

SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NIGERIA

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Summary of Security Situation in Nigeria

The Security Situation in Nigeria is multi-dimensional and complex. It is influenced, for the most part, by perceived political, economic and social injustice, which results in a high level of violence throughout the country. This violence is exhibited in differing dimensions and to differing degrees from state to state and region to region. This level of unrest and complexity provides the environment for more opportunistic types of criminal and militant activities to take place. Deconstructing the relationships between all these factors and influencers is very difficult and contributes to the complexity that surrounds the security situation in Nigeria. Another dimension which adds to this complexity is the diversity with regard to the actors at play throughout the country. Violence is perpetrated by a wide range of groups, such as insurgents, militants, nomadic herdsman, cultists, and ordinary criminals, notwithstanding the allegations of security force involvement and alleged political interference. This interplay of actors makes it difficult to determine the perpetrator and the victim in many cases.

Nigeria is a country with specific needs, both development and increasingly, humanitarian, therefore access for international and domestic NGOs and developmental organisations is a must. It is a country with a potential for great growth in a wide number of commercial areas; as a result it is an attractive country to commercial organisations. These access requirements, coupled with the security environment, results in a need for up to date and thorough analysis of the security situation across the country on a regular basis. Forecasting the likely evolution of the security situation for the short and medium term can be difficult, due in part to the influence of underlying elements of a political, economic and social nature, which impact differently throughout the country. Nonetheless, the presence of existing trends and patterns can assist greatly in strengthening the credibility of forecasts.

June 2016 witnessed an apparent increase in attacks by suspected Boko Haram militants. The rainy season and Ramadan may have contributed in part to this increase. That said, the military continued their offensive, increasing their air operation in an attempt to mitigate restriction of movement due to the rainy season. Violence in the Niger Delta continued to make headlines this month, with a number of new groups also emerging. Despite talks of negotiations and ceasefire, there does not seem to be a willingness to desist from attacks at this particular time. These attacks are having a significant impact on oil production which some say is at a 30 year low. This, coupled with the devaluation of the naira, is having a significant impact on the economy. It should be noted that the deteriorating economic situation is likely to impact criminality, which may play out in increased incidents of abduction throughout the country.



North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

June started with continued claims of military operations in the north east. The military reported that they killed nineteen Boko Haram militants near Gowza LGA, and three in Nganzai. They also reported that they defended against an ambush on the Mafa-Dikwa road and repelled a Boko Haram attack in Gwoza, Borno, killing six insurgents. These operations and advances to date contributed to the military claiming that they opened a number of roadways throughout Borno, most noticeably in the south of the state. The month also saw claims that a suspected commander of Boko Haram was arrested in Mussa village, Askira Uba LGA. Whilst, it was reported that approximately ten suspected Boko Haram members were killed in an operation in Ngala LGA. Members of the CJTF also reportedly killed two suspected suicide bombers in Maiduguri during the month.

That said, this month also saw an apparent increase in incidents attributed to Boko Haram. As in other months, many of these incidents differed in severity, method and target. Nonetheless, they serve to illustrate the continued ability and capacity of Boko Haram to conduct a range of attacks throughout the north east. This apparent increase may possibly be linked to the month of Ramadan, but it also may be due, in part, to the rainy season. We, at SAR Consultancy, noted a number of months ago that the rainy season would likely impact the capacity of the military in their counter insurgency measures and their ability to continue their advances in many areas. The recent increase in attacks is likely to be indicative of this. In turn, Boko Haram are likely to be maximising these opportunities to regroup and re-establish small pockets under their control. The military have tried to mitigate this risk by conducting an air campaign in the region.

Incidents attributed to Boko Haram this month have included a number of village attacks. Four women were reportedly killed in an incident in Mairari village. Whilst, another four villagers were reportedly killed and three women abducted in a village raid on Kautuva village, near Chibok. Houses were also burnt by the group. Boko Haram are also being blamed for an attack at a funeral in Kuda village, Madagali LGA, Adamawa during the month, when they are alleged to have opened fire on the group. Over twenty were said to have been killed. At least two people were also killed in another village attack on Wumbi village in Kalabalge LGA, close to the border of Cameroon by suspected insurgents. In addition, near the end of the month and within the last ten days of Ramadan two suicide bombers reported detonated themselves to cause two explosions in Maiduguri. It is unclear if anyone else was

Middle Belt Clashes

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killed in the incidents.

