



Horizon West Africa – Mali 150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako Horizon West Africa - Nigeria No. 101 Midel Centre, Oladipo Diya Way, Gudu District, Abuja, FCT

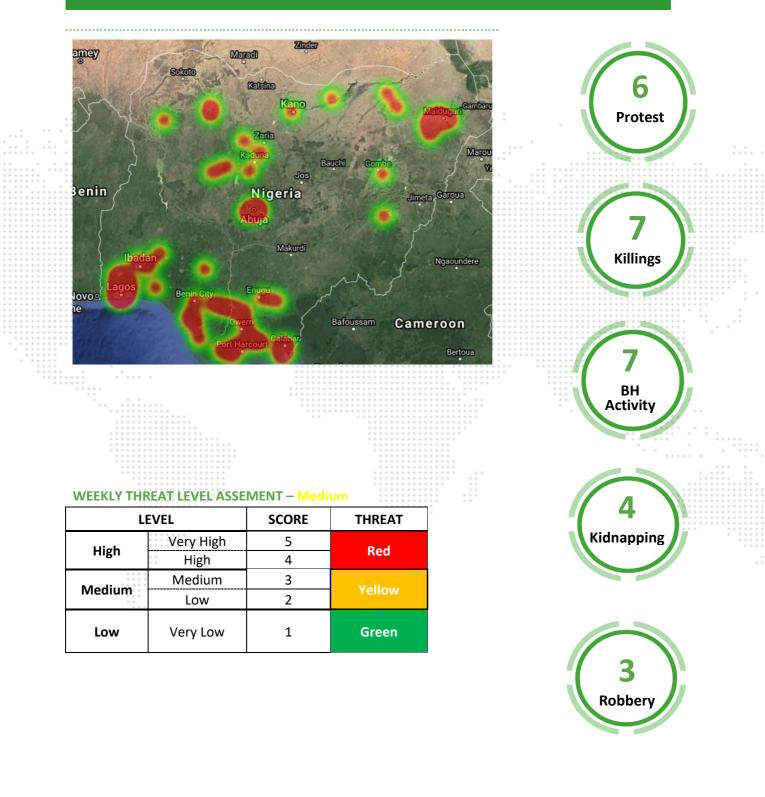
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DATE: 28 February 2021 WEEKLY INCIDENT REPORT

Covering period from 0000-hour 22 February to 1600 hours 28 February 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

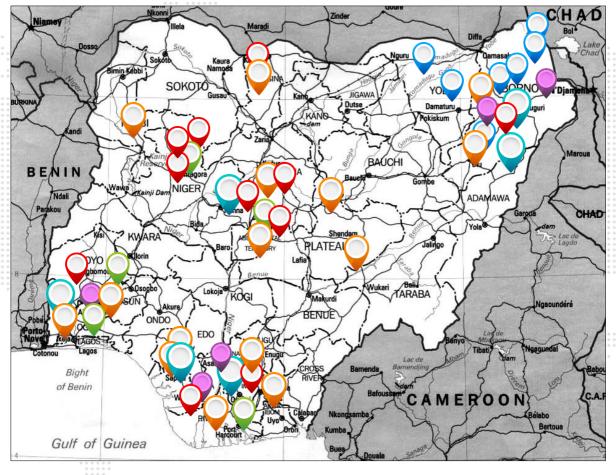




OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK

1. Kidnapping remained the major threat in the week, incidents declined, but number of victims increased in the NW and NE regions. Clients are advised to take adequate measures to safeguard their foreign and local personnel.

- 2. Police stations and officers were targeted by criminals in South East and South South regions.
- 3. Boko Haram attempted to invade Maiduguri but were repelled by soldiers of the Nigerian Army.
- 4. Bandit attacks increased in the NC and NW where secondary school girls were abducted.



THREAT	Code
Kidnapping	
Killing	
Civil unrest	
Armed conflict	
Arrest	
Robbery	
Terrorism	



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH CENTRAL (NC) REGION



1. On 24 February, members of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) held a protest at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Abuja FCT.

2. On 24 February, man was physically assaulted and killed for goat theft in Ushogo LGA, Benue State.

3. On 25 February, five inndividuals were killed while eight others were abducted by armed men who invaded Angwa Mahogi in Kusherki district in Rafi LGA, Niger State.

4. On 26 February, five armed men kidnapped two men from their residence in Gbazango extension, Kubwa, Abuja FCT. Three vigilantes were shot by the assailants.

Analysis

More kidnappings occurred during the week in NC specifically in Niger State and Abuja FCT. Eleven persons were kidnapped from the region during the week. The issue of kidnappings which has intensified in Niger state continues to be the trend during the week. As part of the negotiations for the release of the students who were kidnapped in the last reporting period, the armed groups ordered the state government to withdraw vigilantes in some local governments in the state which has already commenced. The boys were later released on 27 February and they were not allowed to converse with the press. There is therefore a possibility this is what caused the successive attacks by bandits in the Niger State. This suggests that vigilantes have successfully curbed the excesses of bandits in the area making it more difficult to perpetuate their activities. Abuja also recorded another incident in the volatile Kubwa which continues to record kidnappings during the month. Apart from kidnappings, there were protests by Islamic Movement of Nigeria while the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) was also on strike for an undisclosed reason.

