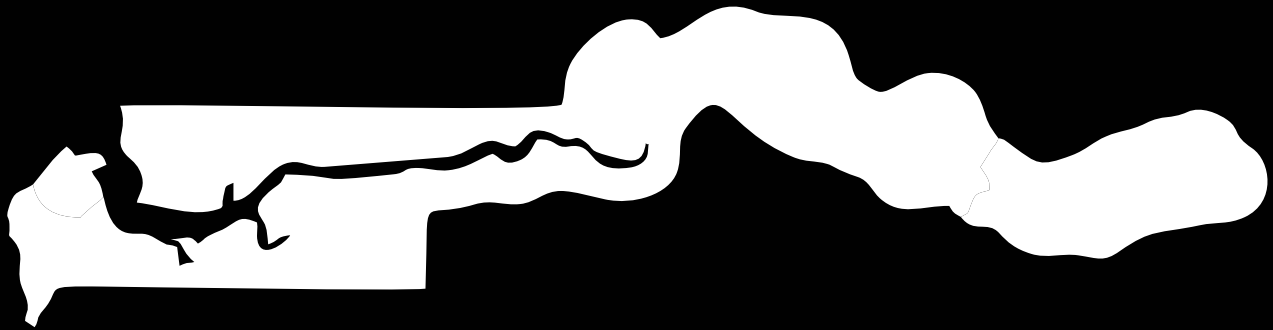


HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENT REPORT

The Gambia | July 2026



Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice

EFSCRJ is an independent civil society organization dedicated to advancing human rights, democratic governance, accountability, transparency, and constitutionalism in The Gambia. Through regular monitoring, the Centre documents incidents that may affect the enjoyment of fundamental rights and assesses the response of public institutions.

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Monitoring, Documentation and Accountability is a core programme of the Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice through which the Centre systematically tracks, documents, and reports human rights violations and other incidents affecting the rights, freedoms, dignity and welfare of people in The Gambia. Through evidence-based monitoring and sustained follow-up, EFSCRJ seeks to make violations visible, preserve the facts, amplify the voices of victims, hold duty-bearers accountable, secure remedies and advocate for institutional reforms that prevent recurrence and strengthen respect for human rights and the rule of law.

This report consolidates significant incidents recorded in July 2026 and examines their implications for the rights to life, liberty, physical integrity, child protection, due process, and accountable law enforcement. It is intended for state institutions, civil society, the media, development partners, and the public.

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About this Report

This monthly report presents incidents identified through EFSCRJ human rights monitoring during July 2026. It is intended to strengthen 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 remain ongoing, every suspect retains the presumption of innocence and the right to due process.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Edward Francis Small Centre for Rights and Justice (EFSCRJ) documented eight human rights and public-safety incidents during July 2026. The record was dominated by interpersonal violence: six of the eight incidents involved assault or fatal violence. Three incidents resulted in death through alleged stabbing, including the deaths of two children. The monitoring record also documents an interception linked to suspected irregular migration and an allegation of harassment by an on-duty police officer.

The most serious pattern is violence involving young people and children. On 4 July, 14-year-old student Muhammed Camara was fatally stabbed in Busumbala Darusalam, reportedly by a group of minors aged 13 to 15. On 17 July, a 15-year-old boy died after an alleged stabbing in Tallinding involving a 16-year-old suspect. On 13 July, an 18-year-old complainant alleged that three minors restrained, stabbed, and beat him. These cases require an urgent child-protection and violence-prevention response that goes beyond criminal prosecution.

The reported police harassment incident of 23 July also raises institutional accountability concerns. The monitoring record states that the Gambia Police Force dismissed the officer for misconduct and drug abuse while on duty. EFSCRJ welcomes disciplinary action where wrongdoing is established, while stressing that internal discipline should not replace an independent criminal investigation where the alleged conduct may amount to an offence.

Key Finding: Six of eight documented incidents concerned assault or fatal violence. Three fatal stabbing incidents were recorded within a 13-day period, and two of the deceased were children. The pattern demands coordinated prevention, child safeguarding, effective investigation, and community-level intervention.

2. SCOPE, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

2.1 Sources and approach

The report is based on the Gambia Police Force Facebook page, media monitoring and information released by public institutions, as recorded in the source incident log. EFSCRJ reviewed the accounts, organised them chronologically, identified recurring themes and assessed the human rights concerns they raise.

