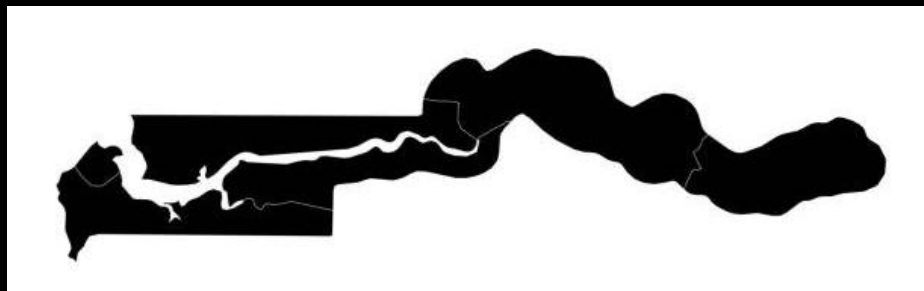


HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENT REPORT



The Gambia | September 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 fundamental rights and assesses the response of public institutions.

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Monitoring, Documentation and Accountability is a core program through which EFSCRJ systematically tracks and reports incidents affecting rights, freedoms, dignity, and welfare. The program seeks to preserve facts, amplify victims' voices, hold duty-bearers accountable, secure remedies and advocate for reforms that prevent recurrence.

This report consolidates significant incidents recorded in September 2026 and examines their implications for life, personal security, child protection, gender, peaceful assembly, equality, and institutional accountability.

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About this Report

This monthly report presents eight incidents or developments identified in the September monitoring record. It is intended to strengthen public awareness, institutional accountability, and evidence-based advocacy on human rights protection in The Gambia.

Important Qualification: The report records allegations and publicly reported events. Inclusion does not amount to a judicial finding of guilt or a final determination of a human rights violation. Suspects retain the presumption of innocence and the right to due process.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The September monitoring record documents eight human rights and public-safety incidents or developments: a reported killing in Kololi; alleged robbery and confinement in Brusubi; deaths during a migration journey; two newborn abandonment cases; the deaths of four military recruits; electricity protests and alleged excessive force; and ethnic and origin-based political rhetoric.

The most urgent concerns relate to protection of life and personal security. The circumstances of the reported recruit and migration deaths remain unresolved during the period under review. The newborn cases require immediate protection and support, alongside investigation. The reported killing and confinement call for effective police action that respects victims' and suspects' rights.

Electricity interruptions affected livelihoods and essential services and prompted protests. Reports of tear gas use require examination of policing decisions and the circumstances of each incident. Ethnically divisive campaign rhetoric also raises concerns about equality, social cohesion, and peaceful political participation.

Key Finding: September's record points to serious protection needs and unresolved questions of institutional accountability. Prompt investigations, public information, support for affected people and preventive measures are essential.

2. SCOPE METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

2.1 Sources and Approach

The report draws on the supplied September monitoring record, which identifies the Gambia Police Force Facebook page, media monitoring and information released by public institutions as its sources. Accounts have been organized by date, with recurring themes assessed. No additional field interviews or independent verification are claimed.

2.2 Evidentiary Standard

The report uses alleged, reportedly, and according to the monitoring record where facts are not established. Arrest or detention does not establish guilt. Competing explanations are recorded without selecting one as proven. Private criminal acts are distinguished from questions about the State's prevention, protection, and accountability response.

2.3 Limitations

- The record is incident-based and is not an exhaustive census of human rights violations or crime.
- Individual source links, medical records, investigation files, and witness statements are not attached to the draft.
- Dates may refer to the incident or its reporting. The recruit deaths are dated 11 September in the monitoring record, but the training location is not supplied.

- Investigations were described as ongoing when recorded. Subsequent outcomes are not established here.
- The whereabouts or condition of the newborn in the Brikama account and the subsequent condition of the rescued newborn are not recorded. Identifying details of mothers are omitted to protect privacy.

3. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

The report considers the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia, 1997, and the standards reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Convention (ACHPR) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

Relevant rights and principles include life, dignity, liberty, personal security, equality, peaceful assembly, expression, fair process, inclusion, protection of children and access to essential services. Assessments identify concerns requiring investigation and remedial action. They do not substitute for judicial findings.

