



Horizon West Africa – Mali 150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako
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DATE: 1 January 2021
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 151 and the most recorded incidents were armed herder attacks and terrorism.
- COVID-19 cases increased after the discovery of the Omicron variant of the virus with 8,052 new cases and 70 deaths.
- Four jail breaks were recorded in the first week of the month.
- Terrorists target Damboa, Borno State with missiles.
- Resurgence of attacks by armed herders in military uniform in the NC and southern regions.
- Attacks on police stations.
- The twitter ban was lifted by the Federal Government.

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Banditry

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

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Civil Unrest

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Kidnapping

- The number of incidents slightly increased in the last weeks of the month with 155 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks decreased to 2,252 new cases with 33 deaths marking the end to the fourth wave.
- Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) announced that dust plumes around the North West and North East states dropped visibility below 1000 meters.
- Military operations and NAF airstrikes doubled in Borno State.
- President Muhammadu Buhari visit Sokoto State.
- Federal Government announced non removal of subsidy from fuel prices.

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Killings

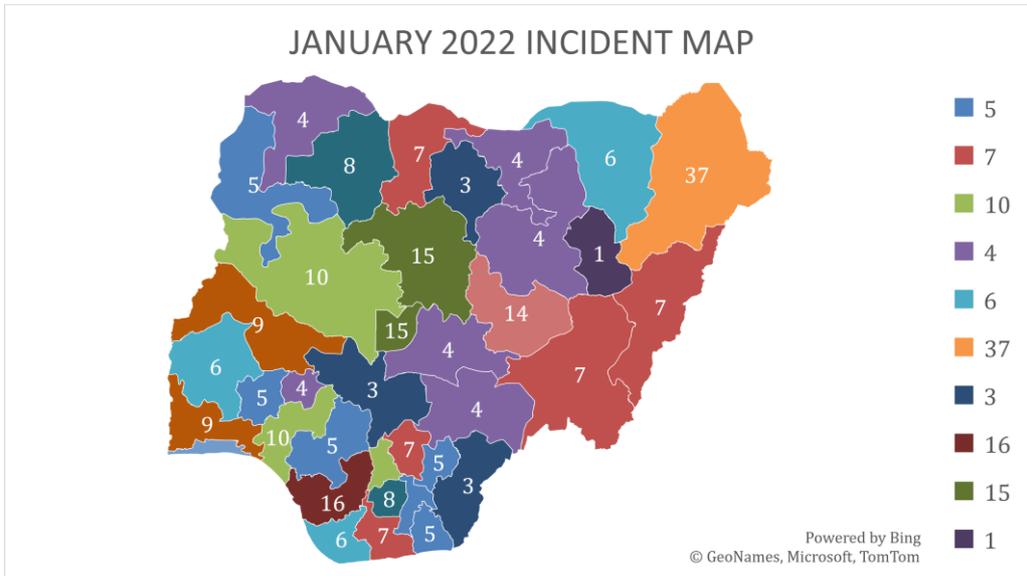
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Fire

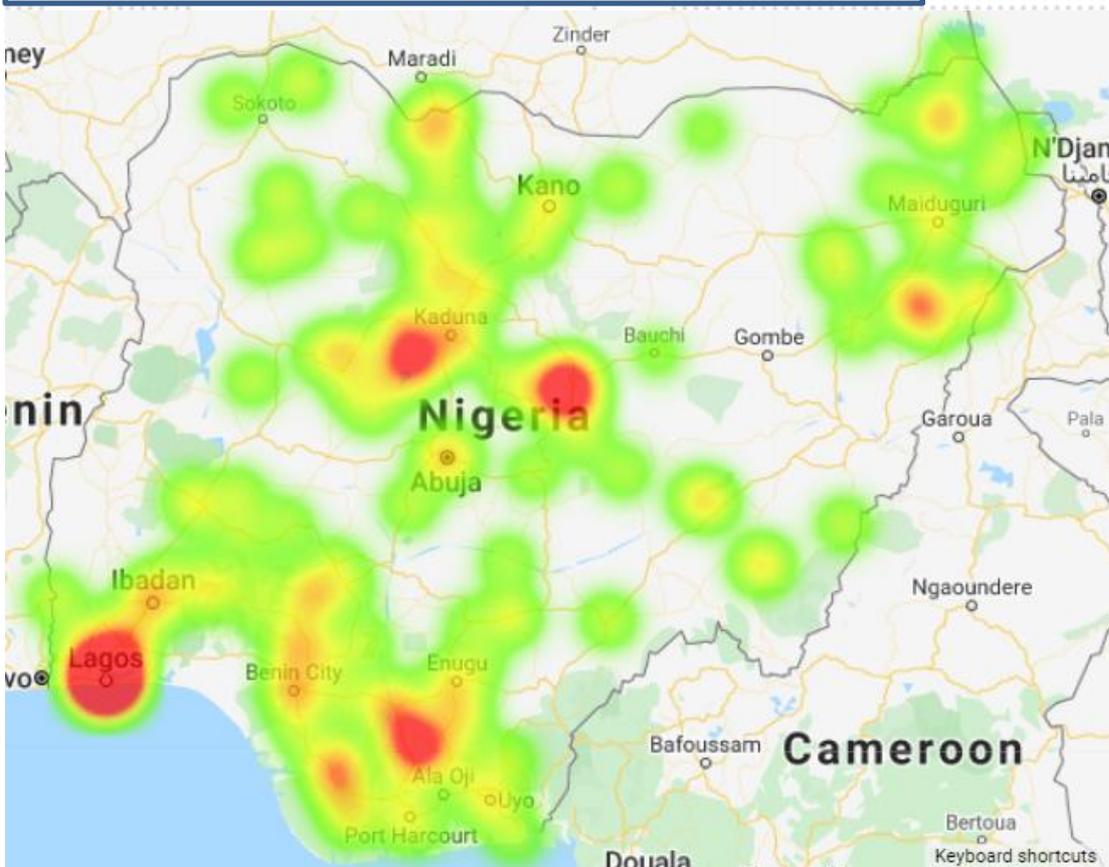
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Theft of Asset

