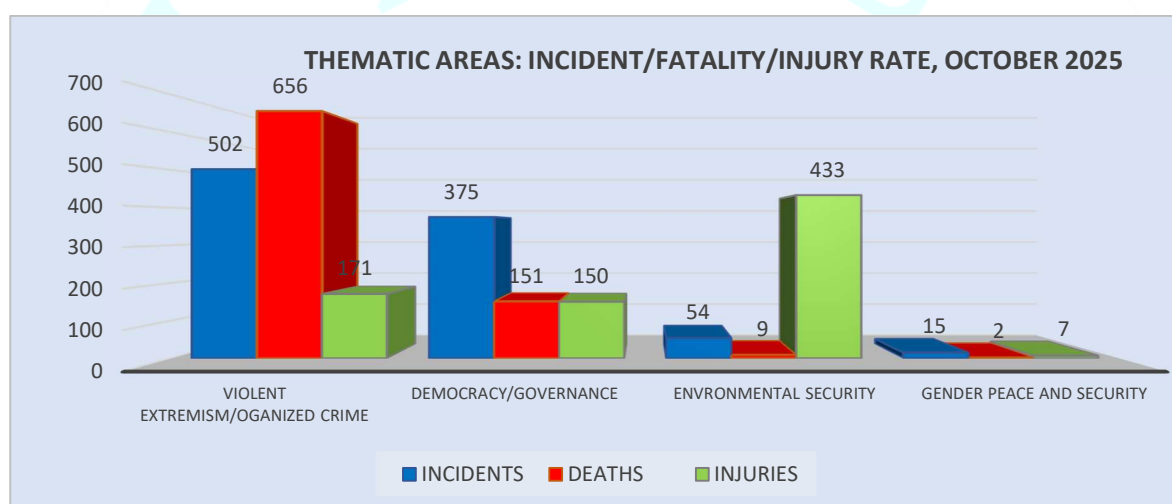


1. INTRODUCTION

As of October 2025, 946 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 818 and 754 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents, and disease-related incidents were recorded in October 2025.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 656, accounting for the highest of the total number of deaths (818) recorded in the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme recorded 151 deaths.² Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 9 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* provides 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 North-Eastern region of Nigeria continues to grapple with threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups. These threats continue to cause instability, including compromised travel security due to frequent attacks on roads, restricted mobility due to security operations, and heightened risks of abduction and ambushes, which have disrupted economic activities and livelihoods and hindered resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The emergence of the Al-Qaeda-linked group, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) was also observed in the month.

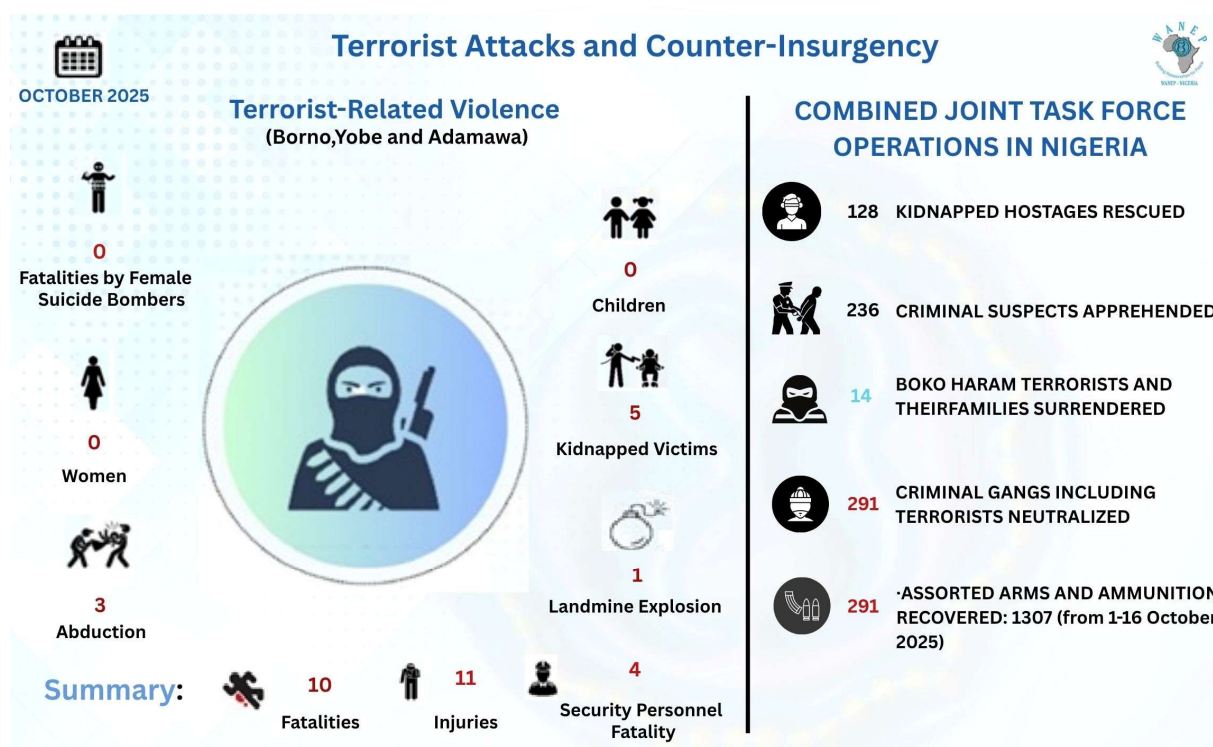
¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

