



Area!TM

January 2021

Nigeria Security Report

This report is compiled using proprietary Artificial Intelligence in data gathering and verification.

January 2021 Nigeria Security Report



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January summary and flash points

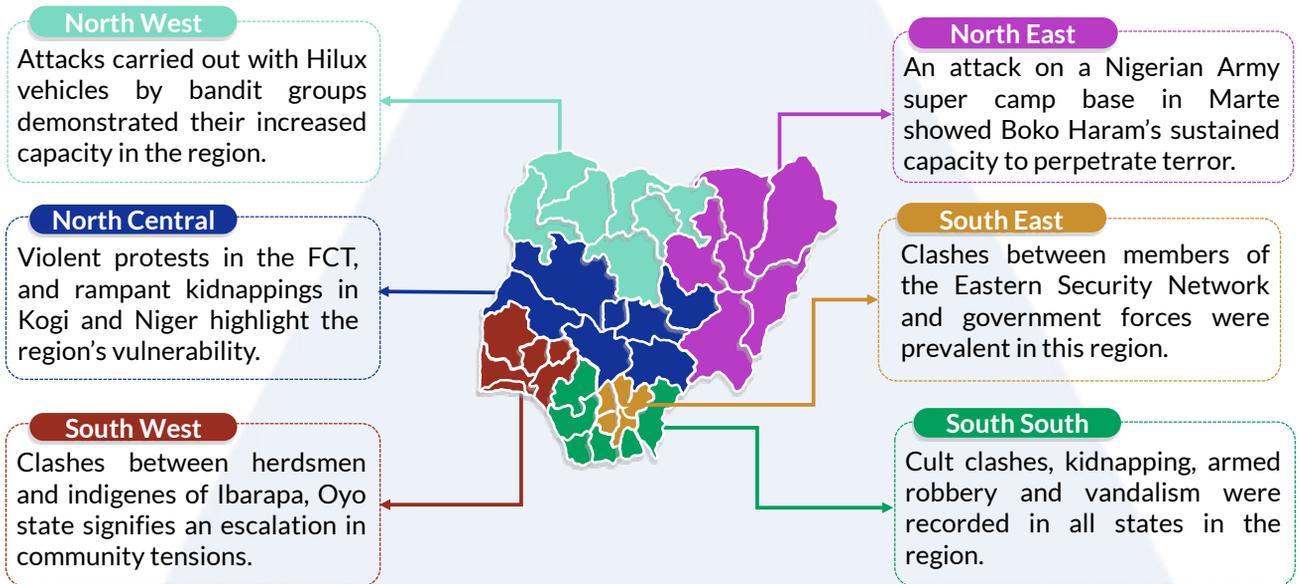


Figure 1: January 2021 Security summary

Flash points - Key events from January 2021

- Nigeria troops stormed Orlu, the second largest city in Imo state, in an attempt to neutralize the Eastern Security Network (a non-state armed actor).
- Islamic State West Africa Province's (ISWAP) media outlets published pictures and videos of a Nigerian Army FV103 Spartan in Gorgi, a town in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State.
- About 50 persons were reported missing in Bassa, Shiroro LGA, Niger state after gunmen suspected to be bandits attacked the village.
- Boko Haram mounted a roadblock along the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road and abducted 50 passengers, including a Senior Protection Assistant with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees .
- A tanker explosion in Ogun saw several lives and property lost. While in Sokoto, Imo and FCT there were fire outbreaks in public places. Gas explosions also rocked Delta and Rivers states.

