



Horizon West Africa – Mali 150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako
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DATE: 28 February 2022
MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

45

Terrorist Activity

○ **Highlight of week 1 & 2**

- The number of incidents recorded during the first two weeks was 161 and the most recorded incidents were armed clashes, terrorism, and attacks on police.
- COVID-19 cases decreased after the end of the 4th Wave caused by Omicron variant with 806 new cases and 5 deaths.
- A FPSO exploded and sunk in Delta State.
- Terrorists target increased IED attacks in the NE region.
- A surge was recorded on attacks against security forces in SE region.
- Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed announced that the NFIU uncovered 96 Nigerian terrorist financiers.
- Fuel scarcity commences in Lagos after government announces the sale of adulterated petrol.
- Arrest of former DCP in connection with drug trafficking.

23

Banditry

39

Civil Unrest

55

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

Kidnapping

- The number of incidents increased in the last weeks of the month with 185 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks decreased to 469 new cases with one death.
- Bye-elections and LG elections were held in the SE, SW, NC and S regions.
- IED attacks increased with more incidents recorded in the northern regions.
- President Muhammadu Buhari signs Electoral Act.
- War broke out in Ukraine after Russian attack resulting in humanitarian crisis.
- Train derails at NC region.
- Fuel scarcity deepens resulting in traffic gridlock nationwide.

