

SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

NIGERIA

April 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 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.

April 2017 – The high rate of suicide attacks in Borno State this month serve to illustrate how militants appear to have mastered the ability to circumvent security forces in public areas. Furthermore, the groups range of attacks shows the continued capacity to use multiple methods, against both hard and soft targets. As a result, reports of Boko Haram’s demise are problematic to reconcile given the continued reports of attacks, In fact, there is little evidence to support the argument that the group no longer retains the capacity to continue their insurgency. As a result, SAR assesses that this insurgency is likely to continue in the short and medium term. While it is acknowledged that peaks and troughs in attack frequency may occur, something the military may use as indications of success, the group is unlikely to be neutralised under the current defence strategy alone. A more holistic approach is required, and quickly, given reports of a worsening humanitarian situation in the region. Furthermore, incidents during the month have shown that the security situation in other parts of the country is also precarious. Clashes in the middle belt claimed numerous lives, as did incidents of violent crime throughout the country. The associated risk is likely to continue, with certain areas posing greater risk. As a result, SAR advises all those living in or travelling to Nigeria review their security management plans frequently due to the nature and fluidity of risk in Nigeria.



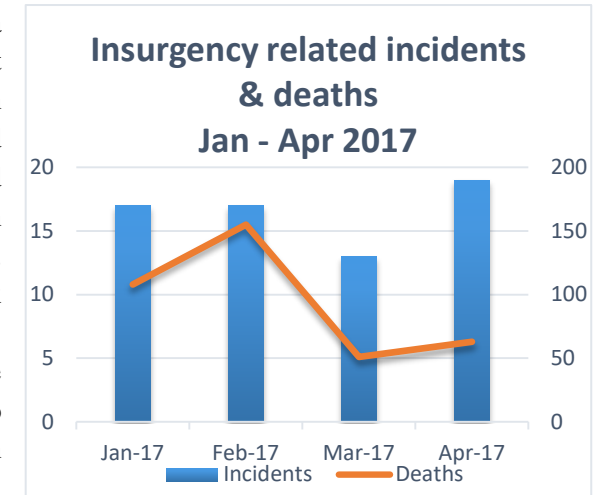
North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

Suicide bombings continued unabated throughout April. In fact, the frequency of events is such that incidents of this nature are becoming the norm. That said, many of the incidents this month only saw the suicide bomber killed. A number of these incidents were reported in Maiduguri and Jere, both in Borno State. Similar to last month, some of the incidents only involved single attackers, but some saw multiple bombers. For example, an incident in Maiduguri saw the deaths of two suicide bombers. Furthermore, both male and female attackers were also reported. During the last ten days of the month, suicide incidents were nearly being reported on a daily rate, and twice daily in some cases. For example, a female suicide bomber was alleged to have killed herself in Maiduguri in the last week of the month and the same day a male also reportedly killed himself, along with three others when he detonated his vest, also in Maiduguri. While most of the incidents had a limited impact, a number were more dangerous. For example, reports claimed that four suicide bombers killed themselves and one CJTF member in Maiduguri near the end of the month, while a suicide bomber reportedly killed himself and five soldiers in Damboa, Borno State. Furthermore, at least five people were reportedly injured after two suicide blasts outside a mosque in a district of Maiduguri. On a positive note, it was reported that the bomber was prevented from gaining access to the mosque. In addition, a suicide bomber also allegedly attempted to infiltrate the University of Maiduguri. However, once again the access was reportedly prevented by soldiers stationed in the institution. The prevention of access in both of these cases is likely to have prevented further casualties.

Boko Haram were also blamed for the deaths of over fifteen civilians in two separate incidents in Maiduguri during the month. Attacks on villages also continued, with claims that suspected militants attacked Abbari village, Konduga LGA. At least two people were reportedly killed and cattle stolen in this incidents. Attacks against the military also continued. The group were alleged to have killed five Nigerian soldiers in Damboa LGA were reports suggest that suspected militants attacked a military base. In addition, it was reported that an IED which they were alleged to have planted detonated, killing three Nigerian soldiers in Gwoza and the group were also said to have killed four soldiers in Dikwa.