In other news, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and the Chairman Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, Boss Mustapha, confirmed that the country will receive on 2 March the first batch of the COVID-19 vaccines from COVAX. The vaccines are expected to depart India on 1 March in the night and arrive Abuja on the 2 March.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH EAST (NE) REGION



1. On 23 February, Boko Haram terrorists attacked firing 10 rockets of which one killed nine boys playing in Gwaleri, Maiduguri, Borno State. Soldiers

repelled the attack with casualty figures at 13 killed and 47 injured.

2. On 24 February, an unknown number of ISWAP fighters were reportedly killed by Boko Haram terrorists over the kidnapping of 12 women linked to group in Sunawa village, Borno State.

3. On 24 February, a driver was killed by terrorists who mounted an illegal roadblock at Burimari settlement, Nganzai LGA, Borno State.

 4. On 25 February, Boko Haram terrorists attacked travellers along Maiduguri-Damaturu road, Auno, Borno State. Security forces repelled the attack and number of casualties unknown.

Analysis

After the creation of super camps, Maiduguri became a stronghold despite the chaos happening along highways surrounding the capital. The various sightings of Boko Haram and ISWAP sightings have culminated into an attempted infiltration of Maiduguri. The terrorists infiltrated using a location that had low security but for the quick response by soldiers, the city would have been overtaken. The assailants first fired 10 rockets which impacted Mairi, Kaleri, Constein and Gwange towns which created chaos around 1745 hours. Several individuals were seen running from the assault but in other parts, the rockets hit without forewarning. An estimated 16 persons were killed including nine boys playing football in Gwange whole 60 others were injured.

The assailants who reportedly infiltrated the area through a poorly manned entry point at Simari behind the University of Maiduguri were eventually repelled by soldiers who recorded one fatality. Noteworthy, this incident occurred as soldiers were retaking Marte LGA which was attacked and taken over by terrorists six days prior. It is most likely that it was a strategy by Boko Haram to test the porosity of Maiduguri which has been in a blackout for over a month after the sect destroyed the power grid with Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and has continually deterred technicians from repairing the grid by attacking whenever work is ongoing as recorded on 27 February at about 1130 hours.

A day before the aforementioned attack on electricians, more than a dozen persons were abducted from three passenger buses along Mainok and Jakana axis in Konduga LGA of the State, around 1500 hours.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH WEST (NW) REGION



On 23 February, eight persons were killed while
18 others were kidnapped by armed men who

attacked several villages in Igabi and Chikun LGA in Kaduna State.

2. On 23 February, three individuals were killed while nine women were kidnapped by armed men who invaded three communities in Sabuwa LGA, Katsina State.

 On 23 February, the relative of a businessman was kidnapped from his residence in Matazu, Matazu LGA, Katsina State.

4. On 26 February, 300 school girls were reportedly declared missing from Government Secondary School Jangebe, Talata-Marafa LGA, Zamfara State

Analysis

Armed groups activities continue to intensify in Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara states. A total of 347 individuals including 317 school girls from Jangebe were kidnapped by armed men during the week. Since the introduction of the rhetoric by Sheikh Gumi all over the media talking about bandits and how soft they should be the treated, incidents have amplified. A report emerged that five of the abducted girls escaped from the bandits and they narrated their ordeal stating that women were part of the bandits who came to move them from the school and one of the females also made a phone call to confirm their kidnapping before forcing them to waiting vehicles outside their hostels.

Following the kidnappings in the surrounding states, Governor of Kano State, Abdullahi Ganduje, ordered the closure of four tertiary institutions closure of ten boarding schools in the state on 27 and 28 February till further notice. This was amidst the controversy on the arrest of his aide Abdullahi Dawisu by the Department for State Security (DSS) after criticising the Buhari led government on social media.

The Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar Adamu deployed a unit of Mobile Police Force, Counterterrorism, and Special Forces to the state with a view to complement the existing structure. This deployment is curious as Kebbi is one of the states in the NW which has not recorded a high number of bandit activities. There is however a possibility that armed groups might be rallying around the state as reported on 22 February when armed men attacked several communities of Wadako, Ganyale, Doka, Yababa and Chekubu in Waje Ward of Danko Wasagu LGA killing ten persons. The assailants aboard motorcycles also carted away other livestock and other items. This can therefore be appreciated as police's mitigated response.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH EAST (SE) REGION



1. On 23 February, two police officers were killed as armed men invaded the Divisional Headquarters of the Police in Abayi, Aba, Abia State. Several offices and vehicles were set ablaze while some prisoners were set free by the assailants.

2. On 24 February, a community leader was killed while 70 houses were set ablaze by unknown assailants in Oruku community, Nkanu East LGA, Enugu State.

