently, disclose the legal basis, facilitate peaceful assemblies, and remedy any unlawful detention or restriction.

**ix. Alleged excessive force against Alieu Bah**

**Date:** 8 May 2026 **Location:** Westfield

Alieu Bah, identified as a GALA executive member, was allegedly forcefully arrested, dragged, and thrown into a police vehicle, sustaining injuries.

**Human rights concerns:** Physical integrity, dignity, freedom from cruel or degrading treatment, lawful arrest, and accountability for force.

**Required response:** Conduct an independent investigation, document injuries, identify officers involved and impose disciplinary or criminal accountability where warranted.

**x. Omar Bah found dead in his truck**

**Date:** 9 May 2026 **Location:** Banjul Ferry Terminal

Omar Bah, a truck driver, was reportedly found dead inside his truck in the early morning. His body was taken to Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital for medical examination. The monitoring record states that no official report on the cause of death had been issued.

**Human rights concerns:** Right to life, effective investigation of an unexplained death, transparency, and support to the family.

**Required response:** Complete a prompt medico-legal investigation and communicate the cause and findings to the family, subject to lawful confidentiality.

**xi. Alleged child abuse and neglect**

**Date:** 10 May 2026 **Location:** Tujereng, West Coast Region

A boy was allegedly found tied by his ankles inside the residence of his guardian, identified in the source record as Pastor Daniel. The guardian was arrested and later reportedly released while investigations continued. No formal charge or investigation status had been publicly announced when the incident was recorded.

**Human rights concerns:** Child protection, physical and psychological integrity, freedom from cruel or degrading treatment, best interests of the child and accountability.

**Required response:** Ensure the child's safety and psychosocial care, conduct a prompt child-sensitive investigation, and provide appropriate public follow-up without compromising privacy.

**June 2026**

**xii. Alleged rape of a nine-year-old girl**

**Date:** 8 June 2026 **Location:** Coastal Road area

A nine-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a watchman at a neighbourhood mechanic workshop after being sent to a shop. The suspect was reportedly apprehended and held by police.

**Human rights concerns:** Child protection, bodily and psychological integrity, privacy, access to health care and justice, and protection from sexual violence.

**Required response:** Provide confidential survivor-centred medical, psychosocial, and legal support; conduct a prompt child-sensitive investigation; and protect the child's identity.

#### **xiii. Death of Ba Musa Sabally after alleged group assault**

**Date:** 10 June 2026 **Location:** Drimakolong, Brikama

Ba Musa Sabally was allegedly beaten by a group of youths following a dispute over a phone he had unknowingly purchased. He was reportedly left near a cemetery, taken home by a taxi driver, and later died on arrival at hospital.

**Human rights concerns:** Life, physical integrity, protection from mob violence, effective investigation, and access to justice.

**Required response:** Identify all persons involved, investigate the death promptly and ensure protection and information for the family and witnesses.

#### **xiv. Fatal stabbing of Yunusa Mbaye**

**Date:** 15 June 2026 **Location:** Fajara

An altercation reportedly led to the fatal stabbing of Yunusa Mbaye. A suspect was detained at Mile 2 and judicial proceedings were said to be ongoing.

**Human rights concerns:** Life, public safety, effective investigation, fair trial, and victim-family access to justice.

**Required response:** Conduct an evidence-based prosecution, ensure fair-trial guarantees, and support the victim's family.

#### **xv. Death of Kebba Sarr under investigation**

**Date:** 16 June 2026 **Location:** Nema Wellingara

Kebba Sarr, a truck driver, was reportedly found dead in an apartment. A 19-year-old suspect was held by police and assisting investigations.

**Human rights concerns:** Life, effective investigation, presumption of innocence, lawful detention, and due process.

**Required response:** Complete a prompt forensic investigation and ensure that any suspect's rights and the family's right to information are respected.

**xvi. Fatal road crash at YBK**

**Date:** 21 June 2026 **Location:** YBK, Central River Region

A road crash reportedly killed seven passengers and left 19 people seriously injured.

**Human rights concerns:** Life, bodily integrity, emergency medical response, road safety, and accountability.

**Required response:** Conduct a transparent crash investigation, support victims and families, and implement identified road, vehicle, and enforcement remedies.

**xvii. Fatal nightclub stabbing**

**Date:** 21 June 2026 **Location:** Sir Charles Lwanga Hall, Faji Kunda

A 20-year-old man was reportedly stabbed to death at a nightclub by an 18-year-old. The suspect was held at Mile 2 while High Court proceedings were ongoing.

**Human rights concerns:** Life, public safety, effective investigation, fair trial, and venue safety.

**Required response:** Ensure a prompt and fair judicial process and review security and violence-prevention measures at nightlife venues.

