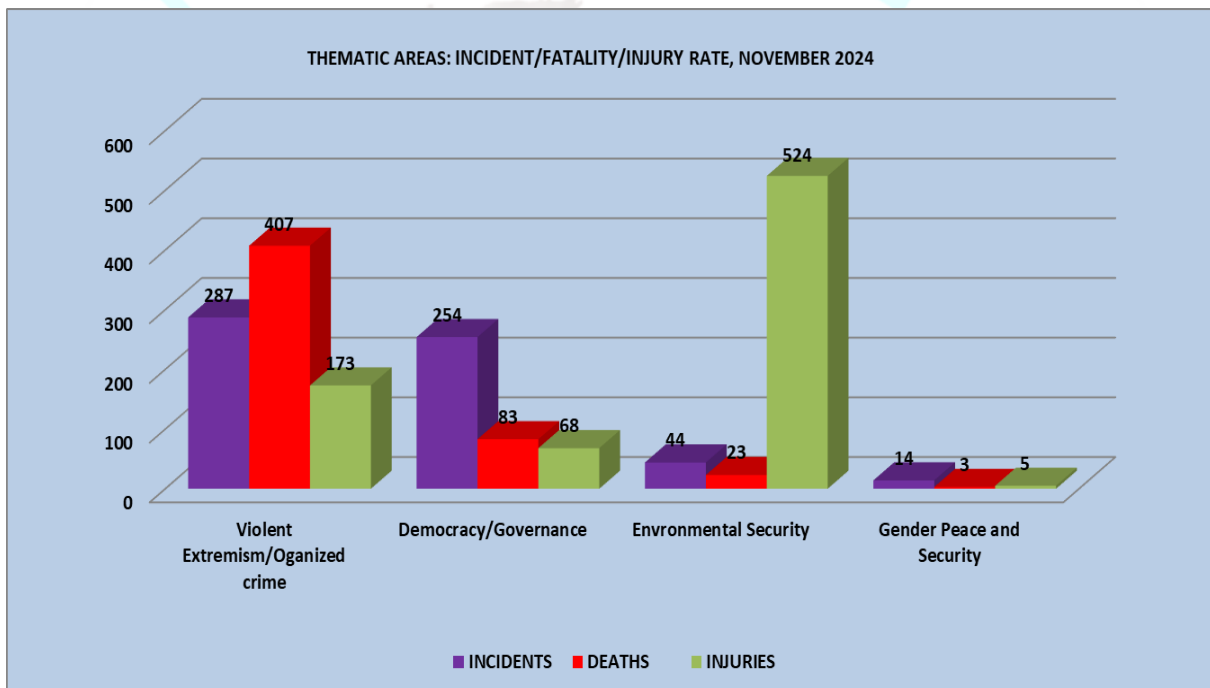


I. INTRODUCTION

In November 2024, 597 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 516 and 770 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 407, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 83 deaths. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 23 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 3 death in the reporting period.² (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS³

The *Monthly Bulletin* presents an analysis of the security challenges identified from monitoring trends of incidents through the WANEP NEWS and the mass media. It also offers recommendations for stakeholders' interventions and mitigation.

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) continues to intensify its security clearance operations in the North-East region to mitigate terrorism, particularly in Borno and Yobe States. Despite the recorded successes in enhancing citizens' safety and security, coordinated terrorist attacks including the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) continues to persist, with ripple effects on national peace and security.

WANEP NEWS documented incidents of terrorist attacks along the Maiduguri-Damboia Road in Konduga LGA of Borno State, as well as attacks in Dikwa, Kukawa, Mobbar, and Monguno LGAs of Borno State. These reported violent attacks resulted in 16 fatalities, including 8 security operatives, and the abduction of 9 people during the reporting period.⁴

The security landscape continues to be plagued by **organized crimes**, including weapons trafficking, armed banditry, human and drug trafficking, cult violence, kidnapping, and armed violence by militia gangs. In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 282 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 407 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 104 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) while 16 were females, 13 children and 38 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.