MAPS AND CHARTS



Heat Map for Nigeria - January 2022



ANALYSIS

January 2022 came with unique set of incidents. This uniqueness albeit recycled maintained the threat level at **High** as there was a resurgence of armed activities by Fulani herders, and terrorists. An estimated 663 persons were killed while 263 persons were kidnapped not including incidents with unknown number of abducted persons. Therefore, number of persons killed for the month increased while kidnapped victims decreased compared to the data for December 2021.

The threat posed by armed herders of mostly Fulani decent resurged after a lull in reports from 2021. The attacks were prominent in Benue, Ogun, and Plateau. Some other southern states like Edo, Enugu, Ebonyi also confirmed incidents of farmlands ravaged by cows and villagers have become fearful of tending to their farms and in other cases, have fled to neighbouring communities. Interestingly, these attacks have been perpetuated by herders in military uniform which has been more concerning for villagers who have been caught off guard thinking it was soldiers coming to their rescue. No investigations have been done and none of the culprits have been arrested. The issue of attacks on farmlands and famers is historical and has been termed farmer/herder clashes. It has been attributed to global warming causing there to be less rain and drier seasons thereby reducing forage for the cow hence the reason the headers must move to lush grounds. Even when alternative forage has been provided, the malicious intent of herders can be measured during planting season as they walk their cows through farmlands already cultivated and sometimes close to the time of harvest, destroying everything in its path. This results in major losses for farmers and in turn has been the leading cause of food shortages and high food prices in the country.

The anti-grazing laws in most states have been ineffective in curbing herders' excesses and the central government have also been reluctant in finding a lasting solution to the problem.

The war against terror has obviously not ended in the North East region. Borno State being the area of operation remains under the control of ISWAP and Boko Haram. Terrorists attempted another missile attack in January following two attacks in December. Another round of missiles was fired at the IDP camp in Damboa LGA. One person was injured by the shrapnel from the mortars and no other casualty was recorded.

The usual activities such as robberies and mounting of illegal checkpoints remain common in the month. Although some commuters might have been kidnapped during some of the incidents, non was recorded. However, in Chibok LGA two persons were killed while 20 children including 13 girls were kidnapped from Pemi Village on 20 January. The incident occurred around 1900 hours and the victims were reportedly taken away with a truck into Sambisa Forest. Recent propaganda video show minors as newly trained ISWAP recruits and



most of these children are most likely kidnap victims not only from Nigeria but surrounding countries. Noteworthy, Chibok was where at least 200 girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists years ago. ISWAP terrorists have reportedly reshuffled commanders following airstrikes conducted by the Nigerian Airforce which led to the deaths of several terrorists including high level commanders. The issue with this reshuffle is that the level of brutality of the new leaders cannot be timely ascertained despite the ongoing military operation in the state. A makeshift hospital was uncovered in Marte LGA which is now a terrorist zone where militants from Somalia and Libya are reportedly performing surgeries on injured fighters hit in one of the airstrikes conducted by the military on 14 January.

Noteworthy, the military intensified its counter-terrorism operations during the month and over 50 terrorists have been killed in raids on hideouts in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. Another state that recorded a surge in armed activities is Taraba State. The state specifically Gassol LGA has been recording a surge in armed group activities. On 12 January an estimated 30 members of Miyetti Allah and vigilantes were killed in an ambush by armed men in a forest in Kabarwi near Karal Village. Seven days prior, two passengers were killed while 40 others were kidnapped by armed men blocked the Jamtari/ Gayam axis of the Genbu-Bali Road. It is suspected that these attacks are planned by terrorist groups fleeing military offensive in Sambisa Forest.

