

SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NIGERIA

November 2016



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 herdsmen, 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.

November 2016 - a slightly different air reigned over Nigeria this month, especially in the North East, with a more vocal parlance that Boko Haram, despite being weakened, were demonstrating their continued capacity, determination and commitment to their cause. Something that had been highlighted by SAR over the past few months. This shift in rhetoric can be attributed, in part, to the group's apparent increase and consistency in attacks, both against hard and soft targets. These incidents serve as indicative evidence that the group have not been defeated, despite military statements, albeit weakened still pose a continued threat. In many ways their current level and mode of attack is reminiscent of their asymmetrical attack model prior to late 2013. Despite high level talks on the problems in the Niger Delta region, attacks continue. Rifts, splits and localised conflicts between militants and within and across communities, coupled with a financially strapped government, finding a solution for all appears to be somewhere far off, if not impossible at present. Throughout the rest of the country, the risk of abduction, violence and criminality are likely to continue, with certain areas posing greater risk. As a result, SAR advises all those living or traveling to and through Nigeria to review their journey management plans frequently due to the nature and fluidity of risk associated with Nigeria.



North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

Similar to the patterns emerging last month, November saw numerous reports of suspected and attempted suicide attacks in the North East of Nigeria, coupled with other attack methods on hard and soft targets.

The month began with reports of a car bomb on the outskirts of Gubio town, killing at least nine people. As before, Boko Haram were the suspected offenders. The car bomb would appear to have targeted at a military checkpoint on the outskirts of the town; a target type often preferred by the group. Boko Haram were also blamed for the deaths of two people in Chibok and in two separate incidents, for the deaths of nine and thirteen in Monguno, Borno State. These incidents occurred only days apart.

A number of incidents were reported throughout the month in Maiduguri, a city which has seen a reduced number of attacks in the last six months or so. For example, two people were reportedly killed following a bomb blast in a village on the outskirts of Maiduguri at the start of the month. It was alleged that three female suicide bombers were involved in the incident. While in the middle of the month, four suicide bombers were said to have killed themselves and two CJTF members in the city. In addition, a suspected suicide bomber was reportedly shot dead before they could detonate their explosives at an IDP camp in the city in the later part of the month. While another suspected bomber was killed, alongside a civilian also in the city.



A number of incidents were also reported which allegedly claimed the lives of both soldiers and suspected Boko Haram militants this month. For example, two soldiers reportedly killed two Boko Haram militants in Monguno. While five suspected Boko Haram members and one soldier were reportedly killed in an attempted suicide attack in Gwoza LGA. Reports also claimed that soldiers killed approximately 35 militants in Damboa in the early part of the month, losing one of their own in the process. Other reports throughout the month claimed that at least two commanding officers and troops were killed in an ambush. Despite these military losses, the military reported clearance operations in the Lake Chad region, namely Geram, Bulankassa and Chukungudu, which were reportedly Boko Haram strongholds.

Forecast: *The incidents this month clearly indicate that Boko Haram, despite being weakened have not been defeated and continue to use the fluidity of the*

security situation to take advantage of increasing opportunities provided by increased access to the region. November incidents attributed to Boko Haram also serve to support the premise that the group may have found ways of circumventing the security infrastructure around Maiduguri, given the increased number of incidents in and around the city. Thereby posing a continued and serious threat to those in the city. Outside of the city, the group also pose a risk especially given the groups apparent shift back to a more asymmetric and dispersed model of attack. This has led SAR to assess that for the short and medium term Boko Haram strongholds are likely to be less important and significant given this shift. In addition, as the rainy season comes to an end, it is likely that the group will try to maximise the use of routes previously cut off to conduct more attacks.

Lake Chad Region & beyond

Suspected Boko Haram related incidents continued in Cameroon this month. Reports claimed that six Cameroonian soldiers and one other were killed by the group in Darak, Cameroon. While the Cameroonian troops reportedly killed a suspected suicide bomber before they detonated their explosive in Kolofata. Near the end of November, a suspected Boko Haram suicide bomber killed herself and another was shot dead by Cameroonian soldiers in Mora, Cameroon. These incidents serve to illustrate the risk in Cameroon from the group and the similar use of tactics and methods in the region.

For further information, please contact SAR Consultancy @ info@sarconint.com or www.sarconint.com ; follow on twitter @SAR_Consultancy. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from SAR Consultancy. SAR Consultancy is an Irish registered trading name. Copyright ©SAR Consultancy 2016.

Communal Clashes

A number of incidents attributed to herdsmen and related disputes were reported this month, despite and apparent reduction in the overall number. Herdsmen reportedly killed over 30 people in Kaura, Kaduna State and eight in a separate, and unrelated incident Sabuwa, Katsina.

A number of violent incidents were reported in Zamfara this month. While these do not appear to be related to herdsmen and related conflicts, they may be the result of ongoing and unresolved conflicts. For example, approximately 40 people were killed and several others injured when gunmen attacked a mine, near Bindim Village, Maru LGA, Zamfara State. It is alleged that the incident may have been motivated by an ongoing conflict between miners in the area. However, this has yet to be proven. Later in the month, the same area witnessed reports that gunmen reportedly killed two police officers and four civilians, and kidnapped forty others in one incident. It is unclear if these incidents are related. The state also saw incidents of violence in other parts of the state during the month. In Maradun, armed gunmen reportedly killed twenty nine people in the middle of the month, while twenty three civilians and two police officers were also reportedly killed by gunmen in Zurmi. The motivation behind these incidents is unclear.