3. On 24 February, two police officers were killed while their police van was set ablaze by hoodlums in Ekwulobis, Aguata LGA, Anambra State.

4. On 25 February, a female police officer was injured after a police station was attacked and set ablaze by armed men in Mbaise, Imo State.

Analysis

Police stations and police officers were the major targets in the SE during the week. Three different incidents of which two involved an attack on police stations in Anambra and Imo States while the other targeted police officer at a checkpoint. A total of five police officers were killed in the incident while two others were injured. This is the second incident recorded in Imo State in less than three weeks. It is unclear the group behind these attacks, but it is suspected that they have been orchestrated by members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). There is however no evidence to this allusion.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH SOUTH (SS) REGION



1. On 22 February, armed men attacked a Quick Response Squad (QRS) checkpoint killing a policeman and incineration a police van in Ikpe Annang junction, Essien Udim LGA, Akwa Ibom.

2. On 22 February, the traditional ruler of Ikuru town was kidnapped by armed men who invaded his palace in Andoni LGA, Rivers State.

3. On 23 February, one Police officer was killed in a robbery of an armoured vehicle along the Ubuluokiti road in Aniocha South LGA, Delta State. Two bystanders were also killed in the ensuing exchange of gunfire between the assailants and security forces.

4. On 25 February, four Police officers deployed to a security checkpoint located at Ayan Abat, Calabar, Cross River State were killed by a group of armed men. Firearms belonging to the deceased officers were then stolen by the assailants.

Analysis

Like the SE, the SS also recorded incidents of attacks on police officers. Three different attacks were recorded in Delta, Akwa Ibom and Cross River states and a total of 8 officers were killed while police stations were also incinerated. The first attack was recorded on 22 February when a police van stationed at police checkpoint at Ikpe Annang junction in Essien Udim Local government was set ablaze by armed men. A police officer sleeping in the van was trapped and died in the chaos. Three days later another attack was recorded on a patrol team stationed at akai effa roundabout, in Calabar, where police officers were caught off guard by armed men who fired several gunshots killing four of the officers.

Intercommunal tensions between Ukonteghe Uda and Enwang communities in the Mbo Local Government Area of the state, the Akwa Ibom State over the killing of an individual escalated resulting the destruction of properties and three security personnel were injured. Five individuals were arrested in connection with the violence and 18 spent bullets, one live 7.62mm from the suspects.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH WEST (SW) REGION



1. On 22 February, The Flitchers Association in Ondo State protested extortion by Ogun State Revenue agencies by blocking Lagos – Benin Highway at Ajebamide, Odigbo LGA.

2. On 22 February, a man was kidnapped from his poultry farm by herdsmen in Apete community, Ibadan, Oyo State.

3. On **23 February**, a mini solar power station located at Awowo, Ewekoro LGA, Ogun State was destroyed in a fire accident caused by an unknown source. No casualty reported.

4. On 24 February, A driver was arrested by operatives of the Ogun State police command for allegedly fleeing with his boss car at Imeri Junction in the Ijebu Mushin area, Ipokia LGA, Ogun State.

Analysis

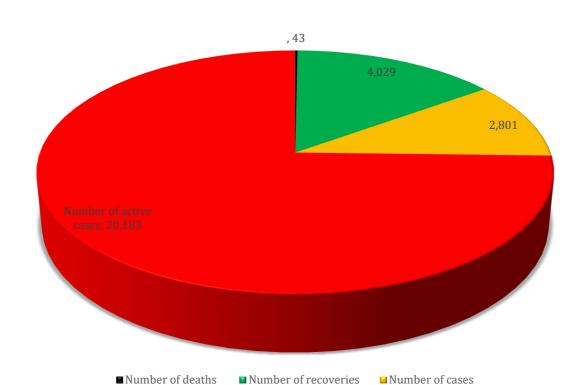
The Department of State Security (DSS) ambushed Sunday Igoho on 24 February whilst travelling along the Lagos - Ibadan Highway and tried to arrest him. They were deterred by several residents in the area who surrounded the arresting officers and dissuaded them from abducting him. Although there has been a clamour for his arrest by those who criticised his actions on the eviction of Fulani herdsmen, this showed a highhandedness by the Buhari led government who has been involved in the jailing of critics.

Apart from the kidnapping in Apete, Ibadan where a farmer was abducted from his farmland, there was a lull in reports of criminal activities in the SW.



OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY COVID-19 NUMBERS





First case of COVID-19 was recorded in the country on 27 February after an Italian national returned from his trip to Milan. Other cases have been recorded in all parts of the country. As at 28 February 2021, total number of confirmed cases is at 155,417. There was a slight increase in number of new cases, decrease in deaths and major increase in recoveries during the week.

Confirmed cases for the week	2,801
Recoveries for the week	4,029
Deaths for the week	43
Total number of cases	155,417
Total Number of recoveries	133,329
Total number of deaths	1,905
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