===== **Selected Human Rights Incidents** =====



**The Late Yunusa**



**Truck driver found dead**



**Fatal accident at YBK**



**Alieu Bah arrested**



**Would-be migrants**



**Fire destroyed family**

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## **7. INSTITUTIONAL AND ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT**

The incidents demonstrate that protection of rights requires more than arresting suspects. Authorities must prevent harm, respond promptly, protect victims and witnesses, preserve evidence, investigate impartially, disclose appropriate information, and ensure judicial remedies. Gaps in any part of this chain weaken public confidence and may expose survivors to further harm.

### **7.1 Law-Enforcement Accountability**

Allegations against police officers should not be investigated solely through opaque internal processes. Independent oversight, preservation of video and custody records, access to medical documentation and clear public reporting are necessary to establish facts and maintain confidence.

### **7.2 Transparency and Case Follow-Up**

Several incident records ended with an investigation described as ongoing. Authorities should provide periodic updates and final outcomes, while respecting privacy, the presumption of innocence and the integrity of proceedings. Silence leaves victims and the public uncertain whether any corrective action was taken.

### **7.3 Prevention and Victim Support**

The State's obligations are preventive as well as reactive. Road engineering, child safeguarding, fire safety, migration awareness, community violence prevention, and accessible emergency services are essential components of human rights protection.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.1 To the Government of The Gambia**

1. Ensure that all state institutions respect constitutional rights and judicial orders and provide effective remedies for unlawful state action.
2. Strengthen adequately resourced child-protection, victim-support, forensic, emergency-response, road-safety, and fire-safety systems.
3. Require transparent reporting on deaths, serious injuries and allegations involving state agents.
4. Address drivers of unsafe migration through youth opportunity, protection services and action against trafficking and smuggling networks.

### **8.2 To The Gambia Police Force and Other Security Agencies**

1. Ensure every arrest has a clear legal basis, is properly recorded and is subject to prompt judicial oversight.
2. Facilitate peaceful assembly and apply any restriction only when lawful, necessary, and proportionate.

3. Investigate alleged excessive force independently; preserve operational records; and hold officers accountable where evidence warrants.
4. Use firearms only in accordance with law and strict necessity to protect life, followed by an independent review.
5. Provide timely case updates and protect victims, witnesses, children and suspects from public exposure or retaliation.

### **8.3 To the National Human Rights Commission**

1. Independently monitor the arrests and alleged use of force at Westfield and the re-arrest of the Bojang siblings.
2. Follow up on child-protection and sexual-violence cases and assess access to remedies and support.
3. Publish findings and recommendations and track institutional compliance.

### **8.4 To the Department of Social Welfare and Health Authorities**

1. Ensure immediate safety assessment, confidential medical care, and psychosocial support for child survivors.
2. Use child-sensitive interviewing and referral procedures and prioritize the best interests of the child.
3. Support families affected by violence, fire, road crashes, and unexplained deaths.

### **8.5 To Local Authorities and Road, Transport, and Fire-Safety Institutions**

1. Conduct urgent safety assessments at Daru Foday Ba and YBK and implement evidence-based speed, signage, and infrastructure measures.
2. Investigate recorded fires, strengthen inspections and public education, and improve emergency response capacity.
3. Review safety and violence-prevention requirements at transport facilities, workplaces, and nightlife venues.

### **8.6 To Civil Society and the Media**

1. Continue independent monitoring and survivor-sensitive reporting while protecting children's identities and the presumption of innocence.
2. Track case outcomes, institutional responses, and implementation of recommendations.
3. Avoid sensationalism and language that may stigmatize victims, migrants, or accused persons.



## 9. CONCLUSION

The first half of 2026 presented serious concerns involving liberty, civic space, child protection, violence, road safety, and institutional accountability. The most urgent test is whether the authorities move beyond initial arrests and announcements to credible investigation, protection, remedy, and prevention.

EFSCRJ calls on all responsible institutions to treat every incident as a public duty to protect rights and strengthen the rule of law. Accountability for state agents, justice for victims, fair treatment of suspects and transparent follow-up are mutually reinforcing obligations.

EFSCRJ will continue to monitor these cases and advocate for institutional reforms that place human dignity, constitutional rights, and public safety at the centre of governance.

**The End**

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**“Transparency and Accountability are the Foundations of Justice.”**

**EFSCRJ Motto**



## 10. Appendix: Incident Classification

| Classification                            | Number    |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Law enforcement, liberty, and civic space | 3         |
| Child protection and sexual violence      | 2         |
| Fatal or serious interpersonal violence   | 5         |
| Road traffic deaths and injuries          | 2         |
| Fires and public safety                   | 3         |
| Migration and protection                  | 1         |
| Unexplained death                         | 1         |
| <b>Total incidents</b>                    | <b>17</b> |

***Source Note:** This report consolidates EFSCRJ monitoring notes based on the Gambia Police Force Facebook page, public institution information, media reporting, and other open sources. Individual source links and official case documents were not included in the underlying file and should be added to future editions to strengthen verification and traceability.*