



SAR Consultancy



Security Information Bulletin: Nigeria

IN THIS ISSUE

Summary of Security Situation

by our Senior Analyst

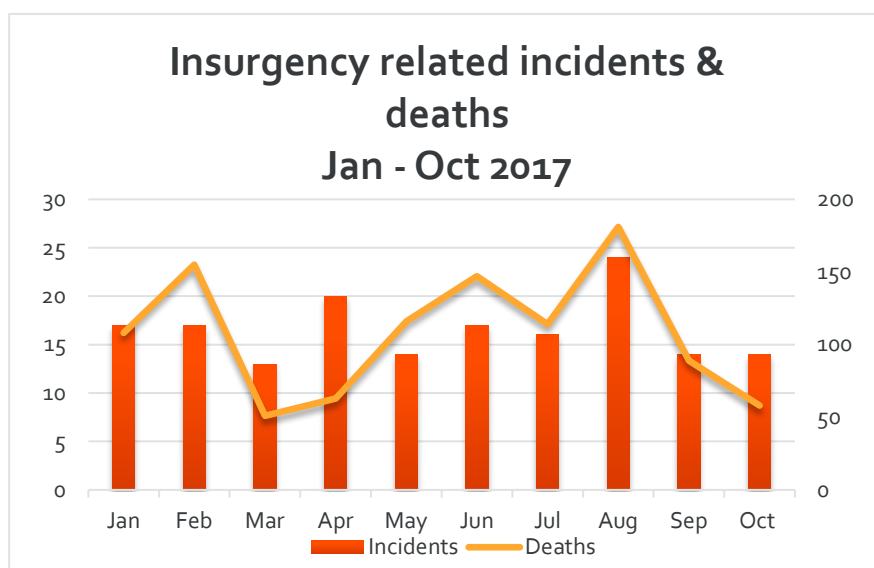
The Security Situation in Nigeria is multi-dimensional and complex. It is influenced, for the most part, by perceived political, economic and social injustice, which results in a high level of violence throughout the country. This violence is exhibited in differing dimensions and to differing degrees 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.

October 2017 – Similar to September, the reported incidents of the month illustrate the myriad of security challenges at play in Nigeria. The Nigerian Government are facing, at present, the insurgency in the North East, communal clashes in the middle belt, unrest over IPOB activities in the South East, a fragile peace in the Niger Delta region and criminality rift throughout the country. This must be placing significant pressure on the security forces and available resources. The death of a British citizen who was abducted in the Niger Delta is likely to further impact this precarious position. 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 in such that this can and should not be taken for granted.

North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

October witnessed a lot of activity in the North East illustrating this ongoing insurgency is far from over. As in similar months, Boko Haram members continue to illustrate a commitment to their cause, not appearing to be avoiding the security forces. In fact, the reverse may actually be the case, with the group suspected of targeting the military in a number of incidents this month. For example, the group were suspected of attempting to attack troops in Geidam LGA, Yobe State, at the start of the month. Reports claim that the military repelled this attack. Later in the month, they were blamed for attacking a military base in Damaturu, Yobe State, in which 15 soldiers were reportedly killed. The group were also blamed for attacking an army outpost in Yamteke, Gwoza LGA, in which one soldier was reportedly killed, as were over 10 suspected militants. Additionally later in the month, the group reportedly attacked a military base in Marte, Borno. One soldier was said to have been killed, with nearly ten others injured. The group reportedly gained access and removed weapons and ammunition from the scene.



The group were also blamed for a number of ambush style attacks, some of which were also conducted against the military. Four soldiers were reportedly killed when suspected Boko Haram members ambushed a military vehicle, which was said to be moving food to troops in Mafa LGA. The group were said to have also conducted an ambush on a military convoy near the town of Damboa. Three soldiers were said to have been killed in this attack. A similar incident was said to have occurred when the group were blamed for attacking a civilian convoy being escorted by security forces along Dikwa-Logmane Road. Suicide attacks also continued this month, three suicide bombers reportedly killed themselves when they detonated their devices in Bama LGA. Soldiers reportedly killed another militant involved in the incident. A second incident was reported near the Molai General Hospital on the outskirts of Maiduguri. Three female suicide bombers reportedly died as they attempted to gain entry into the hospital. In Konduge LGA, another suicide bomber was more successful, killing himself alongside four members of the CTF and one other individual. Later in the month, the most serious of the month's suicide bombs occurred in Maiduguri. Two locations were targeted in Maiduguri. A male reportedly detonated his device killing 13, while two women reportedly detonated their devices injuring at least ten others. Village attacks also continued. Reports claim that the groups attacked a village in Konduga LGA. No casualties were reported.

