

Nextier

Nigeria Violent Conflict Bi-Monthly Report (May – June 2023)

Insights from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database





Nigeria Violent Conflict Bi-Monthly Report (May - July 2023)

Insights from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Regional Overview of Violence in Nigeria (May 2023 and June 2023)	5
Banditry	6
The Trend of Violent Conflict	6
Key Findings	7
Key Responses	7
Recommendations	8
Farmer-Herder Conflicts	8
Background	8
The Trend of Violent Conflict	8
Key Findings	9
Key Responses	9
Recommendations	10
Gunmen Attacks	10
The Trend of Violent Conflict	10
Key Findings	12
Key Responses	12
Recommendations	12
Conclusion	12

Acronyms of Nigerian States

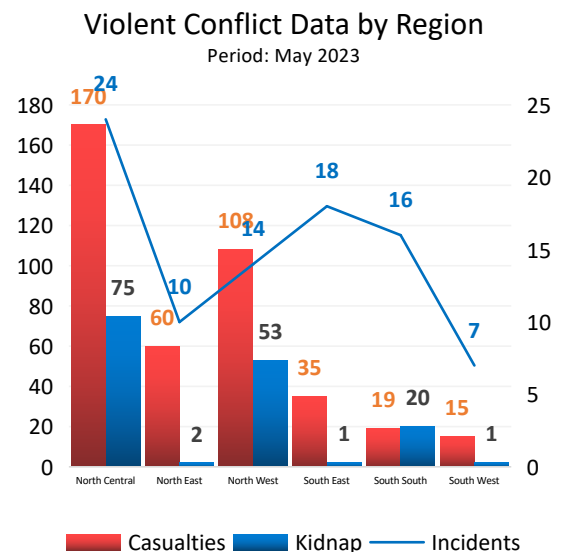
SN	Acronyms	State
1.	AB	Abia State
2.	AN	Anambra
3.	BE	Benue
4.	DE	Delta
5.	EB	Ebonyi
6.	FCT	Federal Capital Territory
7.	IM	Imo
8.	KD	Kaduna
9.	KT	Katsina
10.	KE	Kebbi
11.	KO	Kogi
12.	KW	Kwara
13.	NA	Nasarawa
14.	NI	Niger
15.	ON	Ondo
16.	OS	Osun
17.	PL	Plateau
18.	RI	Rivers
19.	SO	Sokoto
20.	TA	Taraba
21.	ZA	Zamfara



Introduction

Between May and June 2023, Nigeria recorded [many social, political and economic changes](#). On May 29 2023, Ahmed Bola Tinubu was sworn in as the [16th president of Nigeria](#). Upon resumption, the president announced the [removal of the petroleum subsidy](#). [Mixed reactions](#) trailed this announcement. While certain arguments claim that Nigeria [lacks the resources](#) to maintain the subsidy regime, others contend that the removal will worsen the [precarious economic condition of Nigerians](#). Beyond these policy changes, the new administration inherited a [dire security challenge](#). For instance, banditry is a problem in the North West. The North Central and North East regions are battling terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts and banditry. Communal conflict, Farmer-herder conflict, kidnapping, and cult-related violence are recorded in the South West and South-South. The South East faces violent secessionist struggles, communal clashes and farmer-herder crises. While the administration's strategy for combating insecurity is still unfolding, a major step to rejigging the security architecture of Nigeria was the president's appointment of [new service chiefs](#).

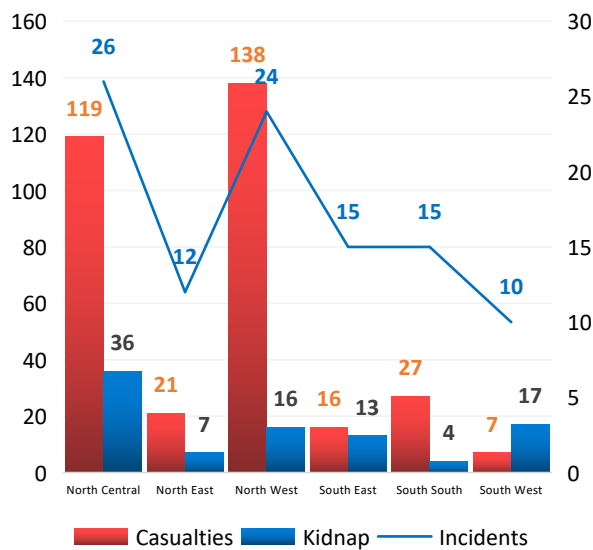
Regional Overview of Violence in Nigeria (May 2023 and June 2023)



