

SAR Consultancy

(Security Analysis & Research)

SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN NIGERIA

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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.

February 2016 saw a clear demonstration of the continued range of Boko Harams capacities. The use of female suicide bombers continues unabated, alongside a range of other MO. Village attacks continued, but it was the attack on Dalori that really showed their retained capacity for larger, more complex attacks. Although positive statements of military successes by the authorities are still being reported in the media, the groups' actions appear to, once again, be the louder voice. This is unlikely to change in the months ahead. On another note, this month saw reports that an IS recruiter was arrested in Kano, with reports of families and others travelling to Libya to join the group.



North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

The Nigerian authorities continue to maintain that they are in the final stages of the fight against Boko Haram, with claims that they are consolidating their gains over the last few months. That said, claims of defeat should still be viewed with caution, given the high likelihood that Boko Haram will continue to conduct attacks for the short and medium term, if not longer. While it is accepted that the military and security forces have made gains throughout the last few months and that Boko Haram have lost assets and territory, they still retain an operational capacity that makes them continue to be a significant threat. Reports of suicide attacks both in the North East and in neighbouring countries clearly illustrates a continued capacity within the group. Furthermore, the attack in Dalori, 5km outside Maiduguri also indicates a level of the determination and motivation to keep the pressure on Maiduguri. The coordinated nature of this attack and degree of impact shows that writing off the groups capacity at this juncture may be fool hardy, such a response, given the groups history, could have severe consequences.

The nature of attacks this month, with the exception of a few incidents, continue to illustrate a return to the groups' hit and run MO. Attacks on isolated villages in Damboa LGA and Madagalli LGA illustrate the isolated nature of many villages and towns in Borno and Adamawa at risk. Such attacks given the target choice have been used by some analysts as an indicator that the group are on the back foot. However, if we look at the array of MOs the group uses and the patterns of such use, these type of attacks, usually frequent in number, have often occurred during periods where the group withdraws to plot its next move. Furthermore, attacks of this nature, serve only to demonstrate the lack of military protection in many of these isolated areas, where the group for so long have roamed free.

Another area of vulnerability that became evident again this month is IDP camps. Although not the first, the attack on the camp in Dikwa town indicated the degree to which vulnerable populations are still at risk in the North East. Additionally, it once again illustrates that there would appear to be no set rule to how, who and what Boko Haram will attack. Given the concentration of people in IDPs camps, they have the

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potential to become a desired target of attacks for weeks and months ahead.

Neighbouring countries also saw their share of attacks this month. It has been suggested that attacks in Cameroon may be in response to an increased military response in recent weeks.

On a positive note, the US have announced the resumption of combat training for Nigerian soldiers. Such cooperation was terminated in December 2014 but that this reversal in position is due, in part, to improved relations since the appointment of President Buhari. The support is reportedly coming in the form of airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, has already been given.

Forecast: *March is likely to continue in the same vein, with regard to Boko Haram attacks. While the majority are most likely to be of a low to medium impact, the chances of a larger scale attack is significant. If this is to happen, this is most likely to happen in Borno, Yobe or Adamawa, but it would not be beyond the bounds of possibility that it would happen in one of the northern states, Kano, Kaduna or Bauchi spring to mind. As noted last month, the continued attacks in some of the most isolated areas are likely to pose a significant risk to those trying to access these areas for assessment or programme delivery. Furthermore, given the attack on the IDP camp, precautions should be taken in the short to medium terms when working in these areas, as they are likely to continue to be prized targets for the group.*



Statements about Boko Haram outside of Nigeria

This month saw the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohammed, reported in the media as saying that Boko Haram members are travelling to Somalia for training with Al Shabaab. Such claims of links between these two groups are nothing new. In June 2011, in fact, two days prior to the VBIED attack on the Nigeria Police Force, Boko Haram boasted about links between the two groups. For some time now, many analysts have thought that Boko Haram learned the capacity to carry out VBIED attacks whilst being trained in with Al Shabaab in Somalia. Specific claims were made in the aftermath of the bombing of the UN HQ in Abuja that Mamman Nur, the alleged mastermind of the attack, was trained by Al Shabaab in Somalia prior to the attack. The timing of this recent claim is also interesting from the perspective of allegiances. Last year, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to IS, a group which Al Shabaab openly rejects. That said, some factions of Al Shabaab have claimed ties to IS, so it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that training links are still evident between the groups. However, that is not enough to substantiate the President's claims with many looking for more evidence before they see significance in them. In the absence of such evidence, however, it may be worth examining what it would mean for Boko Haram if the claims were true.

Reports of IS & ANSARU activity in Nigeria

Media reports in February claimed that an IS recruiter operating in Nigeria was arrested in Kano. He was accused of planning to recruit other Nigerians and take them to IS training camps in Libya. The youth was named as Abdussalam Enesi Yunusa and was said to be a university student. Reports claimed that Yunusa was radicalised while studying at the Federal University of Technology, Minna. The authorities were also reported in the media as saying that they had arrested five others in Kano trying to travel with families to Libya to join IS. Furthermore, two other youths were arrested and accused of planning 'lone wolf attacks' on places of worship and recreational locations, whilst also having been accused of communicating with foreign extremists.

Media report also claimed that an ANSARU cell were intercepted in Daura Township on the border with Niger. Seven members of the group were reportedly detained and accused of preparing attacks in Katsina and Kano. Such claims are interesting given that there has been little talk about ANSARU in recent months.

Comment: Claims of arrests of individuals or families attempting to travel to Libya, or Iraq

or Syria are not surprising. No country or nationality is immune from such influences. Irrespective of whether there is an ongoing conflict or conflicts in a country, it should not come as a shock that some citizens will still want to travel to join the cause. From the Nigerian perspective, it should not even be a surprise if individuals want to travel to join IS that would not consider joining Boko Haram, or similar groups.