That said, the military were very active this month, continuing their operations against Boko Haram. They reportedly ambushed a group of suspected Boko Haram insurgents along Firgi-Pulka road, where it was believed the group were laying IEDs. The military reportedly discovered a number of such devices, before successfully disarming them. In a second, but similar incident, the military reportedly ambushed another group of suspected militants who were said to have been moving cattle to the market to sell, in Monguno LGA, Borno. The military also reportedly rescued a young boy in Bama LGA. The boy had reportedly been kidnapped by Boko Haram. Three militants were reportedly killed in the incident.

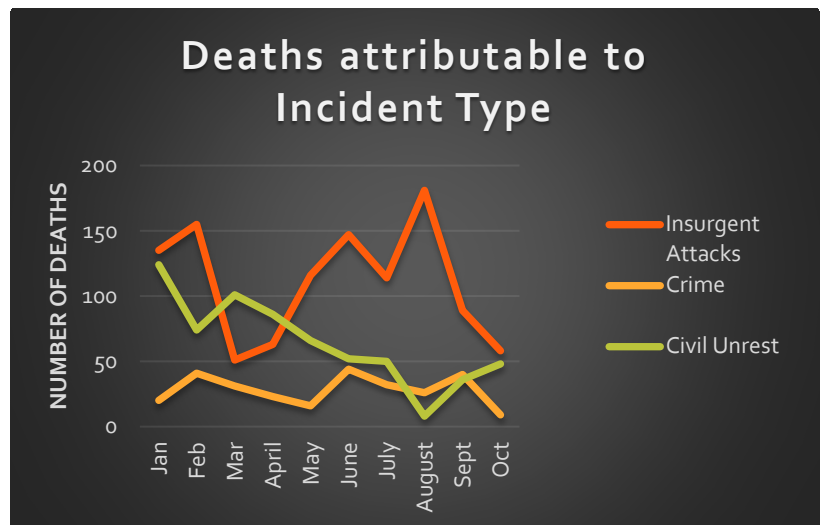
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Assessment & Forecast: One clear factor identified, when looking at the activities of Boko Haram this month, is that Boko Haram members would appear to have identified what they see as vulnerable military targets and attacked accordingly. They do not appear to be afraid or deterred from attacking them, in many cases unprovoked. A number of other interesting factors have also emerged. For example, incidents in Konduga LGA continue, with Bama LGA also developing as a hotspot this month. An interesting question is also raised by claims that Boko Haram members are moving cattle openly to market. If true, this suggests that such militants feel they can travel with impunity through parts of the state. If such reports are false, this may mean that innocent people are being targeted by the military. The attacks in Yobe State this month also raise an interesting point. Although Yobe has been targeted before it has remained relatively quiet over the last few months. These new attacks may be indicative that a cell or cells are re-emerging. However, more interestingly, some analysts have suggested that the second event in Yobe was committed by the cell of Boko Haram that is aligned to Islamic State. Yet this has not been confirmed. Nonetheless, if this is the case, a pattern of incidents of this nature, or at least incidents targeting the establishment rather than innocent civilians, may emerge. Therefore this area should be closely monitored over the coming weeks. The village attacks would appear to be motivated by 'need', as they are largely associated with the theft of

supplies. This may be indicative of the group running low on supplies. Such attacks highlight the risk for IDPs returning to remote areas of Borno State. This was reiterated in a recent report by the Norwegian Refugee Council, who found that many IDPs still did not think it was safe to return home. Finally the ambush incidents illustrate that despite claims that many of the roads in Borno State have been reopened, the risk remains in place. In actual fact, movement through many of these remote areas stills requires military escorts but as can be seen from these incidents, this is no guarantee of security. Additionally, OCHA stated in their monthly report that at least three LGAs remain completely inaccessible to aid workers. As a result, SAR continues to advise against unnecessary movement outside Maiduguri. If movement is required, one should ensure a detailed Security Travel Management Plan is in place.

Loss of Life*

Once again, this month there was a reduction in insurgency related deaths. This could be attributable to the fact that the security forces are detecting suicide bombers before they get into a position to detonate. However, it may be the case that people are becoming less inclined to gather in large numbers in fear that something might happen. Unlike last month, the deaths associated with crime reduced but the number of people killed in civil unrest rose slightly. *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

Communal clashes begin to re-emerge after a few months of a quiet period. Three people, one of which was a soldier, were reportedly killed in Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. The incident was reportedly the result of a pre-dawn village attack by gunmen, believed to be Fulani herdsmen. A number of days later, a further 6 people (at least) were killed in Taagbe village, Bassa LGA. Gunmen, suspected to be Fulani herdsmen, are also being blamed for this incident. A number of other people were also injured in the attack and some properties were burnt down. Also in Bassa LGA, over 20 people were reportedly killed in an incident in Nkiedonwhro village. Herdsmen were also blamed for this incident. While later in the month, three other people were reportedly killed in Riyom, Plateau State. The details of this incident are still vague.

