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DATE: 31 July 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 168 and the most recorded incidents were kidnapping and killing.
- COVID-19 cases increased in the first two weeks with 1,382 new cases and five deaths.
- A drastic drop in attacks on police officers since the military were deployed to the SE region.
- Upsurge in robberies in the SW region and the arrest of Nnamdi Kanu, the IPOB leader.
- Kidnappings were rampant in the NW region as students were the major targets of armed groups in the area.
- The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation issued an order for media houses to stop reporting number of casualties or incidents in the country.

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Banditry Activity

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

- The number of incidents increased in the last weeks of the month with 145 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks slightly decreased to 4,205 new cases and 13 deaths.
- Reports of arrest of Sunday Igboho but the government of Benin refused to release him for extradition and was indicted for another crime.
- Attacks in the SE region against police officers resurged as IPOB agitated for the release of Nnamdi Kanu.
- Upsurge in robbery incidents, specifically in the SW region.
- The Deputy Inspector General of Police accused of wire fraud by the United States Government.

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Civil Unrest

33

Kidnapping Activity

48

Killings

09

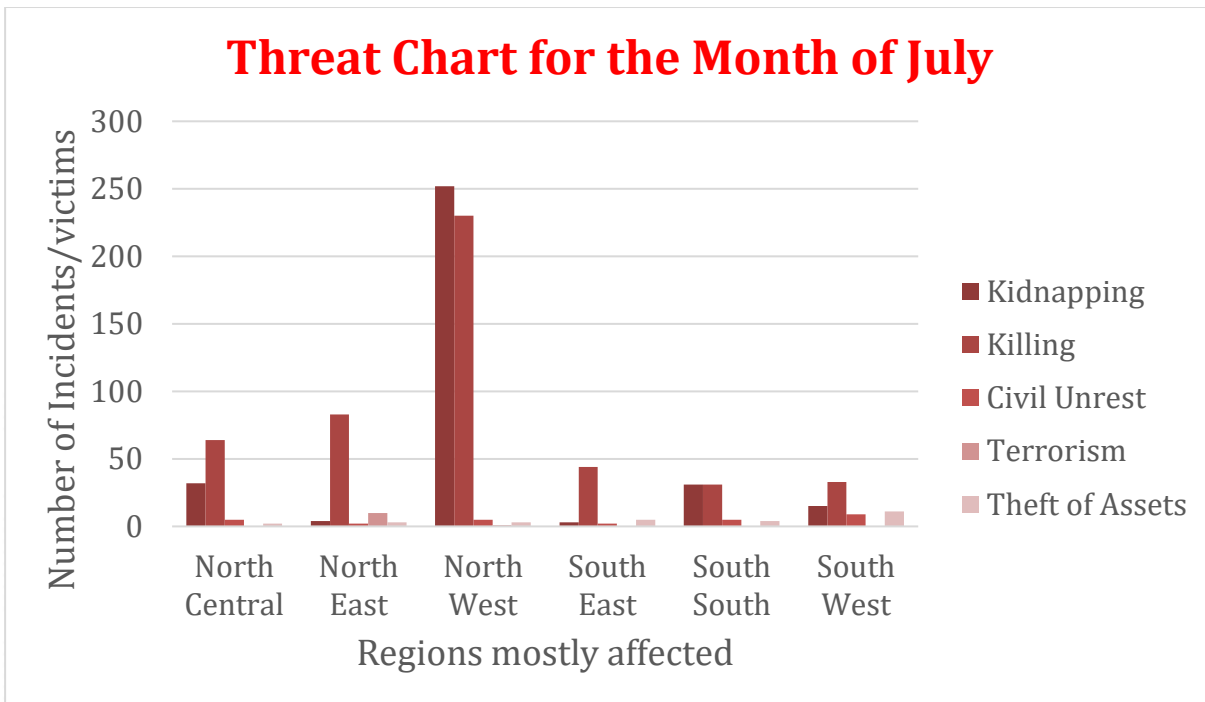
Fire

15

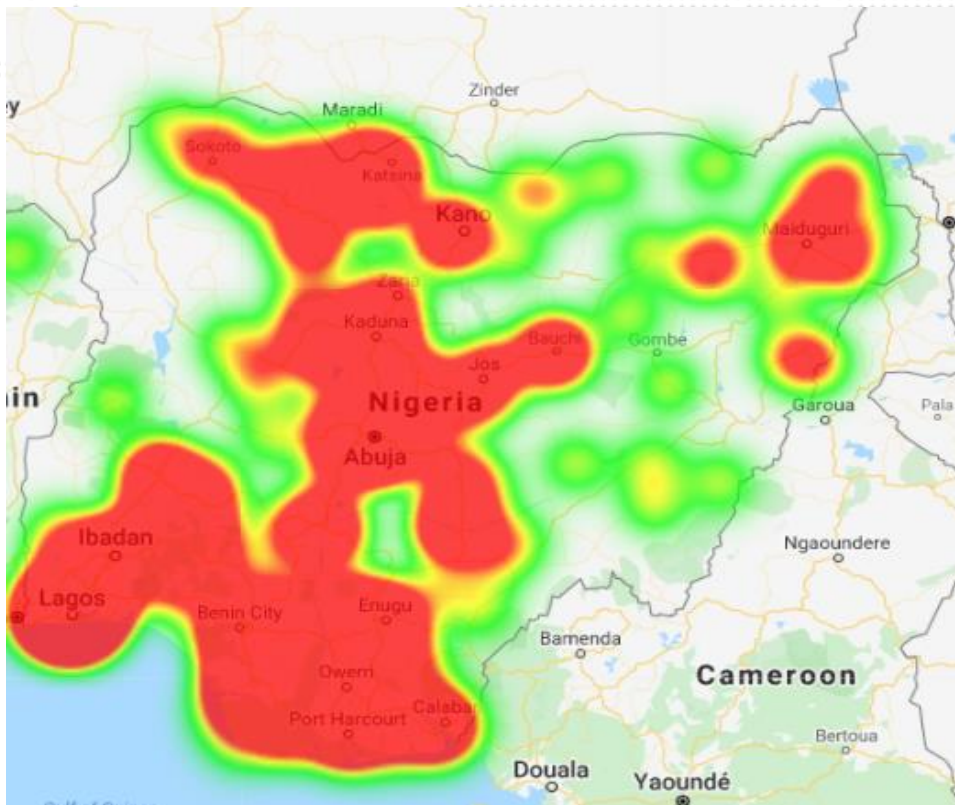
Theft of Asset

MAPS AND CHARTS

Threat Chart for the Month of July



Heat Map for Nigeria - July 2021



General threat level for the month of July is **High** as students were the target of most kidnappings in the NW region of the country coupled with the state backed hunt for IPOB leader and Yoruba agitator, Sunday Igboho.

The ban on Twitter operations continued during the month as users became more adept at using VPN to access their accounts. The activity on the app has increased compared to last month.

Eighteen out of 36 states recorded kidnapping incidents during the month and incidents were spread into all the six geopolitical zones. Mass kidnappings have however only been common in the North Western region and the states mostly affected are Kaduna and Zamfara States. In Kaduna State, students have been the major target and as reviewed in previous months, these schools which occupy a large expanse of land, with dilapidated structures and little or no security in place for the safety of the students, have been infiltrated either early morning or late at night. Thus, despite the increased insecurity that had been recorded in the state, neither the state of federal government put in place mitigated measures to secure the lives and properties of residents or students. This has led to the closure several schools in the state and in the Northern region at large further increasing the number of out of school children in the region. The most recent