2.2 Evidentiary standard

Where facts have not been judicially determined, this report uses terms such as alleged, reportedly, and according to the monitoring record. Arrest, detention or the recovery of an alleged weapon does not establish guilt. Criminal responsibility may only be determined by a competent, independent, and impartial court after a fair process.

2.3 Limitations

- The monitoring record is incident-based and is not an exhaustive census of crime or human rights violations in The Gambia.
- The underlying log does not consistently include interviews with victims, witnesses, accused persons or investigating authorities, nor copies of police files, medical records, or court documents.
- Several investigations were ongoing when the incidents were recorded thus later developments may therefore not be reflected.
- The account of the 3 July migration interception is linguistically ambiguous regarding the number of vessels seized therefore this report does not infer details that are not clear in the source.

3. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

The incidents engage obligations under the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia and relevant national, regional, and international human rights standards. The principal rights and duties include the right to life, personal liberty, and security, protection from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, protection of children from violence and abuse, fair-trial guarantees, and the duty of law-enforcement officers to act lawfully and accountably.

Relevant national instruments include the Constitution, the Criminal Offences Act 2025, the Children’s Act 2005, the Police Act, and applicable immigration legislation. International and regional standards include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

For children accused of offences, the justice response must remain child-sensitive, respect due process and prioritize rehabilitation and reintegration in accordance with applicable juvenile-justice standards. Child protection obligations apply both to child victims and to children in conflict with the law.

4. OVERVIEW OF RECORDED INCIDENTS

Date	Location	Category	Recorded account/status
3 Jul	Tujereng	Migration/protection	32 prospective migrants intercepted with vessel(s) and fuel
4 Jul	Busumbala Darusalam	Fatal violence / child protection	14-year-old student allegedly fatally stabbed; three minors held
5 Jul	Wellingara, CRR	Fatal violence	43-year-old shopkeeper Abdoulie Jobe allegedly stabbed to death
11 Jul	Dippa Kunda	Assault	Young woman allegedly injured with broken bottle; suspect held
13 Jul	Banjul	Assault / child justice	18-year-old allegedly restrained, stabbed, and beaten; three minors held
17 Jul	Tallinding	Fatal violence / child protection	15-year-old boy died after alleged stabbing; 16-year-old suspect held
23 Jul	Coastal Road	Police misconduct	Shopkeeper allegedly threatened by on-duty officer; officer dismissed
31 Jul	Lamin Babylon	Assault / community conflict	Neighbour dispute; two men taken into police custody

5. KEY HUMAN RIGHTS FINDINGS

5.1 Violence involving children and young people

The strongest pattern in July is interpersonal violence involving young people. Three fatal stabbings were recorded, two involving child victims. Children were also reportedly suspects in the Busumbala, Tallinding and Banjul cases. This pattern cannot be addressed through arrest and prosecution alone. It calls for coordinated prevention involving families, schools, communities, social services, health services, youth institutions, and law enforcement.

5.2 Right to life and effective investigation

The deaths of Muhammed Camara, Abdoulie Jobe and the 15-year-old Tallinding victim engage the State's obligation to conduct prompt, effective and impartial investigations and to ensure access to justice for affected families. Where children are suspected, investigation and prosecution must also comply with child-justice safeguards and the presumption of innocence.

5.3 Assault, weapons, and community safety

The Banjul and Dippa Kunda cases involved alleged use of a knife and a broken bottle, while the Lamin Babylon case arose from a dispute involving neighbours and their families. Together with

the fatal stabbing cases, these incidents raise concern about escalation of ordinary disputes into serious violence and the availability or use of weapons in interpersonal conflicts.

5.4 Police conduct and accountability

The 23 July Coastal Road incident concerns alleged harassment and threats by an on-duty police officer against a shopkeeper. According to the monitoring record, the Gambia Police Force dismissed the officer for misconduct and drug abuse while on duty. Swift disciplinary action is important, but transparent accountability also requires an assessment of whether criminal or other legal proceedings are warranted and whether the affected person has access to an effective remedy.

5.5 Unsafe migration and protection

The interception of 32 prospective migrants in Tujereng highlights continuing risks linked to unsafe migration and migrant smuggling. Enforcement should focus on organisers and exploiters while ensuring that intercepted persons are treated with dignity, screened for protection needs and not criminalised merely for being prospective migrants.

