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DATE: 31 May 2022
MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

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Terrorist Activity

○ **Highlight of week 1 & 2**

- The number of incidents recorded during the first two weeks was 153 and the most recorded incidents were civil unrest, and attacks from armed groups.
- COVID-19 cases continued to decline with 431 new cases and zero death.

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Banditry

- Supreme Court judgement on 6 May allocated the oil wells to Rivers State in dispute with Imo State. The Court also ended the political arrangement on the sharing of revenue from the oil wells.
- Nigerian Airlines planned the total shut down of operations from 9 May over hike in aviation fuel prices.

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Civil Unrest

- One female student killed by religious fanatics
- Students protest ASUU strike.
- IED attack on flow station in SE region and recreational spot in NC region.
- President Buhari visits Ebonyi State amidst threats of attack by suspected IPOB members.

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Kidnapping

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

- The number of incidents increased in the last weeks of the month with 173 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks decreased to 169 new cases with zero death.
- Violence surged in the SE region.

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Killings

- Reports of robbery surge in the week specifically in the SW region.
- Politically motivated violence recorded nationwide as political parties organise primaries.
- IED explosions in Kano and Kogi states.
- Pipeline explosion leads to several casualties in Delta State.

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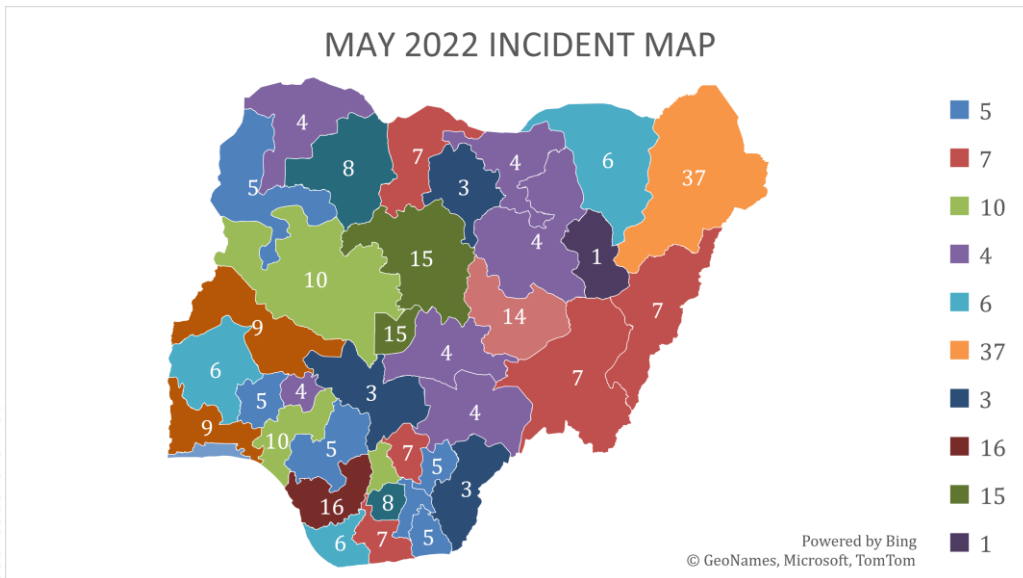
Hazard

- A sitting State House of Representative was member killed by armed men in SE region.
- Protests by students affected by the ASUU strike action continued in the week.
- Former President, Goodluck Jonathan was cleared by the Court to run in the 2023 Presidential Election.
- Assailants holding train passengers hostage issues new ultimatum for their release.
- Stampede leads to several fatalities in Rivers State.

