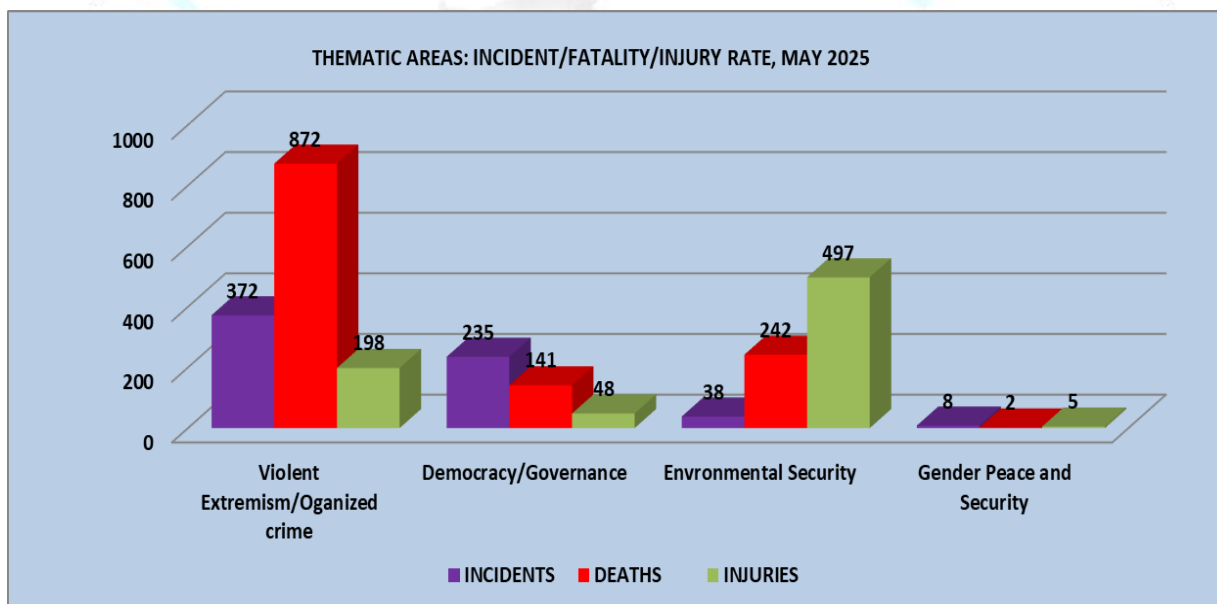


I. INTRODUCTION

In May 2025, 643 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 1,257 and 716 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 872 accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 141 deaths.² Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 242 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 2 deaths in the reporting period.³ (*see annex for the monthly census*).



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁴

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

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) continues to intensify its security clearance operations in the North-East region to counter terrorism, particularly in Borno and Yobe States. Despite recorded successes in enhancing citizens' safety and security, coordinated terrorist

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/

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

attacks including multiple use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) persisted during the period, with ripple effects on national peace and security stability.

WANEP NEWS documented 16 terrorist incidents, including landmine explosions targeting military bases and motorists in affected communities. These communities include Rann, Kala-Balge, Chibok, Guzamala, Marte, Kukawa, Gujba LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. These violent attacks resulted in 149 fatalities, including 9 security personnel and 12 local vigilantes during the reporting period.⁵ In response, the Nigerian Military in collaboration with Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have strengthened their partnership with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to conduct intensified counterinsurgency and clearance operations across the region particularly Yobe, and Borno States with over 63 terrorists neutralized in the period.⁶

Aside from the above, **Organized Crime**, including weapons trafficking, armed banditry, human and drug trafficking, cult violence, kidnapping, and armed violence by militia gangs remain pervasive in the security landscape. In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 338 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 661 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 148 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 48 were females, 23 children and 24 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups in the period.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 82 people in Kaduna, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, Sokoto and Kebbi States in the North-West and North-Central region. Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.