case occurred on 5th July when at least 121 students were kidnapped from Bethel Secondary School in Chikun LGA. The assailants accessed the school at about 0100 hours and went to the hostel area to abduct the students who were preparing for exams. Notably, the area the incident occurred is a hub for boarding secondary schools as about the same time a neighbouring school known as Faith Academy was attacked but it seemed they had adequate security which prevented a kidnapping incident. These incidents occurred hours after the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Centre in Zaria was attacked and several health workers, security guards and babies were kidnapped. Thus far 28 of the 121 have regained their freedom after their parents negotiated their release after paying ransom as they have been abandoned by the current administration. Further reports claim NGN 100 million was paid to the abductors who demanded an extra NGN 50 million to release the children. Unfortunately, there is no end in sight to the chaos of kidnappings in the country as there is no location free from the effect of the menace. Therefore, Horizon West Africa advises the use of professional security team for foreign and local assets.

Kaduna State Court delivered a verdict for the release of Ibrahim El Zakzaky and his wife, Zeenat on 28 July after they were found not guilty of the charges presented by the state prosecutor. The government however commenced filing of other charges against the couple two days later.

More troubling intelligence about the North West region was reported by the Nigerian Immigration Service on Zamfara State that bandits settling in the state have been travelling



to Borno State to undergo terrorism training. This seem to have been corroborated as during the month an airplane belonging to the Nigerian Airforce was shutdown with an anti-aircraft weapon while conducting airstrikes in the forest within the state. The pilot was rescued in time before the bandits could find his crash site. Apart from that, a notorious bandit named Turji kidnapped 150 villagers from after his father was arrested by the police. He threatened to continue attacks and kidnappings till his father was released. Eventually, his father was released and on 26 July it was reported that the villagers were released. Noteworthy, Zamfara is one of the red zone states in the country and currently the most troubled area has been Dansadau LGA where residents have organised vigilante groups who have been effective in fighting bandits in the area.

Counter-terrorism efforts were minimal in the month considering that terrorist activities also declined within the month. Reason for this decline remains unclear as despite continuous efforts by soldiers to avert the occurrence of fatal incidents, over 1000 suspected terrorists were released by the military. It is unclear what criteria was used for their release; the action was highly criticised by the citizenry. On the other hand, some terrorists affiliated to Boko Haram surrendered to soldiers in Bama LGA. The reason for this act is unclear as at time of writing.