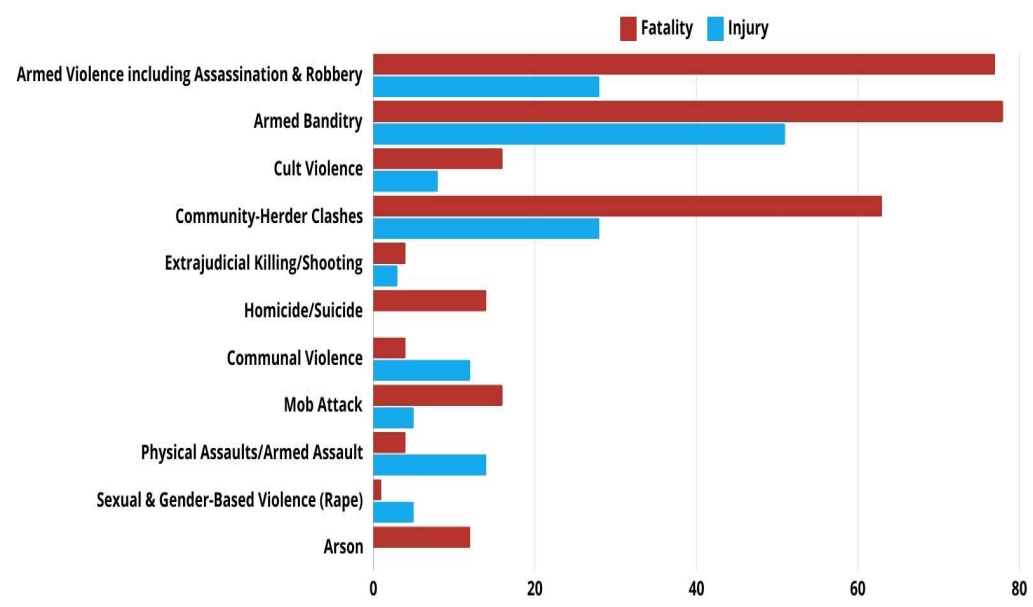
In the period, **armed banditry** recorded the highest fatality of 78 people in Kaduna, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara (North-West) and Niger State in the North-Central. The humanitarian challenges caused by the prevalence of rural banditry in the region are compounded by persistent human rights violations, as bandits continue to impose levies on farmers and restrict the free movement of goods and people. In addition to these challenges, other criminal activities, including kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking, have been widely reported. However, the emergence of armed group known as 'Lakurawa' has become active in the North-West region. A recent attack by this group in Augie LGA of Kebbi State resulted in 15 fatalities, further intensifying the region's security crisis and compounding the already fragile situation.

Other Armed violence incidents, including robbery and assassination, resulted in the second highest number of fatalities with 77 deaths. Additionally, WANEP NEWS documented armed attacks by suspected **ethnic militias/armed herders**, resulted in 63 deaths in Taraba, Plateau, Edo, Kebbi, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ebonyi and Benue states. Also, **mob attacks** and **cult gang/violence** resulted in 16 deaths each, while **culpable homicide, extrajudicial killings** and **suicide**, which recorded 12, 4, 2 respectively in the reporting period. Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in November 2024.⁵

⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Armed Violence Incidents: Fatalities and injuries





