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**DATE: 31 March 2022**  
**MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**38**

**Terrorist Activity**

○ **Highlight of week 1 & 2**

- The number of incidents recorded during the first two weeks was 115 and the most recorded incidents were terrorism, and armed attacks.
- COVID-19 cases continued to decline with 431 new cases and zero death.
- Protests surged in the FCT.
- Infighting between members of Boko Haram and ISWAP.
- A surge was recorded on attacks against security forces in SE region.
- Violent attacks on civilians and police stations surged in the SE region.
- Armed herders target farming communities in Benue and Plateau States.
- Oil Spill reported at Aiteo Well in Bayelsa State.
- Uproar on social media over reports that the Nigerian Government gave the Afghan Taliban USD 1million.
- Three-day Nigerian Airforce airstrikes result in the death of an estimated 200 terrorists in Niger State.

**65**

**Banditry**

**48**

**Civil Unrest**

**45**

**Kidnapping**

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

**63**

**Killings**

**28**

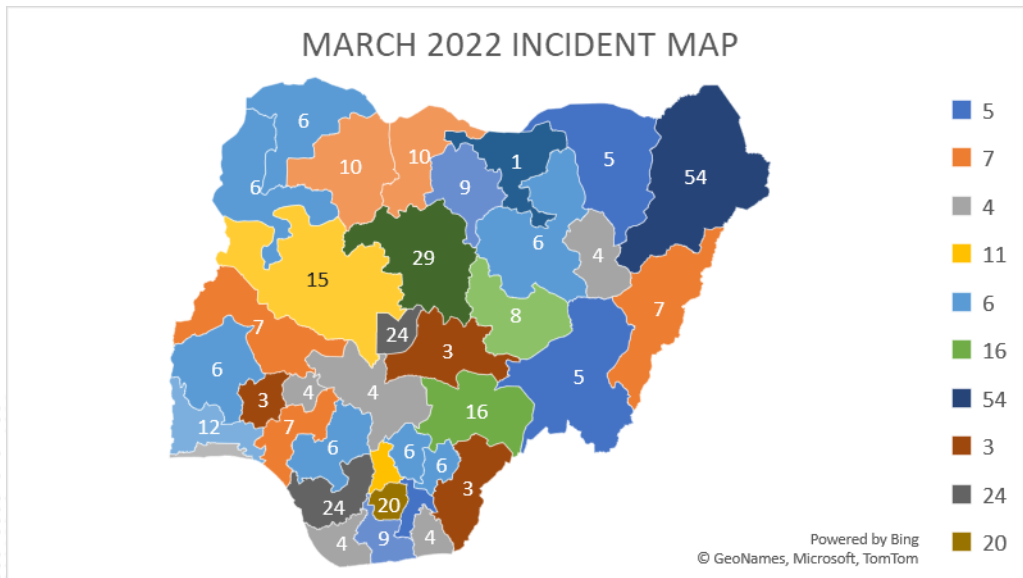
**Fire**

**24**

**Theft of Asset**

- The number of incidents increased in the last weeks of the month with 167 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks decreased to 414 new cases with zero death.
- Bye-elections and LG elections were held in the SE, SW, NC and S regions.
- Outgoing Anambra State Governor arrested at MMIA Lagos State on corruption charges.
- APC held national convention in Abuja FCT.
- Terrorists attacks airport, train and train station in Kaduna State.
- Explosion at Cement Factory led to three deaths.