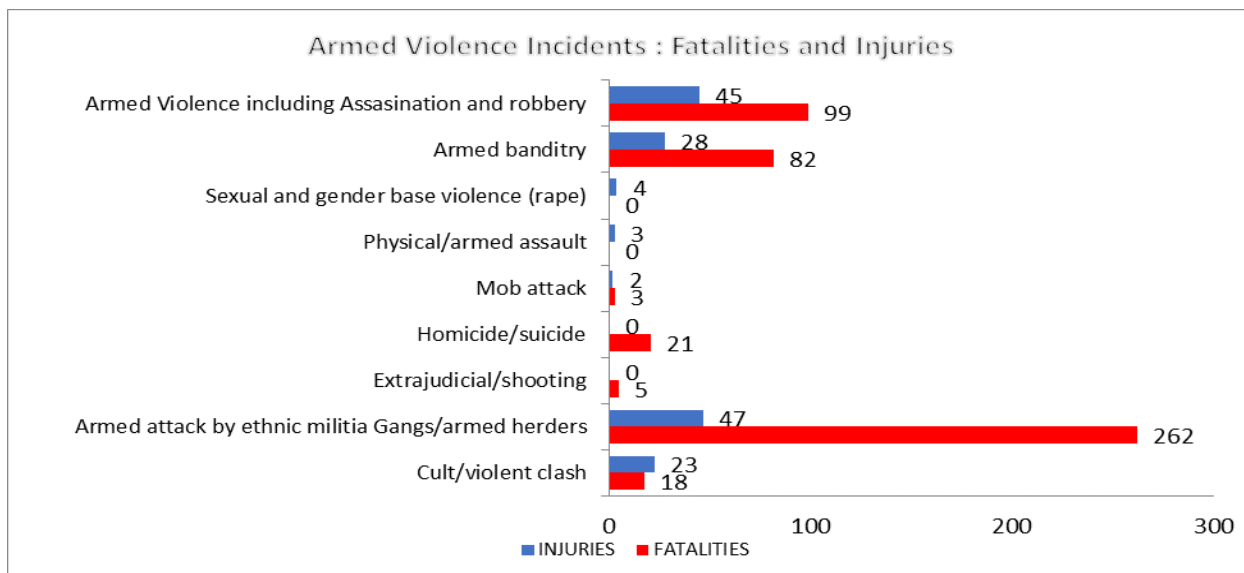
Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 262, while **Armed violence incidents, including robbery, assassination and Violent clashes** accounted for 103 deaths. **Other reported incidents included Cult clashes, culpable homicide, extrajudicial killings/shooting, mob violence, and suicide** which recorded 14, 19, 5, 3, and 2 deaths, respectively in the reporting period.⁷

Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in May 2025.

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

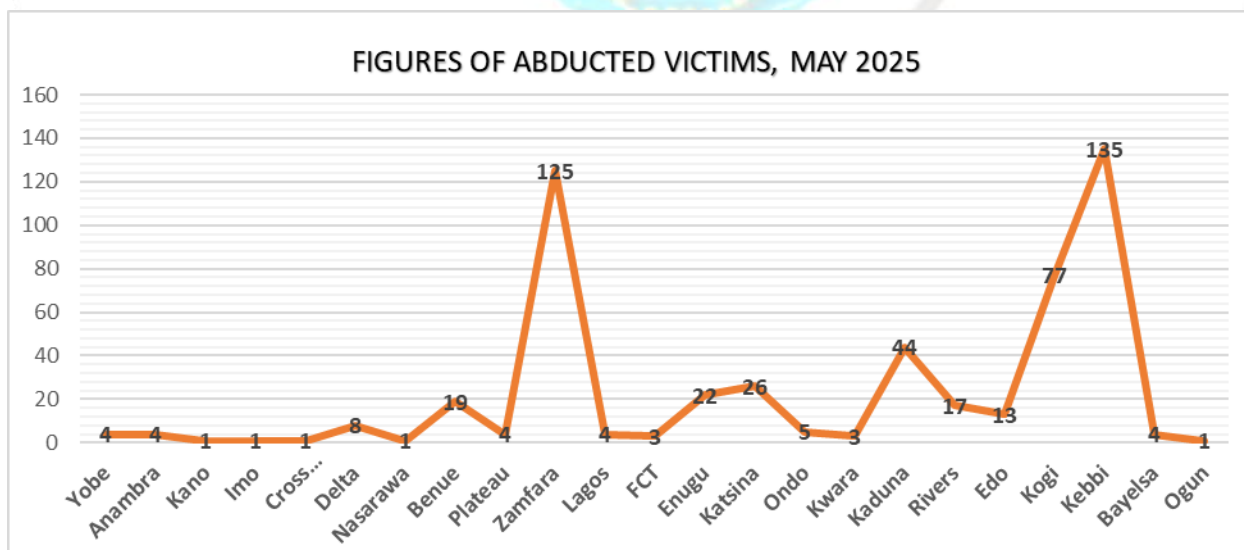
⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁸

The activities of armed criminal groups involved in kidnapping continue to undermine peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 83 kidnapping incidents across 23 states, with a total of 522 individuals abducted. Among the victims were over 115 females, 57 children, and one security personnel during the reporting month. The growing prevalence of kidnapping not only disrupts daily life but also exacerbates existing socio-economic challenges, as affected communities grapple with trauma and the financial burdens of ransom demands and recovery efforts.