On a different note, but none the less violent, and as forecasted, clashes continued between Shiites and the Nigerian police this month, with claims that at least

one police officer and eight civilians were reportedly killed in Kano State.

Forecast: *The reduction in incidents relating to herdsmen and ongoing conflicts is not uncommon this time of year and is likely to be due to the seasonal nature of these conflicts. While the reduction is wanted, it is likely that an increase will occur in the medium term. That said, sporadic incidents, some with retaliatory incidents may occur. As a result, a low level threat still remains in place. As forecast last month, incidents between the police and security forces and the IMN and other Shitte Muslims are likely to continue in the short and medium term given the ongoing tensions between the state and the IMN. Further clashes between security forces and IMN members are highly likely in Kano, Kaduna, Kastina and Sokoto, but may also occur in Abuja.*

Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

Violent incidents continued throughout the country, with a myriad of reasons being postulated as motivational causes, if known. For example, clashes were reported in Lagos, in the Lekki Phase 1 area. Two people were reportedly injured and buildings burnt down when clashes broke out between Egun and Yoruba youths. What specially motivated the incident is unclear. Sectarian violence was blamed for the deaths of ten in Abi, Cross River during the month. While violence associated with elections was reported in Abia State, with one person reportedly killed in Isiala Ngwa North as a result. Eleven were reportedly killed in a clash between police and

hunters in Ona Ara, Oyo. Once again the reason behind incident was unclear.

Forecast: *While much of this violence is targeted, innocent by-standers can fall victim if in the wrong place at the wrong time. This risk is largely present throughout the whole of Nigeria, to differing degrees. As a result, SAR advises all those travelling to or living in Nigeria to regularly review your security arrangements to ensure a level of preparedness at all times. Vigilance and preparedness are important factors in keeping safe.*

Niger Delta Regions

Despite continued negotiations relating to the Niger Delta region, militants continue to conduct attacks. Only hours after negotiations between the President and critical stakeholders in the region in Abuja, an incident was reported in Warri SW LGA, where a NNPC pipeline was reportedly attacked. Another blast was reported on the same pipeline in Warri during the second week of the month. The blast was reported while the pipeline was being repaired after the earlier blast.

Forecast: *These incidents illustrate, in part, the difficulty in reaching a deal with all parties in the*



region, as some would appear to want to negotiate, while others do not. Disputes between local communities and militant groups also make it more challenging. Furthermore, from the government's perspective, they are unlikely to be able to offer financial solutions commensurate with those given as part of the Amnesty Programme in 2009, which makes buy-in to the solutions offered difficult. As a result, some groups want to continue their offensives, despite others being willing to negotiate. For example, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), reportedly want to increase their attacks due to the recent military campaign in the region and do not appear willing to negotiate on the current terms. Due to this uncertainty and rifts across the region, incidents are likely to continue in the short and medium term. SAR recommends that all those intending to travel through or to the region should ensure they have a thorough security plan in place.

Abduction & Kidnap

November continued to see reports of kidnaps through Nigeria, with an apparent increase in rhetoric that the problem was increasing to a worrying level. For example, reports emerged in the media at the end of the month that three Russian sailors had been abducted by Nigerian pirates. Due to concern for the welfare of the three men very few details were released, but it was confirmed that measures were being taken to secure their release. In one incident in Lagos, seven people were reportedly abducted from a farm by kidnappers dressed in military uniform. It was reported that the kidnappers attempted a second

For further information, please contact SAR Consultancy @ info@sarconint.com or www.sarconint.com ; follow on twitter @SAR_Consultancy. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from SAR Consultancy. SAR Consultancy is an Irish registered trading name. Copyright ©SAR Consultancy 2016.



SAR Consultancy

Providing peace of mind in a changing security environment

Journey Management Review

Journey Management is a critical component to security management. But do you truly understand just how important your journey management policies and procedures actually are? More importantly, how confident are you that your policies and procedures are sufficient to meet your duty of care?

We, at SAR, are available to assist you in these regard both from risk assessing your policies and procedures in place and in helping you to create them if you have not got them in place. All organisations, regardless of industry or scale require a regular systematic assessment of existing security infrastructure. *Don't wait for an incident to motivate a review, get in touch with us.*

abduction of two others, but the incident was reportedly foiled.

Forecast: *These incidents serve to illustrate the continued risk of abduction in Nigeria, both to locals and internationals. In fact, there would appear to be increasing sentiment that the problem is getting more prolific, despite being relatively common in Nigeria. This may be due in part to the deteriorating economic situation, and also due to the redirection of security resources to other issues throughout the country. This threat is likely to remain in place in the short and*

medium term as either factor mentioned above are unlikely to change within this timeframe. Furthermore, with the Christmas period approaching, more demands on finances are likely resulting in more incidents. .

Factors worth monitoring

- The humanitarian situation in the North East is becoming more serious by the day. This month the UN reiterated this, noting that the continued insecurity was making the delivery of aid increasingly problematic, which was resulting in a humanitarian crisis.
- Boko Haram appear to be attempting to maximise opportunities stemming from increased aid delivery to the North East. Furthermore, they seem to be increasingly seeing IDP camps as suitable targets for their attacks. Those traveling in this region should remain vigilant.
- Criminality is likely to increase, in the form of burglaries, robberies and kidnapping for ransom in the short term, given the approach of Christmas, a time in which higher rates of robbery and theft are often reported.

SAR Consultancy would like to thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin. We hope you found it interesting and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 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.