2021 begins with high death tolls

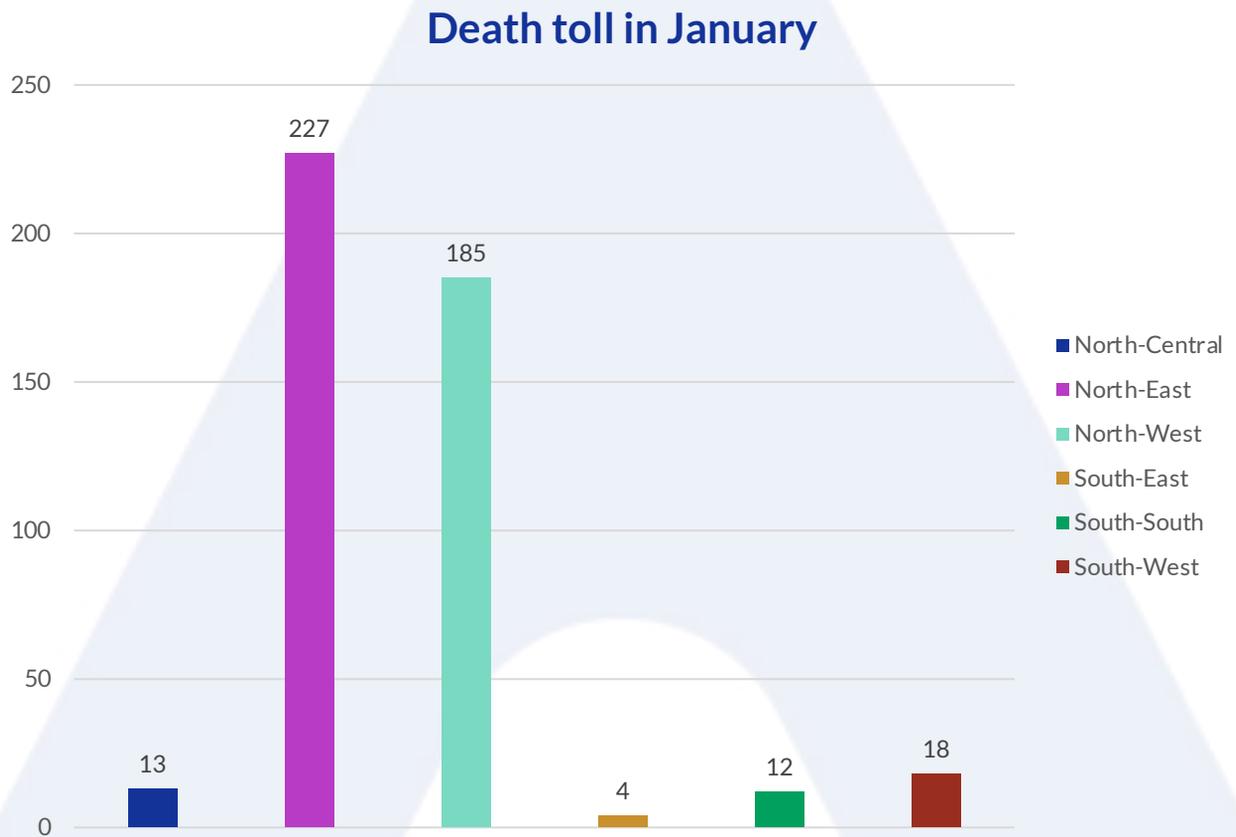


Figure 2: Death toll across all Geopolitical Zones in Nigeria

[Violent crimes continue to occur across every state in Nigeria.](#)

- In January, no fewer than 459 people lost their lives to violent attacks across the country.
- 139 out of the 459 people killed were civilians, while 96 people were security operatives.
- 127 people were Boko Haram/ISWAP sect members and 97 were Bandits.
- There were recorded cases of violent crimes across all states in Nigeria.

Fewer terrorist activities but more violent war

[The Nigerian Airforce continues its air raids on terrorist and bandit hideouts](#)

- There were 9 recorded fatalities from IEDs planted by Boko Haram in Damboa LGA, Borno.
- Rocket launchers were used by Boko Haram against the Nigerian Army in Yobe and Borno.
- Operation Thunder Strike launched airstrikes in Kaduna and Katsina on bandit hideouts.
- Operation Tura Takai Bango raided terrorist hideouts in Alagarno and Sambisa forest.
- There were over 6 airstrikes in Borno State under The Air Force's Operation Lafiya Dole