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁹

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

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

WANEP NEWS documented 177 arrests across diverse criminal activities. The coordinated joint security operations across states in Nigeria led to the arrest of several criminal suspects. 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.¹⁰ 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 May 2025, 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 Kano, Abia, Edo, FCT, Kaduna, Kwara, Niger, Katsina, Jigawa, Anambra, Rivers, Cross River, Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi, Yobe and Nasarawa States in the reporting month.¹¹

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 15 public demonstrations of which two demonstrations degenerated into violence protests. Several people were reportedly injured in a shooting incident involving police operatives during a protest that allegedly turned violent in the Omu Aran area of Irepodun LGA, Kwara State. The protest was in response to alleged arbitrary arrests and extortion by police operatives deployed to the area. A bank was vandalized and three vehicles were damaged during the violent demonstration. The State Police Command arrested five suspects, and the injured victims were taken to the hospital for medical treatment.¹² A community resident reportedly died in police custody after being arrested by operatives of the State Police Command in Rano LGA, Kano State. The incident triggered a violent protest by community youths, resulting in the killing of a divisional police officer, injury to two others, and the setting ablaze of the divisional police station in the area.¹³

Other recorded peaceful demonstrations include: Hundreds of farmers shut down the Lagos/Ore Expressway in the Oluwa Forest Reserve (OA3A) in Odigbo LGA of Ondo State to protest an alleged forceful takeover of their farms by the Ondo State Government and officials of SAO Agro-Allied Services Limited.¹⁴ The support workers of the Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company in Delta State staged a protest against the continued failure of the management to improve their remuneration and other associated welfare.¹⁵ Several motorcycle riders reportedly conducted a peaceful protest over alleged police harassment and a hike in levies in Lokoja LGA of Kogi State.¹⁶ An advocacy group, Bail is Free Campaign, blocked the Delta State Police Headquarters in Asaba in protest against the unlawful arrest, harassment,

¹⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹² <https://dailypost.ng/2025/05/28/two-confirmed-dead-in-kwara-community-crisis/>

¹³ <https://saharareporters.com/2025/05/26/kano-police-dpo-beaten-death-station-and-vehicles-torched-community-protests-suspects>

¹⁴ <https://dailytrust.com/ondo-farmers-protest-farmland-seizure/>

¹⁵ <https://punchng.com/warri-refinery-staff-protest-alleged-poor-welfare-ground-operations/>

¹⁶ <https://punchng.com/kogi-commercial-motorcyclists-protest-levy-hike-police-harassment/>

and continued detention of two citizens after police allegedly collected N500,000 as bail.¹⁷ Hundreds of community women reportedly stripped half-naked during a peaceful demonstration over consistent killings and abductions of community residents in the Oyo-Iwa Community of Kogi State. They appealed to the Federal and State Governments, as well as to well-meaning Nigerians and religious leaders, to come to their aid and end the insecurity threatening their community.¹⁸ Women from the Bille community in Degema LGA of Rivers State staged a protest at the Government House in Port Harcourt over the abduction of eight students who were traveling to write the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). The students were among 13 passengers abducted by suspected sea pirates while en route from Port Harcourt to Bille.¹⁹

Hundreds of Itsekiri youths reportedly conducted a violent protest and destroyed properties at Okumagba Estate in Okere-Urhobo land over the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ward delineation in Warri, Delta State. The protesting youths accused community leaders and also threatened conflict with their Ijaw and Urhobo neighbors if INEC does not rescind its decision.²⁰ Community residents staged a protest at the Oyo State Secretariat to demand justice and accountability from the State Government regarding the killing of a student hit by stray bullet.²¹ Over 200 nurses of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) reportedly blocked the hospital's gate in protest against the arrest of three colleagues by the Nigerian Police following the death of a patient whose data was not recorded. Students of Lagos State University (LASU) stormed the university premises to protest the alleged dehumanising treatment under the watch of the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. The Vice Chancellor promised that institutional action would be taken. Hundreds of youths blocked the Auchi-Igarra-Ibillo Road in Akoko-Edo LGA of Edo State over the high rate of kidnapping and poor infrastructure in the area.²² Students at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) reportedly conducted a demonstration at the school's axis in Ile Ife, Osun State, over the non-issuance of identity cards by the school management.²³ The students threatened not to participate in upcoming exams if their demands were not met.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting month, Nigeria experienced recurring public health emergencies, including outbreaks of Lassa fever and diphtheria. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), a total of 6 deaths, 28 confirmed cases, and 419 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Ebonyi, Kogi, Plateau, Nasarawa, Delta, Cross River, Enugu, FCT, Ekiti, Rivers, Lagos, and Benue States.²⁴ Additionally, a diphtheria outbreak was reported in Imo State, resulting in 4 fatalities, with several others hospitalized

