

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 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.

October 2016 continued to illustrate the protracted nature of the ongoing conflict in the North East of Nigeria and neighbouring region. Incidents this month serve to demonstrate that despite reports from the military and media that Boko Haram have been significantly depleted, the group continue to have the capacity and desire to conduct attacks both against soft targets, and increasingly, against harder targets. This is unlikely to end in the medium and longer term given that the group are proving their ability to circumvent the military both in the field and increasingly in Maiduguri. Despite this, the need continues for access to the region due to the seriousness of the humanitarian situation. This poses an increasing risk to those travelling in the region, especially as Boko Haram appear to be maximising the opportunity access is bringing in the form of attacks on convoys for example, thereby illustrating the continued risk of travel within the state. Throughout the rest of the country, the risk of abduction, violence and criminality are likely to continue, with certain areas posing greater risk. This month has shown that the risk of abduction appears to be increasing in many parts of the country. As a result, SAR advises all those living or traveling to and through Nigeria to review their journey management plans frequently due to the nature and fluidity of risk associated with Nigeria.



North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

October witnessed a shift in insurgent activities, with an apparent increase in actual and attempted suicide attacks. At least four alleged suicide explosions were averted during the month, with the suspected bombers killed in all incidents. A male suicide bomber was killed as he attempted to enter Maiduguri, while two suspected females were reportedly killed by the army in Gwoza, Borno State. A suspected bomber was also killed in Madagali, Adamawa. Near the end of the month troops in Gubio LGA reportedly foiled a suicide attack in the town when 8 suspected insurgents arrived in a pick-up truck, allegedly laden with explosives. The 8 were reportedly killed when one detonated their vest at the checkpoint. However, not all attempts were repelled and October actually saw the most significant attack in Borno State for some time. A car exploded, laden with explosives, on the outskirts of Maiduguri in Gamboru, which killed at least 18 people and wounded 15. In the latter part of the month, 4 people were killed and others injured when a car bomb exploded near a military checkpoint along the Gubio highway. While, two explosions were reported in Maiduguri in which a number of people were reportedly killed and wounded. One of the explosions was said to have occurred at the entrance of the Bakassi IDP camp. These incidents serve to illustrate that Boko Haram, despite alleged depletion of fighters and resources, still retains the capacity to plan and execute attacks.

Village attacks also continued this month. Five

people were reportedly killed in an attack in Kwashebe Village, Jere LGA. Boko Haram are suspected. As in the past, the insurgents stole foodstuff and livestock and set buildings on fire. Buildings were also burned down and livestock taken in a village near Chibok, but no deaths were reported.

This month's incidents showed that Boko Haram's capabilities go beyond what some may see as soft targets, given that reports emerged during the month that at least 20 members of the Nigerian military were killed and others injured when their location was attacked by suspected Boko Haram members. This illustrates that Boko Haram, not only have the capability, but also have the willingness and desire to continue their operations. Based on this, SAR Consultancy assesses that the situation is not likely to change in the medium and potentially long term, if something significant does not happen. As a result, the security situation remains fluid and complex, which is worrying given the increasing humanitarian needs in the region.

Forecast: *This month clearly illustrated that Boko Haram continue to use the fluidity of the security situation to take advantage of increasing opportunities provided by increased access to the region. Furthermore, it showed an apparent increase in attempted and actual suicide attacks, targeting a range of targets over the course of the month. Despite these attacks the military still report advances, but the number and nature of attacks makes it increasingly difficult to believe that the security*

situation is likely to improve in the near future. In fact, neither Boko Haram or the military would appear to be significantly stronger or more determined to suffocate the other. This is resulting in a protracted conflict, which is having very serious consequences, made increasingly to more difficult to navigate due to the ongoing humanitarian situation. The protracted nature of this conflict is likely to continue not just in the short and medium term, but also in the long term, if nothing significantly changes in the governments approach on the group.

Lake Chad Region

Unknown gunmen reportedly attacked a Malian refugee camp in Niger, in which 22 Nigerian soldiers were killed. Later in the month, other troops reportedly repelled an attack on a prison holding insurgents. MUJAO are suspected for this attempted attack.

Release of 21 Chibok Girls

This month saw the release of 21 schoolgirls kidnapped in Chibok by Boko Haram over two years ago. The release was reportedly negotiated with the support of the Red Cross and the Swiss Government. Despite denials, unconfirmed reports claim that the girls were released in exchange for a number of Boko Haram prisoners, possibly four.

Communal Clashes

At least 20 people, but it may be as high as 40, were reportedly killed in an attack conducted by suspected herdsmen on a village in Jem'a LGA, Kaduna. This incident reportedly motivated a number of retaliatory attacks in the village throughout the month. For example, 14 herdsmen were reportedly killed and ten days later suspected herdsmen killed a further seven people. These retaliatory incidents are not uncommon, and while some incidents happen within hours and days of initial attacks, some see a longer period before perceived revenge is taken. As a result the threat of further attacks is likely.

On a separate note, this month saw Shiite Muslims observe Ashura, with processions taking place in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Sokoto. At least four people were reportedly killed in Kaduna, when security forces surrounded a gathering of the Shiite Muslims observing Ashura. This public observance came days after the groups were declared an illegal organisation in Kaduna, Kano and Katsina. A mosque and home of Shiite leader were also reportedly burnt down. Ten others were reportedly killed and others injured in Funtua, Katsina State. This is likely to fuel existing tensions within the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) further. These events coupled with the continued detention of the IMN leader El Zakzaky may have the potential to motivate protests in the short and medium term or somewhat more problematic, in the long term they may push the group and movement underground.