November 2024



289
Fatalities



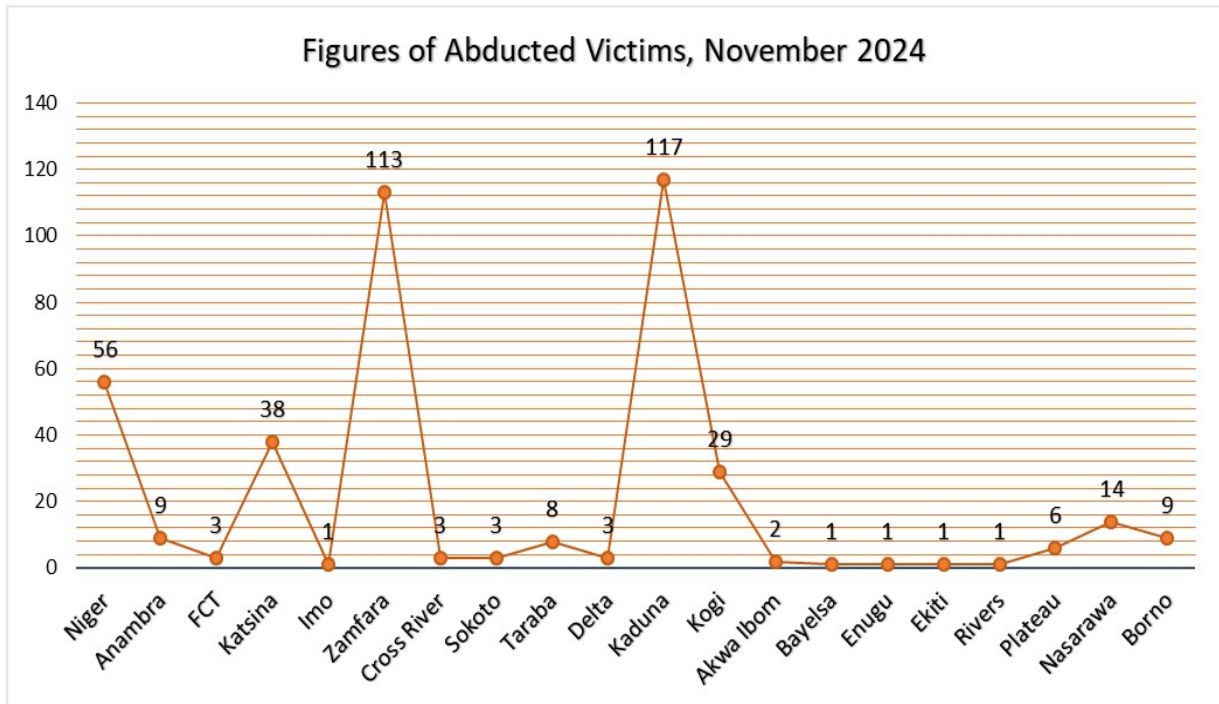
154
Injuries

Source: WANEP-NEWS⁶

The activities of Kidnaping by armed criminal groups continue to undermine the peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 42 incidents of kidnapping across 20 states with 418 people abducted.⁷ Out of the 418 abducted victims, Over 38 were females and 21 children in the reporting month. The prevalence of kidnapping not only disrupts daily activities also exacerbates existing socio-economic challenges, as communities grapple with the trauma and financial burdens associated with ransom demands and recovery efforts.

The graph below illustrates the statistics of kidnapped victims across the affected States in the period.

⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/
⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁸

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented 207 arrests across diverse criminal activities.⁹ These arrests encompass a range of offenses including kidnapping, drug and human trafficking, arms and ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism and destruction of public infrastructure. Additionally, the recorded incidents include fraud, cyber-crime, murder, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), reflecting a broad spectrum of both criminal and civil offenses.

In November 2024, security agencies made significant progress in their efforts to combat drug trafficking across various states. Notable successes included numerous arrests and the interception of substantial quantities of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, such as Indian hemp, skuchies, opioids, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, and methamphetamine. These operations were conducted in Plateau, Kwara, FCT, Taraba, Kano, Kaduna, Anambra, Imo, Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Oyo, Delta, Edo, Bauchi, Enugu, Ekiti, Rivers, Edo, Akwa as documented by WANEP NEWS.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

WANEP NEWS reported four demonstrations during the month. Residents of Umuezenta, Umuomaunta Mbawsi Nsulu in Abia State conducted a peaceful demonstration against the state government's use of their ancestral lands for the airport project.¹⁰ The protesters expressed concern that the proposed project would lead to the destruction of their farmlands.

⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁰ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/12/01/abia-communities-protest-over-proposed-airport-site/>

Hundreds of women from Effium and Ezza-Effium communities in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State staged a peaceful protest calling for the immediate release of their husbands and children, who have been imprisoned due to the ongoing communal crisis between the two neighboring communities¹¹. Members of the Osun State Transport Management System held a peaceful demonstration over the alleged shooting of their chairman by police operatives in Osogbo, Osun State.¹² Additionally, residents of Ruga settlement along Airport Road in Abuja protested against the demolition of their homes by the FCT Minister.¹³

The documented cases of building collapses and boat mishaps in Nigeria highlight a critical issue of safety compliance and regulatory enforcement. WANEP NEWS reported four incidents of building collapses in Kano, Delta, Plateau, and Osun States, which resulted in one fatality. The situation is further exacerbated by maritime safety failures, as two boat mishaps recorded in Delta and Niger States led to the deaths of 27 people. Additionally, road accidents accounted for over 48 fatalities and 39 injuries across nine states in Nigeria. The cumulative impact of these safety violations raises significant concerns about public safety and calls for comprehensive reforms to ensure that proper safety standards are implemented and enforced across all sectors.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting month, Nigeria faced recurring public health emergencies, including Lassa Fever and diphtheria. A further breakdown of Lassa Fever by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) indicated that between November 1 and 28, 2024, Bauchi and Ondo States reported 4 and 1 fatalities with 44 confirmed cases and 468 suspected cases in Ondo, Edo, Bauchi, Taraba, Kogi, Kaduna, Plateau, Enugu, Delta, Gombe, Imo, Bayelsa, Ogun, Ebonyi, Cross River and Nasarawa States. Also, diphtheria led to 1 fatalities in Kano State. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) highlights the challenges of late presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behaviour due to the high cost of treatment resulting in increasing fatality rate. Other challenges include poor environmental sanitation practices, contaminated water, and low awareness in high-burden communities, amongst others. These instances of diseases risks further undermine health security of vulnerable populations and the already weak healthcare systems in the affected areas.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Nigeria, particularly the rape of female adults and minors in Jigawa, Cross River, Adamawa, Ekiti, and Delta States. Of the 7 recorded incidents, and 1 raped to death in Bauchi State. Additionally, four reported cases of human trafficking and two incidents of child abuse were also documented with 1 fatalities in Bauchi State in the period.¹⁴ In light of this growing prevalence

¹¹ <https://leadership.ng/ebonyi-women-protest-demand-release-of-262-husbands-children-from-prisons/>

¹² <https://dailypost.ng/2024/11/20/protest-in-osogbo-over-shooting-of-osun-transport-management-system-chairman-alowonle/>

¹³ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/11/08/protest-rocks-abuja-over-mass-demolitions-by-fct-minister-wike/>

of (SGBV), the Nigerian government, along with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and development partners, is increasing efforts to address these critical issues. A key focus is on the effective implementation of existing legal frameworks, such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law, to ensure its enforcement across all states.

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

Nigeria continues to grapple with pervasive insecurity, stemming from a complex interplay of socio-economic, political, ethnic, and religious tensions. These challenges not only undermine progress made by the security agencies, but also have implications for human security, particularly vulnerable populations such as women and children. The ongoing security threats expose women and children in conflict zones to risks of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), radicalization, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation. These threats further undermine children and young people's access to education, economic empowerment, and social mobility.

Armed violence, including insurgencies, banditry, and ethnic conflict, has severely disrupted farming activities and other community livelihoods, particularly in regions heavily reliant on agriculture. The continuous cycle of attacks has led to the displacement of communities and a deterioration in food security. The projection of food insecurity in Nigeria is expected to affect about 26.5 million people in 2024, driven by rising inflation, recurrent armed violence, and climate change, all of which are significantly impacting household consumption and human security.¹⁵ A notable development in this security crisis is the emergence of a new armed group known as 'Lakurawa,' which has deepened security concerns in the North West region. The activities of this armed group are reportedly linked to the radicalization of local youths, who are being enticed with financial incentives, further fueling instability. This alarming trend of youth radicalization, combined with the rise of violent armed groups, poses a significant threat to regional security and complicates efforts to restore peace. The cumulative effect of these factors is not only undermining the socio-economic development of the affected areas but also eroding public trust in the government's ability to ensure safety and maintain law and order.