³ Ibid

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

The WANEP NEWS recorded 13 incidents of terrorist attacks in Gwoza, Konduga, Kaga, Bama, Kukawa LGAs of Borno State, and Gulani LGA of Yobe State. An armed assault by suspected JNIM terrorists was also reported in Kwara State. These incidents resulted in 21 casualties, including 10 fatalities, 11 injuries, with 5 victims abducted in the reporting period. Of the 16 fatalities, 4 were security personnel, and all 11 injured victims were security personnel.



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁵

Despite the prevailing security challenges, the Nigerian Military and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have maintained a strong partnership with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to execute robust security clearance operations in the North-East region. These efforts have been characterized by intelligence-driven air strikes and ground operations, targeting terrorist enclaves and strongholds. Also, security operatives have reportedly intensified patrols and surveillance along the border areas to counter possible cross-border infiltration by extremist elements.

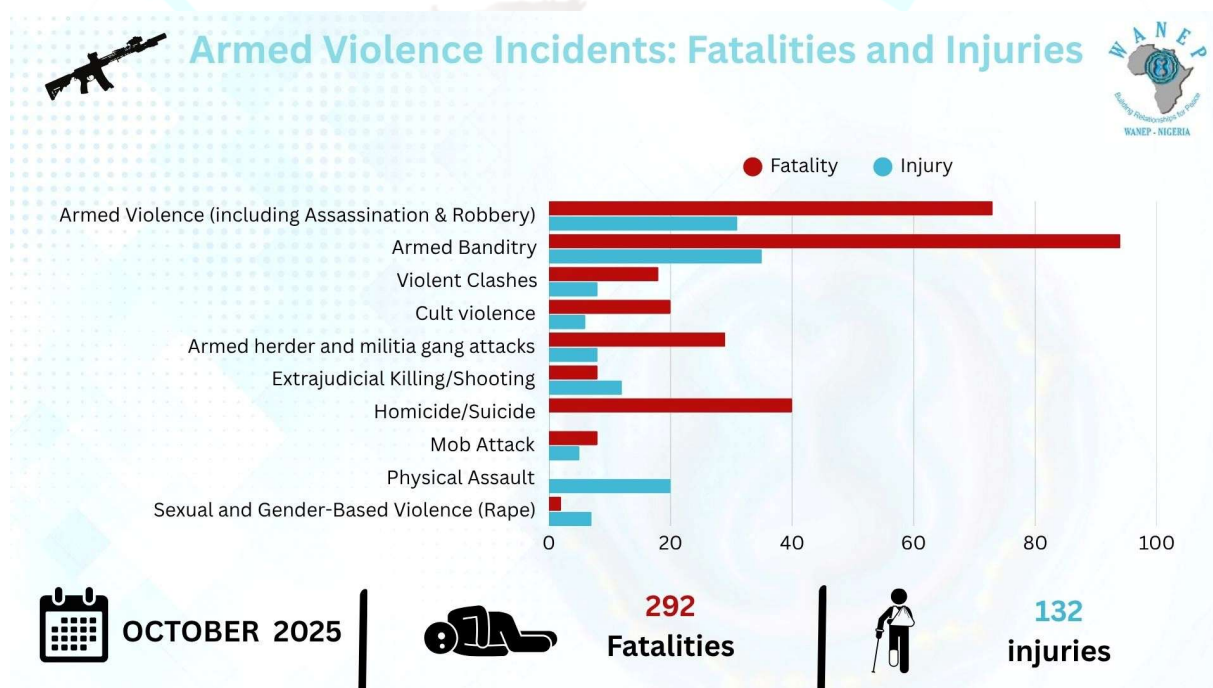
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 423 incidents of **Organized Crimes**, including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clashes, community-herder violence, arson, vandalism, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month. A total of 656 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 312 were members of Non-

