

# SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

## SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

### NIGERIA

February 2017



#### 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.

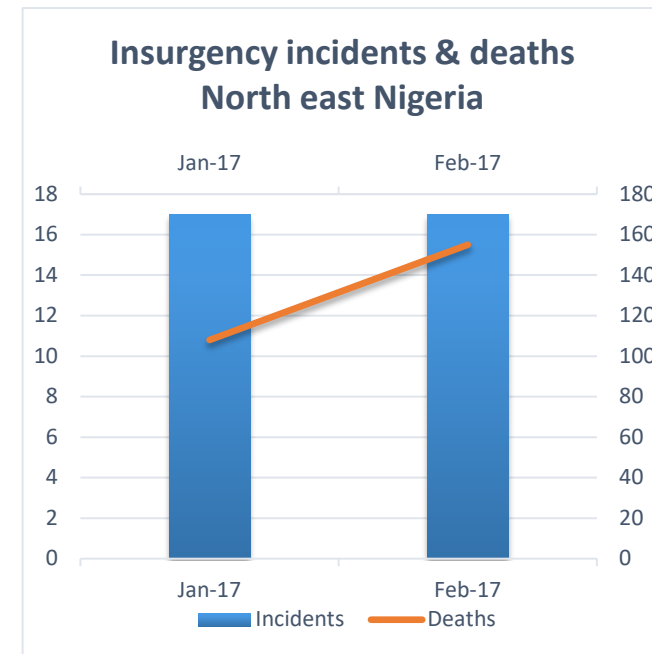
*February 2017 – Despite reports of military successes in the North East against Boko Haram, February attacks clearly illustrate that the group not only retain capacity and capability to cause mayhem and destruction, but they have also clearly shown that they are regrouping and are becoming increasingly confident in their ability to move in large numbers and to attack military targets. While we may not have witnessed a large scale attack of late, this month has produced enough indicators that such an attack may not be too far away. Locations such as Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola may be desired targets, or key military installations or prisons. Attacks on softer targets are also likely to continue in the foreseeable future. Furthermore, the increase in insurgent convoys is likely to hamper access to and delivery of humanitarian aid, which is likely to raise the level of risk to high, if not very high for the foreseeable future in certain areas. Clashes in the middle belt continued this month, with the south of Kaduna and Zamfara badly hit. Interestingly, despite increased military numbers in Kaduna, incidents still continued. Additionally, the abduction of two German archaeologists in Kaduna this month further highlighted the risk of kidnap in that area. This is likely to raise concerns in advance of the closure of Abuja airport. The risk of abduction, violence and criminality results in SAR advising all those living in or traveling to and through Nigeria to review their journey management plans frequently prior to and during travel given to the nature and fluidity of risk associated with Nigeria.*



## North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

Despite continued rhetoric that the insurgency in the North East is being contained, the patterns of incidents this month clearly illustrates the contrary. For example, this month witnessed suspected Boko Haram attacks on Maiduguri, despite talk of it being highly secure. Three suicide bombers reportedly detonated their explosives in the city, killing themselves. The suicide bombers were reportedly being accompanied by gunmen on motorcycles, a method not usually connected with suicide bombers, but a very common method of travel and attack by the group in the past. A shootout between the military and gunmen ensued, resulting in at least two civilian deaths. The group were also suspected of killing one boy and abducting another in Chibok, Borno and blamed for four deaths in Askira/Uba, Borno, when the groups, who were reportedly travelling in convoy attacked Mussa village. They also reportedly attacked Yaza-Kumaza village killing at least three people and injuring others. While it could be stated that the targets mentioned above were relatively soft targets, the group have also continued to illustrate the capability to attack military targets this month. The group were suspected of killing eight soldiers in Mafa, Borno State. They also reportedly fired at a NAF helicopter wounding one of the aircrew. The helicopter was reportedly flying near Gwoza on a medical outreach programme. Furthermore, a number of incidents were reported this month which involved direct clashes between the military and suspected Boko Haram. The month started with reports that three soldiers and six suspected insurgents were killed during military operations in Dalsa and Buk villages in Damboa, LGA. While three soldiers were reportedly killed during clearance operations by the Nigerian Army. A number of days later, reports emerged that troops had killed at least thirty insurgents in Dikwa. However, seven soldiers lost their lives in this operation and one soldier was reportedly kidnapped in the incident. Clashes between the two groups were also reported in Yobe State, when Boko Haram reportedly attacked Sasawa village, 30km outside Damaturu. The group were said to have entered the village in a convoy of vans and motorcycles. Finally, in an incident in Maiduguri seven soldiers were reportedly killed by suspected insurgents. However, the military reportedly returned fire killing scores of suspected insurgents. The military also reported a number of successes this month. They successfully intercepted two suspected suicide bombers in Kangadari, Maiduguri. One was later shot and one was arrested.

