

# MONTHLY NIGERIA VIOLENT CONFLICT BULLETIN

Volume 1, Issue 1

Insights from Nextier violent conflict Database

1st April - 24th April, 2023



**100**  
Incidents  
in 31 states

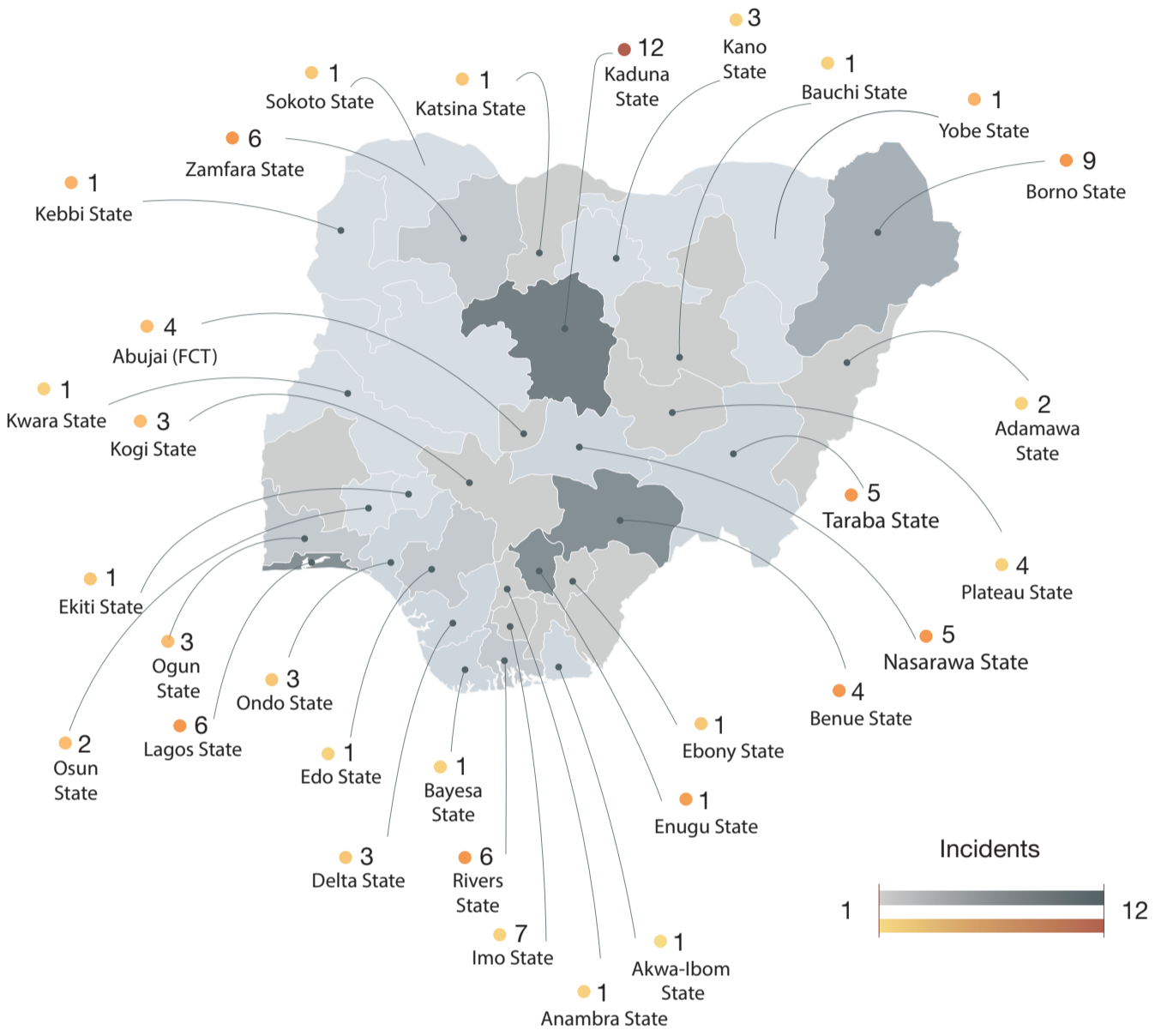


**338**  
Casualties  
in 27 states



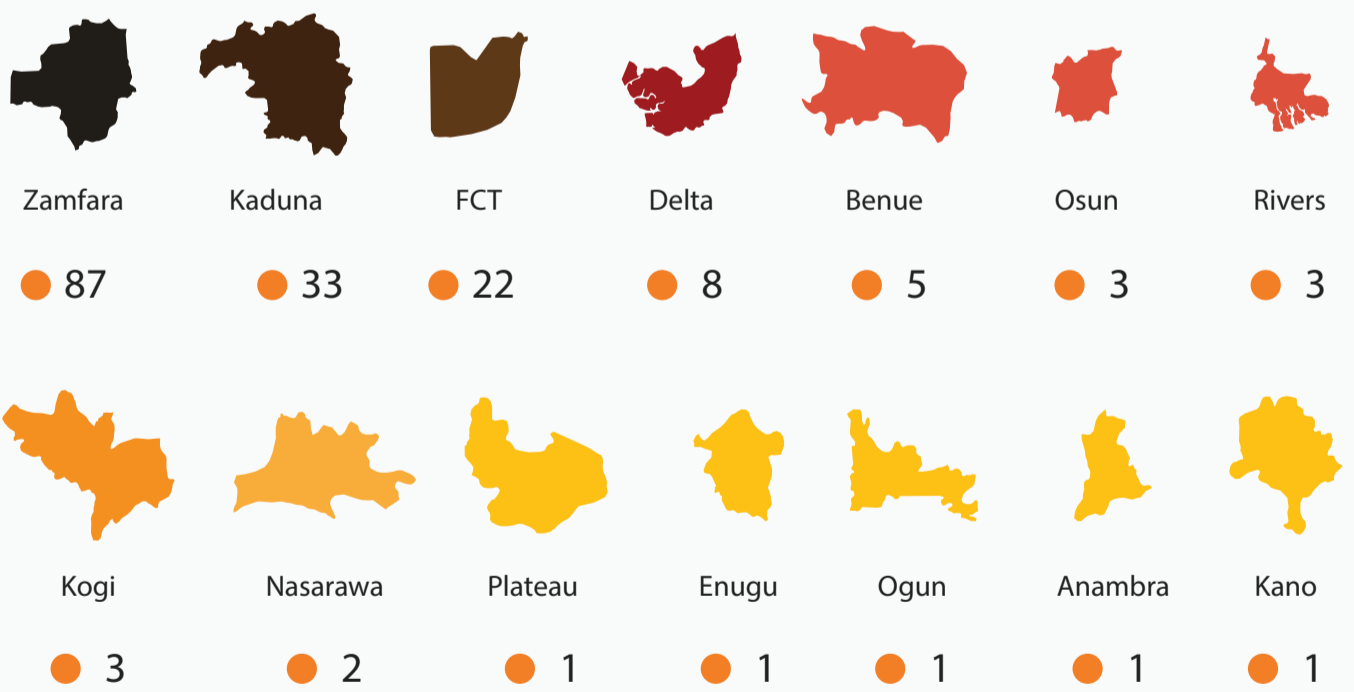
**171**  
Kidnap Counts  
in 14 states

## Violent Conflict Incidents Across Nigeria

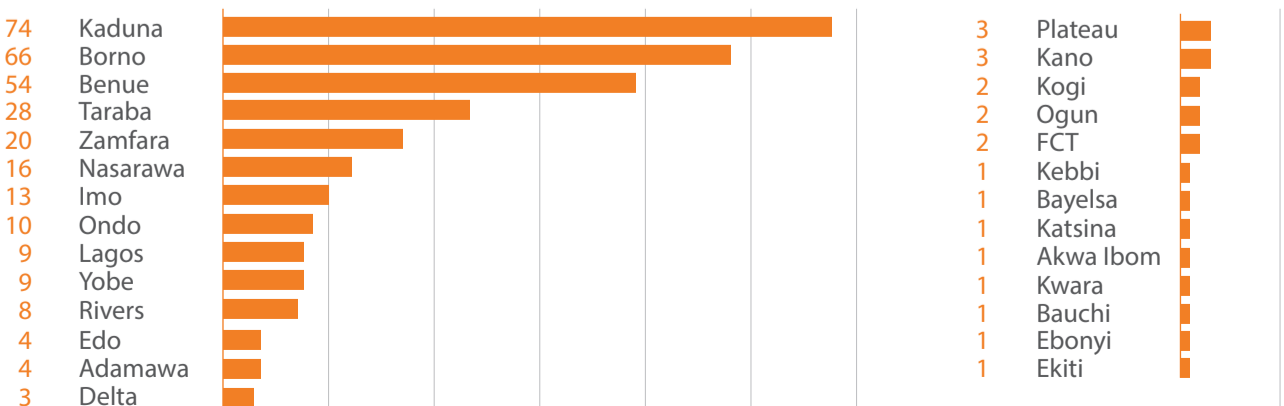


## Kidnap Victims by State

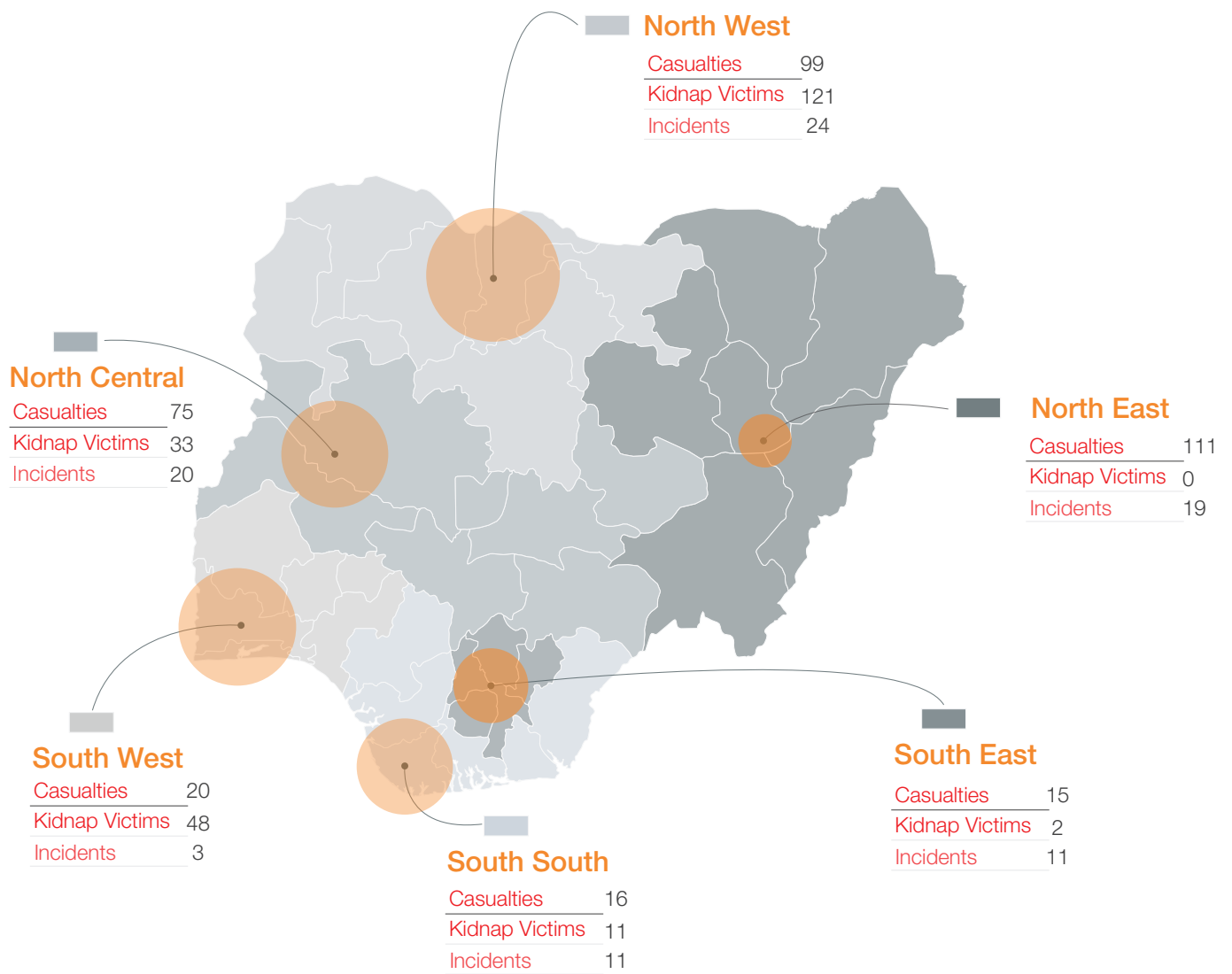
● Kidnaped



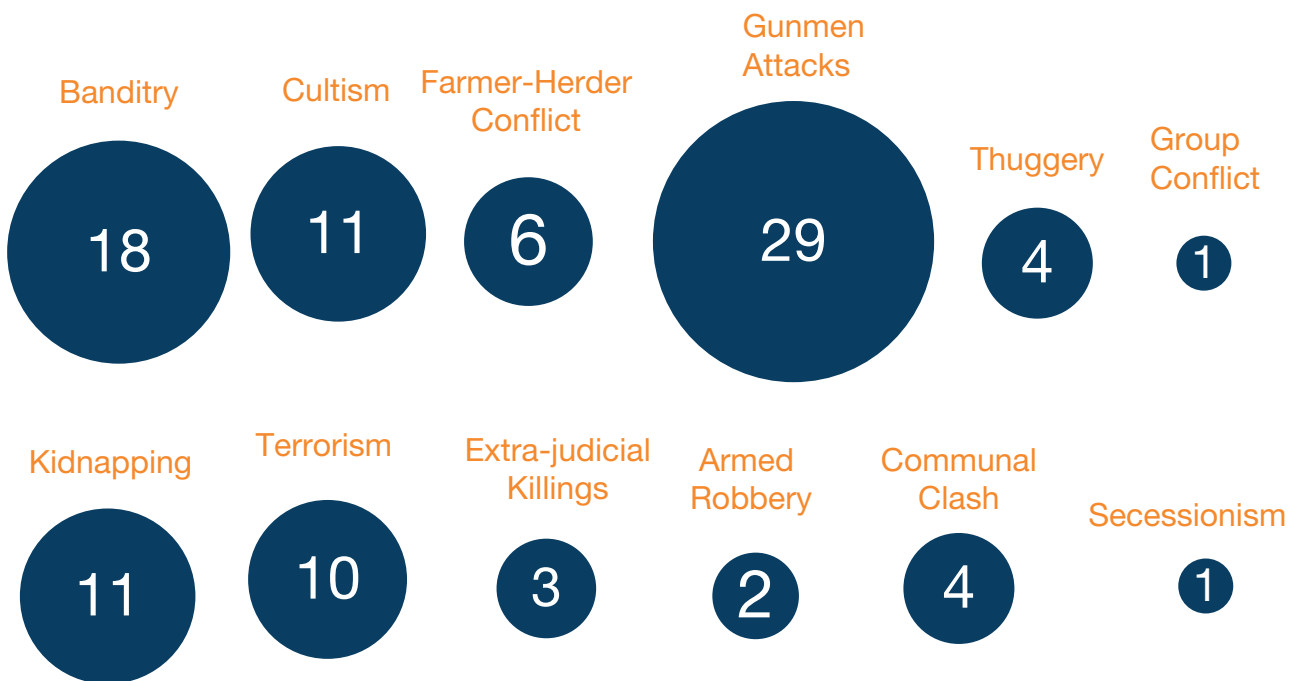
## Casualty Count by State



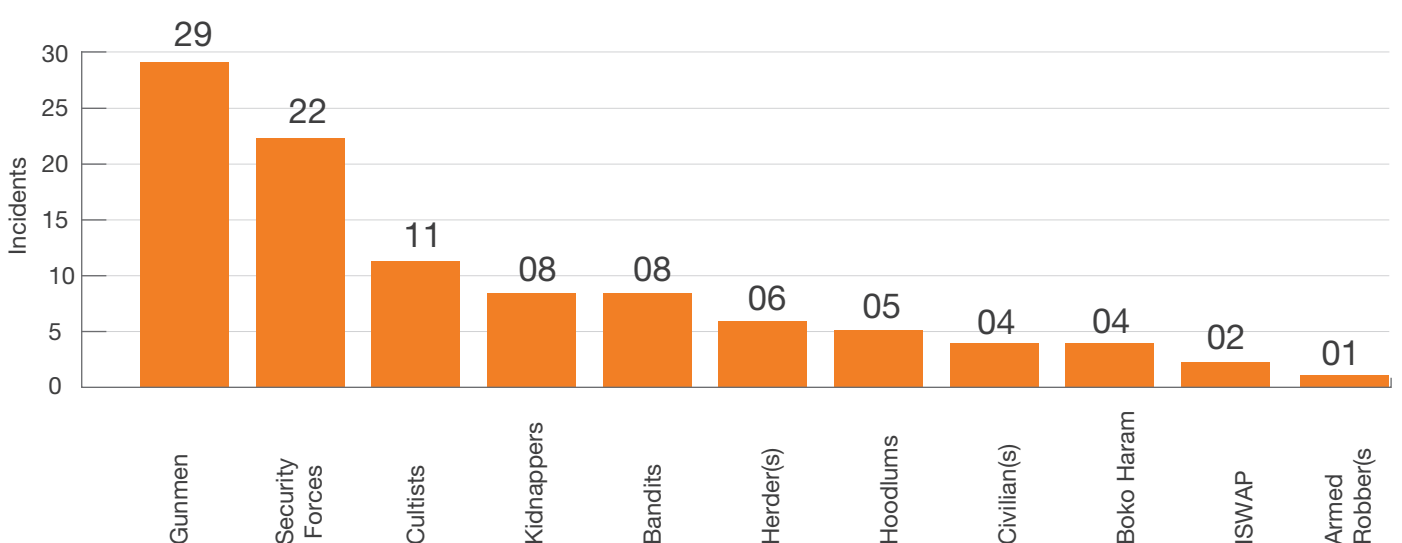
## Violent Conflict by Region



## Incidents by Conflict Types



## Incidents by Actors



## Context

Nigeria is facing [dire