



SAR Consultancy



Security Information Bulletin: Nigeria

IN THIS ISSUE

Summary of Security Situation

by our Senior Analyst

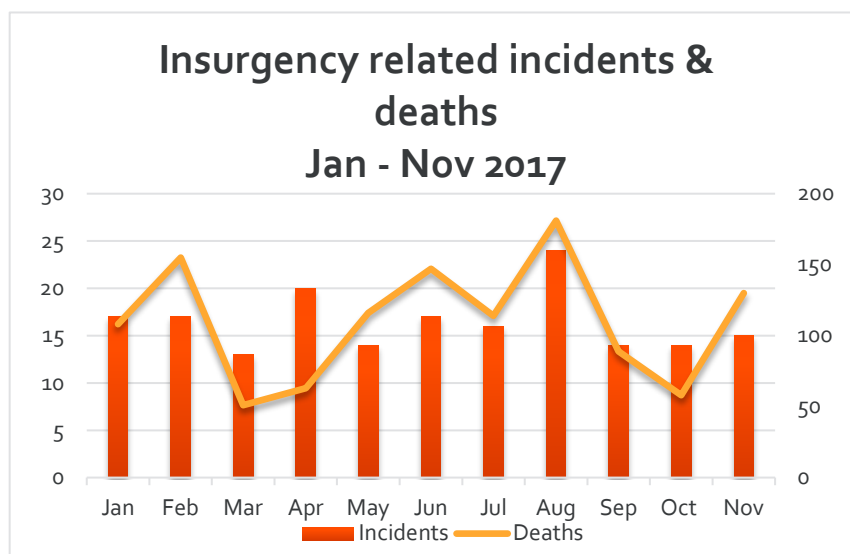
The Security Situation in Nigeria is multi-dimensional and complex. It is influenced, for the most part, by perceived political, economic and social injustice, which results in a high level of violence throughout the country. This violence is exhibited in differing dimensions and to differing degrees 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 2017 – November witnessed a number of incidents, which illustrate the risk of death and serious injury throughout Nigeria. From terrorism, criminality and communal clashes to the use of force by security forces, they all pose a threat to people and challenges to the Nigerian Government, not only from a security perspective but also in a social context. Notwithstanding the impact insecurity has on ordinary peoples' lives, people are unlikely to trust security services if they are overly physical in their use of force. This can fuel a cycle of violence, which is ever present in Nigeria. As a result, SAR recommends that anyone traveling to or through Nigeria should place a high degree of time and effort into planning their journey and stay, which should include a significant element of security management. While many travel to Nigeria without issue, the situation is such that this can and should not be taken for granted.

North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

As the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) reports a decline in deaths associated with terrorism in Nigeria, November threw a curve ball, with a number of incidents involving a significant death toll. For example, one incident in Adamawa resulted in the loss of over 50 lives. The month started with reports that the Nigerian military ambushed and killed an unspecified number of suspected BH insurgents in Bama LGA. Reports claim that the insurgents were attempting to get back to their hideout into Sambisa Forest. Whilst in the latter part of the month, they reported further successful operations. However, despite these perceived successes, attacks and the loss of life continued throughout the state. For example, village attacks were reported in Borno and Adamawa States. Boko Haram were suspected of killing one person and kidnapping ten others in Gwoza. Specific details of those taken are unknown at this time. Reports also claimed that the group attacked Bakin Dutse village, enroute to Gulak Town, Madagali LGA, Adamawa State. One soldier and eight villagers were reportedly killed, before support could be mustered. The group were also blamed for killing six farmers as they worked on their farms. Some reports indicated that they were beheaded; a method of death not uncommon in the group's arsenal. The group were also blamed for killing two in Askira/Uba, six in Magumeri and seven in Gombi, all in Borno State. It was also reported that they killed three soldiers and one member of the CJTC in Gwoza this month.