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Despite these reports, the media and military continued to report successes. For example, Nigerian soldiers reportedly killed approximately twenty suspected Boko Haram militants in Kala/Balge. While in Gwoza, they reportedly killed six suspected militants. Furthermore, near the end of the month, the military were also reportedly to have killed fifteen suspected Boko Haram militants.



Forecast: While the number of suicide attacks appears to be increasing, their success rate does not seem to be increasing at a commensurate rate, with the only loss of life in many of the incidents reported this month the alleged attacker(s). Furthermore, where access to buildings was intended the security infrastructure in place would appear to have been successful in preventing entrance. That said, such incidents highlight a number of interesting points. For one, there appears to be a significant number of willing or induced suicide bombers. Secondly, those making the vests appear to have a consistent supply of explosives and thirdly, despite successes reported by the military, the security forces appear to be limited in what they can do to prevent such incidents in public places. As a result, these incidents clearly show that the group have not been neutralised and are capable of circumventing much of the security infrastructure in public areas. In addition, the other incidents reported, such as village attacks, attacks on military installations and IEDs show that they retain their capacity, commitment and determination to attack both hard and soft targets. As a result, it continues to be SAR's assessment that such patterns and trends are likely to continue for the short and medium term, as there would appear to be nothing significant in the security response, or more general response for that matter, to effect a different outcome within this timeframe.

Reported Boko Haram Activity in Abuja

During the month, the Department of State Services (DSS) were reportedly to have foiled an IS-linked BH plot against UK and US embassies, and 'other western interests' in Abuja. It was alleged that a number of people were arrested in connection with the alleged plot. This is an interesting dimension, given that there has been no significant BH activity in Abuja since mid-2015. Furthermore, until recently, the military and government were at pains to say that the risk was contained to the North East.

Lake Chad Regional Incidents

The Lake Chad region also reported incidents this month. For example, a suicide bomber reportedly killed himself Kolofata, Cameroon early in the month. Fortunately, no one else was killed in this incident. However, later in the month, another suicide bomber reportedly killed himself and three others in the same area. Conversely, in Niger, it was alleged that Nigerien troops killed fifty-seven Boko Haram militants in Gueskerou, Niger.

Communal Clashes

Communal clashes continued throughout April, especially in Benue State. The month starting with reports of fifteen deaths in Kwande, Benue State. Suspected herdsmen reportedly attacked a village in the area resulting in the loss of life and destruction of homes. There were claims that the attack never

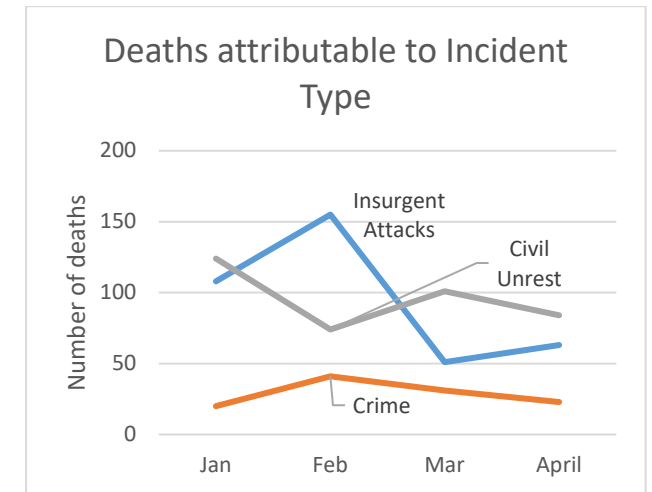
happened, or if it did, it was less violent than reported, with claims that only two people were killed. Others claimed that it was not herdsmen who attacked the village but criminals rustling cattle. That said, there appears to be a similar pattern to incidents as previous incidents, in that a number of days later it was reportedly that a further five people were killed by suspected herdsmen also in Kwande LGA. Later in the month, additional reports claimed that five people were killed in Katsina-Ala, Benue, with a further ten deaths reportedly lost in Gwer West, Benue State. While some of the details surrounding these incidents may be wrong, it is unlikely that all incident reports are false. As in similar months, deaths associated with such clashes were also reported in Jama'a, Kaduna State. Approximately, thirteen people were reportedly killed in this incident. The month also saw the Kaduna State Governor call for restraint and warned against reprisal attacks.