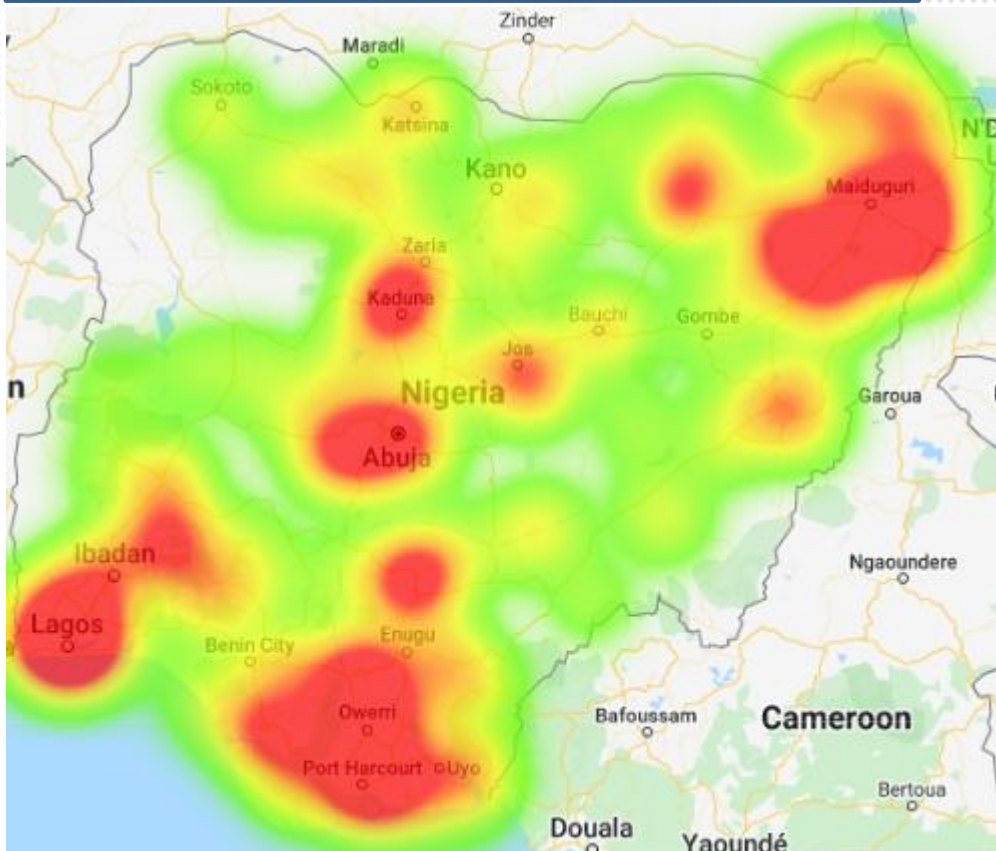
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Theft of Asset

MAPS AND CHARTS



Heat Map for Nigeria - May 2022

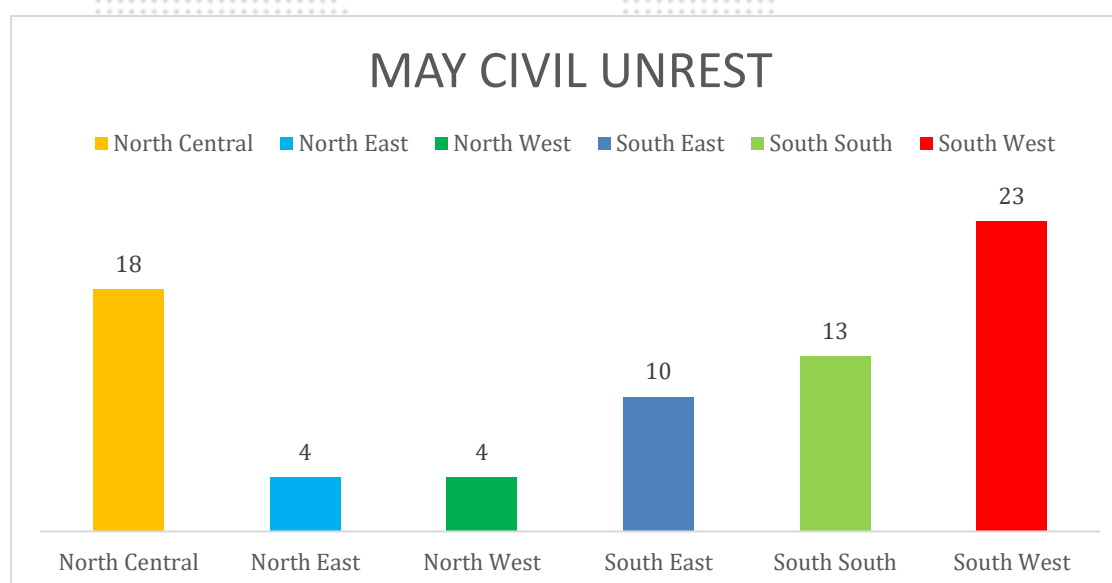


ANALYSIS

Civil unrest, armed attacks and politically motivated violence were the highlight of the reporting month setting the threat level for May as **High**.

An estimated 667 fatalities majorly from criminal incidents were recorded while 123 persons were victims of kidnapping. Similar to the last reporting month, 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 May, number of fatalities decreased by 16 percent while number of kidnapped victims decreased about 60 percent compared to the data for April 2022.

The month was riddled with civil unrest which was exacerbated by the ongoing Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike action. Students affiliated with National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS) organised protests nationwide blocking highways to demand an end to the strike action which has become a part of the Nigerian academic cycle. The protests were common in the South West region as students barricaded highways between Ilesha and Akure, Lagos, Abeokuta and Ibadan. During one of the incidents on 17 May, soldiers fired live ammunition on students in Akure for blocking a route they were about to pass. Fortunately, no casualty was recorded. The lecturers started their threats for the year on 14 February with warning strikes before they made it indefinite. In previous years, students have been forced to stay home for over six months as the same claims by lecturers for better working conditions and better pay remain a recurring factor in the tussle with the Federal Government who is more focused on the election cycle. It is important to note that these protests occur without notice and would likely disrupt operations as most occur during daytime.