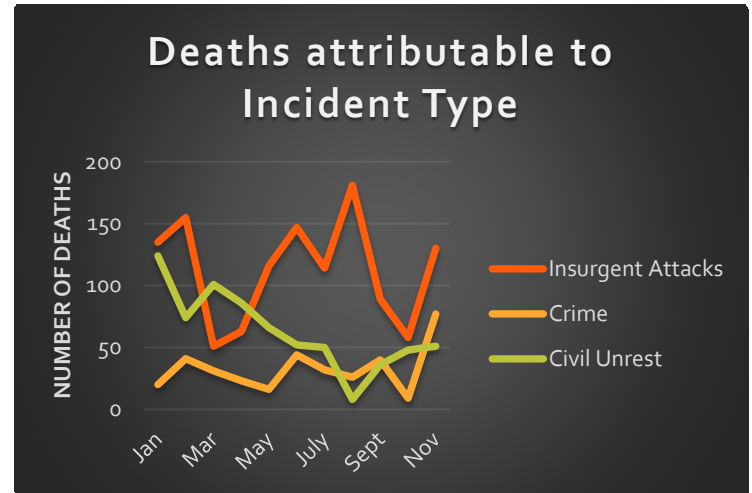


The group also continued to test the might of the military with suicide attacks, many of which involved multiple bombers. Less than a week into the month, two suicide bombers killed themselves and two others in Madagali, Adamawa, while four suspected suicide bombers reportedly died when they attempted to gain entry to Maiduguri. This group were intercepted on the outskirts of the city. Roughly a week later another four suspected suicide attackers attacked the Muna Garage Area, also on the outskirts of Maiduguri. Muna Garage area has recently been targeted on more than one occasion. This area has a number of factors which may make it attractive, such as a transport hub and an IDP camp. Given the patterns and trends of Boko Haram attacks it is clear to see that these are both high value targets. This was evident this month, when two female suicide bombers attempted to access an IDP camp in Dikwa LGA, killing themselves and one other in the attack. Reports also claimed that five people were killed when two female suicide bombers detonated their devices in Jere LGA. However, the most serious suicide attack this month, as referenced earlier, was reported in Adamawa State. A suicide bomber reportedly killed at least 50 people at a mosque in Mubi town during early morning prayers. As in other incidents, many others were badly injured in the attack. Adamawa has witnessed its fair share of attacks over recent years, but was relatively calm of late. This incident clearly illustrates the risk to this state remains.

Assessment & Forecast: As mentioned above, November saw a number of incidents with double figure death tolls, something which has become increasingly rare over recent months. While such incidents are unlikely to change the GTI index findings that Nigeria is experiencing a decrease in terror related deaths, it may still indicate some interesting factors. For one, it could indicate that the group have identified areas of vulnerability in military and security operations. The number of repeat attack locations may evidence this in part, such as Muna Garage area, Bama, etc. Or it may illustrate that the military are in fact reinforcing certain high risk areas, such as Maiduguri, but are leaving other areas vulnerable. This may be evidenced in reports that rural areas of Borno are still high risk given the lack of military presence. Incidents in Adamawa this month and Yobe last month, may also support this assertion. Boko Haram may have realised that military resources are significant in Borno urban areas, but less so outside the state. If this is a renewed approach, attacks in Adamawa and Yobe are likely to increase in the short term, and wider afield to Bauchi, Gombe, Plateau and even Kano in the medium to long term. Reports of large numbers of insurgents moving together, even in Borno, may illustrate that this is a real possibility. Such reports appear to indicate that despite reports of military success in ambushing the group, Boko Haram still seem confident to move in large numbers when required. So despite the positive nature of the GTI in the context of Nigeria, SAR assesses, that the situation in Northern Nigeria is still precarious and should not be taken for granted. For this reason, and also given continued attack locations, SAR advises against unnecessary movement outside Maiduguri. If movement is required, one should ensure a detailed Security Travel Management Plan is in place, based on up to date information.