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Violent Conflict Data by Region

Period: June 2023



This edition of the Nigeria Violent Conflict Bi-Monthly report captured the country's security situation between May and June 2023 from the lens of the most prevalent crisis types in the country. Between May and June 2023, banditry was commonplace in North West Nigeria, while farmer-herder conflicts and gunmen attacks dominated Northcentral and Southeast. This report slightly differs from the previous bi-monthly [report](#), which recorded banditry, gunmen attacks and thuggery as the most prevalent security issues. Notably, [thuggery increased](#) during the March 2023 gubernatorial elections across Nigeria.

Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database



Banditry

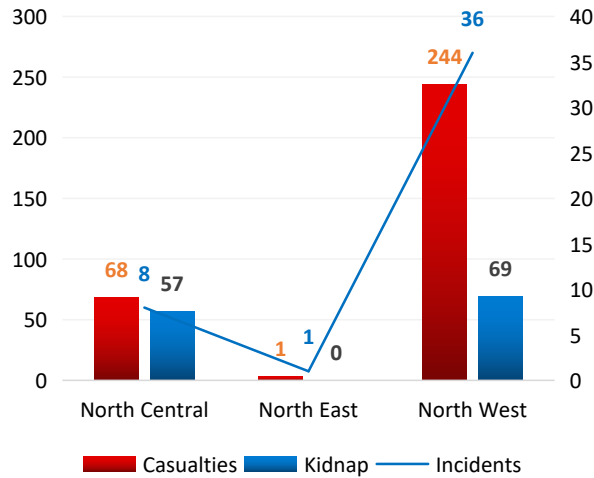
The Trend of Violent Conflict

Bandit violence has [resulted in killings, displacements, and economic losses](#). The challenge has defied [amnesty efforts](#) initiated by the affected state governments in the North West region. Illegal weapon smuggling has provided bandits with heavy weaponry, enhancing their assaults and operations. The government has continued to assault bandit hideouts, but a lack of [proper equipment for security troops](#) and other [challenges](#) limit the government's efforts.

Violent Conflict Data by Region:

Banditry

Period: May 2023 - June 2023

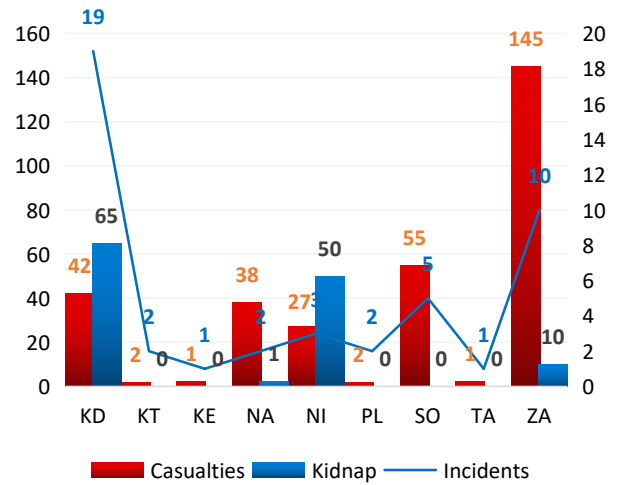


Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Violent Conflict Data by State:

Banditry

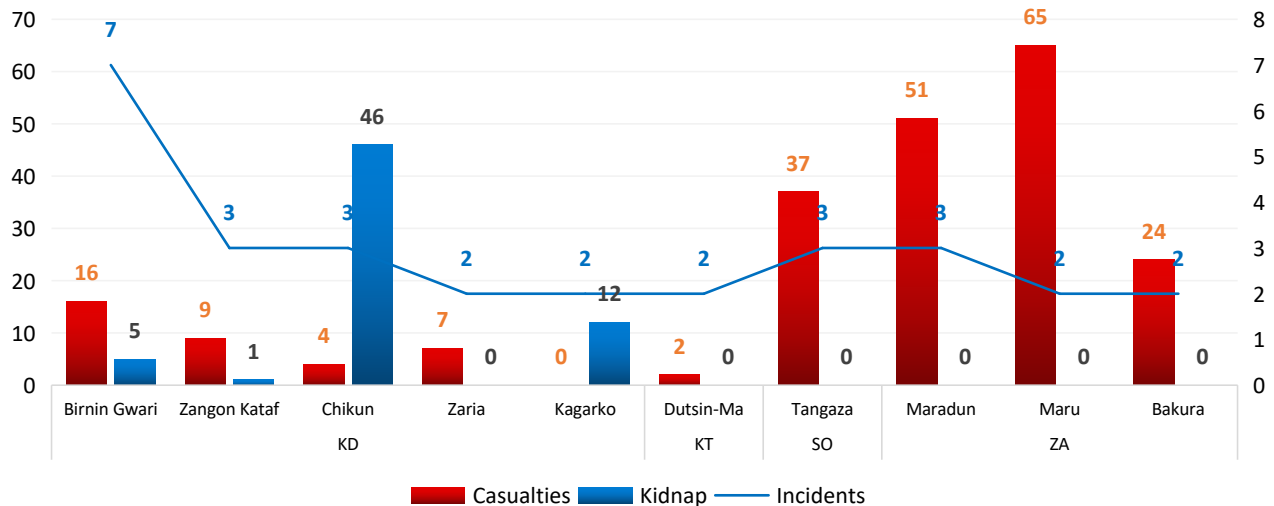
Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Most Affected LGAs: Banditry

Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Key Findings

Across the three Northern regions, the North West recorded the highest number of violent bandit incidents and casualties. The North West recorded 36 incidents and 244 casualties, while the North Central recorded eight incidents and 68 casualties. Zamfara state has the largest number of casualties (145) out of 244. In Zamfara state, 65 people were killed in Maru local government and 51 in Maradun local government. Even though Zamfara had the most casualties, Kaduna recorded the most incidents. Birnin Gwari local government in Kaduna state was a hotspot for bandit attacks, with seven incidences reported in less than two months. Maru in Zamfara had more casualties, while Birnin Gwari in Kaduna State had more events.

Key Responses

Zamfara state's newly elected governor, Dauda Lawal, has reiterated his [commitment to ending](#) the violence in the State. In a visit to the palace of the Emir of Tsafe, Alhaji Muhammadu Bawa, the governor was recorded

saying, “I want to assure his Highness and our people that security is the top priority of my government, and that is why we are working closely with the relevant security agencies to ensure that peace prevails in our state.” On his part, the governor of Kaduna state, Uba Sani, has expressed his [desire to work with the traditional institutions](#) to rid Kaduna state of banditry. Besides his commitment to ending insecurity in the State, it is important to note that Governor Uba Sani is an avid [proponent of state police](#). He believes that governors have limited authority over security organisations.

Recommendations

- With most bandit activities occurring in areas with low policing and limited government presence, there is a need to increase policing in these areas.
- Assaults against bandits can be enhanced for effective results and outcomes through the strengthening of communication channels between local vigilantes and security forces,
- It is important to increase efforts to mop up and seize illegal weapons to curtail the spread of weapons among bandit organisations.
- Government and development agencies should improve and sustain non-combative efforts in the affected communities.

