



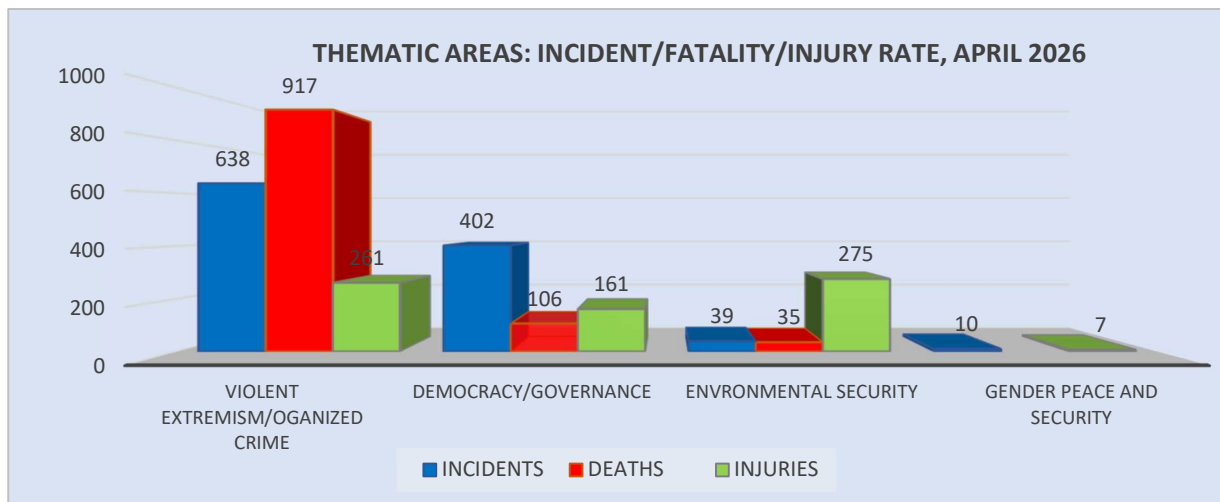
NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-NIGERIA)

(APRIL 2026)

1. INTRODUCTION

As of April 2026, 1089 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 1058 and 704 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents, and disease-related incidents were recorded in April 2026.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organized Crime recorded a total of 917 fatalities, representing the highest number among the total deaths (1058) documented during the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme accounted for 106 deaths. Additionally, the Environmental Security theme recorded 35 deaths, and the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area reported no deaths during the reporting period. (See annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS².

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.

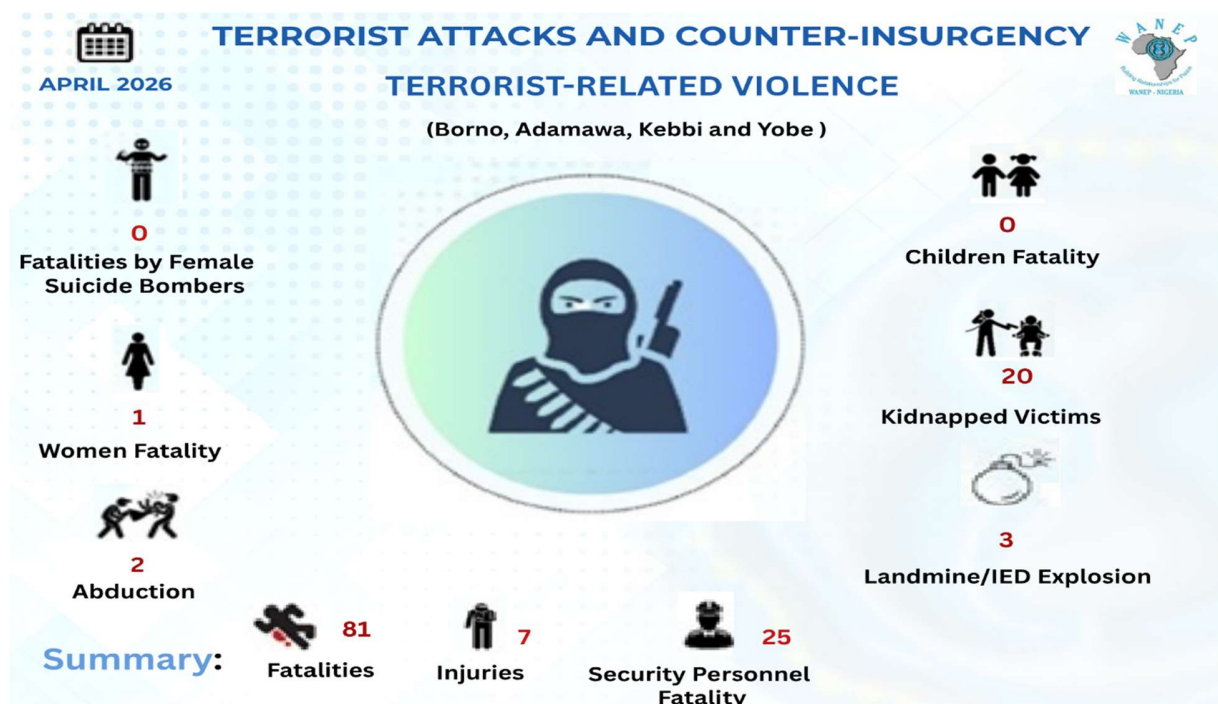
2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The North-Eastern region of Nigeria continues to grapple with threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups, resulting in travel restrictions due to frequent attacks on roads, restricted mobility from ongoing security operations, and heightened risks of abduction and ambushes. These challenges have disrupted economic activities and livelihoods while hindering resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Additionally, the security landscape is further complicated by the continuous

¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

encroachment of terrorist groups into the North-West region through the Niger and Benin border routes, where attacks and casualties were recorded during the reporting month, highlighting the expanding nature of extremist threats across parts of the country.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 13 incidents of terrorist attacks in Konduga, Bama, Nganzai, Kaga, Monguno, Askira/Uba, Abadam and Chibok LGAs of Borno State; Bagudu LGA of Kebbi State; Hong and Gombi LGAs of Adamawa State; and Bursari LGA of Yobe State. These incidents resulted in 88 casualties, comprising 81 fatalities and 7 injuries, while 20 victims (2 males and 18 females) were abducted during the reporting period. Of the 81 fatalities, 55 were males, 1 female, and 25 security personnel; while of the 7 injured victims, 2 were males and 5 security personnel.



Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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

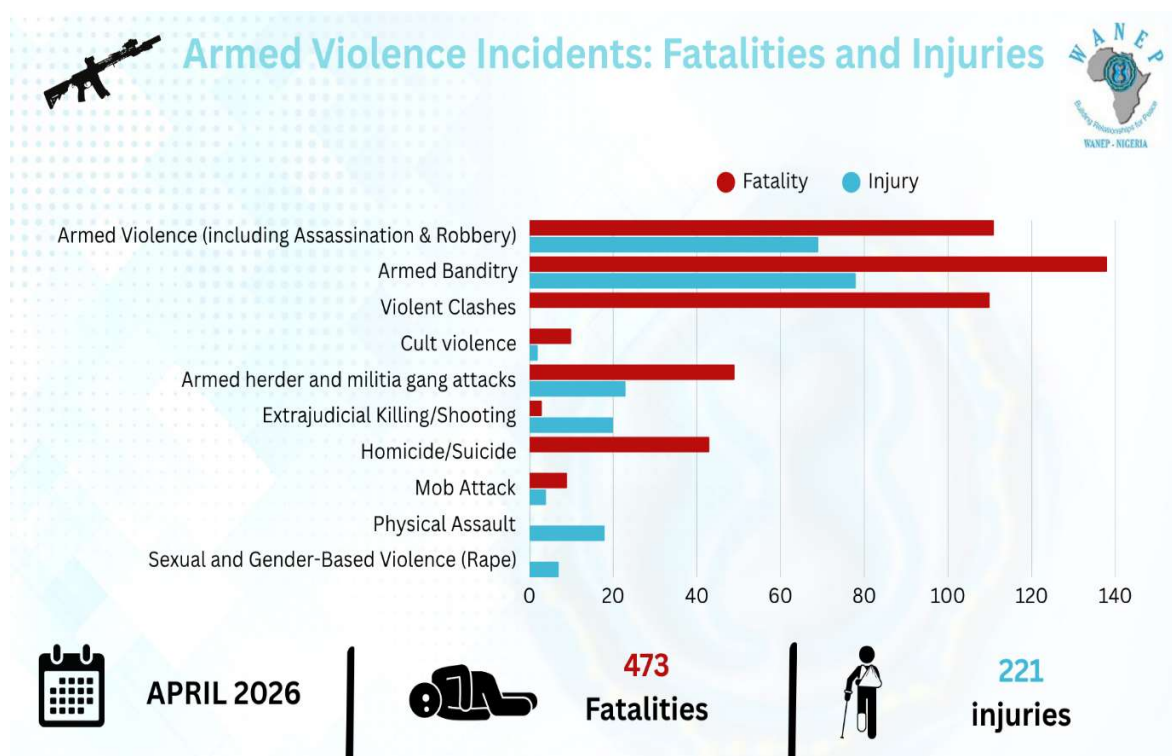
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 625 incidents of **Organized Crimes**, including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clashes, community-herder violence, arson, vandalism, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month.