4. OVERVIEW OF RECORDED INCIDENTS

Date	Location	Category	Recorded Account and Status
3 Sept	Brikama	Child protection	Newborn reportedly abandoned; whereabouts and condition not established
8 Sept	Greater Banjul Area	Assembly and essential services	Electricity protests; tear gas use reported
11 Sept	Not supplied	Military training deaths	Four recruits reportedly died; competing explanations and investigation recorded
21 Sept	Foni Jifanga	Child protection	Newborn reportedly rescued from pit latrine
26 Sept	Farafenni	Ethnic and political rhetoric	Remarks attributed to Hamat Bah concerning origin and ethnic communities
27 Sept	Kololi	Fatal violence	Lamin Mboge reportedly died after altercation; suspect held
27 Sept	Brusubi	Robbery and confinement	Make-up artist allegedly restrained and robbed; two suspects arrested
27 Sept	Mauritania	Migration and protection	Boat reportedly intercepted; three deaths reported during journey

5. KEY HUMAN RIGHTS FINDINGS

5.1 Protection of life and effective investigation

The reported killing, migration deaths and recruit deaths require credible investigations into cause and circumstances. The evidence does not establish that the recruit deaths shared one cause. Families need information, support, and access to justice where wrongdoing is established.

5.2 Violence and personal security

The alleged restraint and robbery of a make-up artist illustrates risks associated with deception and interpersonal violence. Police responses should preserve evidence, protect the victim's privacy, and uphold due process.

5.3 Child protection and maternal support

The newborn accounts raise urgent survival and safeguarding concerns. Investigation must be accompanied by medical care, safe placement, and confidential maternal support. Stigma is suggested in one account but is not an established explanation.

5.4 Peaceful assembly and electricity supply

Electricity failures affected livelihoods and essential services. Protest policing must be examined alongside the need to address public grievances. The use of tear gas requires scrutiny of necessity, proportionality, and its effects.

5.5 Equality and divisive political rhetoric

Rhetoric invoking ethnic origin or alleged expulsion of communities risks promoting fear and hostility. Political leaders should protect equal citizenship and peaceful participation and correct unsupported allegations.

5.6 Migration and protection

The reported interception and deaths demonstrate the dangers of unsafe migration journeys. Survivors and families require assistance, while any inquiry into facilitation or exploitation must avoid prejudging the status of everyone aboard.

6. CHRONOLOGY AND INCIDENT ANALYSIS

6.1 Reported Newborn Abandonment in Brikama

Date: 3 September 2026 | **Location:** Brikama

The monitoring record reports that a young woman gave birth but was subsequently seen without the baby. When questioned, she reportedly said she had abandoned the child, while another account attributed to her referred to handing the baby to an unidentified woman in a bush area near Marakisa. The reporting does not establish the baby's whereabouts or condition.

Human Rights Concerns: The immediate concern is the child's survival and safety. The inconsistent account requires urgent verification. The mother may also need medical, psychosocial, and legal support, without prejudging responsibility.

Required Response: Police, health workers, and child protection services should urgently establish the child’s whereabouts and condition, secure appropriate care, and assess the mother’s support needs.

6.2 Electricity Protests and Alleged Excessive Force

Date: 8 September 2026 with protests reported over three days | **Location:** Greater Banjul Area and surrounding communities

Residents reportedly protested prolonged electricity interruptions affecting businesses, service centres such as hospitals and schools, households, and livelihoods. The monitoring record states that supply was restored in some areas, including Banjul, following protests, while protesters in Latrikunda, Brufut and Serrekunda reportedly encountered Police Intervention Unit officers using tear gas. Three NAWEC outlets within the Greater Banjul Area were vandalized as well as the Farato poli e post and the NPP bureau in Busumbala. Dozens were reportedly arrested with some released without bail while others were arraigned for unlawful assembly, looting, and damage to property.

Human Rights Concerns: The reports engage peaceful assembly and public safety, alongside the effects of electricity interruptions on health and livelihoods. Whether particular uses of force were necessary and proportionate requires examination of each incident.

Required Response: Police and oversight institutions should investigate alleged excessive force, preserve operational records, and facilitate complaints. Electricity authorities should publish service information and prioritize continuity for essential facilities.

