

SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NIGERIA

JANUARY 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, or region to region. Furthermore, this level of unrest and complexity provides the environment for more opportunistic types of criminal and militant type 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.

That being said, 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. Furthermore, 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.

That said, 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 injustice nature, which impact differently throughout the country. Nonetheless, the presence of existing trends and patterns can assist greatly in strengthening the credibility of forecasts.

January 2016 started in a similar vein from a security perspective to the end of 2015. However as the month went on, a resurgence of Boko Haram style attacks, continued communal clashes in the middle belt, increased attacks on pipelines and the continued conflict in Zaria with regard to the IMN indicated that 2016 may pose increased and significant threats to the government and the country. In addition, issues such as the low oil price, reduced revenue and limited investment in infrastructure may directly or indirectly impact the security situation in the months ahead



North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

2015 finished with presidential and military statements that Boko Haram had been defeated, with some reports inferring that such was the confidence in the assertions that internally displaced individuals were moving back home. Given history, many remained sceptical and it was not long before such a stance appeared justified. Not long after the presidential claims, Boko Haram quickly displayed their continued ability to conduct operations in Adamawa and Borno, resulting in many deaths, injuries and property theft or destruction. Reports from some border villages even claimed that the group continued to hold ground in the region, something that was challenged by the military.

January continued in the same vein and throughout the month, reports of attacks in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states continued to emerge. However, it was reports from Cameroon throughout the month, which typified Boko Haram's pattern of attack. Reports of multiple attacks from Cameroon emerged, intensifying in the latter end of the month. In response, the military reportedly shut down markets along the border to reduce available targets. This region along the border is increasingly been seen as offering Boko Haram a suitable environment from where to conduct their attacks. A reported lack of coordination between the Cameroonian and Nigerian militaries in this region is said to be providing Boko Haram with a fertile ground from which to conduct their attacks, relatively unhindered.

Like 2015, a common element throughout many of the attacks was the use of female suicide bombers. Another shared element in the majority of these attacks was the nature of the targets, the majority of which were 'soft targets', such as schools, markets and mosques; not a new factor. In fact, the ebb and flow nature of Boko Haram's attacks seem to echo previous patterns in 2013 and before. That said, some appear to be blind to such trends, preferring to present Boko Haram's recent choice of method, target and frequency of attacks as a new pattern, and more worryingly, some suggest that it is indicative of their demise. However, the most recent attack in Dalori, just outside Maiduguri indicates that such a hypothesis clearly warrants reviewing.

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However, many others do not agree, and during January, the Nigerian military and some media have reiterated the President's claims of a technical defeat of Boko Haram, despite continued attacks.

Notwithstanding strong evidence of continued capacity within

Boko Haram, they have been reports of some positive advances. For one, January saw the establishment of a new army Division in northern Borno. Furthermore, the military reported the arrest of at least two suspected Boko Haram leaders, and that they successfully repelled a number of attempts by the group to attack their forces.

Forecast: *With the recent increase in development agencies trying to access Borno, Yobe and northern Adamawa, this continued guerrilla like warfare poses a significant risk to those trying to access for assessment or programme delivery in affected areas. This risk is likely to continue. It is SAR Consultancy's assessment that Boko Haram still retain capacity, capability and desire to conduct attacks. SAR would go as far as to say that in the medium term, if not sooner, the group are likely to re-engage with military forces. Given that security forces are assisting access to some areas, this may increase the risk against humanitarian agencies.*



Military operations in Kaduna (Zaria) and the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN)

Unsurprisingly, the clashes between members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), a Shiite group and the Nigerian army in Zaria in December are still receiving considerable coverage. Such discourse is likely to continue given that there appears to be two very differing perspectives of what actually happened. Furthermore, the IMN are reported to have said they do not have confidence in the judicial commission set up by the Kaduna state government to investigate the incident. Straight away, there would appear to be an issue with regard to the number of people killed. Initially, the military reportedly said that no one was killed in the incident, but more recently have said they would not be able to comment about the number of people killed until findings were released from an ongoing investigation. Some media reports suggest 60+ people were killed, while the IMN have reportedly said that at least 730 people are missing since the incident. Given known patterns and trends in Nigeria, this lack of clarity is likely to prolong frictions in the area, which may result in further violence. Ongoing tensions are still evident in the area, with intermittent reports of protests in Zaria throughout the month. That said, the IMN have reportedly said they would not take up arms against the government, rather they would seek legal redress by legal means. Given that the group denounce the Nigerian government, the democratic process and have said they have little confidence in the judicial commission, exactly what this will look like remains unclear. While this commitment is reassuring in the short term, people like the Sultan of Sokoto have suggested that such an event could spark a new insurgency if not dealt with properly. Human Rights Watch are also reported to have said the nature of the incident was worrying, purportedly stating that the incident was at best ‘a brutal overreaction’ or at worst a ‘planned attack’. Either way, the likelihood of a violent fallout from the incident should not be ruled out. Since the incident, the IMN have called for the release of Sheikh El-Zakzaky, the leader of the IMN who was alleged shot and arrested during the incident. However, given El-Zakzaky’s alleged wounds he has been reportedly transferred to France to receive medical attention. Many experts suggest that it would not be in the government’s interest for him to die in custody. With many worrying that such an event may echo the death of Mohammed Yusuf in 2009, the then leader of Boko Haram. The transfer of El-Zakzaky to France may buy the situation time and significantly reduce the risk of further protests, demonstrations and/or violence in the short term, unless of course El-Zakzaky’s condition deteriorates. Nonetheless, the risk of violence is unlikely to go away.