Army attacks

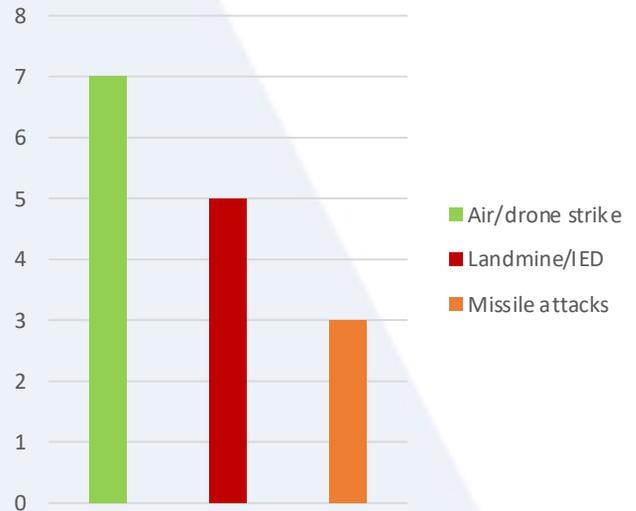


Figure 3: Types of attacks by the Nigerian Army

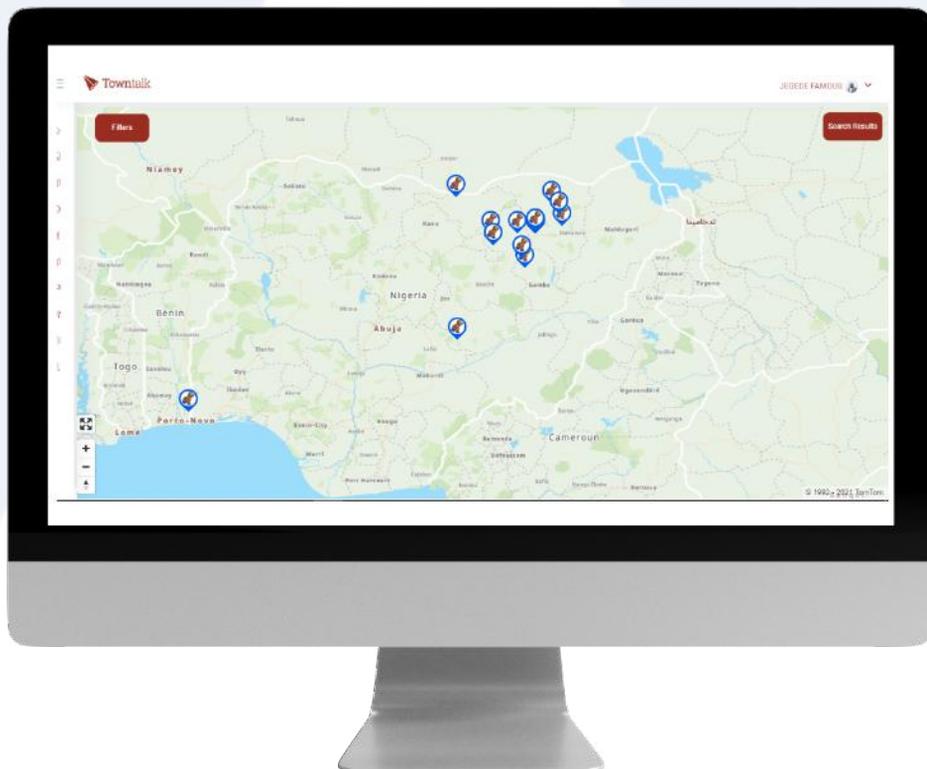


Figure 4: Snapshot of terrorist attacks from Area! web dashboard

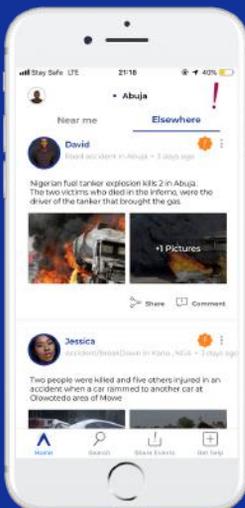
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- Track verification status
- Emergency contacts directory
- Location Risk Rating



Connect your team's Area! accounts to automate your crisis management plan.