Further south in Rivers State, 15 people were reportedly killed in Obio/Akpor LGA by unknown gunmen. The motivation for this attack is unclear. However, similar to the middle belt, such violence is often perpetrated by those competing for resources. While in Akoko-Edo, Edo State herdsmen reportedly kidnapped three individuals.

Forecast: As advised the reduction in communal clashes was short lived. This month saw a rise in the number of incidents in Plateau State, and related deaths, even with conservative estimates. Some of these incidents occurred despite the imposition of a curfew by the governor. The re-emergence of such incidents may be due to the end of the rainy season, with more movement of cattle and herds to greener pastures. Even if an increase in incidents is not seen over the next weeks, a number of reprisal attacks should not be ruled

out as this pattern is a reinforcing cycle of violence, regularly experienced in the region. As said before, while much of this violence is contained within feuding communities, being in the wrong place at the wrong time can put one at risk. Therefore, SAR recommends that anyone travelling to this region establish and maintain close contact with locals based in the region.

Niger Delta Region

October remained calm in the Niger Delta region but the month ended with the Niger Delta Avengers calling off their ceasefire. However, at the time of writing the minister for Nigeria's oil-producing Delta region asked the militants to desist and claimed he was willing to meet with them to discuss their concerns.



Forecast: After another quiet month, the government in Nigeria must have been feeling an element of relief. Given the current state of play in the North East of the country, the thoughts of a return to violence in the Niger Delta is probably not a welcome thought. As a result, the announcement that militants were calling off their

ceasefire must be a huge concern. A resumption of violence in the sector is likely to raise concerns over the safety of those doing business in the region. As mentioned last month, the re-established peace in the region has 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, which has just moved out of

recession. While this is all likely to positively impact stability in the region, as noted by SAR, peace in this region is fragile and therefore, 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.



SAR Consultancy

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

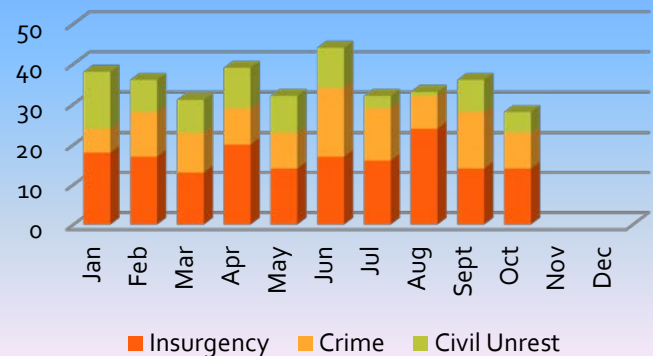
Violent crime in the South of Nigeria continued this month. The month started with reports that an employee of the Sun newspaper was killed by two suspected robbers in Onitsha, Anambra. While, two incidents, one in the North and one in the South, involved claims that members of the police had killed civilians. For example, in Girei, Adamawa State a police officer reportedly killed a man. This is said to have resulted in a mob gathering, which resulted in the death of the police officer. In Yenagoa, Bayelsa State a police officer was said to have killed a student. It is very difficult to get exact details on these

incidents, so it is difficult to determine what motivated a lethal response in both cases. Additionally, as in previous months, suspected cultists killed two people in Obio/Akpor, Rivers. While in Okene, Kogi State, unknown gunmen reportedly killed three officials from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Forecast: Violence associated with crime is not uncommon in Nigeria and no place seems to be immune from attack. Even reports of the police killing civilians is not rare, as can be seen this month. Despite the containment of much of the violence, it is often difficult to assess how and why incidents occurred, which makes it difficult to mitigate

against. As a result, those travelling to any part of Nigeria, should ensure they are mindful of the level of violence throughout the country. 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.

Nigeria Jan - Oct 2017 Incidents



Abduction & Kidnap

October witnessed a number of abduction style incidents. The month started with reports that a musician was abducted in Ego, Edo State, while a number of days later, an Italian priest was taken in Oredo, also in Edo State. It is unclear as to whether these two incidents were committed by the same people. The priest is said to have been released but the status of the musician is unknown. A priest was also reportedly abducted in Ebonyi State. His status is also unknown at this time. Two incidents also occurred in Kogi State. A magistrate was reportedly abducted in Lokoja early in the month, while near the end of the month two expatriates were reportedly taken also from the Lokoja area. These men were reportedly working on the Obajana-Oshokoshoko road construction project. Two police officers, attached to the two men, were reportedly killed in the incident. In another incident in Delta State, four British citizens were taken in Burutu. The four were said to have been conducting humanitarian work in the area. No one had claimed responsibility, but sadly, at the time of writing, it was confirmed that one of the four had been killed and the other three were freed.