Forecast: *The risk from this incident is likely to be reduced in the short term, given El-Zakzaky’s transfer to France and the commitment given not to take up arms against the government. However, if El-Zakzaky’s health deteriorates the risk of further protests and/or demonstrations is likely to increase significantly. Such incidents could easily become violent, given previous incidents of this nature. That said, the risk is unlikely to be directed at the international community. Given the geographical location of Zaria, some may find themselves exposed to such*

protests or demonstrations inadvertently. As a result, SAR Consultancy advises that those traveling to or through Zaria in the short and medium term ensure they maintain an awareness of the ongoing situation in that area. It should also be noted that this risk may not only be confined to Zaria, given that support protests were reported in other northern states, such as Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara and Bauchi. As a result, it is strongly advised that individuals and organisations also monitor developments in these areas closely, as things can change quickly and may pose a significant risk for people in or travelling through the area if caught up in the incident.

Simple Tips to Staying Safe

In the aftermath of the attacks in Paris, the UK & French authorities released some simple advice to their citizens should they find themselves in similar situations. We proscribe the same advice.

- **RUN**
- **HIDE**
- **ALERT**

And if in doubt as to whether something is suspicious:

- **Report.**

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Communal Clashes – Middle Belt

The often forgotten conflict in the middle belt has continued into 2016 with its formidable pace, with significant attacks being reported in Taraba, Katsina and Adamawa. Collectively, the loss of life is reported to go into triple figures since the start of the year, with many others left injured. In addition, reports suggest a considerable loss of and damage to property alongside claims of large numbers of cattle stolen. Notwithstanding that these incidents often receive little media attention, they do pose a security risk for the communities in which they occur. Furthermore, reports from these areas are increasingly showing that locals are losing faith in the capacity of security forces to effectively respond to such attacks. Looking at the trends and patterns of this conflict over the last number of years, they would suggest that this type of activity is not likely to reduce in the short to medium term. However, some peaks and troughs may become evident throughout the year. Given that the location in which many of these attacks occur is in the part of Nigeria which offers the best land for the agricultural industry to grow and develop, such conflict could potentially impact the level of success for the agricultural industry if it is allowed to continued, relatively unabated.

Forecast: Such attacks are likely to continue in the short to medium term, and given their history can result in considerable violence. While this unlikely to impact the international community given its tendency to have a localised focus, it could have considerable impact on agricultural programmes being developed in the area. Furthermore, due to the alleged disillusionment of locals with security forces, they may take up a more active role in securing peace in their communities. Such an approach may result in increased risk of violent protests, demonstrations and/or direct conflicts; humanitarian, development and business people travelling to and through the area may find themselves in the middle of an incident inadvertently. Such incident are likely to occur without much notice and can quickly become violent. SAR Consultancy recommends people try to remove themselves from such situations as quickly as possible, or avoid them if at all possible.

Niger Delta & Increased Pipeline attacks

January has witnessed an apparent increase on attacks on the pipelines. One driver identified by a number of analysts for the increase in such attacks has been the issuance of an arrest warrant for the former Delta warlord, Tompolo. This action is said to have sparked an attack on oil and gas pipelines in Delta State resulting the shutdown of two of Nigerians four refineries and more recently an attack on pipelines in Baylsa State. Many analysts are suggesting that this apparent unrest by militants is increasing the possibility of a resurgence of violence in the Niger Delta region, and even outside of the region. This threat of violence and pipeline attacks is problematic especially given its relationship with environmental and social factors which often also influence tensions in the area. Given that Nigeria's economy is largely dependent on oil revenue, attacks on pipelines coupled with the global decline in oil prices is likely to severely impact the President's ability to implement his fiscal policy.

Forecast: *The number of pipeline attacks is likely to continue in the short to medium term, if not increase, especially if the security forces proactively seek to arrest Tompolo. In addition, given that the government is largely dependent on oil revenue, violence or the threat thereof is likely to be used as a bargaining tool in any negotiations between militants and the government. The level of frustration in the Niger Delta region may also influence an increase in armed kidnappings, armed robberies of banks and potentially, attacks in Abuja or Lagos to demonstrate scope of reach and determination. However, given previous trends intervention is likely before the violence spreads out of the region.*

This Monthly Assessment aims to examine the prevalent patterns and trends emerging, evolving, and/or continuing during the previous month. The data used to compile the report is largely open source material, with the addition of 'field information' were possible. As a result, the data used may not represent the total number of security related incidents that have occurred throughout the country, but does represent a comprehensive review of all available information.