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

State Armed Groups (NSAG), 321 civilians, and 23 security personnel.⁶ Out of the total recorded fatalities, 20 were females, and 12 were children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 94 people and injury to 35 others in Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West and the FCT, Kogi, Kwara, and Niger States in the North-Central.⁷ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include the abduction of 226 people, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁸

Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 29, while **armed violence incidents, including robbery and armed attacks**, accounted for 73 deaths.⁹ **Other armed violence incidents**, including **homicide, suicide, and cult violence**, led to the death of 34, 6, and 20 people, while **extrajudicial killing** and **mob violence** led to 8 and 8 deaths, respectively.¹⁰ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in October 2025.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued in the period. According to WANEP NEWS, October 2025 period recorded 75 reported kidnapping incidents across 25 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). These incidents resulted in the abduction of 660 individuals, including 147 women, 46 children, and 5 security personnel.¹²

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

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

⁸ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

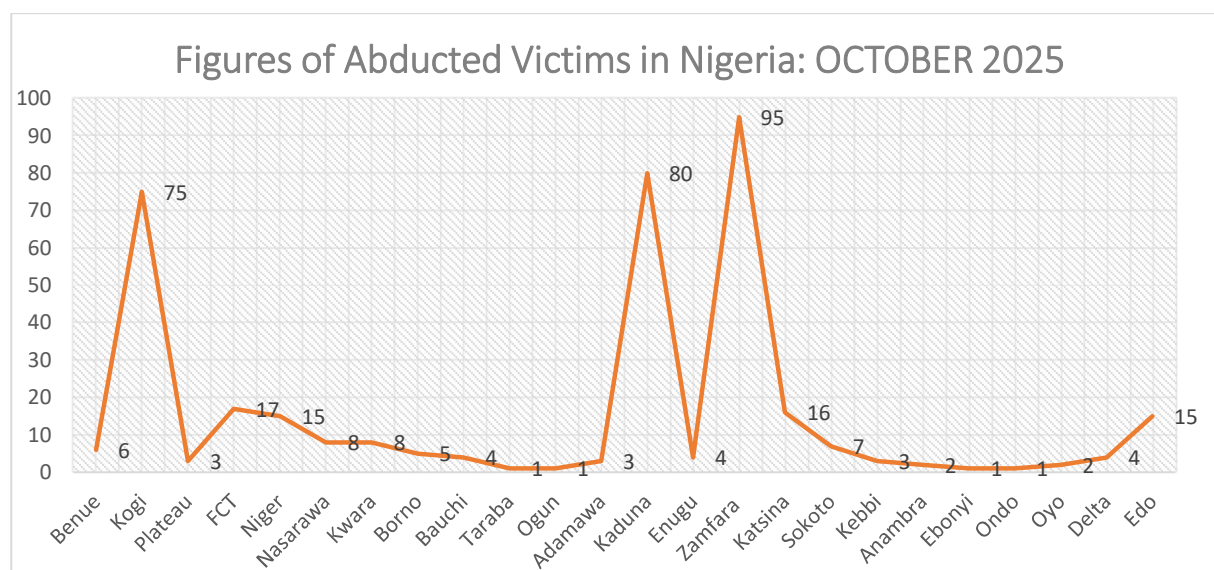
⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁰ Ibid.

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

¹² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³

WANEP NEWS further recorded 290 cases of arrest stemming from diverse criminal and civil offenses, including kidnapping, human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, thuggery, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism and destruction of public infrastructures, fraud, cybercrime, murder, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), theft, cultism, illegal migration, rape, cattle rustling, trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), drug trafficking, sexual assault, gender and domestic violence, environmental law violation, extra-judicial activities, environmental disturbance, oil theft, illegal mining, and illegal possession of firearms.¹⁴ 1694 suspects were reportedly arrested, 22 being females, 10 minors, and 17 security personnel.

