



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

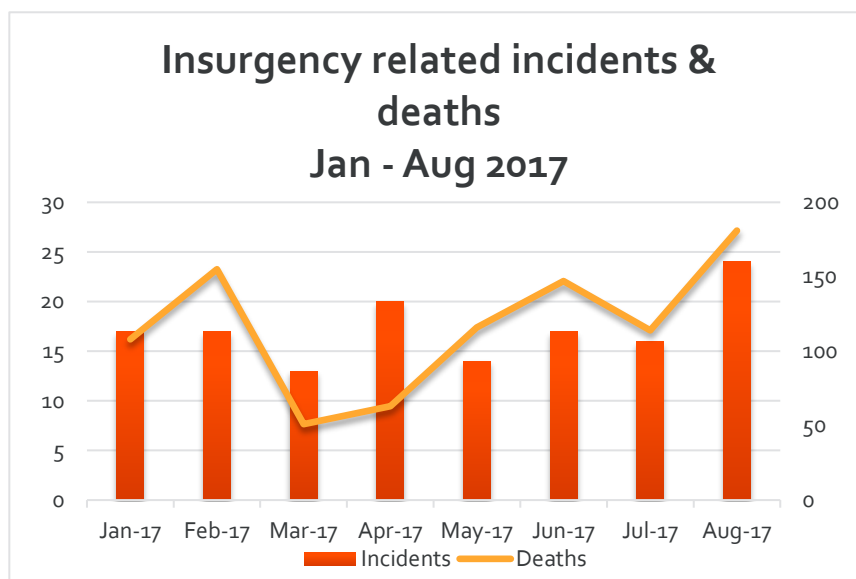
involvement and alleged political interference. This interplay of actors makes it difficult to determine the perpetrator and the victim in many cases. Nigeria is a country with specific needs, both development and increasingly, humanitarian, therefore access for international and domestic NGOs and developmental 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.

August 2017 – Incidents this month once again illustrate that despite Government assertions that Boko Haram have been defeated the group maintain the strategic and logistic ability and commitment to continue their offensive. Interestingly this month showed that they appear to be maximising vulnerabilities in certain areas, which is creating a number of hotspots. Given previous patterns, these are likely to shift after reinforcements are targeted at such locations. Given the nature of ongoing activity SAR continues to assess that this insurgency is likely to continue in the short and medium term. The security situation in other parts of the country is also precarious, 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

August saw little reduction on the number of suicide attacks in Borno State in comparison with last month. Two suicide bombers allegedly detonated devices near a hospital in Maiduguri. No civilian casualties were reported. Three suicide bombers also reportedly killed themselves in Mafa, Borno. Once again no other casualties were reported. However, this was not the case in all incidents of this nature. The group were also said to have detonated a number of IEDs by suspected suicide bombers in an IDP camp and at a local market killing at least twenty five people and injuring many others in Konduga LGA. Three suspected militants may have died in these attacks. While, a suicide bomber was said to have killed around six people when he targeted a Special Forces patrol team. Interestingly, this month witnessed reports of an IED on the roadside. Such reports are not rare, but similar incidents have been limited in recent times. Two people were reportedly killed in the incident. Another interesting aspect of this incident was that it was in Yobe State, on the Buni-Gari Highway in Gujba LGA. While Yobe is not unfamiliar with attacks and suspected Boko Haram activity, it was been very calm of late.



Village attacks also continued throughout the month, with Adamawa particularly targeted. Madagali LGA witnessed at least three attacks. The first saw the death of around seven people, with others injured. The second claimed lives, and attackers also stole food and supplies on their escape. The third incident saw claims that suspected militants attacked Nguru-Barkin Dutse village, causing considerable damage to a newly renovated hospital and several other buildings in the village. The group were also blamed for an attack in two other villages in Adamawa. An unspecified number of people were said to have been killed in these incidents. Borno State was not preserved from village attacks either, the group are believed to have attacked and killed villagers in Konduga LGA during a night time raid. While two farmers were reportedly killed by the group in Jere, Borno and three in Maiduguri, Borno. Another farmer was said to have been abducted in this incident but exact details are scant. Near the end of the month, over fifteen people were said to have been killed in two villages in Nganzai LGA. As in similar incident, the group took foodstuff and cattle on their escape. The group also were suspected of attacking and killing over thirty fishermen in attacks in the Lake Chad region. These events came after a recent lifting of a ban on fishing in the area.

Despite these, a number of military successes were reported this month. The month started with reports that the military foiled an attack in Jere LGA, near Maiduguri after shooting dead a suspected suicide bomber. While troops in Dikwa reportedly foiled attempts by a group to enter two villages in the area, killing at least 6 suspected militants in the operation. Reports also claimed that the military killed over ten suspected militants in Bama, but reportedly lost two soldiers in an IED attack. The military also reportedly killed approximately ten suspected militants in Mafa LGA when their positions were attacked. However, the group were said to have ambushed military and CJTF near Konduga LGA in a later incident.