6.3 Reported deaths of four military recruits

Date: 11 September 2026 | **Location:** Ndemban, Kanifing and EFSTH hospitals

The monitoring records the deaths during training of four recruits named Mamudou Nyabally, Saja Darboe, Lamin Koita and Tamsir Bah. It contains competing accounts attributing the deaths to food poisoning or training conditions. Neither explanation is established by the material time of compilation of this report. The Gambia Armed Forces has reportedly announced investigations into the matter.

Human Rights Concerns: Deaths in a military training setting require close scrutiny of safety, food and water, medical care, supervision, and emergency response. The evidence available does not establish whether the deaths were linked or what caused them.

Required Response: The responsible authorities should verify the names and circumstances, undertake a credible investigation supported by appropriate medical evidence, inform the families and publish findings consistent with privacy protections. Immediate safety measures should address any identified hazards.

6.4 Newborn reportedly rescued from a pit latrine

Date: 21 September 2026 | **Location:** Foni Jifanga

A man reportedly heard a sound from a pit latrine and alerted his brother. They reportedly broke through the floor and rescued a newborn. The monitoring record states that the mother was

subsequently identified and suggests that stigma surrounding pregnancy outside marriage contributed to concealment. That explanation has not been independently established.

Human Rights Concerns: The account raises serious concerns about the newborn’s survival, health, and protection. The child’s subsequent condition is not recorded. The mother’s circumstances and any criminal responsibility require investigation rather than public speculation.

Required Response: Health and child protection services should confirm the newborn’s condition, provide treatment and safe care, and assess support needs. Authorities should investigate while protecting the privacy of the child and mother.

6.5 Divisive ethnic and origin based political rhetoric

Date: 26 September 2026 | **Location:** Farafenni

The monitoring record attributes remarks at a presidential rally to Hamat Bah, the Minister for Local Government and Lands and also party leader of NRP which is in alliance with the ruling NPP of Pres. Barrow. It reports that he warned against a “foreigner” leading The Gambia and invoked Lebanon. The monitoring record interprets those remarks as directed at Mayor Talib Ahmed Bensouda who has a Morocco heritage but widely and erroneously associated with Lebanese heritage. It also attributes to Bah a claim that UDP was challenging only Wolof and Fula citizens in the revising courts, adding that a UDP government would expel Fula and Wolof people and dismiss all civil servants to be replaced by Gambians in the diaspora. Bah has provided no supporting evidence for his claims.

Human Rights Concerns: Political rhetoric linking eligibility or belonging to ethnic origin risks undermining equal citizenship and encouraging hostility. Allegations that entire communities face expulsion or citizens at home are at risk of removal can create fear and division.

Required Response: Political leaders should reject ethnic hostility, correct unsupported claims, and promote equal citizenship. Relevant oversight institutions should examine verified recordings and respond within their mandates. Parties should enforce clear standards for campaign speech.

6.6 Reported killing in Kololi

Date: 27 September 2026 | **Location:** Kololi

The monitoring reports the death of 39-year-old Lamin Mboge following a reported physical altercation at a residence. He reportedly sustained injuries, received treatment at Kanifing General Hospital, and subsequently died. A 28-year-old suspect was reportedly in police custody while investigations continued.

Human Rights Concerns: The death engages protection of life and the need for an effective investigation. The suspect retains the presumption of innocence and rights to lawful detention and fair process.

Required Response: Police should establish the circumstances, secure medical and other evidence, keep the family informed and proceed according to law.

6.7 Alleged robbery and unlawful confinement

Date: 27 September 2026 | **Location:** Brusubi

Two siblings allegedly lured a female make-up artist to a guesthouse by booking a session under the pretence of being a couple preparing for wedding photographs. They allegedly restrained her and took her mobile phone and cash. The monitoring record reports that both suspects were arrested and remained in police custody.

Human Rights Concerns: The account raises concerns about personal security, liberty, and protection from violence. The victim needs access to appropriate assistance, while allegations against the suspects require lawful investigation.

Required Response: Police should investigate the alleged deception, restraint and theft, preserve evidence, and facilitate medical or psychosocial support where needed. Reporting should protect the victim's privacy.

6.8 Deaths during a migration journey

Date: 27 September 2026 | **Location:** Mauritania

A boat carrying migrants was reportedly intercepted in Mauritania with 56 Gambians and other nationals on board, including women. Three people reportedly died during the journey and their bodies were left at sea. The deceased were reported to be one Gambian, one Senegalese and one Liberian national.