Forecast: *Benue State continued to be a hotbed of communal clashes. However, as in similar months, the issue seems to garner limited, if any, attention from the international community, despite the considerable loss of life associated with many of these incidents. While many of the attacks this month were alleged to have been perpetrated by Fulani herdsmen, the reprisal nature of many attacks makes it highly likely that future attacks against herdsmen will occur. Such forecasting is nothing new, with the Governor of Kaduna State calling for calm in the aftermath of similar incident in his state. He knows too well the cycle of violence such incidents can*

cause. As said before, unless something new occurs to try to console farmers and herdsmen violence is a likely outcome, resulting in a further loss of life, 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.

Loss of Life

It is acknowledged that exact death rates in the aftermath of incidents in Nigeria are hard to assess. Similar to March, and from the reports available, more people appear to have lost their lives from incidents attributed to clashes between herdsmen and farmers this month than those attributed to Boko Haram or in retaliation to their activities.



Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

Violence continued throughout Nigeria during the month of April, with the South experienced a significant amount. For example, two people were killed in clashes in Ife North, Osun, while ten were killed in Odukpani, Cross River. Accounts of re-occurring clashes in this region were reported throughout the month, with reports of at least twenty deaths in Itu, Akwa Ibom and a further eight armed youth were reportedly killed by soldiers. The exact cause of these clashes is unclear. Additionally, a journalist was reportedly killed by gunmen in Yenagoa, Bayelsa, while a new LG Secretary and another person were reportedly killed in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom.

Not all violent deaths were of civilians. In Anambra State, a police inspector was reportedly shot by armed militants in Idemili North, Anambra and a further three police officers were reportedly killed in Ogun Waterside, Ogun. Further West, reports of violence continued, with claims that unknown militants attacked and killed two soldiers and five policemen in Ikorodu, Lagos State. More centrally, reports in the media suggest that two police officers were killed in a clash with unknown armed militants along the Gwagwalada-Zuba-Kaduna Highway. An innocent observer was also reportedly injured in the incident. And in the North, reports this month, claimed that soldiers and policemen clashed in Damaturu, Yobe State resulting in at least four dead and several injured.



SAR Consultancy

Providing peace of mind in changing security environments

Assessing your level of preparedness

Most professional organisations working in Nigeria take security very seriously, either by providing an in-house security service or by contracting security services from a third party.

However, how many of you have tested your level of preparedness and your security architecture in place.

- How confident are you that it would withstand an attack?
- How confident are your staff that they know how to respond?

We, at SAR, can conduct this assessment for you, and can test in a controlled manner exactly how prepared you are. SAR provides an objective independent assessment service. Don't wait for an incident to realise things don't work as planned.

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.

Forecast: *As noted in the past, such levels of armed violence throughout Nigeria are nothing new. The use of weapons is a relatively common element of criminality. 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.*

Niger Delta Region

There were very few incidents of significance reported in the Niger Delta region during the month of April.