6. CHRONOLOGY AND INCIDENT ANALYSIS

Interception linked to suspected irregular migration

Date: 3 July 2026 **Location:** Tujereng

The monitoring record states that the Tanji Immigration border patrol conducted a two-day operation in the West Coast Region and intercepted 32 prospective migrants in Tujereng together with vessel(s) and fuel. The source wording does not clearly establish the number of vessels.

Human Rights Concerns: Life and safety at sea, protection from trafficking or smuggling-related exploitation, dignity, non-discrimination, and due process.

Required Response: Investigate organizers and facilitators, assess protection needs, and ensure humane treatment of all intercepted persons.

Fatal stabbing of 14-year-old Muhammed Camara

Date: 4 July 2026 **Location:** Busumbala Darusalam

Muhammed Camara, a 14-year-old student, was reportedly fatally stabbed by a group of minors aged 13, 14 and 15. He was taken to Sukuta Health Centre and later referred to Kanifing General Hospital, where he died. The three minors were in police custody assisting investigations.

Human Rights Concerns: Right to life, child protection, access to emergency health care, effective investigation, and child-sensitive justice for minors in conflict with the law.

Required Response: Ensure a prompt and child-sensitive investigation, protect the victim's family, guarantee legal safeguards for the accused minors, and undertake a child-protection assessment of the wider circumstances.

Death of Abdoulie Jobe following alleged stabbing**Date:** 5 July 2026 **Location:** Wellingara Village, Central River Region

Abdoulie Jobe, a 43-year-old shopkeeper, was reportedly stabbed to death in his shop allegedly by Ebrima Jawo. The suspect was said to be in police custody assisting investigations.

Human Rights Concerns: Right to life, community safety, effective investigation, presumption of innocence and access to justice for the family.

Required Response: Complete a prompt evidence-based investigation, protect witnesses, support the family, and ensure due process for the suspect.

Broken-bottle assault at City Hub Pub**Date:** 11 July 2026 **Location:** City Hub Pub, Dippa Kunda

Two young women were reportedly involved in an altercation in which one sustained a head injury from a broken bottle. A suspect was taken into police custody while investigations continued.

Human rights concerns: Physical integrity, public safety, medical care, lawful detention, and fair process.

Required Response: Investigate the assault promptly, document injuries, ensure medical support for the injured person and respect due process.

Alleged restraint, stabbing and assault of an 18-year-old**Date:** 13 July 2026 **Location:** Banjul

An 18-year-old complainant alleged that three minors tied him with a rope inside a house, stabbed him in the shoulder with a knife and subjected him to further beatings, causing injuries. The three minors were in police custody while investigations continued.

Human Rights Concerns: Liberty, physical integrity, protection from violence, effective investigation, and child-sensitive justice for minor suspects.

Required Response: Investigate the allegations thoroughly, ensure care and protection for the complainant and guarantee all juvenile-justice safeguards for the minors.

Fatal stabbing of a 15-year-old boy**Date:** 17 July 2026 **Location:** Tallinding

A 15-year-old boy reportedly died at Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital after being stabbed in the abdomen during an incident involving a 16-year-old boy. The 16-year-old was arrested, and an alleged weapon was recovered. Investigations were ongoing.

Human Rights Concerns: Right to life, child protection, effective investigation, safe custody, presumption of innocence and child-sensitive justice.

Required Response: Conduct a prompt child-sensitive investigation, support the victim’s family, secure appropriate legal representation for the accused child and address the protection factors surrounding youth violence.

Alleged harassment and threats by an on-duty police officer

Date: 23 July 2026 **Location:** Coastal Road

A shopkeeper alleged that an on-duty uniformed police officer threatened and harassed him late at night after the shopkeeper refused the officer’s request for goods on credit. The monitoring record states that the Gambia Police Force later dismissed the officer for misconduct and drug abuse while on duty.

Human Rights Concerns: Security of person, dignity, protection from abuse of public authority, professional policing, and access to an effective remedy.

Required Response: Disclose the disciplinary basis and outcome as appropriate, independently assess whether criminal conduct occurred, and ensure the complainant has access to protection and remedy.

Neighbour dispute and alleged assault

Date: 31 July 2026 **Location:** Lamin Babylon

A complainant alleged that a neighbour threatened and assaulted him. Both men were taken into police custody and questioned, along with witnesses. The monitoring record indicates that the dispute also involved their families.