## MAPS AND CHARTS



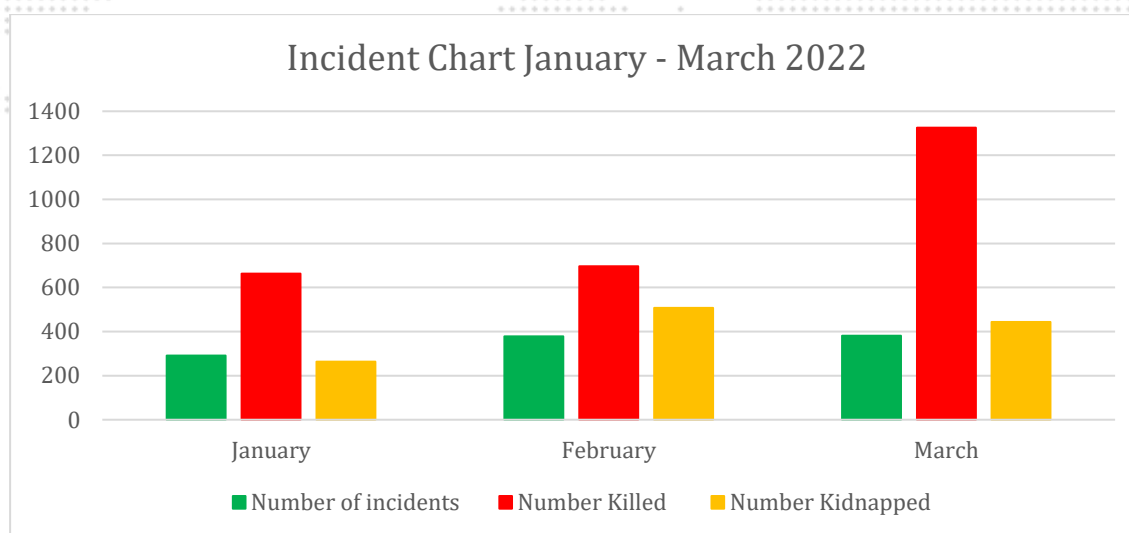
*Heat Map for Nigeria - March 2022*

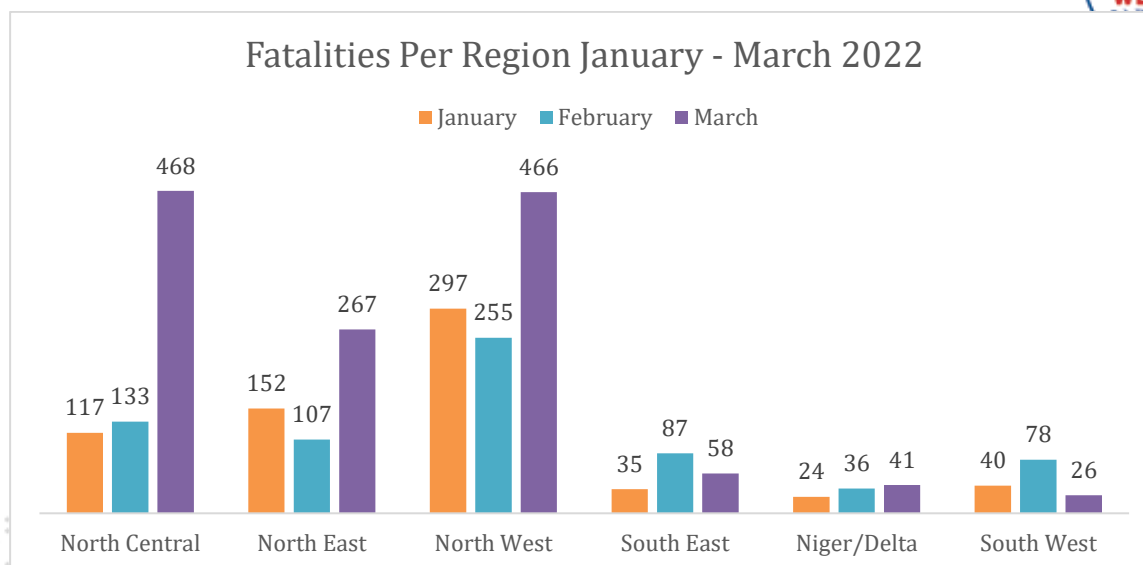


## ANALYSIS

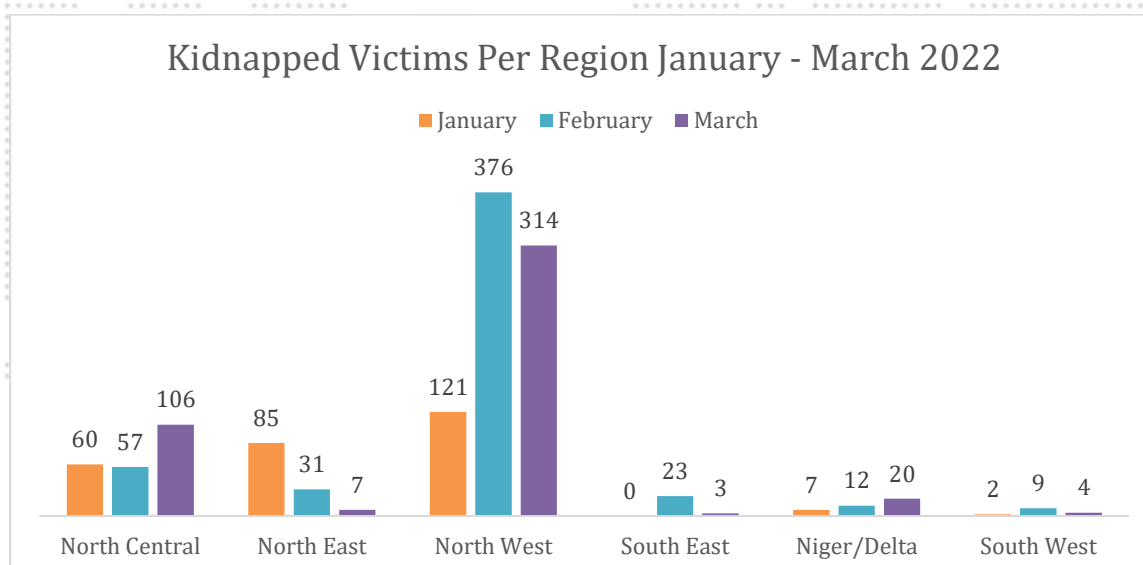
The threat level for the reporting month remains **High** with a surge in IED attacks and terrorism. An estimated 1,326 fatalities were recorded for various crimes while 444 persons were kidnapped. The number of fatalities include members of armed groups killed in different military operations nationwide. 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 or underreported. As such, for the month of March, number of fatalities increased about 100 percent while number of kidnapped victims decreased about 15 percent compared to the data for February 2022.

In retrospect, for the first quarter of the year there was a variation in number of fatalities and number kidnapped. The number however increased as the year proceeded. Thus far, March recorded the highest number of fatalities in comparison with the two other months while February seems to hold the highest number of kidnaped victims. One common factor in the quarter is underreporting of incidents as either those mostly affected do not have access to government security response agencies or the repression of information have become the strategy adopted by the present government.





NB : The fatalities increase in the NC was attributed to airstrikes conducted against terrorist hideouts in Mariga LGA.



The last week of the month recorded a series of attacks in the NW region which raised concern over the likelihood of terrorist movement and collaboration with organised criminal groups in the region. As military operations amplified in in the NE region specifically in Borno State, with several successes of military clearance in Sambisa Forest coupled with reports of infighting between Boko Haram and ISWAP members so did reports of IED attacks, kidnappings and killings increase in the NC and NW region specifically in Kaduna and Niger states. Between 25 and 31 March, the state recorded a surge not only in killings and kidnappings, but also an increase in attacks on civilians in Southern Kaduna which has mostly Christian inhabitants. Most of the incidents in these areas have thus far been underreported, but protests over the continuous insecurity faced by residents have exposed the attacks by armed groups.



