



Pic 1.1 : Map of Nigeria

BACKGROUND

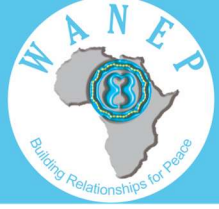
- Plateau State has continued to witness recurring cases of ethno-religious tensions, communal clashes, and criminal violence. These incidents are largely driven by longstanding communal grievances, disputes over land and resources, and criminal activities, which often lead to armed confrontations and retaliatory attacks.
- Between 2023 and 2026, Plateau State experienced a series of violent incidents, resulting in over 330 fatalities, widespread displacement, and extensive property destruction, as documented by WANEP NEWS and other sources. In December 2023, attacks in Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, and Mangu LGAs killed about 200 people and forced thousands to flee. In January and March 2024, violence in Kwhalaslek village, Mangu LGA and Zurak Company Market, Wase LGA caused 30 and 7 fatalities, respectively. In 2025, attacks in Hurti, Josho, and Daffo communities in Bokkos LGA resulted in at least 40 deaths, while Zike Kimakpa, Jos South LGA recorded 51 fatalities in April. On 29 March 2026, a deadly attack in Angwan Rukuba, Jos North LGA caused multiple fatalities and injuries. This pattern indicates that security challenges remain persistent despite the presence and deployment of security operatives in the affected areas.
- Communities in Jos North LGA, especially Angwan Rukuba, continue to face high levels of vulnerability due to their location near conflict-prone areas and the history of repeated violence, a situation that continues to exacerbate fragility and humanitarian challenges. These attacks have generated widespread condemnation and intensified fears about public safety. In addition, the perceived inaction or delayed response by government and security agencies to early warning information on threats of attacks, as reported, has raised serious concerns about the effectiveness of existing early warning and early response mechanisms in the state.

INCIDENT PROFILE

On the 29th March 2026, thirty (30) people, including a pregnant woman, were allegedly killed, and several others injured in an attack carried out by suspected armed militia at Gari Ya Waye, Angwan Rukuba communities in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The assailants reportedly attacked by firing sporadically and targeting residents. The assault also led to the destruction of several houses and properties. Preliminary reports revealed that the attack may have been linked to ongoing local tensions in the community. Security forces, including personnel from the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army, were deployed following the incident. Their intervention helped repel the attackers and restore relative calm, while the injured were evacuated to nearby medical facilities for treatment.

In response to the attack, on the 1st April 2026, residents of Angwan Rukuba defied the curfew and staged protests, demanding increased security, justice for the victims, and accountability for the attack. The protests reportedly drew attention to the community's longstanding security challenges and heightened tensions in the area



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RISK ANALYSIS

Plateau State remains a major hotspot for recurring inter-communal violence and ethno-religious tensions. Despite various collaborative peacebuilding initiatives, armed criminal activities in rural communities persist, highlighting deep-rooted structural challenges and longstanding mistrust between ethnic and religious groups. Notably, the Plateau Peacebuilding Agency (PPBA) has coordinated diverse multi-stakeholder peacebuilding efforts, including community dialogue platforms and early warning and early response mechanisms involving security agencies, traditional rulers, and religious leaders, aimed at preventing violence and strengthening social cohesion across affected communities.

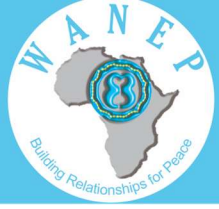
These attacks reveal significant gaps in local security and further erode public confidence in law enforcement. Fear of sudden violence weakens social cohesion, as residents either isolate themselves or flee their communities. The cyclical nature of the attacks increases the risk of retaliatory violence, raising the potential for broader communal conflicts and sustained insecurity. Health security is severely affected, as injuries from attacks and limited access to medical facilities place additional strain on healthcare services. Displacement and interrupted services increase vulnerability to preventable diseases, while the psychological impact of recurring violence undermines residents' mental well-being.

Education is also heavily disrupted, with schools forced to close or relocate, interrupting learning and placing children and students at both physical and emotional risk. For instance, following the March 29, 2026 attack in Angwan Rukuba, the University of Jos suspended examinations, shut down academic activities, and evacuated students due to rising insecurity in Jos North. Several primary and secondary schools in surrounding communities were forced to temporarily close due to safety concerns, disrupting education across all levels. These prolonged closures limit literacy and skills development and expose children to additional social risks associated with displacement and unstable living conditions.

However, The attack in Angwan Rukuba has had a devastating impact on livelihoods, food security, and community stability. Without strengthened preventive measures, improved early warning systems, and a sustained security presence, these vulnerabilities are likely to persist, leaving residents exposed to both immediate harm and long-term social and economic instability.

MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTION

- In response to the incident, the Plateau State Government imposed a 48-hour curfew in Jos North to prevent a further breakdown of law and order.
- Security operatives, including personnel of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army, were deployed to Angwan Rukuba to restore calm and deter further violence. Emergency response measures included the evacuation of injured victims to nearby hospitals and the intensification of security patrols in affected areas.
- The Plateau State Government and local authorities also initiated preliminary assessments of the situation and called on residents to remain calm. In addition, community leaders and key stakeholders engaged in dialogue efforts aimed at reducing tensions and preventing retaliatory attacks.
- Security agencies have commenced investigations to identify the perpetrators and ascertain the underlying causes of the attack. At the national level, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening security operations, noting ongoing efforts to acquire advanced surveillance and tracking



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equipment to enable real-time monitoring of criminal activities and enhance the protection of lives and property.

- In response to the violence, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu visited Jos and announced the deployment of over 5,000 CCTV cameras to curb insecurity and enhance surveillance across Plateau State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Plateau State Government, in collaboration with security agencies, should strengthen community-based early warning and early response mechanisms by establishing functional community reporting channels, supporting local early warning volunteers, and ensuring timely information sharing between communities and security agencies.
- The Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army should intensify intelligence gathering, surveillance, and rapid response operations in identified flashpoints, including Angwan Rukuba and surrounding communities.
- Community leaders, religious actors, and civil society organizations should promote peacebuilding initiatives and dialogue to address underlying tensions and prevent retaliation.
- The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and humanitarian partners should provide immediate support, including relief materials and psychosocial services, to affected victims and displaced persons.
- The National and State Security Councils should conduct a comprehensive review of the security situation in Plateau State, with a focus on strengthening conflict prevention strategies, improving coordination among security agencies, and supporting long-term peacebuilding initiatives in conflict-prone communities.

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