41

Killings

30

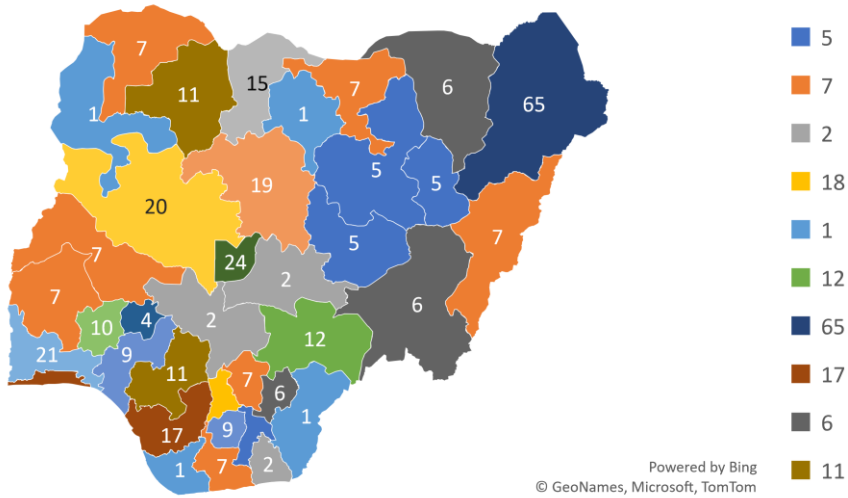
Fire

19

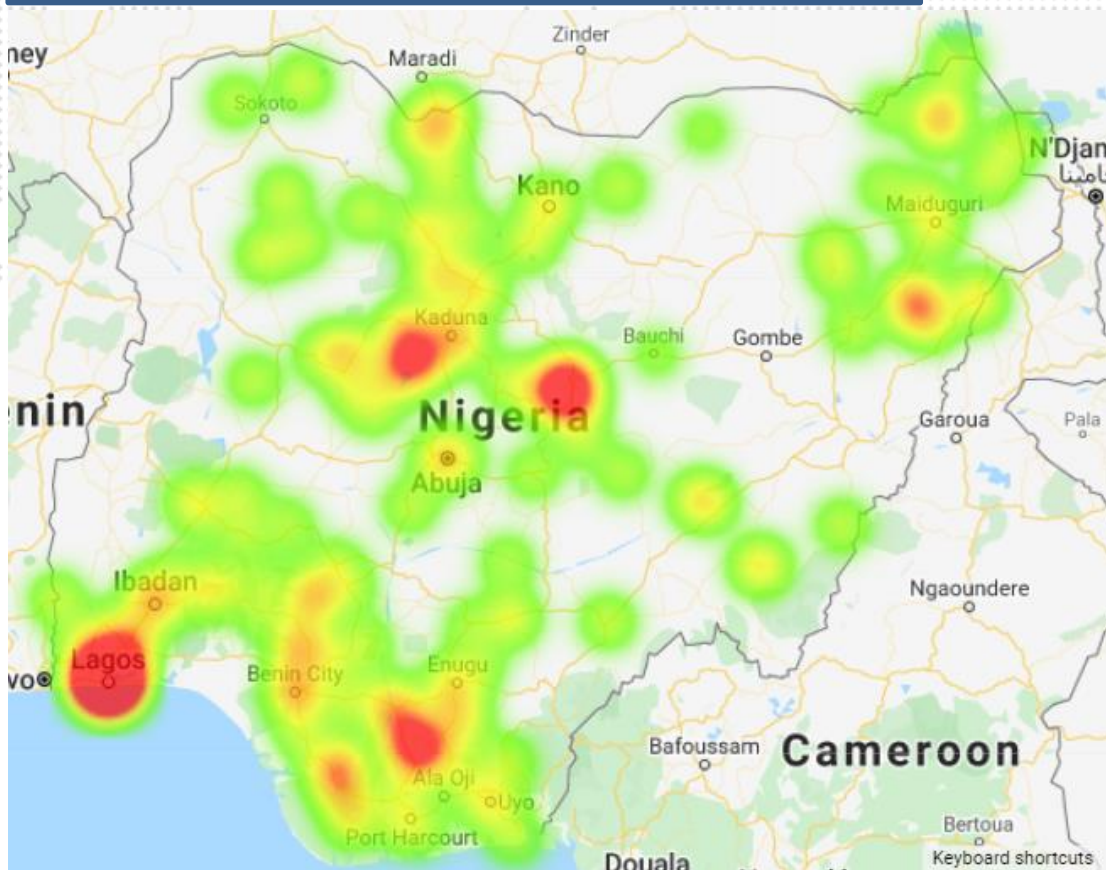
Theft of Asset

MAPS AND CHARTS

FEBRUARY 2022 INCIDENT MAP



Heat Map for Nigeria - February 2022





ANALYSIS

The threat level for the reporting month remains **High** with a surge in armed robberies, political violence, IED attacks and terrorism. An estimated 697 fatalities were recorded for various crimes while 508 persons were kidnapped. As in the last reporting period, number of persons kidnapped or killed relied only on concrete data as there were incidents in which the number of fatalities and abducted persons were unknown. As such, for the month of February, number of persons killed increased about five percent while kidnapped victims increased about 48 percent compared to the data for January 2022.

The Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed during a press briefing disclosed that the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) in 2020-2021 uncovered 96 financiers of terrorism, 424 associates of the financiers, 123 companies and 33 bureaux de change linked with terrorism in Nigeria. For a couple of years, members of the executive have insinuated the existence of a list with the names of terrorist financiers, but this is the first official report on the matter. The names were however not made public. Noteworthy, in 2020, six Nigerians were arrested in Dubai for their involvement in terrorism financing, but the government did not follow through with investigations or persecution as it was reported that one of the convicts was part of the present government. This therefore links to the incident involving former Deputy Commissioner of Police Abba Kyari, ACP Sunday Ubuwa, ASP Bawa James, Inspector Simon Agirgba and John Nuhu who were arrested by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on 14 February for their involvement in drug trafficking. Investigations to lure Kyari and his gang commenced in January and despite his suspension from the police after the indictment by the United States FBI for wire fraud in 2021, he was still able to use his position to negotiate with other agencies. He negotiated with an agent to remove 15kg from a 25kg drug burst by the agency from Enugu State in exchange for over USD 60,000. The agent played along till he and his accomplices were eventually caught. In retrospect, Kyari was called a “supercop” despite the lack of evidence to his capabilities. His dealings were shrouded in secrecy for a long time, and he rose through the ranks as DCP with the approval of the legislature till the accusation from the USA after a known cybercriminal known as “Hushpuppi” was arrested and pointed out his accomplice. Despite the evidence, he was not processed for extradition to the United States to answer for his wire fraud crimes. He is now in NDLEA custody but is seeking bail over health deterioration.

Kidnapping incidents surged towards the latter part of month as a total 55 incidents were recorded nationwide. Incidents were however common in the North West region specifically Kaduna and Zamfara states. The increase in attacks were recorded in Igabi, Kajuru and resurgence in Birnin Gwari, Kaduna State. In Zamfara, areas mostly affected were Bakura,



Bugundu, Tsafe. Mass kidnappings in retaliation, killing and kidnap for ransom (KFR) have remained common in the region due to splinter Boko Haram terrorists leaving the North East to ply their trade in the North West and North Central regions. The surge in these incidents prompted the Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El Rufai to state that the region needed more military operation than the North East region where offensive operations are ongoing against terrorists affiliated to ISWAP and Boko Haram.

IED attacks are increasing nationwide. During the month thirteen incidents were recorded in Borno, Kaduna, Ebonyi, and Niger states. Roadside IEDs are common in Borno State where terrorists are known to plant bombs along routes to impede troop movement during patrols and kinetic operations. Number of IED casualties for the month are uncorroborated, During the month however, attacks were also recorded in the NW region (Kaduna State) and the SE region (Imo State). On 27 February, an IED exploded close to an hotel in Kaduna metropolis while the other which was planted along a route in Chikun LGA did not explode. No casualty was recorded in both incidents. There is a high possibility the IEDs were planted by an armed groups as an explosive impact test. Also, there are probably several others planted at strategic positions throughout the state. In the SE, IEDs are used by armed groups during attacks on police officers and police stations. Armed men infiltrated Isu divisional police headquarters in Imo State on 21 February using IEDs which resulted in the death of two police officers.

