

DISCLAIMER

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COI QUERY RESPONSE

GAMBIA- SECURITY SITUATION

The Point in June 2025 notes that: “Talib Ahmed Bensouda, the Lord Mayor of the Kanifing Municipal Council and the National Organising Secretary of the United Democratic Party (UDP) has raised concerns over security issues in the country, particularly in the Kombo areas. He raised this concern over the weekend during a meeting also referred as “Bensouda’s Din Kuliyo” held at the community of Fula Kunda in Kuntaur, Central River Region. Bensouda pointed out that there have been so many killings in the Kombo areas, which he said is the result of lack of security and is getting very scary.”¹

The *Business Insider Africa* in June 2025 points out that: “Currently, Nigeria maintains peacekeeping forces in The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Abyei in South Sudan. Though The Gambia's security situation is relatively stable, Bassey stressed the need for vigilance and professionalism in addressing ongoing challenges to ensure the safety and well-being of Gambian citizens.”²

In June 2025 *PM News* mentioned that: ““The current security situation in The Gambia is relatively stable, however, there are on-going challenges that require attention to ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens, ”Bassey said. He charged the troops to be discipline, respect and uphold professionalism in peacekeeping operations.”³

The *US Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)* in April 2025 reported that: “Crime has increased all over The Gambia due to the rising costs of food, increased unemployment, and lack of resources. Our threat assessment changed from high to critical due to the crime spike in areas where COM residences are located and some of the areas they frequent. However, there has not been any direct targeting of U.S. government facilities, interests, or personnel. Crimes of opportunity (e.g., pickpocketing, purse snatching, theft of valuables from vehicles, and assault) are the crimes U.S. citizens are most likely to encounter in The Gambia and are often preventable. Violent crime is rare. Non-violent burglaries are common in the Greater Banjul area. Over the past few years, reports of residential crimes have increased.”⁴

¹ The Points (24 June 2025) Bensouda speaks on high cost of cement, security issues in Gambia

² Business Insider Africa (23 June 2025) Nigeria deploys 197 troops to ECOWAS Peacekeeping mission in the Gambia

³ PM News (20 June 2025) Nigeria deploys 197 troops to ECOWAS mission in Gambia

⁴ US Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) (7 April 2025) The Gambia Country Security Report 2025

In February 2025 the *Point (Banjul)* notes that: “The people have spoken loud and clear about their health and security concerns. Those who stay unconcerned will be concerned when their family members become affected by the recent waves of crime and imports of fake medicines and contaminated foodstuff. We have heard of armed attacks at Jah oil near Radio Syd, Access Bank in Brushibi, GNPC station in Farafenni, Elhela shop in Banjul, Money exchange bureau in Badjie estate, etc.”⁵

The *UK Foreign Office* in July 2024 states that: “Petty theft is a problem in cities and tourist areas.”⁶

The Standard in January 2024 commented that: “Recent surveys conclude heightened insecurity and crime rates since 2017, something quite uncommon in the recorded history of the Gambian politics. These revelations therefore manifest the government’s lack of seriousness to revamp the country’s security system as well as protecting the lives of Gambian people.”⁷

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⁶ UK Foreign Office (9 July 2024) *The Gambia travel advice* (July 2024)

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