Kaduna State witnessed a surge in attacks in the final week of the month as the Kaduna Airport, Kaduna – Abuja Highway, Zagon Kataf LGA, Rijana train track and Kaduna train station were attacked between 28 and 30 March all with heavy casualty. Also, Chikun LGA was hit on 31 March with several fatalities comprising mostly of children. These successive attacks were prior to the attacks on Giwa LGA where several villages were ransacked and over 50 persons were killed. Giwa shares a border with Katsina State which has also recorded a surge in attacks. One common factor in all the incidents have been that the assailants do not look Nigerian and are very young between the ages of 21 and 24. They move in a large group of 100s and are very coordinated. There is therefore a possibility that these assailants moved from Niger which has been a haven for terrorists and armed groups for over a decade. The likelihood of these groups hiding out in Nasarawa State is also high even if the state has not recorded attacks compared to the surrounding states. Also, the likelihood that these groups have been activated to perpetuate these criminal acts are high. The train track attack which occurred about 2000 hours on 28 March gave an insight into how some of these attacks are organised. It was reported that an IED was detonated on the track around Rijana village forcing the train driver to stop and the attackers entered the train shooting sporadically. They proceeded to the first-class coach with the help of some passengers to abduct wealthy occupants and proceeded in moving them into vehicles. Those who resisted were shot, forcing others to comply all achieved within a two-hour mark. Reports stated that the first group of soldiers sent in response were killed while the second group who arrived about midnight rescued the rest of the passengers in the absence of the assailants. The assailants are currently calling families of the abducted victims to request ransom for their release. Noteworthy, a similar attack with less casualty was recorded in the same area in October 2021. Although, analysts are wary of linking armed groups with terrorist groups in the NE region, the mode of operation is quite similar and could possibly be a case of either terrorists teaching armed groups how to amplify attacks in the NW region or terrorists becoming bandits after an unsuccessful run engaging in terrorism.

The NC region specifically Niger State also recorded a surge in terrorist attacks in Munya LGA. Over 100 persons have been killed in attacks which commenced on 7 March. Locals have fled from their communities, and it was reported that at least 20 persons died whilst fleeing the LGA via the waterways. The LGA which is in proximity to Kaduna. The attackers reportedly escaped through Chikun Forest in neighbouring Kaduna State. To curb the excessiveness of armed groups in the state, the military reportedly conducted airstrikes which resulted in the death of 200 armed men hiding out in Mariga LGA. This is not the first military operation in the area, nevertheless, the number killed brings to question why the armed groups continue to thrive despite bombardments.

Crimes has surged in the capital, Abuja with reports of kidnappings, killings, and robberies on the outskirt districts like Abaji, Kwali and Kuje. The central districts have not been left out



with lone wolf attacks on unsuspecting victims in Maitama, Gwarinpa, Three Arms Zone and surrounding districts.

Also, herder attacks resurged in Benue and Plateau states in the month with reports in Gwer West, Guma, Kastina Ala, Logo, Ukum, Bassa, Royom, Barkin Ladi and Makurdi LGAs. Number of casualties are between 50 to 70 while security forces have been unable to provide adequate security for these LGAs who must rely on vigilantes to protect their lives and properties.

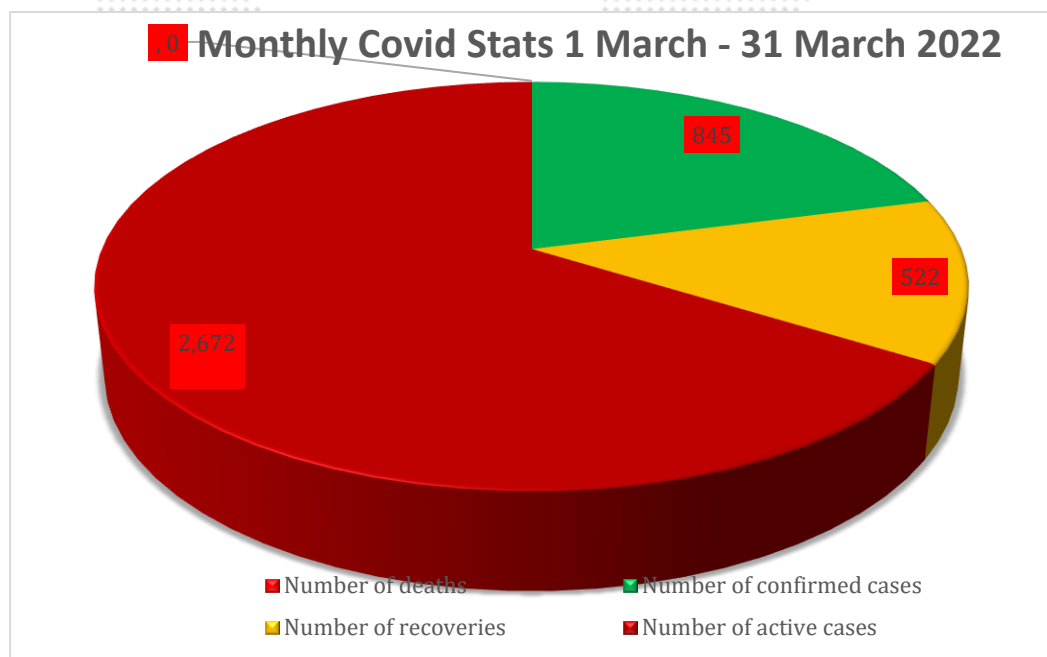
During the month twelve incidents of police stations attacks were recorded nationwide, nine of which occurred in the SE region. A total of 34 incidents have been recorded between January and March and these attacks were not only limited to police stations but also to checkpoints along highways. The use of IEDs has also become common to create maximum destruction especially in Imo State. Police fatalities now at an estimated 35 officers.