Election violence was a major issue during the month as primaries, bye-elections and LG elections were held in some states. Most violence was recorded in the southern region. The Enugu State local elections turned violent when armed men invaded a polling station in Enugu South LGA on 23 February. Three security officers were killed in the attack while five journalists were kidnapped whilst enroute to observe elections in Nkanu West. The journalists were however released the next day. Same violence was recorded in Imo State during the bye elections on 26 February when an unknown number of INEC ad-hoc officials were kidnapped by armed men. This surge in violence in the SE has been attributed to IPOB/ESN activities. Attacks against security forces continued the week with 11 attacks recorded in all SE states except Abia. Twenty-six soldiers and police officers were killed during attacks not only at police stations but also at checkpoints in the region.

Nineteen armed robbery incidents which led to 20 fatalities were recorded during the month. Although most incidents were recorded in the southern regions, February recorded a spread of robberies nationwide. Armed robbers were commonly known to target residences but in recent times the targets have changed to banks, point of sale (POS) cash distributors and bullion vans. All reported robberies occurred during daylight and attacks have been random. Three major robbery patterns were highlighted in incidents recorded in Ibadan, Oyo State; Esan North, Edo State and Maiduguri, Borno State. The Ibadan robbers targeted a bullion



van at a traffic stop, killed three persons including police officers as they shot sporadically and carted away the cash. At the incident in Uromi, Esan North LGA, robbers targeted four banks simultaneously and killed seven persons including two police officers on the afternoon of 24 February. The robbers who arrived in different cars were seen loading stolen cash into a red vehicle. They were however traced and intercepted by some youths of Uromi which forced them to abandon the vehicle and flee. In Maiduguri, robbers targeted POS agents resulting in two deaths and three casualties in the month. Due to the incessant attacks, the military warned the cash agents to close business by 1900 hours to reduce occurrence.

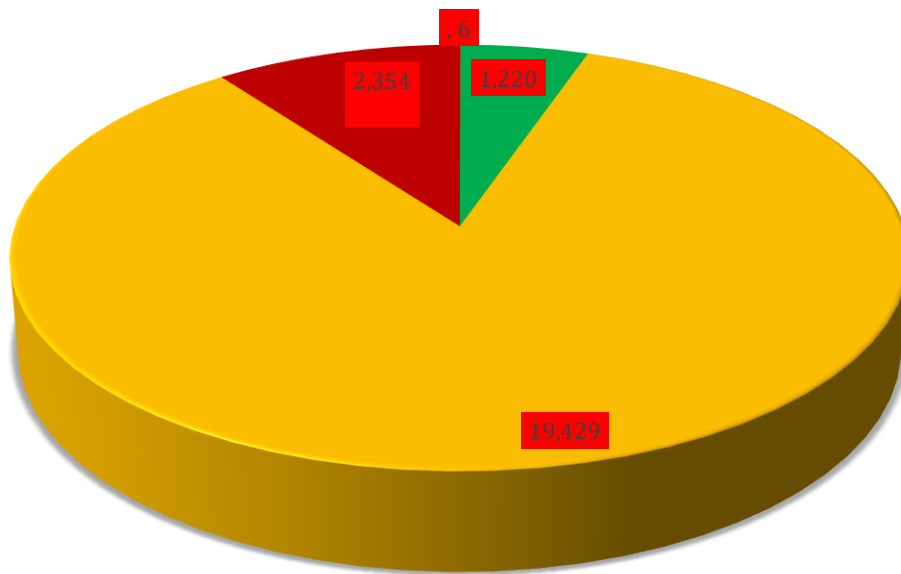
The attack on Ukraine by Russia has left Nigerians specifically students stranded in the country since 21 February. There has been reports of discrimination and outright racism on not only Nigerians but Africans were refused entry into border countries especially Poland. The Nigerian House of Representatives announced moves via a tweet to evacuate citizens stranded in the country on 23 February. The Ukrainian airspace is currently closed and plans to evacuate the people have been stalled till further notice according to another letter from the Federal Government. The Minister of Foreign Affairs announced plans on 26 February to airlift citizens from the country through Romania. Over 5,000 students are currently stuck as war erupted after Russian attack on Ukraine.

President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Electoral Act Amendment Bill into Law on 25 February after several protests and demands from civil rights groups. The Bill which was reworked after complaints by the President contains major adjustments on duration and eligibility of candidates who can run for political office.