Protests pose significant threat to business operations

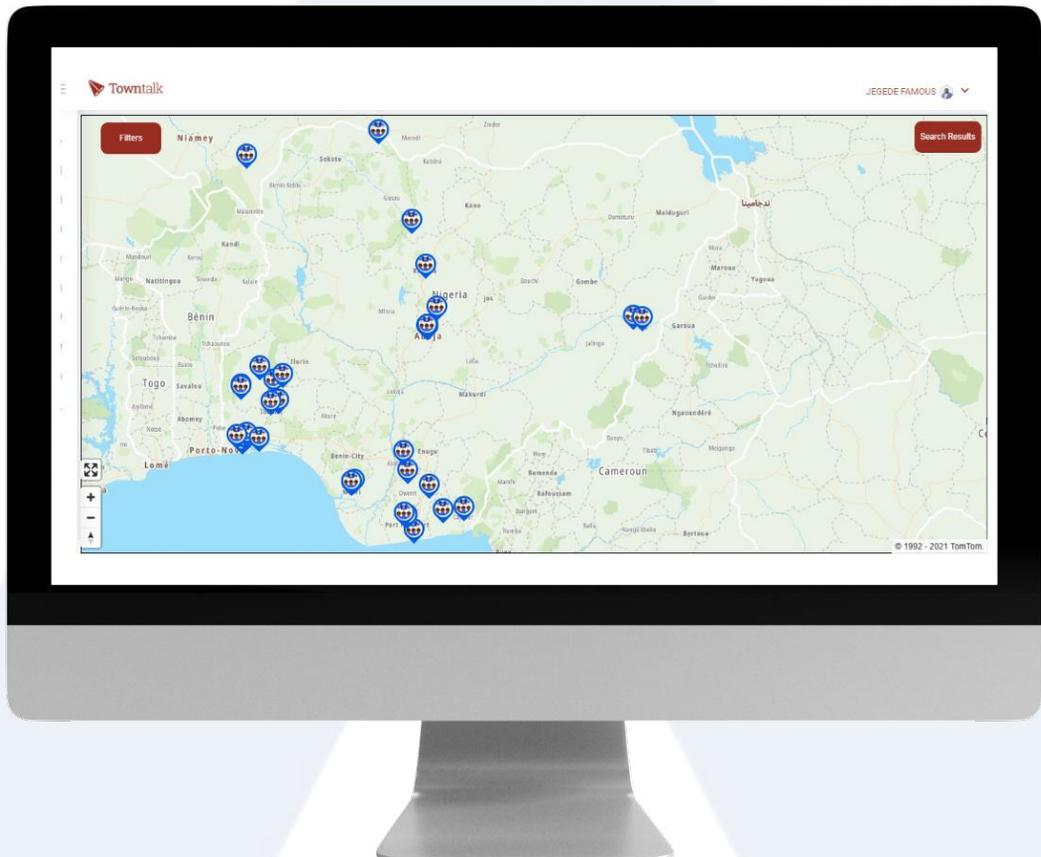
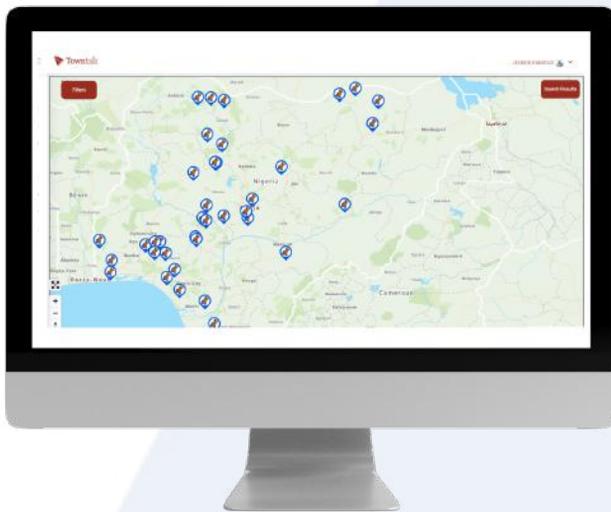


Figure 5: Locations of civil unrest from Area! web dashboard

Largely peaceful protests run risk of turning violent

- There were 59 recorded cases of civil unrest across the country.
- Protests and demonstrations (e.g. by the Islamic Movement of Nigeria) in FCT were met with excessive force by government security services.
- Mob violence continues to be prevalent; several cases were recorded in Oyo State.
- South-South states such as Rivers, Delta, and Cross River state recorded high cases of civil unrest in January.
- Anambra recorded series of community clashes in Aguleri, Umuleri, and Umuoha, leading to loss of lives and property.
- Protest by members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria in Bauchi were largely peaceful.
- There were peaceful protests recorded in all South-East states.