Loss of Life*

This month saw a sharp increase in insurgency related deaths. Some of the factors that may be influencing this increase were raised above. Sufficed to say Boko Haram have not gone away and despite military successes, it is evident that they still pose a threat to the civilian population in the North East, especially in rural areas. A similar sharp increase was seen in deaths associated with criminality. Deaths associated with civil unrest is experiencing a steady increase, which may be indicative of the seasonal dimension to the nature of these events. *As with incident numbers, it is acknowledged that exact death rates in the aftermath of incidents in Nigeria are hard to assess, the graphs included provide an indication of the trends associated with each incident type.



Communal Clashes

Plateau State appears to be witnessing a renewed outbreak of violence between herdsmen and locals, nothing residents of the state are unfamiliar with. This month saw eleven people reportedly killed in one incident by unknown gunmen in Rim Village, Riyom LGA, while a number of days later, a further two people were reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen in Wereng village, also in Riyom LGA. It is not clear, at this stage, if these two incidents were connected, but historical trends and patterns would indicate they may be and if so, Fulani herdsmen are likely to be blamed for both. However, this may not be the case as unconfirmed reports suggest that the gunmen in the incident in Rim were dressed in military uniform. Later in the month, also in Plateau State, a community leader was reportedly killed by unknown gunmen at his house in Fakkos village, Bokkos LGA. It is unclear what motivated this incident.

On top of the serious suicide attack, Adamawa State also experienced a serious incident of communal violence this month. Reports indicate that at least twenty people were killed and others injured after clashes between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in three communities of Numan LGA.

In separate incidents, two people were reportedly killed in Ekiti, Kwara State and five in Ikwo, Ebonyi State. The details about either incident are still unclear.

Forecast: Attacks in Plateau State continued this month, however, these incidents illustrate one factor rarely highlighted after attacks in the middle belt. Attacks in this area are largely attributed to the Fulani herdsmen or to communities allegedly retaliating to attacks by herdsmen, while this is highly likely in many cases, it is unlikely to be the case in all. Automatic attribution of incidents of violence to clashes between herdsmen and farmers without proper assessment is likely to add further tensions in an already tense area, thereby fuelling the ongoing cycle of violence in the middle belt. Furthermore, such a response is likely to allow real offenders get away free of charge, given they are never suspected of or held accountable for attacks. Examining this perspective may help alleviate tensions in this area. That said, despite who is at fault, the areas does fall victim to attacks on a regular basis and therefore, SAR recommends that anyone travelling to this region establish and maintain close contact with locals based in the region.

Media reports early in the month claimed that the Niger Delta Avengers and Coalition of Niger Delta Militants stated that they would resume hostilities against oil installations in the region, after a sustained period of relative peace.



Forecast: After a sustained period of calm in the Niger Delta, the announcement of a resumption of hostilities is likely to instill trepidation for government officials. A resumption of violence in this sector is also likely to raise concerns over the safety of those doing business in the region. As mentioned over the last few months, the re-established peace in the region had come at the same time as a return of foreign companies back to the region. If this reduces again it is likely to impact the economy, moving it further back towards a recession. Given the statements of a resumption in hostilities, SAR recommends that anyone travelling to the region take all necessary security measures to remain safe and to keep proactive interest in the changing nature of events at this time. Any residue of the peace deal that may still be in place is likely to be precarious.

Niger Delta Region

Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

Incidents of violence continued to be reported this month. Motivated by a number of different factors. For example, the death of three people in Oji River, Enugu State was attributed to electoral violence. Such violence at election time, it not uncommon in Nigeria. This type of violence reduced during the last Presidential elections, but is still common place during state and local elections. Armed assailants killed around twenty five people in Zamfara State in two incidents, while gunmen killed six in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom. The motivation behind these incident is not clear.

On another note, three reported incidents illustrate the alleged risk of security forces throughout Nigeria. For example, a Nigerian Army Sergeant reportedly killed five before killing himself in Chibok, Borno. While in Oyo State, the police reportedly shot, but did not kill, two university staff members in Ibadan. However, three protesters were also killed in Edu, Kwara State by soldiers. Such reports are not rare. Security forces were also blamed for the deaths of six oil militants in Rivers State, while a vigilante group were said to have killed ten.