The number of fire incidents increased during the month with 30 fire outbreaks caused by petrol tankers and, electricity surge nationwide.

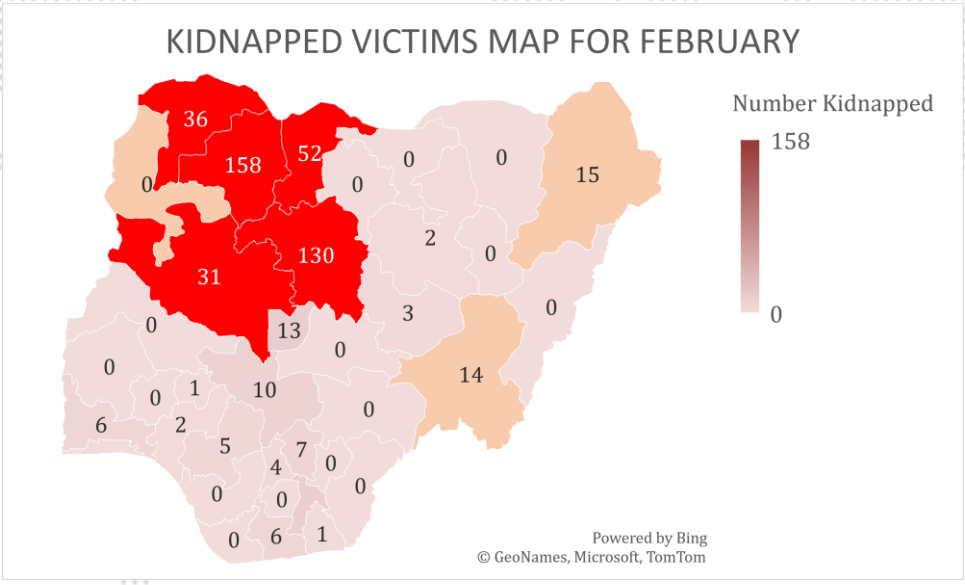
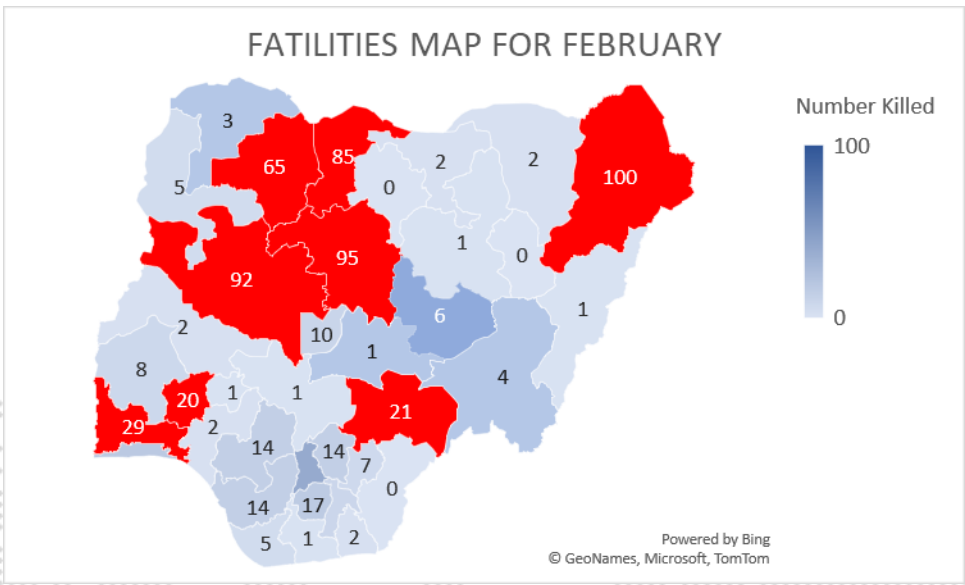
The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths decreased towards the end of the month as the fourth wave was declared over on 20 January by the Lagos State Commissioner for Health. Over 2,000 are currently infected as at the end of February. The country remains open for business and there has been a demand for the total removal of the curfew set at midnight to 0400 hours as it has been used by police officers to extort citizens.

Monthly Covid Stats 1 February - 28 February 2021



- Number of deaths
- Number of confirmed cases
- Number of recoveries
- Number of active cases

VICTIMS MAP FOR FEBRUARY 2022



THREAT CHART FOR FEBRUARY

- ◆ **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	Road Accidents
North Central	Medium	High	Medium	High	High	Low
North East	Medium	High	High	Low	High	Medium
North West	High	High	High	Medium	High	Low
South East	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	High	Medium
South West	Medium	Low	High	High	Medium	High
South	Medium	Low	Medium	High	High	Medium



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