Farmer-Herder Conflicts



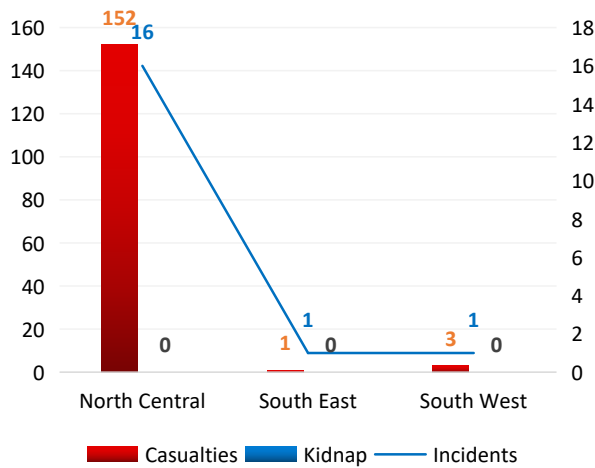
Background

The dispute in Nigeria between herders and farmers over land and pasture is a [major and rising conflict](#) causing casualties and raising tensions, particularly in the country's Middle Belt. Due to drought and dryness in the north, herders have been compelled to seek grazing grounds, resulting in resource competition and confrontations with farmers. This conflict has caused enormous loss of life and livelihoods, displacements and increased food security. Women, children and indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable.

The Trend of Violent Conflict

Violent Conflict Data by Region:
Farmer-Herder Conflict

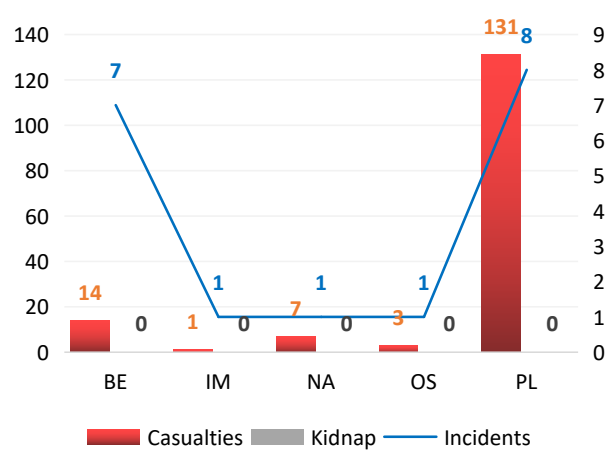
Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Violent Conflict Data by State: Farmer-Herder Conflict

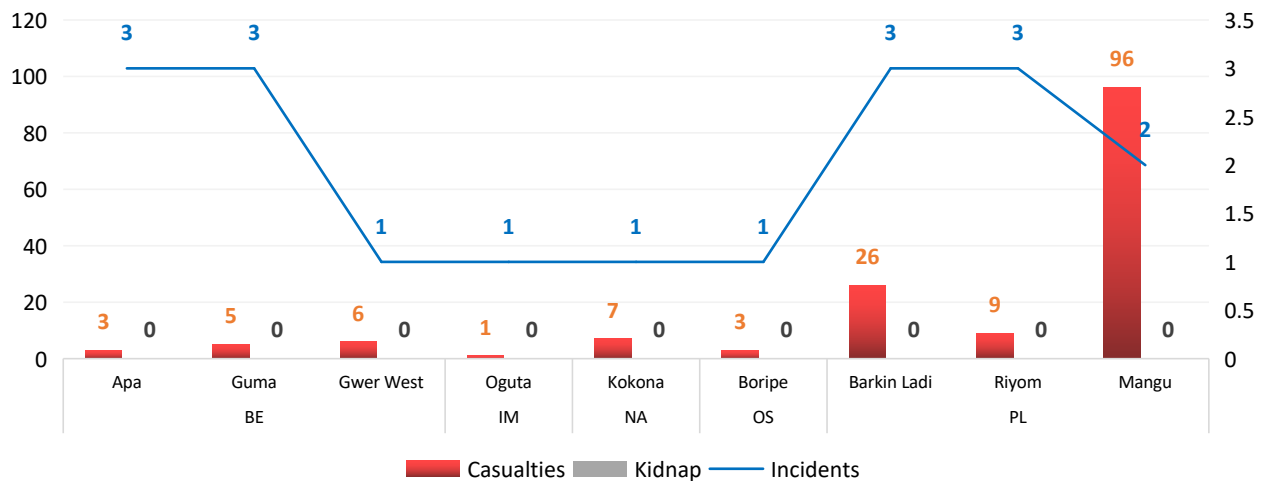
Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Affected LGAs: Farmer-Herder Conflict

Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Key Findings

The North Central region of Nigeria is the epicentre of the farmer-herder conflict, with Plateau State suffering the most casualties during the review period. The heightened violence in the plateau was triggered by retaliatory clashes sparked by ethnic and religious divisions. Violent attacks in Barkin Ladi, Riyom, and Mangu local government areas of Plateau state led to 131 casualties. These affected local governments recorded between two to three incidents each.