Security agencies, most notably the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), also intercepted several illicit drugs across 22 states, with 281 suspects arrested, including 3 females, for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁵. The operations resulted in the recovery and destruction of over 157,000 kilograms of assorted illicit substances such as cannabis, skunk, methamphetamine, cocaine, codeine syrup, tramadol, exol-5, nitrous oxide, synthetic cannabis, and expired pharmaceutical pills. The agency destroyed a 21.3-hectare cannabis farm dismantled a clandestine “Colos” laboratory, and intercepted export parcels of methamphetamine and tramadol bound for the United Kingdom, Turkey, Australia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

¹³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/



October 2025

Weapons Recovery and Illicit Drug/Substance Seizure in Nigeria



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁶

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Between October 1 and 31, 2025, the WANEP-NEWS recorded 21 public demonstrations across the FCT, Abia, Anambra, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Kaduna, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Plateau, and Taraba States. The demonstrations were primarily driven by insecurity and governance grievances (8), labour and welfare-related agitations (4), political and civil rights activism (3), education and institutional concerns (3), environmental and land disputes (2), and justice-related protests (1).

Insecurity and poor governance accounted for most protests, including those over recurring attacks in Benue, kidnappings in Kogi, and killings in Ondo and Plateau States. Labour and welfare protests involved health workers, pensioners, and traders decrying unpaid entitlements and poor working conditions. Political and civil rights activism featured demonstrations over electoral justice, police misconduct, and leadership accountability in Abuja and southern states. Students and education staff protested fee hikes and delayed results in Anambra, Delta, and Oyo States. Environmental and land-related actions occurred in Ogun and Kano, where residents opposed land grabs and flooding. Collectively, the protests underscored persistent economic hardship, insecurity, and governance distrust as major drivers of civic unrest across Nigeria in October 2025. Police operatives arrested thirteen (13) protesters in Abuja and one (1) in Lagos during the #FreeNnamdiKanuNow demonstrations, while in other locations, law enforcement agencies were deployed mainly to restore order and prevent escalation.

¹⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

In October 2025, three (3) major strike actions highlighted rising labour unrest in Nigeria's public sector. On 13/10/2025, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) began a two-week nationwide strike over welfare and funding disputes with the Federal Government but suspended it on 23/10/2025 after renewed negotiations mediated by the National Assembly. On 31/10/2025, the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) declared a nationwide indefinite strike effective 1/11/2025, citing unmet welfare demands. Both actions underscore persistent tensions over pay and policy implementation in the education and health sectors.