Forecast: *This reduction in reported incidents has continued for a second month running. This is promising for the success of the ongoing discussions and negotiations. However, from a security preparedness perspective, this is not a time for complacency if working or visiting these areas. Things have a habit of changing very quickly here and incidents can occur with little notice. Therefore, SAR recommends that anyone travelling to the region take all necessary security measures to remain safe. Furthermore, the decrease in attacks on the pipelines should not be mistaken for a reduction in the kidnapping risk in this region.*

Abduction & Kidnap

Kidnappings continued this month in Nigeria. Two Turkish citizens and another person were reportedly kidnapped from Eket, Akwa Ibom. The two Turkish nationals were said to be construction workers and were reportedly taken from their hotel. A number of days later, the media reported that the two had been taken to the Calabar Waterways where they were later rescued. Official reports claimed that no ransom was paid, but this has yet to be verified. The majority of incidents in this area would be kidnap for ransom cases. Later in the month, four people were reportedly abducted from Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos State. In the same incident five others were allegedly killed.

Forecast: *These incidents serve to illustrate the continued risk of abduction. Furthermore, they illustrate the confidential nature of many negotiations for release of abductees. This threat is likely to remain in the short and medium term, especially as the economy continues to suffer, which is also unlikely to change within the short or medium term. Therefore, SAR recommends that all organisations and individuals are advised to assess whether their anti-abduction measures are sufficient and take necessary precautions if not.*

Piracy

Maritime websites reported this month that eight tug crew members were kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea, off the shore of Nigeria. This incident was said to have occurred within an hour of an earlier incident a further 50 nautical miles offshore. In this incident

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militants allegedly attacked a tanker. Due to a timely response by the tanker's crew members, the attackers were thought to have aborted their attack. It is said that the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) consider that the militants in the Gulf of Guinea are well-equipped, violent and capable. In a separate, unrelated incident, two soldiers were also reportedly killed by alleged pirates in Nembe, Bayelsa.

3rd Anniversary of Chibok Kidnappings

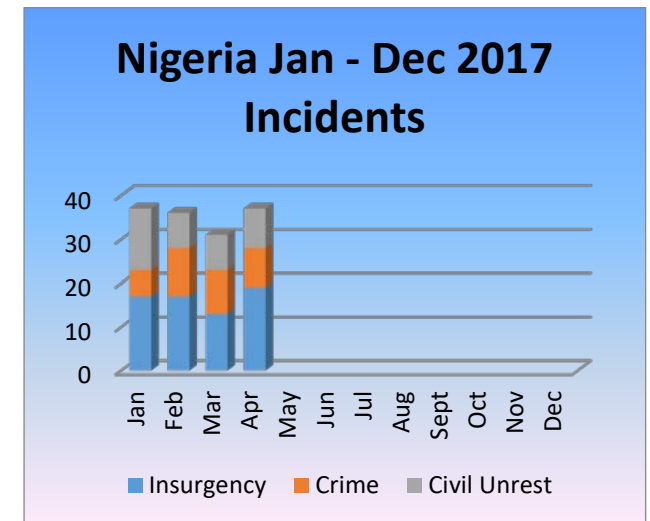
It should be noted that the 14th of April 2017 marked the 3rd anniversary of the abduction of 276 female school children from a school in Chibok, Borno State. There are still approximately 195 of these girls yet to be freed. In addition, and according to Amnesty International there was a further 40 other cases of mass abduction by Boko Haram since the beginning of 2014.

Factors worth monitoring

- The World Health Organisation was reported to have said that meningitis had killed approximately 500 people in Nigeria since the start of 2017. As a result, a vaccine campaign is ongoing. SAR reminds all those travelling to and/or living in Nigeria to ensure they remain aware of potential risks that go beyond security but that can easily impact their safety.
- Reports continue to emerge that there is looming famine in the Lake Chad Basin. However, many people are already experiencing famine. Concerns have been raised that aid agencies are

not in a position financially to deliver on the needs of the communities in the region. The security situation is also impacting their ability to implement on the ground. It is unlikely that INGOs and NGOs will be immune to these risks going forward. That said, through the support of local agencies, a high awareness of the dynamics in certain environments and flexibility, much can be achieved within acceptable safety limits.

- Abuja Airport is back in operation after a six week closure for urgent repairs.



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.