**Forecast:** *The incidents this month raise a number of interesting factors. For one, many of the incidents report that Boko Haram were entering villages and towns in convoy of vans and/or motorcycles. Such reports had reduced considerably in the past year, coinciding with reports that the groups assets had been seized, the numbers of fighters had reduced and the ability of the group to gather in large numbers had been significantly reduced. These reports this month could be indicative that these three assumptions no longer hold through. Furthermore, such convoys, especially those accompanying suicide bombers, is likely to add another dimension to attacks over the few weeks. Secondly, the incidents this month also illustrate a large number of clashes between the group and the military. While this can be viewed as a positive for the government and the military offensive, it could also be indicative of a group who are regaining confidence and control in the North East and who are willing to challenge the military head on, whereas in the past, they had developed a mode of retreat. A supporting aspect of this new line of thought, is that the group are also reported to have directly attacked military targets and Maiduguri this month, thereby illustrating that they actively putting themselves in positions of potential clashes.*



*As a result, SAR Consultancy assesses that the security situation in the North East is deteriorating further and that Boko Haram are further illustrating their capacity and commitment to their cause, despite rhetoric that says the contrary. The group not only seem to have found ways to circumvent the security infrastructure in place, but they are also showing that they are confident in challenging the military head on. As a result, it is unlikely that there will be any significant reduction in incidents in the medium term. More likely there will be an increase in attacks, and there is the increasing possibility of a large scale attack. Locations likely to witness such an attack are Damaturu, Maiduguri and/or Yola. Other possible locations may include prisons holding suspected insurgents or military installations. Softer targets, such as markets, places of religious worship, bus terminals and villages, also remain likely targets for less strategic attacks.*

## Communal Clashes

Civil unrest continued during the month of February. Kaduna State was once again a victim of attacks. Reports suggested that over 20 people were killed and several houses burned down in the south of the state. Fulani herdsmen were once again blamed for this attack. A further seventeen were reportedly killed in Kaura a number of days later and near the end of the month herdsmen were also blamed for an attack on Rafin Dadi village, also in the south. These incidents occurred despite the imposition of a 24 hour government curfew in Jema'a and Kaura, due to renewed clashes. Furthermore, the reported increase in the number of Nigerian military in the south of the state would appear to have had little impact or deterrent effect as yet, given these recent incidents. Zamfara State was also targeted again this month. Gunmen reportedly attacked Rungumawa village, Tsafe LGA. Three people were reportedly killed in the incident. Additionally, cattle rustlers were also blamed for the deaths of over 20 people in Chafe, Zamfara State.

Communal clashes were not only confined to the middle belt, a pattern which appears to be increasing year on year. Over ten people were reportedly killed in Ebonyi and Cross Rivers States when clashes broke out between Azuofide-Edda and Ogurude communities of Ebonyi and Cross River states. While two deaths were reported in Uhumwonde, Edo. Additionally, at least three people were reportedly killed following clashes involving locals and suspected herdsmen in Omumu, Ika South LGA.

**Forecast:** As mentioned last month, the number of incidents of clashes between herdsmen and farmers is likely to be attributed, in part, to the seasonal movement of cattle to new grass. Additionally the

*increase in incidents further south is likely to be linked to the reduction in grazing opportunities, water and herding routes resulting in the need for herders to move further south. As a result of these combined factors, incidents are likely to increase significantly in the short term both in the middle belt and further south. Furthermore, reprisal attacks are common, so further attacks in locations already targeted are highly likely. This is likely to result in a further increase in the loss of life and destruction of property, on all sides. While much of this violence is community based and very target specific, those travelling to or through villages in the middle belt may inadvertently come in contact with such incidents. Therefore, it is advised to monitor such incidents closely, to ensure a high level of awareness of the environment into which one is entering.*

## Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

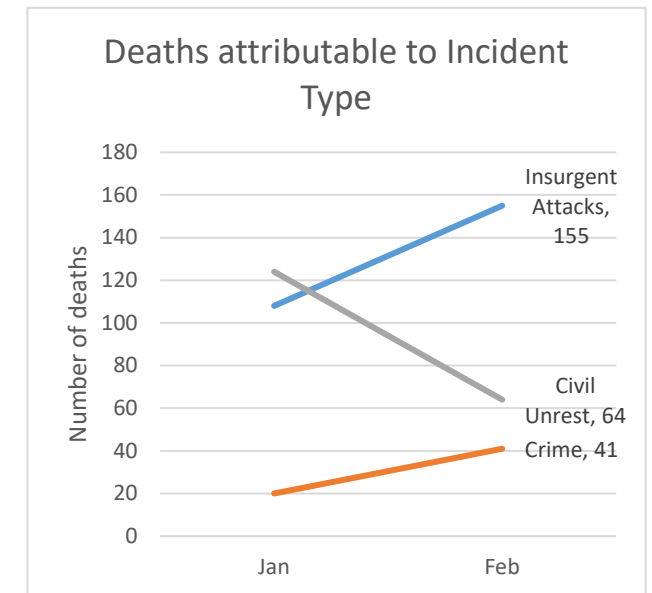
February witnessed a number of violent attacks resulting in considerable loss of life. In Plateau State, for example, illegal miners reportedly clashed in Jos South resulting in the deaths of six people. While two policemen and two others were reportedly killed when gunmen attacked a police station in Okehi, Kogi State. A further six civilians were reportedly killed in Agatu, Benue State in the middle of the month. Additionally, Nigerian soldiers killed five people at a meeting of the Indigenous People of Biafra in Oshimilli North, Delta.

**Forecast:** Such levels of armed violence throughout Nigeria are nothing new. The use of weapons is a relatively common element of criminality in the country. This is unlikely to change even in the long term due, in part, to the prevalence and easy access

*to weapons. While much of this violence is targeted, innocent by-standers can fall victim if in the wrong place at the wrong time. 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.*

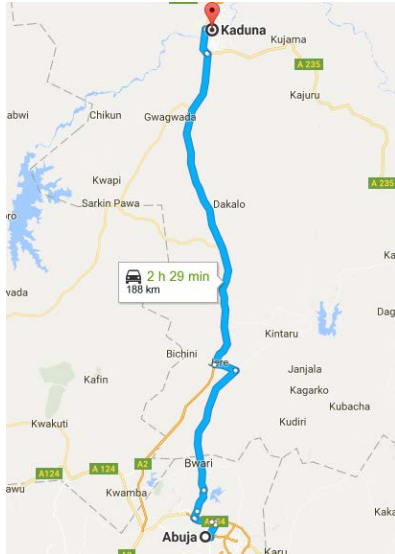
## Loss of Life

While it is acknowledged that exact death rates in the aftermath of incidents in Nigeria are hard to assess, monitoring those that are available can provide some interesting insights into trends. From the data that is available, there appears to be a reverse on last month figures, in that more people appear to have lost their lives from incidents related to the insurgency rather than to civil unrest.



## Abduction & Kidnap

As discussions emerged about the use of Kaduna Airport as a replacement to Abuja Airport during its closure, many analysts, including SAR Consultancy, raised the issue of kidnap and the risks associated with same. An incident this month, brought this risk and its reality to the fore. Two German



archaeologists were kidnapped in Janjela village, Kagarko LGA in Kaduna state. This is about 30km from the main Abuja-Kaduna Highway. No group claimed responsibility. However, kidnap for ransom are common in this area. Rumour suggests that a ransom was demanded in this case, but reports claim it was not paid. However, both abductees were released. This incident is likely to raise further concerns about the security of travellers to Kaduna Airport over the next few weeks. As a result, SAR once again reiterates the need to review security processes and procedures if planning to travel to and from Kaduna to Abuja.

A number of other kidnapping cases were also reported this month. Early in the month six traders were reportedly kidnapped in Okene, Kogi State by armed gunmen. Further south a Catholic priest was kidnapped in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom. While in Lagos, a heavily armed gang reportedly kidnapped the Secretary of the Estate Union in Isheri Estate. A

For further information, please contact SAR Consultancy @ [info@sarconint.com](mailto:info@sarconint.com) or [www.sarconint.com](http://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 2017.