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

A total of 836 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 347 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 454 civilians, and 35 security personnel.⁴ Out of the total recorded fatalities in this category, 15 were females, and 17 were children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 138 people and injury to 78 others Niger, Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West; Bauchi State in the North-East and Kwara State in the North-Central.⁵ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include the abduction of 248 people (188 males, 34 females, 25 minors, and 1 security personnel), cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁶

Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 49 people, while **armed violence incidents, including robbery and armed attacks**, accounted for 7 and 104 deaths.⁷ **Other armed violence incidents, including homicide, suicide, and cult violence**, led to the death of 42, 1, and 10 people, while **extrajudicial killing** and **mob violence** led to 3 and 9 deaths, respectively.⁸ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in April 2026.



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁹

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

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

⁶ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

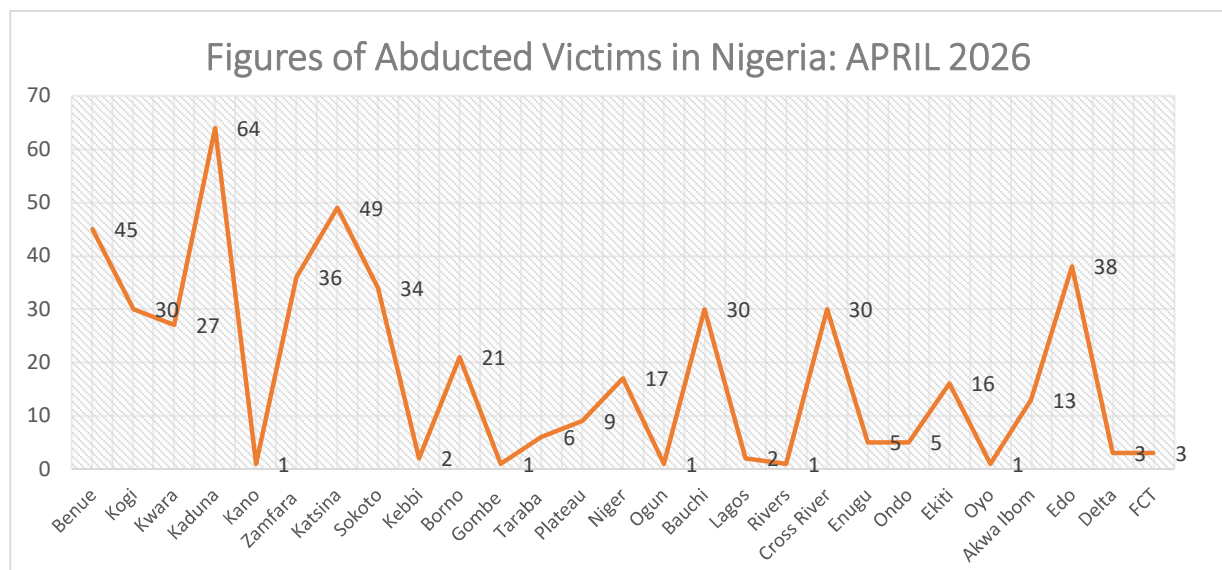
⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

⁸ Ibid.

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

Incidents of kidnapping in Nigeria continued during the period. According to WANEP NEWS, the April 2026 period recorded 92 reported kidnapping incidents across 27 States. These incidents resulted in the abduction of 490 individuals, including 381 men, 70 women, 34 children, and 5 security personnel.¹⁰

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

WANEP NEWS further recorded 342 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.¹² 1348 suspects were reportedly arrested, 35 being females, 5 minors, and 31 security personnel.