***Forecast:** As mentioned over the last few months, violence associated with crime is not uncommon in Nigeria, nor are reports of security forces using violence against people. This month is no different, however, it raises an issue as to whether lethal force is a response strategy of law enforcement throughout Nigeria, in situations which may seem unwarranted in other jurisdictions. This should be brought to the attention of travellers to Nigeria, who may not be knowledgeable about such possible responses by security forces. In fact, SAR recommends that all those travelling should be on high alert at all times and regularly review security arrangements to ensure a level of preparedness at all times. Vigilance and preparedness are important factors in keeping safe. On a separate note, and not taking away from the deaths of five people by a soldier in Chibok, this incident may be an indicator of the growing pressures on the military, both personally and professionally. Such events should be monitored and assessed as a serious matter, as vulnerable soldiers with access to weapons is not a good combination.*



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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.***

Abduction & Kidnap

Reports of abductions continued this month. Two people were reportedly kidnapped in Ajaokuta, Kogi State, while, a Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) marshal was reportedly killed, while two marshals were being abducted in Gurara, Niger. The police continued their efforts in tackling abductions when in one incident in Warri, Delta State, they reportedly killed a kidnapper. A sergeant was also killed in the incident. Near the end of the month, six students were reportedly abducted in Moro, Wara; who were subsequently released.

At the time of print, a portuguese civil enginner reportedly kidnapped in October in Kogi State is said to have died in captivity. Further details are unclear. Secondly, last month's bulletin referenced the kidnap and subsequent release of three of four abductees (UK nationals) in Delta State. It was noted that one

Forecast: *Incidents of this nature continued this month and like previous months, they were scattered across the country. As a result, SAR would continue to highly recommend all users of this route to implement an anti-kidnap plan as part of their travel plan.*

of the abductees had been killed during his captivity. It is now reported that he died of an asthma attack and not killed as many have been perceived.

Piracy

Reports into the risk of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea continued through November. However, on a positive note, this month saw the Nigerian Navy thwart an attempted attack on a vessel in the Gulf of Guinea, whilst also rescuing 10 crew members. The incident occurred 17nm south off Bonny Island. This location was noted in a recent International Maritime Bureau (IMB) report last month. It was mentioned in the top three locations targeted in the first 9 months of the year in Nigeria. Last month, the 'war economy' in Northern Nigeria was discussed in brief. A similar situation appears to have emerged in the Gulf of Guinea, if reports that foreign shipping companies spend over \$45 million annually to have their vessels escorted on Nigeria's waterways are true. However, in this case it is in the interest for the risk to remain high, given that some people, beyond just the militants, are likely to be significantly benefiting from the provision of such services.

TEMS OF INTEREST

*The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) is receiving very negative press of late, with many calling for its disbandment, given allegations of inappropriate behaviour.

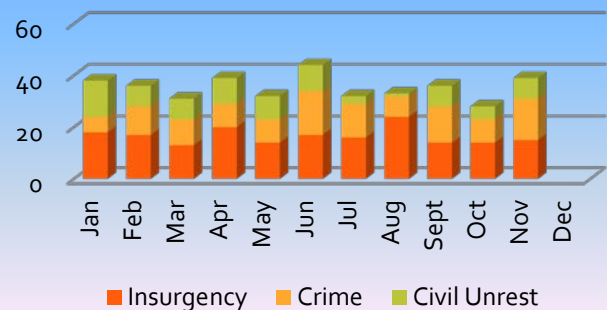
* The Lagos State Governor, said the state would procure an Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform, a specialised light aircraft, to secure the creeks and riverine communities.

* 50 children reportedly died, and 40 others hospitalised in Dutse Local Government Area of Jigawa State after contracting an unknown illness.

The UK FCO remind of risk of terror attacks

The UK FCO remind visitors to Nigeria that 'the risk of terrorist attacks increases around religious festivals, so will be elevated in the run up to and throughout the Christmas and New Year holiday period. Terrorist groups have threatened to conduct bombings and attacks in the FTC area during this period'.

Nigeria Jan - Nov 2017 Incidents



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We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin. We hope you found it interesting & 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.

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