



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.

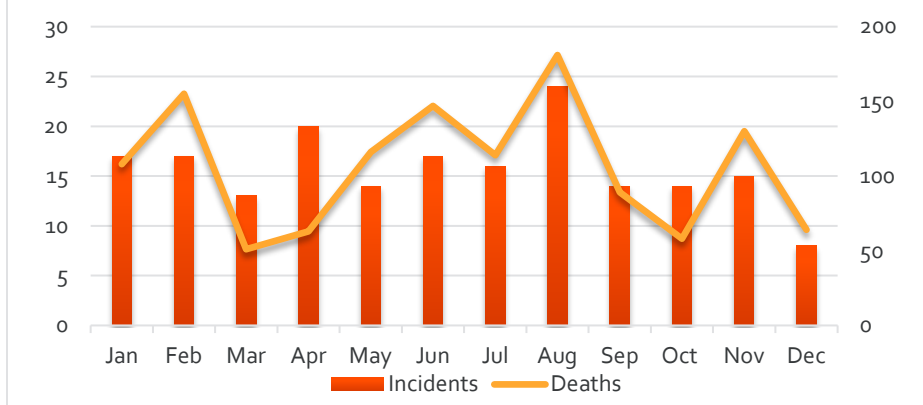
December 2017 – Incidents in the North East of Nigeria during December continued to illustrate that the military advances against the group are not having the necessary impact to reduce the threat of Boko Haram, either to the military and to citizens despite claims to the contrary. Attacks on military and civilian targets continue to show that no one is immune from attack. Violence continued throughout the rest of the country too, but in other guises, such as robberies, abduction and communal clashes. These incidents further illustrate the magnitude of security issues the Nigerian Government are currently facing throughout the country. This is likely to put strain on security organisations. Given this, SAR continues to recommend that anyone traveling to or through Nigeria conduct a security management plan, or have one conducted for them. While many travel to Nigeria without issue, the situation is such that this can and should not be taken for granted.

North East Nigeria & Boko Haram

December started with reports of a twin suicide attack on a market in Biu, Borno State. It was reported that the incident claimed at least 15 lives and over 50 people sustained injuries. Once again, this incident illustrates that despite increased security presence in some areas of Borno State, insurgents are still able to find vulnerabilities in the security infrastructure and conduct their attacks. A week later, another suicide bomber detonated their device killing themselves and two others at an IDP camp in Gwoza. A second attacker was reportedly present but was killed before they could detonate their device. While near the end of the month, two bombers detonated their devices killing themselves and six others in Konduga, Borno. A recent hotspot in Boko Haram activity.

Four civilians were reportedly killed when a clash occurred between Nigerian troops and Boko Haram militants in Maiduguri, Borno. It is unclear whether either group sustained casualties. Boko Haram were also blamed for the deaths of four in Michika, Adamawa. Everyone seems to be fair game to the insurgents, given the attack on the IDP camp in Gwoza and a later attack on a convoy conveying food to IDPs in Maula. This incident took place between Dikwa and Gamboru road and four people were killed.

Insurgency related incidents & deaths Jan - Nov 2017



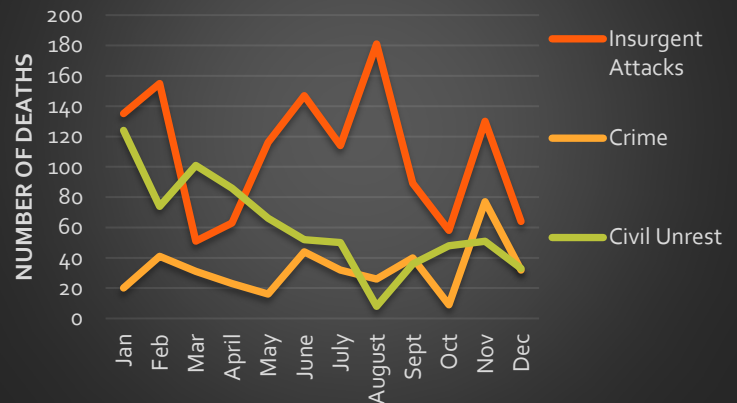
The military also sustained a number of casualties this month, when suspected insurgents attacked soldiers in Damboa village over two days. At least 12 soldiers were reportedly killed in these incidents. Some claimed that the deaths were associated with an attack on a military convoy in the area. In addition, a roadside bomb was said to have killed two soldiers in the vicinity of Damboa. Whilst in a direct altercation between soldiers and suspected insurgents in Kaga, Borno State, a further six soldiers were reportedly killed, as were ten insurgents. This incident occurred when suspected insurgents reportedly attempted to overrun a military base. Despite these apparent successes by the group, the military fought back, reportedly targeting and killing three suspected Boko Haram members who attempted to conduct an attack against Gajibo village, Dikwa LGA. Additionally, they reportedly killed at least ten others in Bama during the month and two in Kala/Balge.

Assessment & Forecast: A similar pattern of attacks continued throughout December, with attacks on civilians, IDPs and on the military reported. Albeit less in number, the nature of these targets, both soft and hard, continue to illustrate that Boko Haram and related insurgents are not selective in who they attack nor have they been defeated. Furthermore, the attacks on harder military targets demonstrate the likely presence of a continued belief and confidence within the group of their capability and resilience. For example, direct attacks both on military convoys and on military bases clearly show the group are not intimidated by the military. This is a worrying element to any insurgency. The group have also selected softer targets for some time, especially when conducting village attacks to replenish supplies. This month's attack on the humanitarian convoy may indicate that the group now see these convoys as a better sources of supplies. If this is the case increased attacks of this nature are likely. SAR would recommend such convoys review their security arrangements and take suitable steps to increase same to mitigate this possible risk. Attacks of this nature are likely to have implications on much needed humanitarian delivery to some of the worst affected areas of Borno State. Not only do they result in the loss of supplies destined for IDPs, they also often impact access to 'hard to reach' areas, as safety of staff cannot be guaranteed. Either way victims are the most affected, which in this case is likely to put a significant number of lives at risk. Furthermore, and as mentioned above, former claims by the government and military that the group has been defeated continue to be hard to believe given the recent spate of attacks. However, it is likely that both have recognised same, given that the military commander in the North East was removed and a replacement put in his place during the month. This may be recognition that a different approach is required. It will be interesting to see if a new strategy is evident on the ground. If this does not occur continued attacks by the group are likely both in the short and medium term. As a result, SAR continues to assess that the situation in Northern Nigeria as precarious and should not be taken for granted. For this reason, and also given continued attack locations, SAR advises against unnecessary movement outside Maiduguri. If movement is required, one should ensure a detailed Security Travel Management Plan is in place, based on up to date information.

Loss of Life*

It would appear from the figures that there was a decrease in the number of deaths associated with terrorisms and criminality in Nigeria during the month of December. However this may not be these case. Exact figures about incidents are always difficult to gather in Nigeria and the festive season often impacts this further. Irrespective of this, the number of insurgent related incidents in the North East continues to illustrate that they are not gone away and despite military successes, it is evident that they still pose a threat to the civilian population in the North East, especially in rural areas. SAR forecasts an increased number of incidents next month given the trend over the last few months and also due to the change of leadership in the military. Boko Haram may be inclined to increase their activity to reaffirm their perceived strength and presence in the region. *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

December witnessed a wide spread of sectarian violence and communal clashes. For example, two people were reportedly killed in Demsa, Adamawa, while eleven were killed in Riyom, Plateau State. Neither area are unaccustomed to such attacks. Similarly, at least ten people were said to have been killed in Benue State in at least three separate incidents. Two of these occurred in Oturkpo, which may have been linked. Two people were also killed in Bagudo, Kebbi State and six in six deaths were reported in Jema'a, Kaduna. While in Nassarawa State, a person was killed and many others injured in a clash between farmers/herders clash in Duduguru village, Obi LGA. Interestingly, media reports claimed that the police killed approximately 15 illegal miners during clash in Sardauna, Taraba. While later in the month, two people were reportedly killed in a clash in Donga, Taraba.

Forecast: Incidents this month were spread widely across the middle belt, but largely occurring in locations accustomed to communal violence and sectarian attacks. However, unlike other months, this month only saw a few of these incidents being attributed to herder farmer clashes. It is unclear what motivated these other attacks. As was mentioned last month, automatic attribution of incidents to herder/farmer clashes may result in other offenders not being identified. The nature and type of this violence should be investigated further in order to identify exactly what and who is motivating it. Similar to previous months some locations seem to be targeted more than others, such as Oturkpo in Benue State, which may indicate a link between these offences, most likely reprisal in nature. Either way the dispersal of these incidents illustrate the risk to those travelling in these areas, areas often frequented by internationals given the perception of safety. Given this, SAR recommends that anyone travelling to this region establish and maintain close contact with locals based in the region.

Niger Delta Region

Forecast: There appears to be continued resentment in the Niger Delta Region this month with reports that militants have called on the government to reverse the decision to take monies created in the region through oil and direct them to fight the insurgency in the North East. Many militants state these are much needed funds and should be invested back into the region. Given these new frustration, coupled with previous statements about a possible resumption in hostilities, 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. Any residue of the peace deal that may still be in place is likely to be precarious.

Criminality, Cultist activity & Violence

Violent crime continued throughout the month. This may have been influenced by increased demands for money during the festive season. Four people were reportedly killed in Yenagoa, Bayelsa by unknown gunmen, while the Anti-Robbery Squad reported a successful operation when they killed four robbers in Obio/Akpor, Rivers and prevented them from making good their escape. The JTF also reportedly killed three robbers in Emuoha, Rivers. While four prisoners were killed during a prison break in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom. Cultish activity reportedly claimed the lives of four in Lagos, three were reportedly killed in Ikorodu and one in Ojo.

Forecast: As mentioned over the last few months, violent crime continued throughout the country. As in similar months, the use of lethal force by law enforcement was also reported. It would be very interesting to look at such incidents and to see if such responses were proportionate to the threat posed by these assailants. The use of lethal force by law enforcement in Nigeria should be brought to the attention of travellers to Nigeria, who may not be knowledgeable about such possible responses by security forces. In fact, SAR recommends that all those travelling should be on high alert and regularly review security arrangements to ensure a level of preparedness at all times. Vigilance and preparedness are important factors in keeping safe.



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Providing peace of mind in changing security environments

As 2018 begins, are you confident in 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.

Abubakar Shekau, or the person purporting to be him, released a video claiming that Boko Haram was responsible for carrying out a number of attacks during the Christmas period. This claim of responsibility came a day after the Nigerian President said that the group had been defeated. Such ascertains have been shown in the past to be untrue and have often provided Shekau with an opportunity to refute such statements, both in words and in the group's actions. The attacks this month, once again show that such assertions about the groups defeat may be premature.

Abduction & Kidnap

There was no end to abductions this month, which may have been influenced by the festive season and a desire on the side of the abductors to gain much needed cash. A former senator was reportedly abducted as he travelled along the Okene-Abuja Highway in Kogi State. Some reports claim that two others were also taken in the incident. A number of days later, a PDP Plateau state chairman was said to have been kidnapped in Jere when he was travelling to Abuja from Plateau state. This location is a known hotspot for abductions. In Niger State, unknown gunmen were said to have taken ten people and killed three along the Kaduna-Sarkin Pawa Road in Munya, Niger. Near the end of the month, robbers killed three and abducted four in Rafi, Niger. Further south, two people were taken from Ogbia, Bayelsa and Christmas day, it was reported that a monarch from Rivers State was abducted in Emuoha, Rivers.

Forecast: *The threat of abduction remains high, throughout Nigeria. As a result, SAR would continue to highly recommend all those travelling to Nigeria, especially those travelling to known kidnap hotspots to devise an anti-kidnap plan as part of their travel plan.*

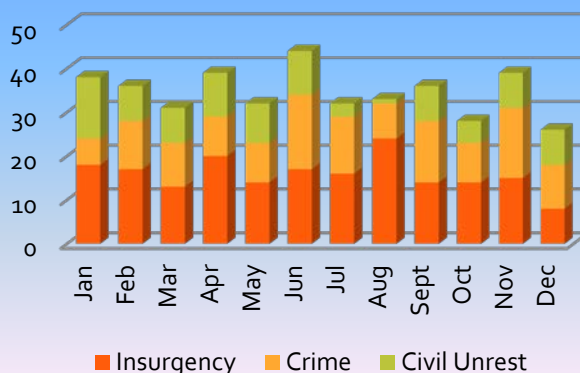
Piracy

Nigeria's Defence Minister Mansur Dan-Ali reported during the month that an Anti-Piracy Bill had been sent to the National Assembly. This bill specifically addresses the arrest and prosecution of maritime criminals. He claimed that it would be the first of its kind in Africa. Many await the bill with high hopes, as something more is needed given the continued incidents of piracy in the waters off Nigeria. For example, this month reports say that a Greek registered vessel was attacked, south of Brass. During the attack, ten crew members were reportedly kidnapped when the attackers fled. This incident occurred within a week of another group of pirates attempting to board a vessel, also in the Gulf of Guinea. The crew were able to prevent boarding.

TEMS OF INTEREST

The Police in Abuja issued a warning in December that they had intelligence that there was a credible threat from Boko Haram in Abuja and other states during the Christmas period. This warning echoed those issued by both the US and UK governments recently. Despite not giving specific details on the threat, the police reported that they would maintain an increased level of vigilance. No major incidents were reported in Abuja during the period, but the threat is unlikely to dissipate, and in fact, the group may wait to see if the police decrease their vigilance and attempt to maximize this vulnerability. The FCO have removed their warning about festive attacks but continue to advise British citizens against attending events or locations where there are large crowds. As a result, SAR recommends continued vigilance in the short to medium term.

Nigeria Jan - Dec 2017 Incidents



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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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