Security agencies, particularly the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) also intercepted several illicit drugs across 20 States and the FCT, with 141 suspects arrested, including 10 females, for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹³. The operations resulted in the recovery and destruction of assorted illicit substances such as

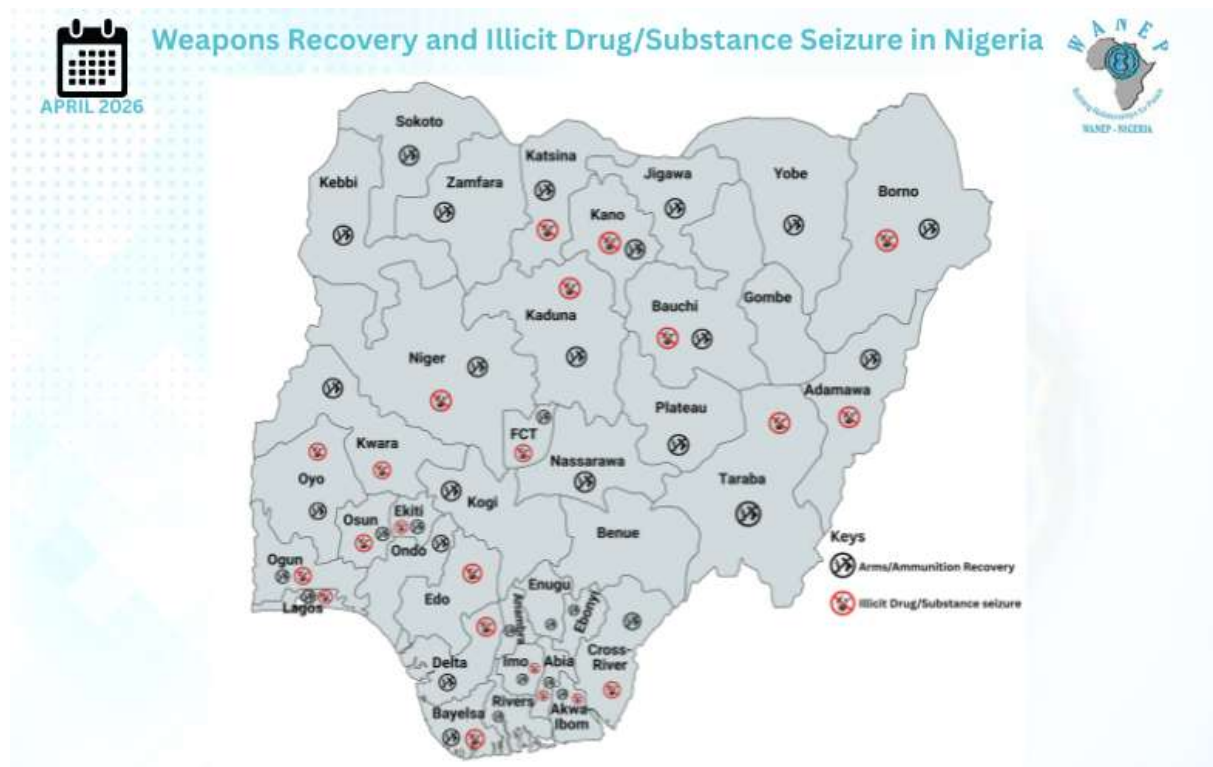
¹⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

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

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

cannabis, skunk, methamphetamine, cocaine, codeine syrup, tramadol, exol-5, nitrous oxide, synthetic cannabis, and expired pharmaceutical pills.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁴

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Between 1 and 30 April 2026, WANEP-NEWS recorded 10 public demonstrations, including 9 peaceful demonstrations and 1 violent demonstration, as well as 2 strike actions across the FCT, Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Kwara, Ondo, Plateau, and Anambra States. The demonstrations were largely driven by insecurity and governance-related grievances (5), labour and welfare concerns (3), political and electoral accountability issues (1), and land-related disputes (1). Protest actions included marches, road blockades, sit-ins, barricades, and peaceful rallies targeting government institutions, security agencies, electoral bodies, construction firms, and community authorities, with participants comprising activists, political actors, pensioners, youths, residents, labourers, retired police officers, women groups, and community stakeholders.