Apart from students protesting, political protests were also common in the month as political parties organised primaries nationwide. It was marred as the usual by irregularities and violence giving a preview to eventual outcomes of the 2023 elections. What has further driven this narrative has been attributed to the late signing of the Electoral Bill by President Muhammadu Buhari which has left room for issues over delegate list, dates for primaries and candidate imposition.

Therefore, at least 25 incidents of politically motivated violence were recorded nationwide with at least 21 fatalities and at least five political contenders kidnapped. On 27 May at least four persons were killed during the All Progressive Congress (APC) House of Representative primaries in Igando, Alimosho LGA. Noteworthy, pre-election and post-election violence are common occurrences in the South West region particularly in Lagos and Osun states. In Plateau State, a female candidate of the APC was kidnapped on her way to visit delegated in Qua'an Pan LGA. Noteworthy, elections for Ondo and Osun states are slated for July, violence is hereby anticipated.

Religion was another reason for unrest in the month after the killing of a female student attending Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto State. The victim was accused of blasphemy after she complained via voice note on the use of a school's WhatsApp Group for Islamic religious purposes. On the afternoon of 12 May, she was stoned in collaboration with some of her male classmates whilst trying to escape and later set ablaze with all captured on video. The arrest of some suspects triggered a bout of unrest in the state and spread to the North West and North East states. The protests in Borno and Bauchi states also started after two women analysing the abovementioned incident on social media made a remark the Muslims in the state perceived as blasphemous to their region but security forces were able to curb its spread. Religious difference is one of the trigger points for unrest in the country as the Muslims in the North use the mob to commit murder of non-adherents. Mob Violence is also common in the southern region. The mob in the south targets suspected criminals without consequences. In other cases, innocents have also been killed by mobs who take advantage of the absence of police officers. In one of the incidents recorded on 14 May, a young man was killed by a mob of commercial motorcycle riders during a dispute over change in Lekki Phase One, Lagos State. The incident forced the State Government to reinforce the ban on motorcycle which has been in effect since 2020. They were allowed till 1 June to ply routes within the state.

Violence against security forces remained a major issue in the SE during the month with incidents starting from a video showing the brutal killing of two soldiers in Imo State on 3 May. The two soldiers who going to their hometown to attend their wedding were ambushed kidnapped and killed. Two days prior, an Assistant Superintendent of Police was killed at



Okpo-efi junction, Agwa, Oguta LGA. The police however reported that two of the suspects who attacked the officer were killed in an operation around the area.

An estimated 32 persons were killed in violent attacks in the SE with Anambra State being most affected by attacks That targeted both civilians and security forces. The violence recorded in the month increased due to the incitement by Simon Ekpa operating from Finland. Using the same style as the IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu, he uses the radio and other social media platforms to send dog whistles to armed groups operating in the area. Not only did the violence increase with armed robberies, killings and kidnappings, the group suspected to be affiliated with IPOB and ESN militants also threatened violence in ten local governments in the state till their leader was released. At least four persons were killed including a police officer in Nnewi South and Ekwusigo respectively. In the Nnewi South incident two brothers living at Ukpor, one of which was a former youth leader who was killed at their residence while his brother initially kidnapped was later found dead at Ukuh Junction. Armed men also killed a woman identified as Hausa and her four children aboard a bike on 22 May at Isulo in Orumba North LGA. The incident prompted the Governor, Charles Soludo to declare a curfew from 1800 hours to 0600 hours which will affect motorcycles, tricycles, and shuttle buses in the Aguata, Ihiala, Ekwusigo, Nnewi North, Nnewi South, Ogbaru, Orumba North and Orumba South LGA till further notice. The group however continued to burn infrastructure and enforce the sit-at-home order thereby grounding all economic activities on Mondays and other days which supposed to have stopped as at November 2021 during the gubernatorial election.

IED attacks decreased in the month, but the worrisome trend were the explosions recorded in Kogi, Kano and Taraba. Civilians were the major targets with at least 15 fatalities recorded in all the three incidents. The most worrisome are the two IED incidents in Kabba, Kogi State. Kogi is in proximity to the capital and if IED attacks are increasing in this area it corroborates reports of terrorists already infiltrating surrounding states to the capital. Although on two occasions, the police claimed it was gas explosion, eyewitness however reported otherwise as the incident in Kano was attributed to a Person Borne Improvised Explosive Device (PBIED) most likely one of those sent by terrorists on 20 April.