¹⁷ <https://punchng.com/delta-protesters-barricade-police-headquarters-demand-suspects-release/>

¹⁸ <https://www.lindaikejisblog.com/2025/5/kogi-women-protest-half-naked-over-spate-of-kidnappings-2.html>

¹⁹ <https://dailytrust.com/rivers-women-protest-abduction-of-8-students-travelling-for-wassce/>

²⁰ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/05/19/tension-in-warri-as-itsekiri-youths-protest-inec-ward-delineation-threaten-war/>

²¹ <https://dailytrust.com/protest-as-stray-bullet-kills-wassce-student-in-oyo/>

²² <https://punchng.com/protesting-edo-youths-barricade-highway-over-insecurity-bad-roads/>

²³ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/05/26/oau-students-block-entrance-gate-protest-non-issuance-of-id-cards/>

²⁴ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=5&name=An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>

during the reporting period. The NCDC identified challenges such as delayed presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behavior often driven by the high cost of treatment as key factors contributing to increased fatality rates. Other contributing factors include poor environmental sanitation, consumption of contaminated water, and low disease awareness in high-burden communities.

Flooding and rainstorms were reported across multiple states, with significant impacts in Lagos and Niger. These incidents resulted in 187 fatalities and caused extensive damage to property, including the destruction of over 350 houses, farmlands and critical public infrastructure such as bridges. Additionally, separate boat mishaps in Niger and Abia States claimed 37 and 5 lives respectively during the reporting period.²⁵

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented five incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), mainly involving the rape of female adults and minors in Gombe, Adamawa, Edo, Rivers, Bauchi, and Kano States. In addition, 78 victims of human trafficking including 75 females aged 13 to 30, three minors, and two adult males were rescued and relocated to Abuja. In Separate incident in Abia State, a 2-year-old child was rescued from a trafficking case in Abia State, where a suspect was arrested in the period.

Implications for Peace and Security

The persistent insecurity in Nigeria continues to pose a significant threat to national stability and public safety. With 872 fatalities occasioned by violent extremism and armed violence across the country, the increase violence remains a cause for concern. The resurgence of terrorist attacks in Borno State, despite ongoing military clearance operations, highlights the continued operational capacity and adaptability of extremist groups. This persistent threat undermines state authority, hampers development efforts, and fuels displacement while exacerbating humanitarian challenges in the affected states.

The widespread nature of organized crime such as banditry, kidnapping, arms trafficking, and attacks by ethnic militias, especially in Benue and Plateau States reflects the weak presence of security and state authority in rural communities. This is evident in the abduction of 522 individuals, including over 115 women and 57 children in the reporting period. Women and children are disproportionately affected, not only as direct victims of abduction and violence but also as bearers of long-term psychological trauma, economic displacement, and social marginalization. Women face heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence in captivity, while children are often subjected to exploitation, indoctrination, or recruitment through radicalization by armed groups.

This security crisis has further exacerbated the issue of out-of-school children, particularly in conflict-prone regions like the North-East and North-West. Frequent school closures due to

²⁵ <https://dailytrust.com/mokwa-flood-death-toll-hits-200-over-500-missing/>

insecurity, targeted attacks on educational institutions, and the fear of abduction have forced thousands of children out of classrooms. According to a *UNICEF report published* in January 2025, the North-East and North-West collectively account for approximately 7.6 million of Nigeria's over 10 million out-of-school children.²⁶ These actions are mainly driven by fears of attacks and the safety of children, leading to a reduction in school attendance, which deepens educational inequalities and limits future opportunities for affected youth. The disruption of education not only undermines human capital development but also heightens the risk of children being lured into criminal network and radicalization due to idleness, poverty, and lack of alternatives.

Public discontent continues to intensify across Nigeria over perceived injustice, poor governance, and inadequate public service delivery. These frustrations are frequently expressed through demonstrations and civil disobedience. The growing trust deficit between citizens and the state has waned, with public protests often triggered by insecurity, economic hardship, extrajudicial killings, and other human rights abuses. Addressing these infrastructural and security challenges is crucial to ensuring the well-being and safety of vulnerable populations. The recurring outbreaks of Lassa fever and a recorded case of diphtheria highlight the ongoing challenges confronting Nigeria's public health system. These health crises are exacerbated by the country's fragile healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved communities, where access to early diagnosis, timely treatment, and preventive care remains limited. As a result, the spread of these diseases persists, contributing to rising mortality rates in affected states.