Apart from the attacks on police station, the issue with the stay-at-home order continued in the month of March. The new Governor of Anambra State, Charles Soludo in his capacity decided he could change the narrative without putting in place the adequate structure for enforcement. Thus, on 25 March, he sent a directive to all state workers to resume work on Monday 28 March which has been the day set aside by IPOB to enforce the stay-at-home order. The workers out of fear did not respect the directive and on the same day IPOB intensified attacks in Ebonyi, Anambra, Ebonyi and Imo states. The former Governor of the state, Willie Obiano was arrested by the EFCC a day after his handover ceremony on corruption charges.

There was a general decline in terrorists attacks in the reporting month and it was all attributed to the intense counter-terrorism operations by the military and air force in Sambisa Forest, Borno State. There is however a high possibility that terrorists have blended with the civilian populace in some LGAs in Borno following the discovery of camouflage and shaved hair by soldiers during kinetic operations in Sambisa Forest. Also, there was a surge in infighting between ISWAP and Boko Haram which reportedly started in Dikwa on 5 March when Boko Haram killed 30 ISWAP fighters. The fight continued in the week as incidents were recorded in Mallam Fatori in Abadam LGA with nine terrorists killed on 8 March. All these incidents occurring when ISWAP changed commanders to Abu Hassan, Quraishi which possibly means new strategy for the group.