Boko Haram are also continuing their activities in the region especially in Niger. They were blamed for the deaths of seven police officers in Diffa, Niger this month. The Nigerian and Chadian troops reportedly killed 130 Boko Haram insurgents in Bosso, Niger. Boko Haram



Forecast: *Despite continued claims of military successes, an apparent increase in attacks by Boko Haram, especially village attacks, may be indicative that they are maximising the rainy season and are attempting to regain pockets of control. Even if this is not the case and if they are just opportunistic attacks, they still serve to illustrate the remaining risk outside the urban stronghold. Furthermore, despite announcements of road openings, road travel in Borno and surrounding states is still risky, due to possible ambushes, unexploded ordinance, mines, etc. For example, a number of people, including a soldier, were reportedly killed when a rickshaw is believed to have driven over an IED outside Biu State. As a result, despite positive achievement by the military, Boko Haram still poses a significant risk to those working, living and travelling in the North East of Nigeria. Albeit major attacks have reduced over recent months, those visiting the region should stay on high alert at all times. Furthermore, emergency health services are relatively non-existent in the North East and extraction opportunities can be limited. As a result, SAR Consultancy strongly advises HEFAT training [HEFAT Training](#) for all those travelling and working in the area, be they national or international staff.*

The International Crisis Group (ICG) related a report titled “Nigeria: The Challenge of Military Reform” in which they analyse Nigeria’s defence management. The report is an interesting and informative read for those with an interest in security issues in West Africa.

Communal clashes continued this month, but not at the same rate as previous months. Eight people were reportedly killed in Vaase village, Logo LGA, Benue State, by suspected Fulani herdsmen, with reports of a subsequent and similar incident days after. Fifteen were reportedly killed in Ukum, Benue State also allegedly by Fulani herdsmen. Five other people were reportedly killed in Makurdi, Benue State, but on this occasion their deaths were attributed to cultists. As in previous months, a number of deaths were reported linked to cattle rustling. A group of rustlers reportedly ambushed a military patrol convoy, killing a soldier in Madaci Village, Faskari LGA, Katsina during the month. Whilst the military reportedly killed nine suspected rustlers in Maru LGA, Zamfara State.

Forecast: *These incidents clearly illustrate a continued risk in the middle belt region, and in other areas of the country, from communal clashes and violence related to cattle rustling. This is unlikely to dissipate in the short and medium term but like previous years may reduce slightly at specific points during the year. Whilst such attacks don't pose a direct risk to the international or donor community, if staff are in the wrong place at the wrong time they may be at risk. Furthermore, and notwithstanding the deaths and loss of property, the impact of these attacks is highly likely to become more significant in the medium to long term given that the locations of many of these attacks are in the same area in which agricultural development will occur in the future. If left unchallenged, communal clashes have the potential to negatively impact development and agricultural projects in this area.*

Niger Delta Regions

Amidst reports of negotiations and alleged ceasefires between the Nigerian Government and Niger Delta militants, this month saw a significant escalation of violence in the Niger Delta region. In addition, it witnessed new groups emerge from within the region proclaiming their commitment to violence. For example the Asawana Deadly Force of Niger Delta (ADFND) emerged, reportedly demanding a Niger Delta Republic.



The Niger Delta Avengers continued their violence, with reports that they attacked and blew up two Chevron oil wells early in the month, in Warri South LGA, Delta State. They also reportedly blew up a NNPC pipeline in Oruk Anam LGA, Akwa Ibom State. A group, called the Red Scorpion reportedly attacked a Shell facility in Imo State. Other militants were blamed for the deaths of fifty in Ikordodu in towns straddling the Ogun Lagos state borders. An unidentified group attacked a military houseboat operated by the NPDC in Warri South LGA. Two soldiers were reportedly killed in the incident.

The military continue to report their commitment to defeating the militants, and have reportedly increased their numbers in the region. However, some observers have warned that like in the north east, a military response alone is unlikely to be sufficient to

tackle the issue. Most recognise the need for a more holistic response which incorporates strategies to deal with the grievances of the local communities within the region. The impact of these attacks has been significant from a security, economic and military perspective. Given the demands in the North East, the Nigerian military are facing a lot of pressure to ensure they have the necessary numbers in place to maintain some semblance of order. The insecurity has also resulted in the oil output being reduced to a 30 year low, which is significantly impacting the national budget. It has been estimated by some experts that oil production has fallen from 2.1 million barrels a day to 800,000 because of militant attacks.