The Indigenous People of Biafra recommenced an enforcement of their stay-at-home order after its suspension during the Anambra State elections in November 2021. IPOB fired several gunshots, burnt vehicles, and disrupted daily activities to enforce a sit-at-home order in some LGAs in Anambra and Enugu states on 10 January. This recent enforcement was attributed to the court appearance of their leader, Nnamdi Kanu slated for 18 January. Nnamdi Kanu's, trial recommenced with an additional 8-count charge of treasonable felony, filed against him by the Federal Government. Total charges are now at 15. The additional charges are likely to prolong the case with adjournments which was the case during his appearance. Tension is high and more clashes between government forces and IPO supporters are expected to occur in the coming month. Criminal incidents in which armed men target high profile political persons has also increased in the region as two persons including the youth leader of APC were killed in Enugu State on 18 January during a meeting. Also, attacks on the police are expected to recommence next month considering that in 2021, the month marked the start to attacks on the police specifically in the SE region.

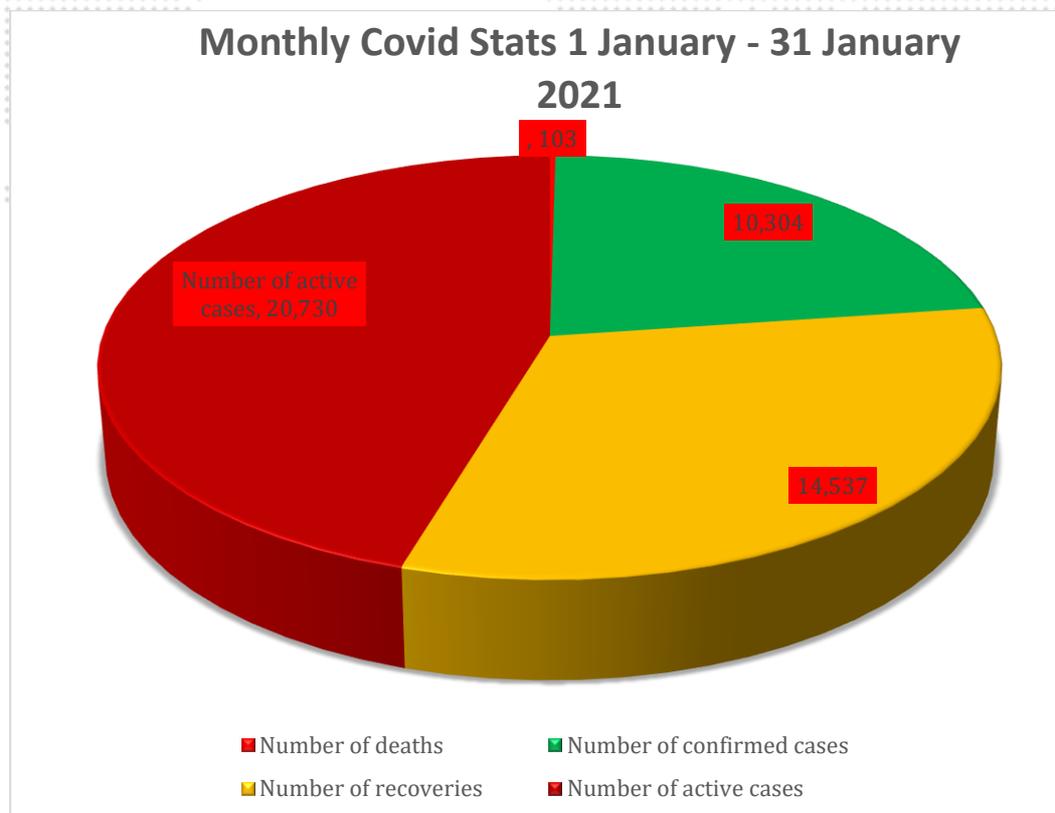
The Federal Government eventually lifted the Twitter Ban on 13 January after 222 days of internet blackout which prohibited access to the app except via VPN since June 2021. Although the government claimed Twitter had met their demands and that was why the ban was lifted, it was however concluded by critics that the ban was lifted to activate political

campaigns for the ruling party’s candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu who has indicated his desire to run for the next Presidential Election slated for 2023.

Criticism has followed the declaration of former Lagos State Governor, Bola Tinubu to run as a candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC) considering he had been ill and currently undergoing medical examination in the United Kingdom. Also, his real age has been contested causing an uproar amongst his supporters and critics. Thus far, at least five persons including a female candidate have declared their interest to run in the upcoming elections.

The same number of fire incidents recorded last month was also recorded in the reporting with 22 fire outbreaks caused by tankers and, electricity surge. Houses, shops, and filling station.

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 20,000 are currently infected as at the end of the month. 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 as been used by police officers to extort citizens.



THREAT CHART FOR DECEMBER

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



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