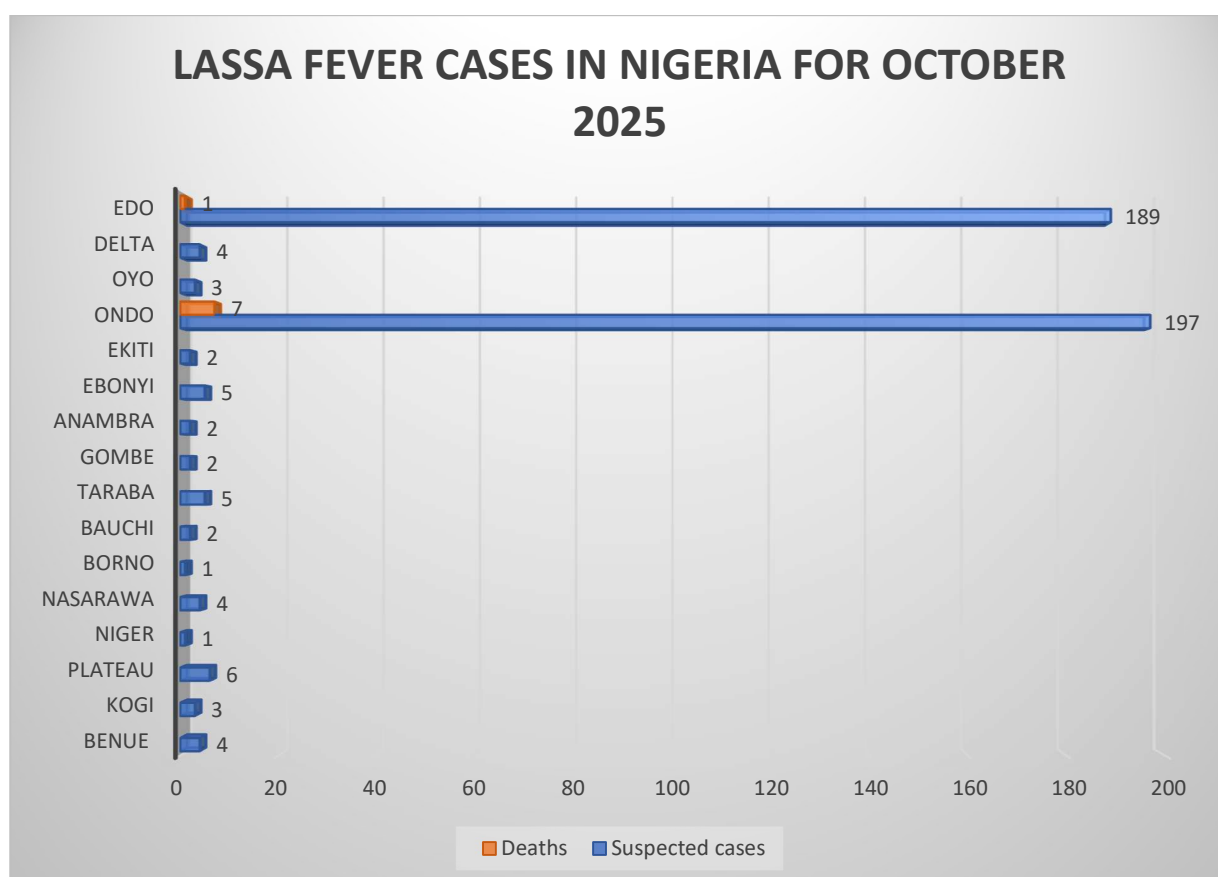
Furthermore, in October 2025, the WANEP NEWS recorded a total of 292 casualties, comprising 142 deaths and 150 injuries, from widespread safety-related incidents with severe human and infrastructural impacts across Nigeria. There were 4 building collapses in Abia and Lagos States, which killed 3 people, injured 12, and displaced several households. Drowning incidents in Borno, Kano, and Rivers States claimed 8 lives, including 1 female and 7 minors, while electrocutions in Anambra and Ogun States killed 3 persons. Multiple fire outbreaks in Lagos, Oyo, Cross River, Delta, Rivers, Edo, Benue, Kano, and Taraba States destroyed hundreds of shops, offices, and markets, with 3 female students injured in a gas-related hostel fire at Gombe State University. Tanker explosions in Ogun and Niger States killed 48 persons and injured 46 others, while gas explosions in Lagos State caused 1 death. Rail and water transport accidents also proved deadly; a dispatch rider was killed in a train collision in Lagos, and 10 deaths, including 9 minors, were recorded in 2 boat mishaps in Benue and Gombe States. Road crashes remained Nigeria's deadliest safety threat, with 37 accidents across 20 states causing 77 deaths, including 8 females, 2 children, and 1 police operative, and injuring 87 others, mostly due to overspeeding, brake failure, and mechanical faults.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded public health emergencies, especially outbreaks of Lassa Fever. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported 430 suspected cases of Lassa Fever across 16 states between September 29 and October 26, 2025, with 44 confirmed cases and 8 fatalities.¹⁷

The graph below illustrates the number Lassa Fever suspected cases and associated deaths recorded across Nigerian States in October 2025

¹⁷ file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria_041025_40.pdf



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁸

The WANEP NEWS also recorded 3 environmental hazard incidents across Anambra and Delta States, resulting in 1 death and severe property damage. Floods in Nnewichi and Okpoko communities of Anambra State swept away a woman and a tricycle, while a landslide in Ugboba Community, Aniocha North LGA of Delta State, destroyed farmlands, polluted water sources, and blocked the Ugboba-Ukwu Nzu Road, reportedly due to illegal mining.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 9 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape and sexual assault of female adults and minors in the FCT, Jigawa, Abia, Gombe, Ebonyi, Ondo, Enugu, and Lagos States, in the month.¹⁹ Out of the 9 recorded incidents, there were 2 fatalities involving minors and 7 injuries, including 1 adult female and 6 female minors. Also, no fewer than 36 victims of human trafficking, including 15 females and 8 minors were rescued in Nasarawa, Kano, Anambra, Abia, Ondo, and Rivers States in the month, while 26 suspected human traffickers, including 10 females, were arrested during the period.²⁰

¹⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

²⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The persistent high rate of organised crime and violent extremism, as reflected in the 656 fatalities recorded under this theme, underscores the deepening fragility of the Nigeria's internal security environment. The continued activities of Boko Haram, ISWAP, and emerging extremist groups such as JNIM reveal the expanding reach of terrorist networks and their ability to exploit porous borders and weak community resilience mechanisms.