security challenges](#). While some of these issues predate the creation of contemporary Nigeria, many more have surfaced in recent years, aggravating the [nation's conflict profile](#). Violent killings, kidnappings, and destruction of livelihoods limit the country's potential. During the 2023 general elections, the risk of [increased insecurity](#) was highlighted by election stakeholders. However, a glimmer of hope emerged with reports that the period [marked a decline](#) in violence. Sadly, violence has [increased in scale](#) after Nigeria's presidential and governorship elections.

## The Key Issues

The Nextier Violent Conflict Database showed that violence perpetrated by unknown gunmen was the most persistent violent occurrence. Unknown gunmen are [media-reported gangs](#) that carry out heinous crimes that are not readily identified by security personnel at the time of reporting. Violence by this group is dominant in Southeast Nigeria, with pockets of gunmen-violence across other parts of Nigeria. They are usually linked to [secessionist agitators](#) like the Indigenous People of Biafra. These anonymous gunmen perpetrate murder, intimidation, kidnapping, and destruction of public and private property. There were 29 recorded gunmen encounters involving civilians and security operatives across 17 states between the 1st and 24th of April 2023.

The Northwest recorded 24 incidents involving bandits, civilians, security forces, political thugs, and gunmen. These incidents resulted in 99 casualties and 121 kidnap victims. Kaduna State in the Northwest recorded the most killings due to bandit attacks. Within the review period, 12 attacks caused 74 casualties and 33 abducted victims. In one instance, [29 persons](#) were killed by bandits on 15th April 2023 in Runji village, Zangon Kataf local government area of the state. Zamfara state ranked the highest in violent abductions, with 87 kidnap victims from two incidents. Out of the 87 victims, [85 were children](#). Bandits attacked Wanzamai village, Tsafe local government area of Zamfara, to carry out the abductions.

## Government Reactions

Security agencies have continued to track and eliminate members of criminal gangs across the country. These operations result in the [release of kidnap victims](#) and the [seizure of weapons](#) belonging to criminals. On 11th April 2023, troops of Operation Forest Sanity [ambushed and killed](#) two bandits in Kaduna State, including bandit leader Isiya Danwasa.

## Recommendations

1. The government should leverage technology to identify unknown violent gunmen. This strategy will prioritize enforcement in areas that frequently have criminal gunman attacks.
2. The government should collaborate with stakeholders, including relevant traditional institutions, to strengthen and develop civil-military interactions and cooperative intelligence-sharing networks.
3. The government should address underlying causes of insecurity, such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality.