



Horizon West Africa – Mali 150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako
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DATE: 30 April 2021
MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

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Boko Haram Activity

○ **Highlight of week 1 & 2**

- The number of incidents recorded during the first two weeks was 137 and the most recorded incidents were kidnappings, armed attacks, and terrorist activities.
- COVID-19 cases dropped significantly in the first two weeks with at 1,083 new cases and there were just two deaths.

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Banditry Activity

- South East region recorded an increase in number of attacks against police officers.
- Peaceful demonstrations turned violent in the capital after police response.
- Kidnappings were recorded in all the six-geopolitical zones in the weeks with most with an upsurge in the kidnapping of foreign nationals in the first two week.

38

Civil Unrest

- Military operations in which several civilians were killed was recorded in a state in North Central region.

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

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Kidnapping Activity

- The number of incidents increased in the last weeks of the month with 198 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks further reduced to 972 new cases and two deaths.
- Accusation against the Minister of communications for being a terrorist apologist intensified.

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Killings

- Boko Haram insurgents orchestrated attacks consistent attacks against communities and military camps in North West and North east regions.
- Attacks in the South East region against police officers intensified ad the house of a governor was also destroyed.
- Heightened tension in the country as multiple reports of incidents occurring in the Northern part of the country.

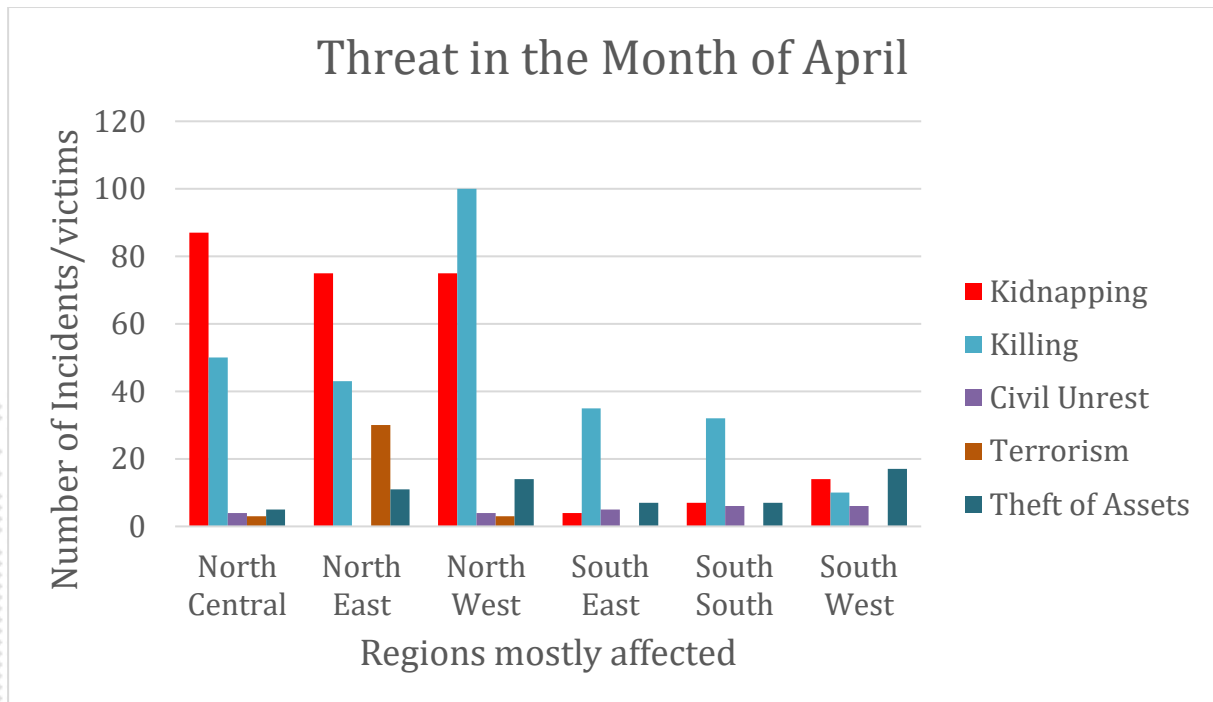
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Military Operation

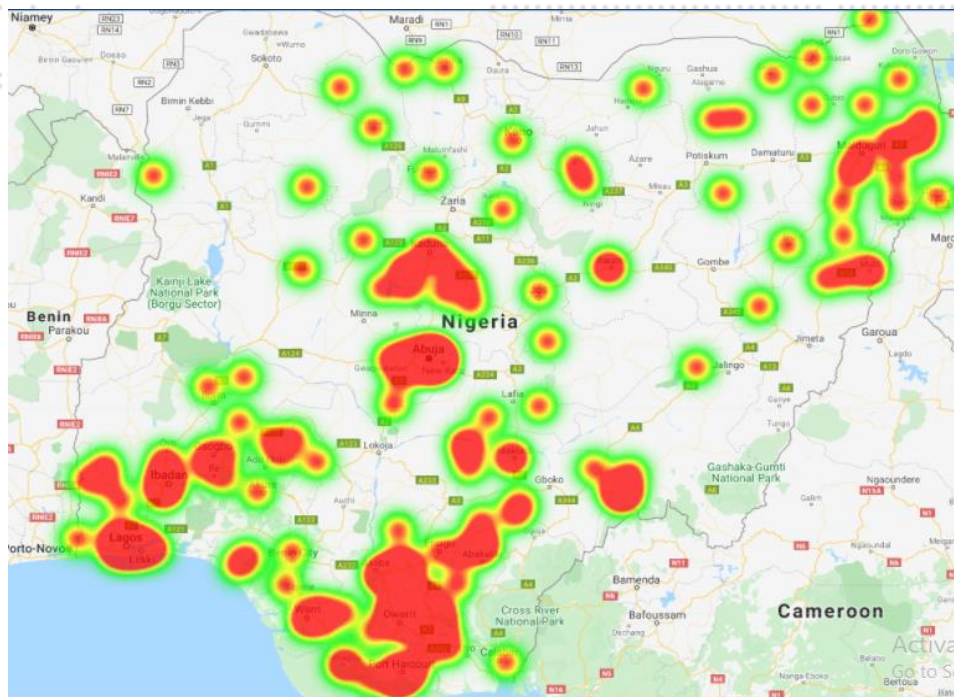
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Theft of Asset

MAPS AND CHARTS



Heat Map for Nigeria - April 2021



Analysis



The reporting month is assessed as High due to increase in armed attacks and overthrow of several communities by armed groups. Ethnic tension unravelled by the religious tension in the last reporting month between the North and the South was at the fore in the month. Incidents such as police killings, kidnappings, and armed attacks, terrorist activities were prevalent in all the six geopolitical zones.

Students remained the major target of armed groups not only in the North West but also in the North Central regions. The data on the number of students kidnapped in the month remains undisclosed as the total number of students kidnapped in the NW is uncorroborated.

All the states in the North Central region including the FCT recorded cases of kidnapping, armed herdsmen attack, terrorist activities and killings during the month. An estimated 47 individuals were kidnapped from various incidents with Niger State specifically Shiroro LGA being the main target of armed groups. Although the number of kidnapped persons recorded in the month was in decline, this could however not be corroborated as there was major underreporting of incidents in the area. Also, we saw a shift of incidents from Rafi to Shiroro which could be highly related to the meeting that was held in the last reporting period by bandit commanders as attacks have spiked not only against communities but also against military camps and positions. Currently, the security situation in the state is heightened as terrorists have occupied the LGA and has commenced propaganda to recruit locals for their cause.

Abuja FCT as usual recorded some kidnapping incidents mostly in Abaji area of the capital. Benue and Plateau state recorded increase in Fulani herdsmen attacks who also attacked IDP camps situated in the state which led to a mass protest. An estimated 67 individuals have been killed in attacks recorded in Gwer East and West, Konshisha and Markurdi.

Terrorist activities slightly declined with 30 incidents recorded in Borno and Yobe states, but the intensity remained the same. A successful raid by the Air Task Force of the counter-terrorism operation, Operation Lafiya Dole, resulted in the death of two commanders of ISWAP named Amir Abu-Rabi and Mohamed Likita as well as dozens of other terrorists. The hideouts targeted were at Kusuma, Sigir in Ngala LGA and Arijallamari in Abadam LGA. Abu-Rabi oversaw tax collection at the Lake Chad axis while Likita was among controllers coordinating attacks on military formations. These operations may have resulted in the reduced number of terrorist activities in the first half of the month. However, it was possible it was because they redirected their target focus to Yobe State. Several sightings of ISWAP and Boko Haram terrorists around Monguno, Damasak and surrounding areas resulted into multiple attacks on Damasak town in Mobbar LGA. The town remained the main target as food stores belonging to several humanitarian groups were targeted. Food items were looted while buildings were set ablaze. Interestingly, these attacks occurred in daylight at about 12:30 hours possibly taking advantage of military absence at that time. Although the military has