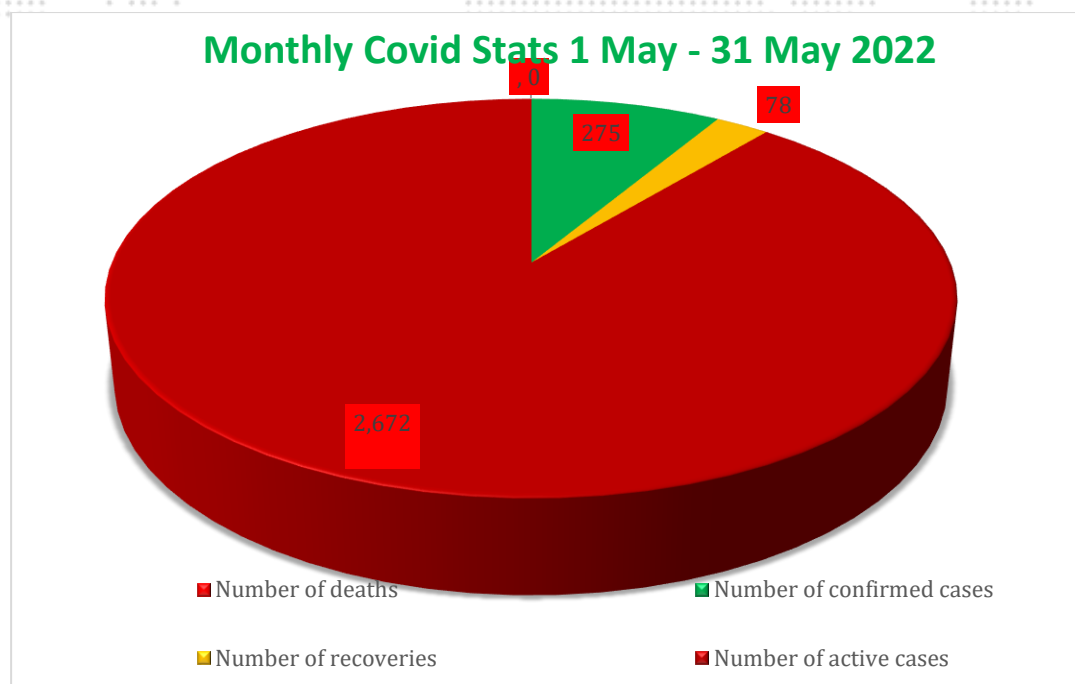
Also, during the earlier part of the month, an IED attack was reported on a flow station belonging to Addax in Izombe, Imo State. The ensuing explosion led to the death of the two attackers and left several others injured.

Terrorists incidents declined in the month as the effect of ongoing operations were felt in Borno State. At least five persons identified as top commanders of ISWAP and Boko Haram were either captured, killed, or surrendered to the military. Militant Chief of Defence (Ameeru-1-Fiha), Bako Gorgore and Aba-Ibrahim, a prominent leader were killed alongside several fighters around Lake Chad while ISWAP Hizba Commander, Kaka Lawan was killed alongside

other fighters in Abadam LGA. The worrisome aspect of the victories recorded in state is however the spread of terror to neighbouring states specifically Bauchi and Taraba states.

Six Brigade Nigeria Army headquarters in Jalingo, Taraba State was the target of an IED on the evening of 10 May and the same evening, 40 persons were killed by possibly the same assailants who planted the IED. Also, Ansaru terrorist group, a faction of Boko Haram, has commenced the recruitment of residents in Birnin Gwari LGA, Kaduna state. According to an open-source outlet, the group on 4 May visited Damari, Farin Ruwa, Kwasa Kwasa, Kuyello, Gobirawa, Tabanni, Kutemeshi and Kazage villages to recruit the villagers into their sect under the guise of celebrating Eid with them. Eyewitness claimed the insurgents distributed gifts to them and performed motorcycle stunts to entertain the villagers. The group also distributed a five-page pamphlet titled; “We are not Boko Haram but Ansaru”, flash disks and other items to entice residents. Birnin Gwari has been of the LGAs affected by insurgent and bandit attacks in recent times and on 31 May another group of persons were killed and kidnapped during an attack on the LGA. This report however brings some clarity to the activities of Ansaru in the area.

The number of active COVID-19 cases remain over 2,000 with no death and less than 300 cases in the month of May. 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. The new threat could most likely be monkey pox but no cases have been confirmed by the NCDC.



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	Low	Medium	High	High	High	Low
North East	Medium	High	Medium	Low	High	Medium
North West	High	High	Medium	Low	High	Low
South East	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
South West	Low	Low	High	High	Medium	Medium
South	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low



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