Spate of banditry closely linked with increased kidnappings



Bandit activities spread nationally

- More than 205 persons were reportedly kidnapped in January.
- Janbako, Bungudu, Maru, and Dan Sadua LGAs in Zamfara were attacked by bandits.
- Bandits in Zamfara were seen using Hilux vehicles to raid villages and towns in Maru LGA.
- Igabi, Birinin-Giwa, and Kagarko LGAs in Kaduna experienced significant bandit activities.
- There was a decline in recorded bandit activities in January 2021 compared to December 2020.

Figure 6: Locations of banditry and kidnappings from Area! web dashboard

Kidnappings

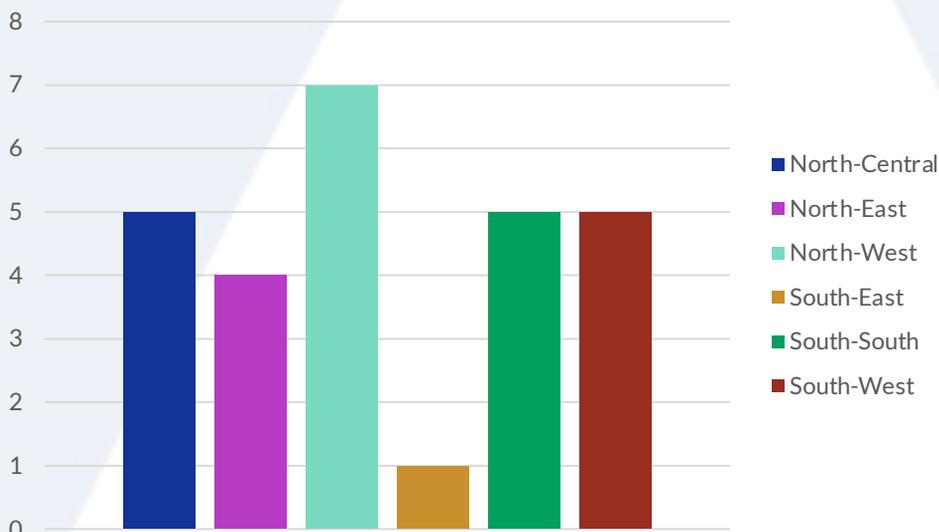


Figure 7: Kidnappings in each Geopolitical Zone



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February outlook and security advise