In addition, severe flooding during the period claimed the lives of over 209 people and displaced thousands, with more than 13,000 individuals in need of humanitarian assistance. The floods significantly increased the risk of waterborne diseases and food insecurity, disrupted access to essential services, and worsened displacement and social tensions in already fragile communities. This highlights the escalating impact of climate-related hazards on human security, particularly among vulnerable populations with limited capacity to adapt.

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 operational capacity of security agencies by increasing personnel, logistics support, and intelligence capabilities, particularly in high-risk and vulnerable communities. These efforts must be paired with robust community engagement strategies, including partnerships with local leaders and civil society, to improve early warning systems and foster trust between citizens and security actors.

²⁶ <https://dailytrust.com/unicef-there-are-over-10m-out-of-school-children-in-nigeria/>

- State and Local Governments, in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and Faith-based organisations (FBOs), women and youth groups, and media stakeholders, should intensify efforts to implement and enforce the Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act. Targeted public education, legal enforcement, and capacity building for law enforcement and judicial actors are critical to reducing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and protecting the rights and dignity of women and children.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), traditional and faith-based institutions, and the media, should consider launching coordinated health promotion campaigns focusing on hygiene, disease prevention, and community-based health practices. These campaigns should prioritize remote and underserved areas. Concurrently, investment should be directed toward upgrading rural health infrastructure, and establishing localized early warning and rapid response systems to contain outbreaks such as diphtheria, Lassa fever, and other emerging infectious diseases.

CONCLUSION:

Nigeria's security landscape is characterized by multifaceted challenges, including violent extremism, terrorism, organized crime, and underlying socio-economic issues. To effectively address these complexities, a comprehensive and inclusive security strategy is imperative. This approach necessitates ongoing evaluation of national security frameworks, coupled with proactive engagement and collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), local communities, and other pertinent stakeholders. By fostering robust partnerships and enhancing local peace infrastructure, the government can bolster its efforts to address the security threats, promote community resilience, and mitigate the impacts of insecurity across the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR MAY 2025

| THEMATIC AREA | NO of Attacks | VICTIMS | |
|--|---------------|--|------------------------|
| | | DEATHS | INJURIES |
| VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ IED Explosion in Borno & Yobe States | 17 | 149 people including 21 security operatives/CJTF | Over 39 people injured |
| ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash). | 116 | 218 | 87 |
| IED Explosion (FCT) | 1 | 2 | - |

| | | | |
|---|---------|-----|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| Violent Clash: a. Clash b/w herders and hunters (Kaduna State) b. Clash b/w Jukun and Tiv (Benue State) c. Clash b/w tricycle operators and irate youths (Lagos State). d. Clash b/w local hunters (Taraba State). e. Clash b/w Ethnic Nupe and Fulani residents (Kwara State). | 5 | 4 | 11 |
| Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs. | 66 | 211 | Over 14 suspects injured |
| Abduction (evident across 28 States) | 83 | - | - |
| Cybercrime/Fraud | 10 | - | - |
| Extrajudicial killing | 5 | 5 | - |
| Physical/Armed Assault | 5 | - | 7 |
| Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks | 22 | 262 | Over 47 people injured |
| Illicit Drug Trafficking | 24 | - | - |
| Homicide | 16 | 19 | - |
| Suicide | 2 | 2 | - |
| <u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u> Demonstration (peaceful) Violent demonstration | 12 3 | - | - |
| Arrest/Detention | 177 | - | - |
| Prison break | 1 | - | - |
| Road Accident | 29 | 90 | 45 |
| Boat Accident | 2 | 42 | - |
| Building Collapse | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Drowning | 2 | 2 | - |
| Electrocution | 4 | - | - |
| Gas Explosion | 1 | - | - |
| Stampede | 1 | 3 | - |
| <u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u> Communal clash | 2 | 17 | - |
| Flood/Rainstorm | 7 | 212 | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|--|
| Food Poison | 1 | 11 | - |
| Drowning | 1 | 2 | - |
| <u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u> | | | <u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> |
| a. Lassa Fever Outbreak | 10 | | Lassa Fever: 447 |
| b. Diphtheria | 1 | | - |
| Fire Outbreak | 15 | - | - |
| 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.

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| | | | |
|---|------------|--------------|------------|
| <u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u> | | | |
| SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape | 5 | - | 4 |
| Human Trafficking | 1 | - | - |
| Child Abuse/Domestic Violence | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 653 | 1,257 | 716 |

<https://dailytrust.com/mokwa-flood-death-toll-hits-200-over-500-missing/>