reportedly taken over the town, the United Nations have announced a temporary suspension of their operations in Damasak and Dikwa which has thus far been heavily hit by terrorists in the previous months. Damasak is close to the Nigerian border and shares border with Yobe State. It was liberated from the stronghold of Boko Haram in 2017 and over 3,000 persons have returned after the military successfully evacuated the terrorists. However, during the month, terrorists used the typical strategy of massive number of fighters plus weaponry and attacked on all sides with VBIED, gun trucks, and grenades. Several soldiers were killed, and fatalities remain undisclosed. Eyewitness claimed soldiers did not engage the terrorists which made it easier to overtake the town. Several persons have left the town and moved to Maiduguri as soldiers continued to engage the terrorists during the week. No specific information on the current situation in the area as UN workers have also moved out of the area to safety. The continuous attempted conquest of Damasak is a cause of concern as this shows a major deterioration in the general security situation in the state even at locations having super camps, stretching the already overwhelmed military further than its capacity. In Yobe State, terrorists attacked Kumuya military base which prompted restriction of movement along Damaturu-Damboia-Biu Road. It was reported that the incident occurred after the Special Forces of the 27 Task Force Brigade, deployed at Buni Gari, went on a patrol. The terrorists then proceeded to burning some parts of the camp and possibly stole weaponry. The ground troops reportedly repelled the attack, but number of casualties were undisclosed. Several other military camps and towns were attacked and Geidam LGA was one of the worse hit areas in the state. The terrorists are currently occupying the LGA and spreading their propaganda whilst keeping the locals hostage.

Kidnappings and killings continued to plague the North West region and another group of students were kidnapped from a private university in Kaduna State.

An estimated 23 students were kidnapped from their hostel at Greenfield University on 21st April in Chikun LGA. Unfortunately, five of the students have been killed and all amidst the Governor of the state refusing to negotiate with bandits who still hold hostage another group of students since last month. Also, the trend of kidnapping health workers seems to have increased possibly due to need as bandits are recording high casualty numbers and therefore need medical assistant. An estimated 75 persons have been kidnapped in the Northwest and Kaduna State is the red zone of these incidents. In Zamfara, an estimated 100 persons were killed by armed men who attacked several villages for defying the order not to farm till taxes are paid. This prompted the Governor of the state to issue lock down of several markets to prevent further attacks on the populace. Maru, Gumi and Dansadau LGAs have been the most affected areas.

The onslaught against security forces did not abate during the reporting month in the South East region. Thus far, 35 police officers have been killed since the first attack which was



recorded in Ebonyi and has spread to all the five states in the region. Also, random attacks are targeting infrastructure such as the High Court which was incinerated in Owerri and the attack on the country home of Governor Hope Uzodinma on 24th April in Oru East LGA. The attack prompted the deployment of soldiers who raided the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) hideout and killed six persons including a commander.

Noteworthy, IPOB has been blamed for the attacks which has intensified in the SE, but the group has vehemently denied any connection with the unfolding events.

The South West region recorded incidents of kidnappings of foreign nationals specifically Chinese. In most of the cases ransom was paid and some of the victims were released. Ekiti, Oyo and Osun have recorded an upsurge in kidnappings especially of high-profile individuals which have been attributed to Fulani herdsmen. This could create tension which can lead to another bout of ethnic clashes which was witnessed in February. Thus, an influx of herdsmen into Ondo State is raising major concerns for the locals.

Robberies have also resurged in Lagos with traffic robbers taking advantage of unsuspecting victims mostly at night.

Cult activities were the major incidents in the South South region during the reporting month. An estimated 24 persons were killed in separate attacks recorded in Rivers, Edo, and Delta States. Although, herdsmen attacks were also highlighted during the month specifically in Ovia East and West of Edo State, underreporting of these incidents did not give insight into ferocity of the attacks.

Civil unrest declined in the month as 38 incidents were recorded across the country. Protests over issues like the autonomy of the judiciary which led to an indefinite strike action by the Judiciary Workers Union (JUSUN) was major in the month. IMN protesters were common in Abuja FCT and one of the incidents turned violence after police response.

In other news, the Minister of Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami had been under investigation by journalists since the beginning of April. His affiliations with terrorism and extremist views were a major source of concern to the populace as several individuals via social media rediscovered his ardent support for terrorist organisations. They therefore called for his resignation with immediate effect. The investigations also exposed his possible role in the killing of the first Christian governor of Kaduna State, Yakowa. Despite all the evidence presented to the government, President Buhari on 24 April through his aide announced his continuous support for the minister while the Senate and House of Representatives also refused to raise the issue which has mostly concerned the populace. More is expected to unfold in the next reporting period.

Threat Chart for March

- ◆ **Low (1)** - Incident did not occur in the reporting period. Nevertheless, will to conduct attacks and opportunity to target project assets and/or personnel remains a threat.
- ◆ **Medium (2)** – Incident occurred but minimal. Nevertheless, will to conduct attacks and opportunity to target project assets and/or personnel remains a threat.
- ◆ **High (3)** – Incident occurred at increased proportion and active with demonstrated will to conduct attacks that would target project assets and/or personnel.

Threats for the Month					
Region	Kidnapping	Terrorism	Theft of Assets	Civil Unrest	Killing
North Central	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
North East	Medium	High	High	Low	High
North West	High	Low	Medium	Medium	High
South East	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
South West	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium
South South	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium



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