Insecurity and governance concerns featured prominently, including protests over abductions and killings in Ondo and Kwara, the abduction of 176 women and children in Kwara, military negligence allegations in Plateau, and the killing of a male resident by a state-backed vigilante in Anambra. Political and governance-related protests included the “Save Our Democracy”

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

demonstration in the FCT over the alleged delisting of African Democratic Congress (ADC) leadership on the INEC portal and perceived partisanship by the electoral body. Labour and welfare demonstrations focused on unpaid entitlements, pension concerns, and outstanding contractual payments involving retired police officers, labourers, suppliers, and teachers in the FCT. Land and community disputes also triggered demonstrations in Enugu and Abia States over alleged land grabbing and arrests linked to a protracted communal land dispute.

While the demonstrations were largely peaceful, incidents of violence, destruction of property, and fatalities were reported. In Plateau State, aggrieved residents reportedly destroyed makeshift military checkpoint structures and blocked roads following the killing of a resident by suspected gunmen, while in Anambra State, the killing of a male resident by a vigilante operative triggered a youth protest and market blockade. Security deployments and intensified patrols were reported in parts of the FCT, Plateau, and Anambra States, while some state authorities assured intervention and dialogue. However, several demonstrations, particularly those relating to insecurity and community grievances, had no official response at reporting time.

WANEP-NEWS also recorded 2 strike actions by organised labour groups. The Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) commenced an indefinite nationwide strike over alleged suspension of the revised Professional Allowance Table (PAT), unpaid arrears, and unresolved welfare demands, raising concerns over disruption of healthcare services nationwide. Similarly, teachers under the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) in the FCT embarked on an indefinite strike over unresolved welfare and entitlement issues, resulting in the closure of public primary and secondary schools across the 6 Area Councils and disruption of academic activities, including examinations.

Furthermore, the WANEP NEWS recorded widespread safety-related incidents across Nigeria with significant human and infrastructural impacts. These included multiple fire outbreaks across the FCT, Oyo, Borno, Kwara, Kano, Sokoto, Lagos, Anambra, Kaduna, Abia and Jigawa States, resulting in 2 fatalities, 17 injuries, and the destruction of residential buildings, markets, hospitals, offices, vehicles, and public infrastructure.

Road mishaps remained the most frequent safety-related incidents nationwide, cutting across all states and involving commercial buses, trucks, tankers, private vehicles, motorcycles, and official security vehicles, leading to casualty figures of 95 deaths and 143 injuries largely linked to speeding, brake failure, wrongful overtaking, and mechanical faults. A gas poisoning incident also occurred in which 30 students, and 1 teacher were affected after inhaling a poisonous gas within a school premises in Ogun State. Other recorded incidents included gas explosions, electrocutions, and a tanker explosion which together accounted for 10 deaths and 9 injuries, underscoring persistent safety, emergency response, and governance challenges during the reporting period.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

The WANEP-NEWS recorded the outbreak of suspected cerebrospinal meningitis across Dange-Shuni, Kebbe, Shagari, Tambuwal, Wamakko, Sabon Birni, Bodinga, Kware, and Gada LGAs in Sokoto State. The outbreak reportedly resulted in 33 deaths and about 220 hospitalisations, with children and teenagers accounting for most affected persons. Sabon Birni, Wamakko, and Shagari LGAs recorded the highest number of reported cases (63, 60 and 51).¹⁵

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 8 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape and sexual assault of female adults and minors in the FCT, Ogun, Oyo, and Anambra States, in the month.¹⁶ Out of the 8 recorded incidents, there were no fatalities, however, 7 injuries, including 2 adult females and 5 female minors. Also, no fewer than 38 victims of human trafficking including 9 males, 18 females and 11 minors were rescued in Lagos, Ogun, and Ondo States in the month, while 6 suspected human traffickers, including 1 female, were arrested during the period.¹⁷

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

Persistent activities of terrorist groups, armed bandits, kidnappers, armed herders, and other non-state armed actors continued to threaten national stability, civilian safety, and socio-economic activities across several parts of Nigeria. The widespread incidents of violent attacks, communal violence, kidnappings, and organized criminality recorded during the month have weakened public trust and confidence in security institutions, intensified displacement, disrupt farming and commercial activities, and aggravated humanitarian conditions in affected communities. The increasing reliance on informal and community-based security responses also raises the risk of human rights violations and retaliatory violence.