The prevalence of kidnapping, reflected in the abduction of over 418 people in the reporting period, has created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, particularly for women and children. Kidnappings not only expose individuals to physical harm but also exacerbate human rights violations and fuel the displacement of communities. The threat of abduction and violence undermines the confidence of citizens in the state's ability to protect them, leading to further isolation of vulnerable populations and deepening overall insecurity.

The recorded demonstrations highlight growing public discontent and reflect a weakening social contract between the state and its citizens. Protests over wage arrears, and government policies reveal increasing dissatisfaction with the government's failure to address key issues in Abia, Ebonyi, Osun, and Abuja, signify widespread frustration and a disconnect between the government and local communities. This growing unrest threatens social cohesion and political

¹⁵ <https://businessday.ng/backpage/article/food-insecurity-projections-and-policies-for-nigerias-huge-populations-by-2025/>

stability, as trust in the government erodes if left unaddressed. These tensions could potentially lead to further instability and undermine national peace and security.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the human security threats and the analysis highlighted, the following recommendations are proposed for response and mitigation by stakeholders:

- The Federal and State Governments should continue to strengthen the capacity of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to bolster efforts to curb insecurity, including violent extremist terrorists, and enhance security presence in vulnerable communities. This effort should be further supported by increased citizen engagement at the community level to foster greater collaboration and ensure more effective security measures.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), should strengthen collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), mass media, and traditional and faith-based organizations to raise public health, safety, and hygiene awareness, especially in remote communities. This will help mitigate the outbreak of Lassa fever and other emerging diseases. These efforts should also include improving healthcare facilities and enhancing early warning systems for health risks in rural areas.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional/religious leaders, and the media, should intensify efforts toward the effective implementation of the Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels. This is essential to address cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and ensure the protection of women and children across the states.

CONCLUSION:

Nigeria's security landscape is marked by a series of interconnected and complex challenges. Persistent threats from extremist groups, the escalating rise of organized crime, and widespread public discontent, driven by economic hardships, further intensify the already volatile political climate. Addressing these multifaceted issues requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach, that ensures regular reviews of the nation's security framework. This process should involve active participation from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and enhance the resilience of communities in the face of diverse security threats.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES

VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	5	16 people including 5 military operatives	10 people and Several others injured
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	107	187	91
EXPLOSION (Imo and Plateau)	2	3	9
Violent Clash: clash b/w illegal mining groups known as 'Anguwan Kampani and Galaxy' (Niger State) Clash b/w local security and police operatives in (Anambra State)	5	4	10
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	34	104	Several injured
Abduction (evident across 20 States)	42	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	15	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	9	12	3
Physical/Armed Assault	7	4	14
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	5	63	36
Illicit Drug Trafficking	51	-	-
Homicide	3	12	-
Suicide	2	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u> Demonstration (peaceful)	4	-	-
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	207	-	-
Road Accident	31	57	Over people
Boat Accident	2	22	68
Building Collapse	4	1	-
Drowning	3	3	-
Gas Explosion	2		

<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Mine Collapse	1	13	-
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	4	-	-
Communal clash	2	4	12
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/ Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	16	5	512
b. dephetaria	1	1	-
		-	-
		-	-
Flood	1		
Fire Outbreak	18	-	-
Tanker Explosion	1		-

Through its National Early Warning System (NEWS), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP- Nigeria) develops and disseminates a monthly bulletin on Human Security at the end of each month to inform the different actors and / or partners and formulates recommendations to different decision-makers for targeted responses to the given alerts. This monthly monitoring is based on information gathered from the field by the WANEP-NIGERIA field monitors, and also information gathered from the various national and international media.

27, ADENIJI STREET, ADENIJI ESTATE, OFF WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA LAGOS STATE, TEL: +2348062072468; WEBSITE: WWW.WANEPNIGERIA.ORG

<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	7	1	5
Human Trafficking	4	-	-
Child Abuse/Domestic Violence	3	2	
Total	597	516	770