Forecast: *Clashes between herdsmen and farmers are likely to continue in Jema'a given the retaliatory nature of these incidents. Retaliation may not be quick so the risk will remain in place for some time.*

Given the ongoing detention of the leader of the IMN, the declaration of the IMN as an illegal organisation and the violence at recent Ashura observations, tensions are likely to remain high for the foreseeable future. Further clashes between security forces and IMN members are highly likely in Kano, Kaduna, Kastina and Sokoto, but also in Abuja, as IMN members take to the streets in protest.

Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

Unknown gunmen reportedly attacked a police station in Igumale, Ado LGA, Benue State killing three police officers. The gunmen reportedly stole weapons from the stations armoury. Such an attack could be conducted by armed robbers or possibly be by insurgents. It is unclear who may be responsible in this case. Also in Benue State, a group of gunmen reportedly killed 8 people who were gathered at a pub in Katsina-Ala LGA, Benue State. Others were injured in the attack. The motivation behind this incident is unclear as attacks on bars are not uncommon in the North East of Nigeria. Further South, a large number of people were reportedly killed in Eleme LGA, Rivers State when a cult raided a community. While, The JTF reportedly killed five five militants in Bakassi, Cross River and two alleged pirates in Akuku-Toru, Rivers.

While much of this violence is targeted, innocent bystanders can fall victim if in the wrong place at the wrong time. This risk is largely present throughout the whole of Nigeria, to differing degrees. 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 Regions

The Niger Delta region remained turbulent this month, despite continued talks of negotiations. Militants attacked a number of pipelines throughout the month. Later the Niger Delta Avengers reportedly attacked a pipeline in Warri South West, Delta. That said, at the end of the month, the federal government announced plans for a \$10 billion infrastructure development fund for the region.



Forecast: *The plan for a \$10 billion development fund is to raise the money from investors and individuals who are ready to develop private sector infrastructure in the region. While this is likely to raise hope in the short term, the nature of the approach is not likely to have many short term impacts. Furthermore, if the risk of attacks and violent incidents continue, investors may be less*

likely to invest thereby limiting the overall impact of the plan. SAR Consultancy forecasts that these attacks will continue both in the medium and long term. SAR recommends that all those intending to travel through or to the region should ensure they have a thorough security plan in place.

Abduction & Kidnap

October continued to show the risk of kidnapping both to nationals and internationals in Nigeria. Interestingly, the incidents appear to be spread across the country, thereby increasing the risk for many. A former minister and her husband were reportedly abducted at a roadblock along Bwari/Jere Axis on the Abuja-Kaduna highway. The police reported that these two people were later released, but it is unclear as to whether a ransom was paid. Within the last six months, or slightly longer, this location has become a hotspot for abductions. In Zamfara, gunmen reportedly kidnapped the local government vice chairman in Anka and two students were kidnapped from a school in Rijau LGA in Niger state. Further south, 4 students, a vice principal and a teacher were reportedly abducted from a school on the outskirts of Epe, Lagos during the month and a wife of another APC Chief was reportedly abducted from Ekiti State. A Romanian engineer was reportedly kidnapped in Ika South, Delta, a location known for a high rate of abductions of internationals. It was later reported that he had been freed. Despite these reports, the military and police continue to report their alleged successes in this area. For example, at least five kidnappers were reportedly killed by the army in Dutsen Makurd,

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SAR Consultancy

Providing peace of mind in a changing security environment

Journey Management Review

Journey Management is a critical component to security management. But do you truly understand just how important our journey management policies and procedures actually are? More importantly, how confident are you that your policies and procedures are sufficient to meet your duty of care?

We, at SAR, are available to assist you in this regard both from risk assessing your policies and procedures in place and in helping you to create them if you have not got them in place. All organisations, regardless of industry or scale require a regular systematic assessment of existing security infrastructure. *Don't wait for an incident to motivate a review. Be proactive.*

Bauchi. A further four were reportedly killed in Sabon Kura Village, Ningi LGA also in Bauchi. While a number of suspected kidnappers were reportedly arrested in Kano State.

Forecast: *While kidnappings are a relatively common occurrence in Nigeria, there would appear to be a slight increase in incidents of late. This may*

be due in part to the deteriorating economic situation, and also due to the redirection of security resources to other issues throughout the country. This threat is likely to remain in place in the short and medium term as either factor mentioned above are unlikely to change within this timeframe. Furthermore, with the Christmas period approaching, more demands on finances are likely resulting in more incidents. .

Factors worth monitoring

- The humanitarian situation in the North East of Nigeria is becoming more serious by the day. As a result, the need for access is increasing. Boko Haram appear to be attempting to maximise these increased targets. Those traveling in this region should remain vigilant.
- The Kaduna Abuja highway remains a high risk location for kidnap and abduction.
- As the economy deteriorates further, crime is likely to increase, in the form of burglaries, robberies and kidnapping for ransom. This risk is also likely to be influenced by the approach of Christmas, a time in which higher rates of robbery and theft are often reported.

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.