Human Rights Concerns: The reported deaths highlight risks to life during dangerous migration journeys. Survivors require humane treatment and access to appropriate assistance regardless of their migration status. The circumstances and identities remain to be confirmed.

Required Response: Relevant authorities should coordinate with Mauritanian counterparts to verify the account, identify, and assist survivors, notify families sensitively and clarify the circumstances of the deaths. Any return arrangements should respect applicable protections.

7. INSTITUTIONAL AND ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT

7.1 Protection of life and investigative accountability

The Gambia Police Force, the Gambia Armed Forces, and the Gambia Immigration Department and other relevant authorities should establish the facts, preserve relevant records, and communicate with affected families. Announcing an inquiry is only a first step. Findings should lead to corrective action and lawful accountability where evidence supports it.

7.2 Child protection and health services

The newborn cases require coordinated responses by police, health workers, and child protection authorities. The immediate priority is survival and safe care, with support for mothers and privacy protections throughout any investigation.

7.3 Policing and civic participation

Reports of tear gas use should be reviewed through credible complaint and oversight processes. Operational records and evidence from affected communities can help establish what occurred and whether the response met applicable standards.

7.4 Essential services and prevention

Electricity institutions should communicate service disruptions and corrective measures and strengthen continuity arrangements for essential facilities. Oversight should assess implementation and effects rather than promises alone.

7.5 Political leadership and social cohesion

Public officials and political parties, IEC and IPC should address rhetoric that stigmatizes origin or ethnic communities. Oversight responses must be lawful and protect expression while addressing discrimination, threats, and incitement where established.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To Government of The Gambia

- Ensure prompt and credible investigations into serious incidents and publish appropriate findings.
- Strengthen child protection, maternal support, and continuity arrangements for essential public services.
- Require institutions to communicate corrective actions and support affected families.

8.2 To Gambia Police Force

- Investigate the reported killing, robbery, confinement, and newborn cases promptly and impartially.
- Review allegations of excessive force during electricity protests and preserve operational records.
- Protect victims and witnesses and ensure lawful arrest, detention, and fair process.

8.3 To National Human Rights Commission

- Monitor reported assembly restrictions and excessive force and facilitate access to complaints and remedies.
- Assess verified ethnic and inflammatory rhetoric within its mandate.
- Promote equality, peaceful participation, and accountable policing.

8.4 To Ministry of Health and child protection authorities

- Confirm the whereabouts and condition of the newborns and provide medical care and safe protection.
- Provide confidential maternal and psychosocial support and protect identifying information.

- Strengthen contingency arrangements for electricity interruptions in health facilities.

8.5 To Gambia Armed Forces and responsible oversight authorities

- Establish the causes and circumstances of all four recruit deaths through credible investigation and appropriate medical evidence.
- Inform families and review training safety, food and water, medical access, and emergency response.

8.6 To Migration and consular authorities

- Verify the Mauritania account and coordinate assistance for survivors and families.
- Investigate possible exploitation where evidence warrants it and ensure humane treatment and applicable protection safeguards.

8.7 To NAWEC and responsible electricity institutions

- Publish accurate information about outages, service restoration, and corrective actions.
- Prioritize continuity of supply for essential facilities and report implementation progress.

8.8 To political, religious and community leaders

- Reject ethnic stereotyping and origin-based hostility and correct unsupported claims.
- Promote peaceful participation, equal citizenship, and dialogue.

8.9 To families, communities, civil society and the media

- Report credible incidents responsibly and distinguish allegations from established facts.
- Support affected people, protect children's privacy and monitor institutional responses.

9. CONCLUSION

September 2026 brought serious concerns involving life, personal security, child protection, peaceful assembly, essential services, and equality. The monitoring record contains unresolved facts and competing accounts that require effective investigation rather than premature conclusions.

EFSCRJ calls for protection and support for affected people, lawful and accountable institutional responses, and prevention measures that address the conditions in which harm occurs. Families deserve information, victims deserve remedies and suspects are entitled to due process.

EFSCRJ will continue to monitor human rights developments and institutional responses and advocate for respect for dignity, constitutional freedoms, and the rule of law.

EFSCRJ Position: Every life matters. Every person is entitled to equal protection. Prevention, protection, justice, and accountability must remain at the centre of human rights protection in The Gambia.