Claims like this, if true, should be taken very seriously, as they may be indicative of a growing number of individuals who see IS as an attractive group. Furthermore, given that the authorities are said to have reported that they found two individuals plotting attacks, these arrests may serve to illustrate a growing threat for the weeks and months ahead. If this is the cause, the worst thing that can be done is that it would be viewed in the same perspective as the threat posed by Boko Haram. This threat should be viewed in its own context, given that the risk associated, while similar in part, may be considerably different

Food for Thought!

Given the renewed support of the US to the Nigerian authorities with respect to the fight against Boko Harm, might this move draw foreign fighters who cannot, for whatever reason travel to Syria, Iraq, or Libya, to Nigeria, or at least make the conflict in the North East look more attractive than solely a national problem?

Communal Clashes – Middle Belt

As mentioned last month, communal clashes and attacks in the middle belt often go relatively unnoticed, irrespective of the scale and scope of their impact. Such clashes are not new and have resulted in a significant loss of life and property over the last few years. Coupled with the frequency of retaliatory attacks, communal clashes are unlikely to dissipate without a concerted effort on behalf of the authorities. A number of incidents this month highlighted the continued scale and impact of these clashes in the middle belt. One such incident in Agatu, Benue State is reported to have claimed the lives of 10-12 people in renewed clashes between Fulani herdsmen and local farmers. While in Zamfara State 50 people were said to have lost their lives when gunmen raided a community in Maru LGA. Given that a number of cattle were stolen during this incident, it is thought the perpetrators were cattle rustlers. Interestingly, the Inspector General of Police is reported to have said, that those tormenting farmers across the country are not Nigerians for the most part, rather individuals who use the porous borders to get into the country.

Forecast: *Given that these attacks are left relatively unaddressed, such incidents are likely to continue indefinitely and although these incidents are largely contained within the communities in which they occur, they can still pose a risk to the international or donor community if in the wrong place at the wrong time. Additionally, as mentioned before such attacks do have the capacity to impact the delivery of programmes in these areas. Notwithstanding the deaths and loss of property, the impact of these attacks is highly likely to become more significant in the medium to long term given that the locations of many of these attacks is the same area in which agricultural development will occur in the future. If left unchallenged, communal clashes have the potential to negatively impact development programmes and projects in this area, especially those relating to the growth of the agricultural industry.*

Niger Delta & Increased Pipeline attack

Continued attacks on pipelines in Niger Delta were reported this month. Many analysts agree that the fear of the amnesty programme coming to an end, an amnesty that resulted in a significant reduction in attacks in the Niger Delta, is motivating these attacks. Furthermore, as mentioned in last month's bulletin, the filing of charges against ex-militant Tompolo is also said to be contributing to the rise in tensions. In addition to the pipeline attacks, five

JTF operatives were killed by pipeline vandals in Ogun State. The official line now claims that the Amnesty programme will not be withdrawn overnight. It is said that an exit strategy will be designed and implemented with mechanisms which ensure limited impact on National Security. It will remain to be seen if such a commitment is enough to quell the tensions.

Forecast: *Without a concerted commitment of what the amnesty programme will look like going forward it is unlikely that there will be a reduction in incidents in the short term. Furthermore, as said last month, if security forces proactively seek to arrest Tompolo, tensions are likely to escalate further. Notwithstanding the issues mentioned above, the current state of play with low oil revenue, the environment of the Niger Delta region is such that criminality in some form or other is likely to continue in the same vein.*

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' where 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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Organised Crime

Criminality still plagues the country. Four police officers and six others were said to have been killed in an armed robbery in Ifelodun LGA, Osun State. The perpetrators were said to have used explosives to gain access behind security doors of three commercial banks. Kidnappings continue to be reported, against national and international targets.

Comment: *Violent crime is common in Nigeria and can be associated with crimes such as aggravated burglaries up to kidnapping for ransom. Even when incidents don't start violently, there is always the ability for situations to change very quickly. Security plans should include training and awareness in this regard for staff and colleagues to ensure they can be somewhat prepared in case they ever finding themselves in such a situation. Furthermore, given the continued deterioration in the economic situation in the country, violent crime is likely to continue, with opportunistic criminality likely to rise. The international communities is a key target in this regard.*

Tensions relating to Biafra

Heightened tensions relating to Biafra continue, with Abia State reportedly witnessing protests that claimed at least 6 lives. Protests were also witnessed in Enugu and Asaba, but peaceful on these occasions. Similar to last month, these protests were attributed

to the arrest of Nnamdi Kanu. That said, others suggest the protests are largely due to a growing sense of dissatisfaction with the governments' level of input into growing the industrial and economic potential of the area. Irrespective of the exact motivation, such tensions are unlikely to go away in the short term, as neither situation is likely to be solved in that timeframe.



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 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.***

Factors worth monitoring for month ahead

- Continued attacks in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, possible more in IDP camps
- 830,000 people are said to be in danger of starvation in the North East. 54,000 of these are believed to be in a catastrophic situation. These increased needs are likely to mean increased humanitarian presence in the North East, which comes with a risk. Humanitarian communities should be mindful of this and take the necessary steps to mitigate these where possible
- Continued risk of incidents in Cameroon, Chad, and to a lesser extent Niger
- Continued risk of Lassa Fever outbreaks
- Possible risk of Cerebro Meningitis
- Increased risk of incidents in the Niger Delta, including an increased risk of kidnapping for ransom or bank robberies to secure funds
- Protests likely if new electricity tariffs are implemented.

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.

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