The case against the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) leader, Nnamdi Kanu commenced but thus far, the Department of State Security (DSS) has been unable to present the suspect in Court which prompted a demand by the judge in charge of the case to demand his appearance in the next court hearing slated for October. This has raised further tension amongst his supporters who on 30th July stated that if he was not released, they would ground the South East region. Currently, the region is being occupied by the military to curb further attacks on police stations and their occupation has led to the violation of human rights which have seldom made the news. In the South West however, the Yoruba agitator, Sunday Igboho is stuck in Cotonou, Benin over allegations of procuring the Beninese passport fraudulently. On one hand it a relief for Sunday who currently has not been extradited to Nigeria to face the charges against him by the government, on the other hand, he faces years of prison term if found guilty of the offence currently at the Criminal Court in Cotonou.

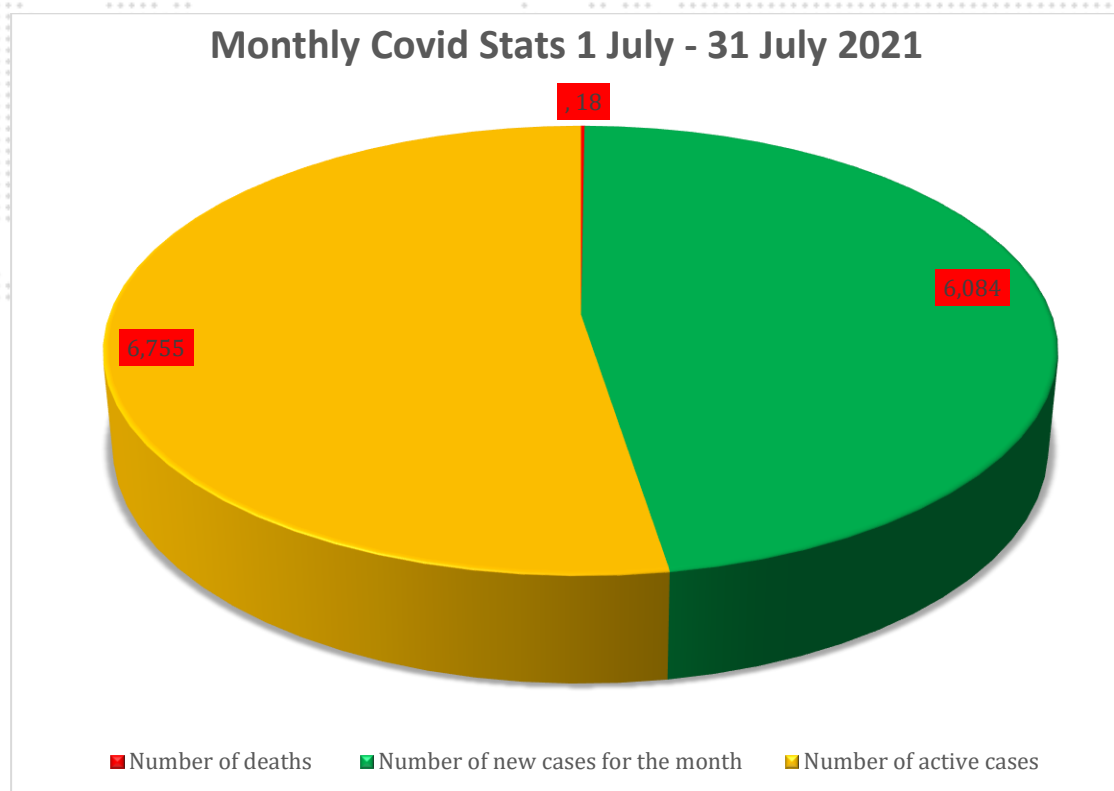
The news about the recently promoted Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Abba Kyari who is being accused of engaging in fraudulent activities linked with Ramon Abbas aka Hushpuppi after investigations by the United State Government was a major incident towards the end of the month. The Grand Jury in the US approved a three-count charge against Kyari, incriminated in wire transfer fraud and has been referred to as a serious risk defendant. This means, if the DCP leaves the country he would be arrested on these charges. This type of news has been a recurring feature in the current administration. Significantly, the Minister of

Communication was also accused of promoting terrorism in May which he denied and was backed by the Federal Government.

Robberies in which banks and businesses were targeted were common in the South West and East regions during the month with at least ten incidents recorded. Enugu, Lagos, Imo, Ekiti and Ondo states recorded cases within the month.

An estimated 95 persons were killed in road accidents that mostly occurred along highways depicting 200 percent increase in accident fatalities compared to last month. Poor road network and bad driving by motorists was the major causes of the accidents recorded within the month.

The country is currently in the third wave of COVID-19 therefore the number of cases has marginally increased with over 6,000 persons currently tested positive for the virus which is spreading fast due to its variant. The country remains open for business, and it is uncertain the government would issue another lockdown to curb the spread.



Threat Chart for July

- ◆ **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	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
North East	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low
North West	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low
South East	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low
South West	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium	High
South	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium



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