## REMINDER

### Temporary Closure of Abuja Airport

The Nigerian Government will temporarily close Abuja International Airport on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, for a period of 6 weeks. Many flights will be diverted to Kaduna International Airport. A large number of international airlines have cancelled their services to Abuja during this time, including Lufthansa, British Airways & Air France.

#### ***SAR Recommends a Review of Travel Security measures if using flights to Kaduna or other airports in Nigeria to travel to Abuja.***

Re-assess the applicability of current travel management plans, and review as necessary

Review contingency plans, as this is likely to require planning in regard to medical assistance, overnight accommodation, secure parking, etc.

Brief staff on amended measures

Double check insurance implications

Remain in regular contact with your Airline.

number of people were also injured in this incident. A number of days later, it was reported that at least seven other people were kidnapped in Epe, also in Lagos State. Two of the individuals were reportedly members of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) and five were said to be farm workers.

**Forecast:** *Notwithstanding the risk of kidnap in Kaduna State, these incidents serve to illustrate the continued risk of abduction throughout Nigeria, both to locals and internationals. As mentioned last month, there would appear to be increasing sentiment that the problem is getting more prolific throughout the country. This threat is likely to remain in place in the short and medium term, and will remain especially high between Abuja and Kaduna over the next six weeks for internationals and high net worth locals. As a result, all organisations and individuals are advised to assess whether their anti-abduction measures are sufficient and take necessary precautions if not.*

## Lake Chad Region

A number of incidents were reported in Cameroon this month allegedly associated with Boko Haram. A suicide bomber reportedly killed himself and one other in Amchide, Cameroon, while four Cameroonian soldiers reportedly died after hitting a landmine in Tsanaga, Cameroon. Fifteen soldiers were also reportedly killed in Tilwa, Niger, by suspected Boko Haram.



## Piracy

This month saw reports of pirates kidnapping eight people off the coast of Brass, Bayelsa, when a cargo ship was attacked off the coast of Nigeria. It was reported that seven of those abducted were Russians and one was from the Ukraine. In addition, a number of days before the navy had reportedly rescued an oil tanker and its crew from a different attack.

## Factors worth monitoring

The humanitarian situation in the North East is becoming more serious by the day. The continued insecurity is making the delivery of aid increasingly problematic. Increased reports of insurgents moving in convoy illustrates their reviewed capacity to travel in large numbers and to gather to conduct attacks. This is likely to have a significant impact on humanitarian deliveriea. It is unlikely that INGOs and NGOs will be immune to these risks going forward and we may see more attacks either directly or indirectly targeted at humanitarian personnel.



SAR Consultancy

*Providing peace of mind in changing security environments*

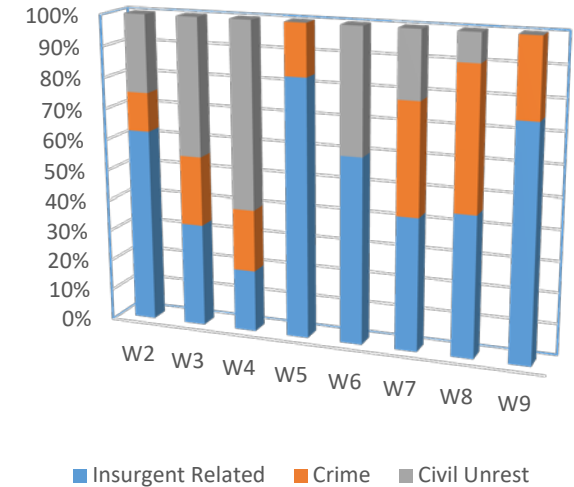
### SECURITY AUDIT & REVIEW

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, at SAR, think the presence of a security management plan is not enough. All organisations, regardless of industry or scale require a regular systematic assessment of existing security infrastructure.

*Contact us at SAR to discuss your 2017 audit; you have a duty of care to your employees to ensure your security infrastructure is fit for purpose. Don't wait for an incident to influence a review.*

Percentage of Incidents Per Week/Incident Type



---

*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](mailto: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.*

---