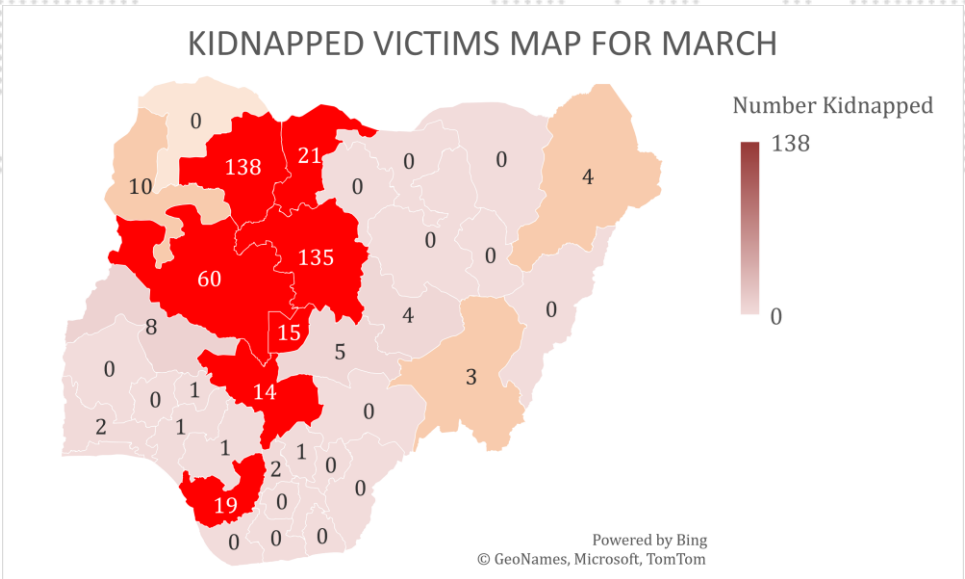
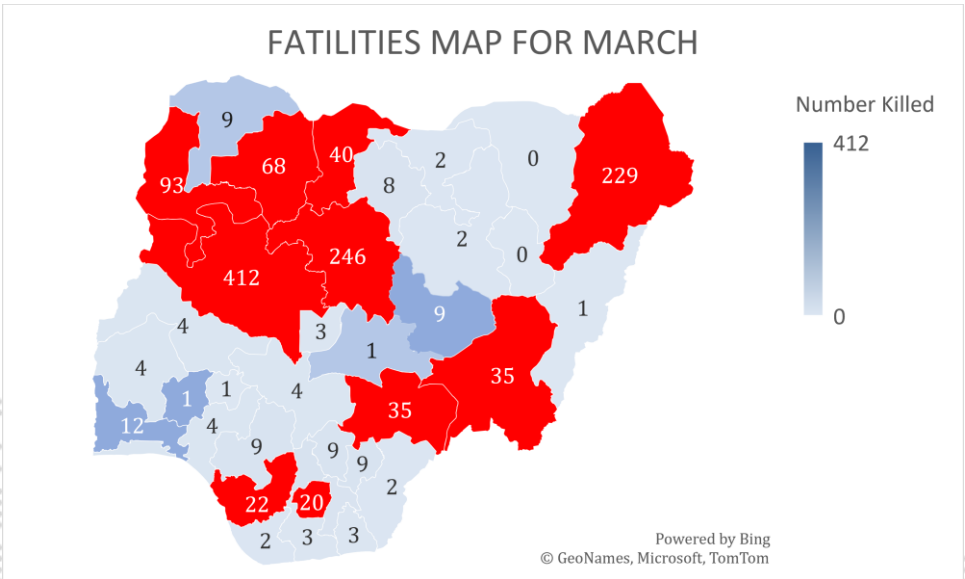
Terrorists have gravitated to the use of Vehicle Borne Explosive Devices (VBIED). Two attacks were recorded in March at Mafa and at Gubio LGAs, Borno State. The attack on the military at Mafa LGA orchestrated by Abu Maymunah Al-Ansari was reportedly repelled while the attack the attack on Gubio resulted in many soldier casualties.

Kidnapping remained a core crime in the country during the month and throughout the quarter. The crime manifests in different ways in different regions. For the Northern regions, it is most likely for ransom and is done by large armed groups who have weapons that are capable against security forces. They target highways, communities and means of transportation. Attacks are done during night-time but can also be during daylight when assailant know there is no military presence. Armed herders of Fulani origin have also been accused of perpetuating the same crime along highways in the southern regions. Mass kidnappings are not as common in the southern regions except on highways. The attacks are done on deserted roads early mornings or midday when the routes are less busy. The assailants are also known to abduct one or two random persons from farmlands and quiet communities. Kidnappings in the city centres in the southern regions are however for ritual and organ trafficking. Adverts for missing persons have become common on social media since mid-February. Targets have thus far been persons between the ages of 18 and 28 while younger kids are not left out, most are underreported. Most of the incidents recorded in Lagos State occur during inner-city movements at all times of the day especially during daylight. Victims that have survived report that the moment they take a bus, they lose consciousness and can't remember anything that occurred afterwards. The only time they regain consciousness is when they are dropped off. The drop off locations are mostly highways. The number of active COVID-19 cases remain over 2,000 while no death was recorded in March as more countries opened their border. Less than 850 cases were confirmed as at the end of March. The country remains open for business and the government announced that the use of face masks in open spaces is now optional. It also suspended the limit placed on public gatherings, curfews, and other social measures while the decision on the final relaxation of measures will be taken after Easter.





## VICTIMS MAP FOR MARCH 2022



## 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	Road Accidents
North Central	High	High	High	High	High	Low
North East	Medium	High	Medium	Low	High	Low
North West	High	High	High	Medium	High	Low
South East	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
South West	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
South	Medium	Low	Medium	High	High	Medium



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