Forecast: *A few of the incidents this month involved the kidnap of ex-patriates. These incidents were scattered across the country. However, an interesting aspect of these abductions, was that two of the three 'expat abductions' occurred in states which also experienced abductions of Nigerian nationals. This illustrates the shared risk across all communities. On a positive note, the Nigerian Police in Kaduna began the month with claims that they arrested several suspected kidnappers believed to have been responsible for high rate of incidents on the Birni Gwari-Kaduna and Kaduna-Kano highways. This is likely to be well received by those who travel these routes frequently. That said, such arrests have been announced in the past, yet abductions in this area have continued. 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. The location of two of the incidents is particularly of interest, those that occurred in Lokoja. Albeit not uncommon for abductions, incidents in this area are worth close monitoring. The police action in Kaduna may have displaced active abductors to the Lokoja area.*

Piracy

A German shipping company had one of their ships, which was flying under a Liberian flag, reportedly attacked in the Port Harcourt area this month. Six crew members were said to have been abducted by pirates. The media claim that the remaining crew were able to move the ship to safer waters. Such an incident is indicative of the risk in the Nigerian waters these days. In fact, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported this month that over 20 vessels had been hit

in the first 9 months of the year. The reports claimed that 16 of these occurred off the coast of Brass, Bonny and Bayelsa. Guns were reportedly used in 18 of the cases. However, the report writers also acknowledge that the figures may be higher than their statistic indicate in the Gulf of Guinea. Five vessels were reportedly hijacked. Interestingly, the report puts these incidents into perspective globally, stating that 39 of the 49 crew members kidnapped globally were taken in Nigerian waters.



SAR Consultancy's musings from a recent visit to Nigeria

Having just completed a recent visit to Nigeria a number of things came to mind. The first relates to the 'war economy' that is increasingly events in Maiduguri, Borno State. As humanitarian agencies increase in the state so too does the need for accommodation, offices, supplies, vehicles, security, etc. This comes at a cost, a cost that is largely only affordable for a minority. The costs of supplies rises in response and locals are often pushed out of the economy. Conversely, the presence of such communities is likely to make Maiduguri a highly desirable target. That said, the revenue created by such a presence is likely to ensure a high degree of security. No beneficiaries of this high value presence will want something to happen that will result in a mass evacuation. This creates a very interesting dynamic and one which is definitely worth monitoring. A second issue highlighted by a number of people I spoke with relates to the Presidential Elections in 2019. A number of people asserted that the electioneering has started already and as a result, many had significant concern that government progress will slow down as energies are re-focused on the elections. Only time will tell if this is correct, but it might be of benefit for civil society to keep the pressure on government ministries. Interestingly, many acknowledge that civil society in Nigeria is increasing and improving in regard to professionalism and as a result is gaining leverage on the government in many areas. Finally, many people I spoke with highlighted the lack of employment opportunities for many of the youth throughout Nigeria, with many claiming that this will and is leading to many, especially males, turning to criminality. With the government dealing with an ongoing insurgency in the North East, an unstable environment in the Niger Delta, the ongoing communal conflict in the middle belt, high levels of criminality, piracy, kidnapping, etc. opportunity for criminality are many and varied. If something is not done in this area to try to improve employment opportunities for both skilled and unskilled workers, fears were expressed for a significant increase in criminality. Should such an increase occur, this is likely to impact internationals travelling to the country, any negative impact this might have on investment in Nigeria is likely to impact the economy, which is at present in a vulnerable position, thereby perpetuating further financial stress on the vulnerable communities throughout the country.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

*Monkey Pox has been now been found in 11 states throughout Nigeria, namely Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Rivers, and the FCT.

*WHO state that malaria is claiming more lives in Borno State than all other diseases combined.

*Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man pledges \$100 million to fight malnutrition in Nigeria.

*Abuja Airport new terminal building will reportedly be open in February 2018.

ACTIVE US MARITIME ALERTS – PIRACY HIJACKING GULF OF GUINEA

Two incidents have been reported in the Gulf of Guinea in the past six days; the first reportedly occurred south of Port Harcourt, Nigeria at 0600 GMT on October 21, 2017. The second reportedly occurred in the vicinity of 03-35.50N 006-49.20E at 1905 GMT on October 25, 2017; both incidents have been confirmed. The nature of the first incident was piracy and kidnapping; the nature of the second incident was piracy. Exercise caution when transiting this area. Additional information on threats and maritime security resources in the Gulf of Guinea are available in U.S. Maritime Advisory 2015-005 at <http://www.marad.dot.gov/msci/advisory>. Further updates will be provided when available. This alert will automatically expire on November 2, 2017. Any questions regarding this alert should be directed to marsec@state.gov.

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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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