Forecast: Given the level of violence in the Niger Delta region over the last few months and due to the emergence of a number of different militant groups, SAR Consultancy assesses that the situation in the region is likely to continue, and possibly get worse, in both the short and medium term.

Violence & Cultist activity

Cultists were blamed for the death of eleven in Emuoha, Rivers State this month. They were also blamed for the deaths of further eleven and the abduction of two in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, also in Rivers State. A woman was reportedly stabbed by a mob in Kosfar Wambai market, Kano for allegedly blaspheming the Prophet.

Biafra

Amnesty International reportedly accused the Nigerian military of human rights abuses following clashes between the army and the pro-Biafran supporters during demonstrations to mark 'Biafra Day' in the southeast region. Seventeen pro-Biafran supporters were reportedly killed during the incident.

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Abduction & Kidnap

At least seven contractors for an Australian mining company were kidnapped during the month in Calabar by unknown gunmen. Three Australians, a New Zealander, a South African and two Nigerians were allegedly taken. One of the drivers of the convoy was reportedly killed in the incident. A number of days after the incident, the abductees were released, with varying degrees of injury. Two engineers, of Indian nationality, were abducted later in the month by a group of unknown gunmen on their way to Gboko, Benue State. It is not entirely clear why they were abducted as those who conducted the attack have yet to communicate their demands. The body of a kidnapped Catholic priest, abducted about two months ago, was found, illustrating the risk associated with kidnaps in the country. The risk of kidnap is not restricted to internationals, nationals are also at risk.

Devaluation of Currency

The Nigerian Government made the decision to devalue the national currency, the naira, during the month due to continued economic decline and falling oil production and prices. This decision was also made in the backdrop of low international oil and gas prices. Early in the month, the Central Bank announced that as of June 20, the naira exchange rate would be entirely market driven. The impact of the decoupling resulted in the devaluation of the official exchange rate of the naira from N197 to over N280 to US dollar. There appeared to be great concern amongst the general public about what this would mean for them, with many fearing a further increase in prices.



SAR Consultancy

Providing peace of mind in a changing security environment

HEFAT Training

Security Management is critical in today's challenging environment, regardless of industry or scale of organisation. But is having a security management plan in place enough? We don't think so. Your staff are key to your security management, but do you provide them with the necessary training and support to enable them to play their role?

For those of you who do not, HEFAT training for your staff is imperative.

Contact us to discuss your training needs in this area; off the shelf and bespoke packages available; you have a duty of care to your employees to ensure your security infrastructure is fit for purpose. Don't let it fail because of a lack of training in the very people who will implement the plan.

Piracy

The growth of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea was highlighted in a number of reports this month. In fact, some suggested that the Gulf of Guinea is now one of the most dangerous regions in the world for seafarers. However, the risk is not the same as in previous years.

Recently, the risk of kidnapping has increased over the risk of cargo theft. Since the start of the year there has been over 32 kidnaps reported within the gulf, an increase from 19 in the same period last year. The change in tactic would appear to be linked to the drop in value of oil making as it makes it less lucrative than kidnapping for ransom. In addition, increased naval patrolling is likely to have made cargo theft a little more difficult, so thieves have had to look for opportunities that are quicker and from which they can get away from rapidly.

Factors worth monitoring

- Increased attacks in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, and also in the region on military targets but more likely against softer targets.
- Possibly a return of pockets of Boko Haram held territory.
- As the economy deteriorates further, crime is likely to increase, with that the risk of burglaries, robberies and kidnapping for ransom is likely to increase.
- Increased risk of attacks on oil facilities but also on offices of oil companies and employees.

SAR Consultancy would like to thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin. We hope you found it interesting. Please do not hesitate to contact us info@sarconint.com to discuss any part in greater detail or to discuss how we may be able to help reduce your exposure to any of the risks mentioned within. Furthermore we are very happy to receive feedback on your thoughts regarding the bulletin. Hope to see you again next month.