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SAR Consultancy

Providing peace of mind in a changing security environment

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 2016 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.

The Presidents War on Corruption

Since President Buhari has taken office, his commitment to tackling corruption has been clearly evident. Arrests of significantly high profile individuals has continued into January 2016, with the arrest of the National Security Advisor Sambo Dasuki and the Defence Minister Bello Haliru Mohamed. It is reported that these two individuals will face charges which allege their involvement in the looting of funds from the war on Boko Haram. Some analysts have said that such arrests appear timely given the President's other commitment to contain Boko Haram. Given that allegations of corruption within the security forces tackling Boko Haram have been rife over the past few years, this action may indicate that the President is committed to dealing with systemic problems within the government. This coupled with the appointment of retired General Damdazzau to the position of Minister of Interior,

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with new responsibility for the national police service, may symbolise his commitment to tackling structural corruption while at the same time reforming the approach to tackling Boko Haram.

That said, while the impact of this restructuring may already have shown positive results, as mentioned above the issuance of an arrest warrant for the former Delta warlord, Tompolo, is said to have sparked a resurgence of violence in the Niger Delta region. It will be interesting to see if the President is committed to following through in his fight against corruption, or will the risk of fighting a second insurgency in the Niger Delta be enough to soften his resolve. Given that such a conflict is likely to have a greater impact on Nigeria from an economic perspective than that involving Boko Haram, we may see a different approach being adopted. The President regardless of how committed to tackling corruption he may be, he is unlikely to be able to afford to allow militants control the flow of oil for an extended period without intervention, given that some experts are beginning to suggest that a return to conflict in the Niger Delta region may have the ability to bring the country to its knees financially. This would not appear to be unreasonable given that the government's budget is severely reduced and government is unlikely to be unable to invest in some seriously needed infrastructure. While opportunities for growth are evident in the areas of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, telecommunications, power and energy, etc. notwithstanding the security situation which can greatly influence the extent of foreign direct investment, issues such as access to dependable electricity, better transport links, amongst others, make opportunities for investment more costly but also increase the associated risk.

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Nigeria – An Economy in Crisis?

Despite some growth in 2015, there is growing concern amongst many economists that the Nigerian economy will struggle in 2016. Furthermore, there appears to be a growing sentiment that the government may not have the capacity to properly manage this challenge. Contributing factors to this situation include:

- Over reliance on an oil based economy
- Low global oil prices
- Slow rate of economic growth
- Prospect of rising American Dollar interest rate
- Devaluing domestic currency
- Declining Oil & Gas revenue
- If Power Sector Reforms slow or stall, this will impact long term growth negatively.

Possible Outcome: *There is unlikely to be the much needed revenue to invest in infrastructural projects that are required to enable a move away from an overreliance on oil and to stimulate growth in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, etc. Furthermore, given that many of the conflicts within Nigeria are influenced by feelings of disenfranchisement, limited access to opportunities, limited access to social services, such as education, health, housing, etc. a lack of investment in these much needed infrastructures may further contribute to a challenging security and, worse still a developing humanitarian situation throughout Nigeria, not just in the North East.*

Tensions relating to Biafra

The end of 2015 saw a revival in public sentiment in favour of Biafra, a predominantly Christian Igbo dominated state which tried to secede from Nigeria in 1967-70 civil war, but failed. It has been suggested that this revival could be attributed to the return of Radio Biafra and its broadcasts. This may have some credence given that the arrest in October of Nnamdi Kanu, the director of the radio station appeared to spark clashes in Delta, Imo and other surrounding states. There has been many allegations that the radio station is presenting factitious material in order to heighten tensions, which in some cases remain since 1967-70. That said, there does appear to be growing support for such rhetoric beyond the listenership of the radio, with many people of Igbo ethnicity expressing anger over a feeling of marginalisation. Protests in support of Biafra and Kanu have been reported throughout numerous southern states, many of which have reportedly turned violent. Former President Obasanjo is reported to have said that this revival is a cry for attention due to poor socio economic conditions in the region and not the result of a desire for secession or for the creation of an independent entity. However, some may argue that this is disingenuous given that the North of Nigeria has significantly higher poverty rates than the South. That said, tensions stemming from feelings of marginalisation and poverty can cause serious security situations, both the North East and Niger Delta regions are cases in point; as a result, this situation needs to be properly managed.

Issues worth monitoring for the month ahead

- Possible increase in Boko Haram attacks outside of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa
- Continued incidents in Cameroon, Chad, and to a lesser extent Niger
- Tensions between the IMN & the government to continue, may turn violent especially if El-ZakZaky deteriorates
- The risk of Lassa Fever, especially in Bauchi, Nigeria, Edo, Taraba
- Increased risk of incidents in the Niger Delta, including an increased risk of kidnapping for ransom or bank robberies to secure funds
- Large scale public events should be avoided if at all possible, because violence can break out quickly.

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.