Human Rights Concerns: Physical integrity, community safety, lawful arrest or detention, due process, and prevention of retaliatory violence.

Required Response: Investigate impartially, clarify the legal basis for any detention, protect the parties from retaliation, and consider appropriate mediation only where it is safe and does not displace criminal accountability.

7. INSTITUTIONAL AND ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT

July’s incidents show a need for a protection system that combines effective criminal justice with prevention. Arresting suspects after serious violence is necessary where lawful and evidence-based, but it does not address the conditions that allow disputes among young people to escalate into stabbing, serious injury, and death.

7.1 Child protection and juvenile justice

Children appear both as victims and alleged offenders in the July record. The State must therefore pursue two obligations at once: protect children from violence and ensure that children accused of offences are treated in accordance with child-justice guarantees. Detention should be lawful and age-appropriate, legal representation should be available, and rehabilitation and reintegration should remain central.

7.2 Law-enforcement accountability

The reported dismissal of the officer in the Coastal Road case is a notable accountability step. EFSCRJ stresses, however, that disciplinary and criminal accountability are distinct. Where conduct by an officer may constitute an offence, an independent investigation and appropriate legal process remain necessary.

7.3 Data, prevention, and public transparency

The authorities should systematically publish anonymised data on violent incidents involving children and young people, case outcomes, and prevention measures. Reliable data are essential to determine whether the incidents documented in July represent a broader trend and to design interventions based on evidence rather than perception.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To the Government of The Gambia

- a) Convene a coordinated youth-violence prevention response involving Social Welfare, Education, Youth and Sports, Health, Interior, local authorities, and civil society.
- b) Strengthen child-protection services, school and community safeguarding, psychosocial support, and referral systems for children at risk of violence or offending.
- c) Support evidence-based programmes on conflict resolution, weapon-related harm, parenting, youth recreation, and community safety.
- d) Address the drivers of unsafe migration through protection, opportunity, awareness, and action against smuggling networks.

8.2 To the Gambia Police Force

- a) Ensure prompt, impartial and evidence-based investigations of every fatal or serious assault and provide appropriate updates to affected families.
- b) Apply child-sensitive procedures whenever a child is a victim, witness, or suspect, including access to guardianship, legal assistance, and appropriate custody safeguards.
- c) Investigate alleged misconduct by officers independently and distinguish disciplinary action from possible criminal accountability.
- d) Record and publish anonymised statistics on serious violence, including age, location, weapon type, and case status, consistent with privacy obligations.

8.3 To the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare

- a) Conduct child-protection assessments in cases involving child victims and alleged child offenders and provide psychosocial and family support.
- b) Coordinate community-level prevention programmes targeting children and adolescents at risk of violence.
- c) Track implementation of the Children's Act and strengthen referral pathways between police, schools, health facilities, and social workers.

8.4 To the Judiciary and Ministry of Justice

- a) Ensure prompt and fair proceedings in serious violence cases while fully protecting the presumption of innocence.
- b) Guarantee child-sensitive procedures, legal representation, and rehabilitation-oriented justice for children in conflict with the law.
- c) Ensure that allegations of criminal misconduct by public officers are assessed independently of internal disciplinary proceedings.

8.5 To families, communities, schools, and civil society

- a) Strengthen early identification of conflict, violence and protection risks among children and young people and refer concerns to appropriate services.
- b) Promote non-violent conflict resolution and responsible adult supervision without stigmatising children or families.
- c) Continue independent monitoring of case outcomes, institutional responses, and implementation of prevention measures.

9. CONCLUSION

July 2026 was marked by a disturbing concentration of interpersonal violence, particularly involving children and young people. Three fatal stabbings within less than two weeks, alongside other assaults, demand more than case-by-case criminal investigation. They require a coordinated national and community response focused on prevention, child protection, public safety, and justice.

EFSCRJ calls on the Government, law-enforcement agencies, child-protection institutions, the Judiciary, families, schools, communities, and civil society to act with urgency. Every victim deserves protection and justice, every accused person is entitled to due process, and every child deserves a system capable of preventing violence before a life is lost.

EFSCRJ position: No child's life should be cut short, and no child's future should be lost to violence. Prevention, protection, justice, and accountability must work together.

The End