The public demonstrations, labour strikes, and governance-related grievances recorded in April 2026 reflect growing socio-economic pressures and citizens' dissatisfaction over rising insecurity, unpaid entitlements, poor service delivery, and political accountability concerns. If these grievances remain unresolved, they could potentially escalate into wider civil unrest, disrupt essential public services, and heighten tensions between citizens and government authorities. The indefinite strikes by resident doctors and teachers during the month further posed risks to healthcare delivery and educational activities, with potential long-term implications for human security and social stability.

The recurring road accidents, fire outbreaks, explosions, and disease outbreaks documented in April 2026 underscore persistent weaknesses in public safety systems, emergency response mechanisms, and healthcare infrastructure across the country. The suspected cerebrospinal meningitis outbreak in Sokoto State, which predominantly affected children and teenagers,

¹⁵ <https://dailytrust.com/suspected-meningitis-outbreak-kills-many-in-sokoto/>

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

¹⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

highlights the urgent need for improved disease surveillance and rapid health interventions to prevent further spread and humanitarian consequences. Additionally, the continued incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and human trafficking recorded during the month remain critical protection concerns, particularly for women and minors, with potential long-term social and psychological impacts on victims and affected communities.

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), Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) should enhance joint intelligence gathering and operational responsiveness, with particular focus on rural, border, and high-risk communities. Improved last-mile communication and rapid deployment capacities are necessary to address persistent threats from violent extremism, armed banditry, and kidnapping.
- The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), and other state security agencies should improve follow-up on arrests and prosecutions by strengthening case documentation, coordination among agencies, and engagement with the courts. This will help prevent repeat offences, reduce impunity, and enhance deterrence.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Bank of Industry (BOI), and State Governments should target livelihood and empowerment programs toward communities experiencing chronic insecurity. Integrating agricultural support, economic opportunities, and psychosocial services for conflict-affected women and youth will enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to recruitment by non-state armed groups.
- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), and Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) should improve local-level disaster and health emergency response mechanisms. This includes timely reporting to frontline authorities, pre-positioning relief supplies, enhancing evacuation and relief logistics, and strengthening community awareness and risk communication for hazards such as Lassa Fever, floods, and windstorms.
- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Police Force Gender Desks, and State Ministries should reinforce monitoring of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) response structures, expand community-level referral networks for survivors, and expedite prosecution timelines to reduce case attrition and improve access to justice.

CONCLUSION:

The security situation in Nigeria in April 2026 is marked by persistent terrorist attacks, organized criminal violence, kidnappings, communal tensions, public demonstrations, labour unrest, safety-

related incidents, and public health challenges, all of which continued to threaten civilian safety, socio-economic activities, and national stability. The widespread nature of these incidents underscores the utility of strengthened security operations, improved emergency response mechanisms, enhanced public service delivery, and sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration to address the underlying drivers of insecurity, protect vulnerable populations, and promote sustainable peace and stability across the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR APRIL 2026

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	13	81	7
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson, armed herders and cult/gang clash).	246	317	176
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	123	347	24
Abduction (evident across 27 States & the FCT)	92	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	10	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	7	3	20
Physical/Armed Assault	19	-	18
Vandalism	11	-	-
Communal Clash	6	16	16
Violent Clash	3	110	-
Illicit Drug Trafficking	55	-	-
Homicide	42	42	-
Suicide	1	1	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	9	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	-	-
Strike	2	-	-
Building Collapse	4	-	7
Bridge Collapse	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	342	-	-
Threats/Intimidation	2	-	-
Illegal Migration	1	-	-

Road Accident	33	95	143
Electrocution	2	6	3
Gas Explosion	2	2	3
Tanker Explosion	1	2	3
Other Explosion	1	1	-
Political Violence	1	-	2
Tanker Explosion	1	2	3
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	10	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Meningitis	9	33	220
Fire Outbreak	22	2	17
Gas Leakage/Poisoning	1	-	31
Rainstorm/Flood	6	-	5
Windstorm	1	-	2
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	8	-	7
Human Trafficking	2	-	-
Total	1090	1058	707