Assessment & Forecast: The activities of Boko Haram this month, or at least incidents suspected of being committed by them, clearly indicate that the group still retain capacity, determination and commitment to conduct their attacks. They also continue to illustrate that the group continues to have both strategic and logistical capacity to do so. The nature of the incidents raise a number of interesting factors. For example, there would appear to be a number of hotspots of activity, namely Madagali and Konduga LGAs. This is likely to show that the group are both confident and comfortable that they can navigate and circumvent the security infrastructure in place in these areas. Furthermore, the nature of the village attacks indicate that such attacks are increasingly being used as a method to replenish stocks and supplies. This may show that the group's own supply chains are not working as effectively as before. On a positive note, despite a number of incidents resulting in a considerable number of deaths, the civilian casualty rate as a result of suicide attacks would appear to be reducing. This may be due to restrictions preventing 'would be suicide bombers' gaining access to large crowds. That said, the number of attacks, and attacks like that in Konduga LGA, clearly illustrate the risk still remains. Furthermore, as noted by SAR last month the offensive nature of many of these attacks suggest that the group still retain a high degree of strategic direction, weaponry, numbers and belief that they are still a force to be reckoned with. This assessment remains despite reports this month that a faction of Boko Haram were in the very early, preparatory stage of negotiating

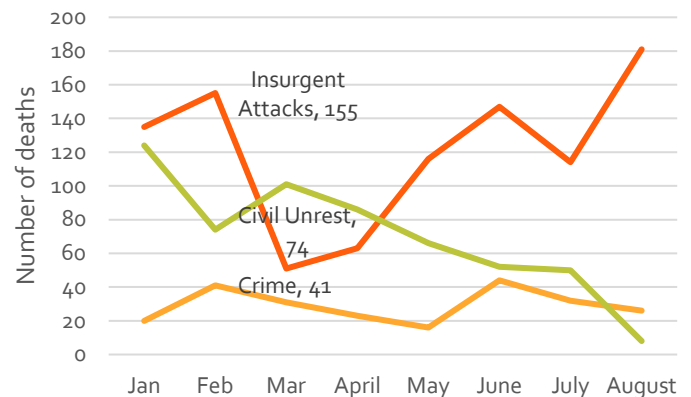
with the Nigerian Government. While such reports may be welcomed if they are correct, similar reports in the past have proven either untrue or unfruitful. SAR would suggest that such claims at this juncture are viewed with extreme caution. Based on this, SAR continues to assess that the group are not defeated as has been suggested, and continue to pose a significant threat both to Borno and neighbouring states both in the short and medium term.

Loss of Life*

Despite continued comments that Boko Haram have been defeated, there was a considerable spike in the death rate this month. That said, deaths associated with suicide bombs (per event) reduced. Nonetheless, village attacks appeared to result in a considerable increase in deaths this month. It is interesting to see that the loss of life associated with communal clashes continues to drop, in line with seasonal trends. The crime related death rate, remains relatively stable.

**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.*

Deaths attributable to Incident Type



Communal Clashes

This month witnessed very few reports of communal clashes in the middle belt. This is in line with the seasonal nature of such incidents, which have a cyclical nature further south, a serious clash took place in Isoko South LGA in which eight people were killed and many others injured. The clash was said to have broken out between two communities over disputed land. Incidents of this nature are becoming more common down south, increasingly resulting in loss of lives.

Forecast: *Despite a significant reduction in the number of communal clashes in the middle belt, one should not think that the problem has gone away. The nature of such incidents result in a seasonal dimensions to attacks and this period is likely to just be a predictable low. That said, it is*

times like these that can present opportunity to engage with hard hit communities to discuss what may be required to better manage such incidents in the future. Such lulls in attacks should not be viewed as a reason to stop assessing risk if travelling to or through high risk areas. The nature of these attacks means that they can occur with little notice.

Niger Delta Region

Negotiations continue in the Niger Delta region and this month saw reports that the Government has offered to supply modular refineries to the region and supply them with crude oil at a reasonable price. It is proposed that



two of these will be in operation by the end of the year. However, given the nature of the conflict in the region, only time will tell if this is enough to keep tensions at bay.

Forecast: *Negotiations albeit slow still appear to be going in the right direction and more importantly appear to be sufficient enough to sustain a relative peace in this region. This is very positive. That said, it is still likely that this recent peace remains fragile. It would not be beyond the realms of possibility that a resurgence of violence occurs at any time. Therefore given this fragility, albeit welcomed, 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.*



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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.

Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

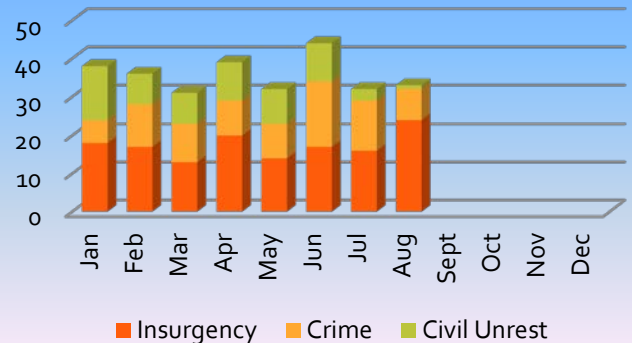
A serious violent incident was reported in Anambra State this month. A group of gunmen reportedly attacked a Church in Ozubulu, near Onitsha, killing over ten people and injuring others. The exact motivation behind the attack is unclear, but some have reported that it may have been the result of a criminal feud. If this is the case, and knowing the reprisal nature of many attacks in Nigeria, retaliation should not be ruled out. A number of days later, a second church was attacked in Otisha South, Anambra. One policeman and one civilian were reportedly killed. However, it is not unknown if these incidents were connected.

In a separate and unrelated incident, four people were reportedly killed in Etim Ekpo, Akwa Ibom, while two people were killed when a group reportedly attacked the APC secretariat in Yenagoa, Bayelsa. In addition, media reports suggested that gunmen ambushed and killed 4 soldiers and a civilian along the waterways in Ekeremor LGA, Bayelsa.

Forecast: *Violence associated with crime is not uncommon in Nigeria and no place seems to be immune from attack. This month churches were attacked, as have mosques and hospitals in previous months. Therefore, SAR recommends that all those travelling to and through Nigeria 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.

Nigeria Jan - August 2017 Incidents



Piracy

On a positive note, a Moroccan officer who was abducted last month off the Coast of Bonny Island along with three other crewmembers, was reportedly released this month. It is unclear if a ransom was paid. During a visit to Lagos, the UK Foreign Secretary praised the work done by the Nigerian Navy in combating piracy.

Abduction & Kidnap

Similar to last month, a bus was attacked by armed gunmen near Port Harcourt at the start of August. Reports claim that sixteen people were abducted during the attack. The incident took place near Emohua. The road was reportedly blocked, forcing the driver to stop, making those on board vulnerable. Then only a few weeks later, a second and similar incident reportedly took place in this same area. Eleven people were reportedly abducted on this occasion. A small number of people were said to have escaped during this incident. In a separate and unrelated incident, a former Nigerian Minister was reportedly abducted in Warri North, Delta. On a positive note, the Kaduna Police announced that they had conducted a targeted operation on suspected kidnappers who had been abducting people along the Abuja-Kaduna highway, a well-known kidnap hotspot.

Forecast: *These incidents continue to illustrate that the risk of abduction is dispersed throughout the country, but once again show that some locations would appear to be more risky than others. Given incidents last month and this month, the risk of abduction near Port Harcourt, for those travelling by bus, would appear to be considerably high. It is likely that the police will respond given the number of such incidents in this area, but such perpetrators have shown in the past that they are very adaptable and will just move to another location. In respect to Kaduna and the targeted policing operations, and while such activities are welcomed and are likely to result in a reduction of abductions in the short term, as mentioned above kidnappers are likely to find ways of avoiding detection in the medium to long term. As a result, SAR continues to recommend that any travel to or through Nigeria by road should incorporate a detailed travel and emergency plan to ensure route risks are assessed in advance and mitigation measures can be put in place. Furthermore, for movement in high risk areas, SAR recommends that all organisations and individuals are advised to assess whether their anti-kidnap measures are sufficient and take necessary precautions if not.*

ITEMS OF INTEREST

President Buhari, having spent over 100 days on medical leave in London, returned to Nigeria during the month. This was his second period of medical leave in London, this year. While details of his illness remain private, only time will tell whether he is well enough to continue in office going forward. The stability of having him back in office may be exactly what Nigeria needs at the moment.

Reports emerged this month that factions of Boko Haram are preparing to negotiate with the government, SAR recommends that these be viewed with caution given false or misleading similar stories in the past.

Boko Haram, or at least a group suspected of being, continued to conduct attacks in Cameroon this month, with suicide attacks the preferred MO. A suicide bomber killed himself and eight others in Ouro-Kessoum. While another reportedly killed at least 7 people in Amchide town. However, the group were also said to have attacked a village in Gakara, outside Kolofata, killing at least 15 people. It is also reported that they may have abducted over five others in another attack in the area.

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We 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.

info@sarconint.com
Twitter @SAR_Consultancy
www.sarconint.com