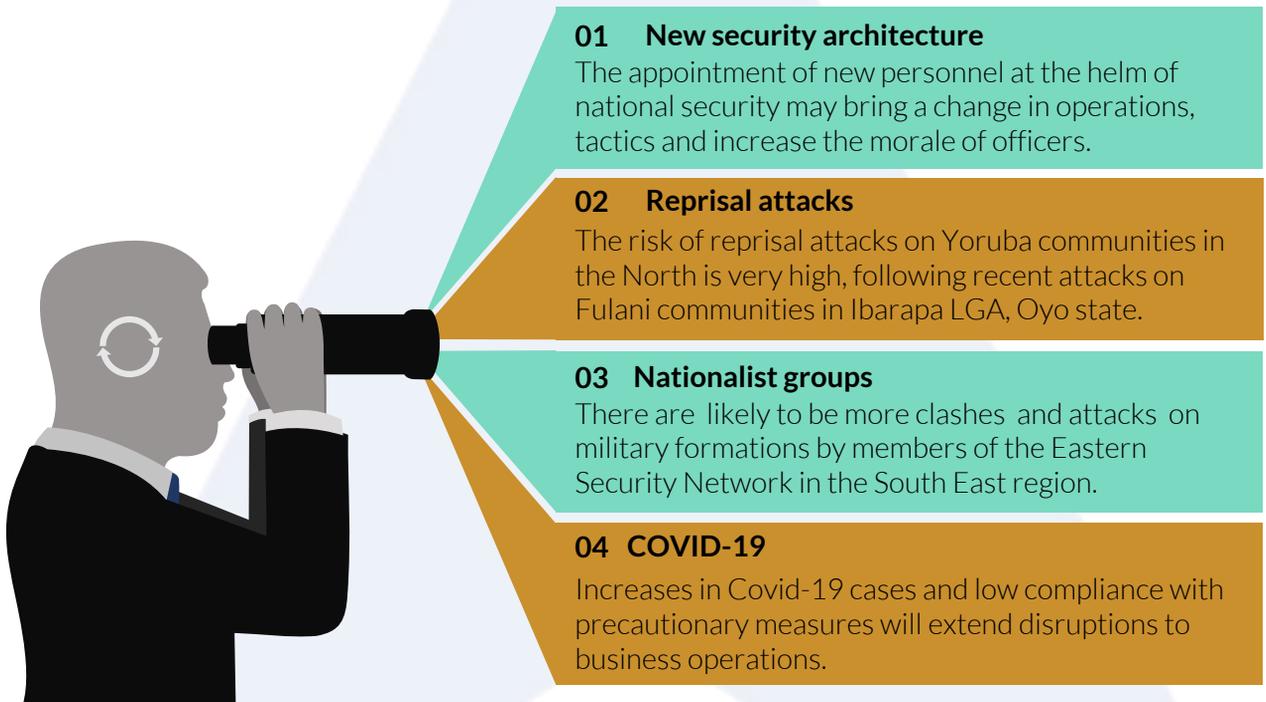


Figure 8: February Security Outlook

Security advise

- Use air travel whenever necessary to reduce exposure to violent highway crimes. In the absence of air transport an armed escort should be utilized.
- Monitor local media and check with trusted sources for updates. Check Area! to verify your news updates.
- If caught in a clash between protesters and anti-protesters and/or security forces, use Area! to navigate to safety.
- Travels within and to Ibarapa LGA in Oyo State and Orlu in Imo State should be avoided.
- Always check the risk profile of your immediate environment with Area!.

Special focus: Gender Based Violence during and post COVID-19

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an alarming reality for many women and girls regardless of economic/social status and location. According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), one in three women will be victims of one or more forms of GBV. GBV has a ripple effect on its victims' health, self-esteem, and safety, but it remains masked in silence because it is deeply rooted in harmful cultures and victim stigmatization.

The consequences that come with GBV are diverse, from forced and unwanted pregnancies to unsafe abortions, sexually transmitted infections, psychological trauma, and death. GBV should never be neglected; it is a global problem that impedes women's and girls' influence on societal development, peace, and economic growth.

The Social Science Academy of Nigeria and Towntalk Poltech Limited have come together to provide safe and comprehensive services for GBV survivors and mitigate the risks of GBV, especially with the aggravation of the COVID-19 pandemic on GBV.

Our intervention and study uses AI and data science tools to provide gender-inclusive and anonymized support for adult women (aged >18 years). This population has been highlighted as being at the highest risk to GBV and other security challenges resulting from COVID-19. Thus our approach will focus mainly on rape, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, emotional violence, and insecurity. Ultimately, our goal is to mitigate GBV incidents and general insecurity exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic among adult women and provide a support platform to enhance women's psychosocial well-being while taking cultural norms local context into account.

Key Project Components

- Ensure a timely, accountable, holistic, multifaceted approach to preventing and responding to GBV through an app that works offline (Area!) and a web-based platform (Pulse) that enables real-time reporting GBV cases.
- Improving access to quality services for survivors by ensuring that they access support from specialists and experts.
- Developing a therapeutic chatbot for survivors of GBV.
- Engaging key state actors such as the Nigerian police and other security agencies to improve GBV prevention and response.
- 24/7 access to support and counselling through an active chatbot and call center.

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