Similarly, the surge in banditry, kidnapping, and armed violence across the states has strained the capacity of security agencies, eroded public trust, and disrupted local economies, leading to increased displacement, loss of livelihoods, and growing humanitarian needs, particularly in rural and border communities.

The rising cases of labour strikes, civil protests, and governance-related agitations also reflect growing frustration over poor governance, insecurity, and economic hardship. The recurring labour disputes in the education and health sectors and the frequent protests demanding accountability highlight widening social inequality and institutional distrust. These grievances, if unaddressed, risk escalating into broader social unrest and weakening democratic stability. Moreover, the state's heavy reliance on law enforcement responses, including arrests of peaceful protesters, could further shrink civic space and intensify public resentment, undermining national cohesion and citizen confidence in state institutions.

The occurrence of environmental hazards, disease outbreaks, and gender-based violence demonstrates the multidimensional nature of Nigeria's human security challenges. The Lassa Fever outbreak, flooding, and mining-related landslides indicate vulnerabilities in environmental governance and disaster preparedness, while persistent cases of SGBV and human trafficking reveal deep-seated gender inequalities and weak protection systems. Collectively, these trends point to the urgent need for an integrated peace and security approach that combines security enforcement with inclusive governance, socio-economic empowerment, community resilience building, and climate adaptation to prevent further deterioration of Nigeria's fragile peace landscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), in collaboration with the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), should strengthen intelligence-sharing, border surveillance, and community-based early warning systems to curb extremist activities, arms trafficking, and cross-border infiltration.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), and the Bank of Industry (BOI) should implement livelihood recovery and vocational empowerment programs targeting displaced persons, women, and youth to reduce vulnerability to extremist recruitment and rebuild conflict-affected local economies.
- The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) should facilitate

structured dialogue with labour unions and civic groups, ensure fair governance processes, and promote accountability to prevent civil protests and strike actions from escalating into broader social unrest.

- The Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) should strengthen disaster preparedness, flood control, and disease surveillance by institutionalizing community-level response frameworks and enhancing coordination among emergency and health agencies.
- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), and the Nigeria Police Force Gender Desks should intensify efforts to prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and human trafficking through public sensitization, provision of survivor support services, and swift prosecution of offenders.

CONCLUSION:

The October 2025 WANEP-NEWS Conflict Census reveals persistent insecurity across Nigeria driven by banditry, violent extremism, and weak governance. Socio-economic hardship and displacement continue to heighten vulnerability and weaken community resilience. For this reason, there is the need for a coordinated, people-centred approach that strengthens institutional capacity, promotes inclusive governance, and enhances early warning and response systems is essential for restoring peace and stability nationwide.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR OCTOBER 2025

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	10	10	11
ORGANISED CRIME: (<u>Armed robbery/theft, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson, armed herders and cult/gang clash</u>).	154	224	85
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	79	312	9
Abduction (evident across 24 States & the FCT)	75	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	6	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	14	8	12
Physical/Armed Assault	19	-	20
Vandalism	8	-	-
Violent Clash	7	18	8
Communal Clash	15	44	26

Illicit Drug Trafficking	67	-	-
Homicide	42	34	-
Suicide	6	6	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	22	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	1	-
Strike	2	-	-
Political Violence	1	-	11
Election-related Violence	1	-	-
Electrocution	2	3	-
Arrest/Detention	290	-	-
Road Accident	37	77	87
Boat Accident	5	10	-
Rail Accident	2	1	-
Building Collapse	4	3	12
Drowning	4	8	-
Tanker Explosion	2	48	46
Gas Explosion	1	-	1
Other Explosions	1	-	4
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	1	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			
a. Lassa Fever	33	8	<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> 430
Fire Outbreak	16	-	3
Rainstorm/Flood	3	1	-
Landslide	1	-	-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	9	2	7
Human Trafficking	6	-	-
Total	946	818	754