Key Responses

Several peace moves have been initiated to trace the root causes and broker peace between warring groups. For example, some stakeholders recently [convened in Mangu and Riyom](#) local government areas of the State to discuss solutions to the crisis. The stakeholders include the newly elected state governor, Caleb Mutfwang, his deputy, Josephine Piyo, traditional rulers, and the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) leadership.

Recommendations

- The government should introduce and implement transparent land management policies that handle land disputes between farmers and herders. This could entail properly delineating and mapping grazing reserves, farmlands, and other land resources.
- Both farmers and herders should be encouraged to diversify their livelihood sources. This can be accomplished by offering training, education, and skill development programs.
- Existing and new policies must target inclusive measures to overcome the mistrust between farmers and herdsmen. The federal or State governments may support these organisations.
- Law enforcement agencies should prioritise surveillance and monitoring in volatile areas. This may require the creation of specialised teams or new operations.

Gunmen Attacks

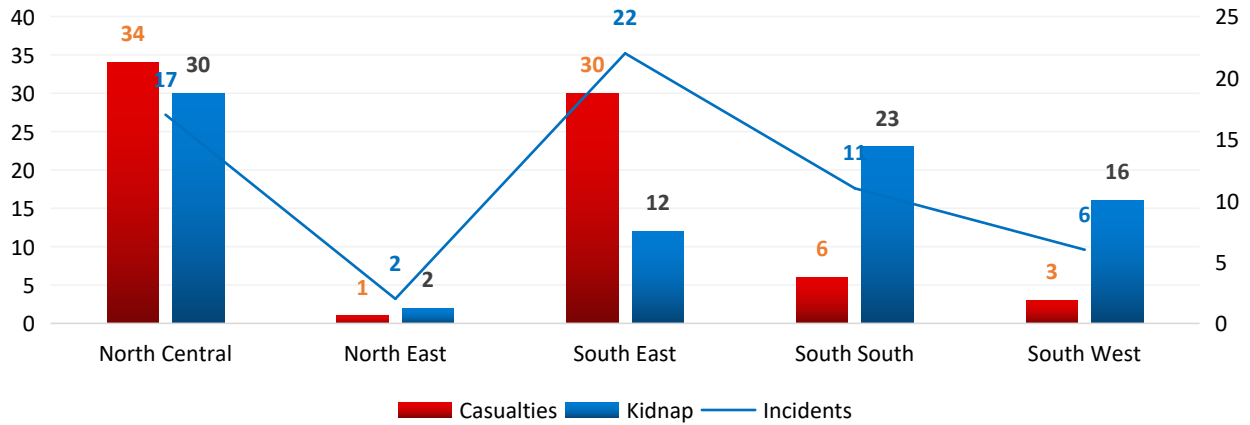


The Trend of Violent Conflict

Killings by gunmen have become a daily occurrence nationwide, even though the [reportage seems downplayed](#). Attacks by these gunmen, whose identities are mostly “unknown”, constitute a separate challenge. Their tactics and targets include intermittent shooting, kidnapping, maiming, arson, jailbreak, and extrajudicial killing. Innocent citizens, politicians, government officials and institutions, and business organisations are among their targets. Their activities occur in rural and urban areas, day and night. The devastation of life and property, displacement, and food shortages are all consequences of gunmen violence. While the epidemic is reported throughout Nigeria, the South East Region is identified as a hotspot due to the frequency of gunmen attacks. These gunmen attacks are linked to separatist agitators like the region’s Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Violent Conflict Data by Region: Gunmen Attacks

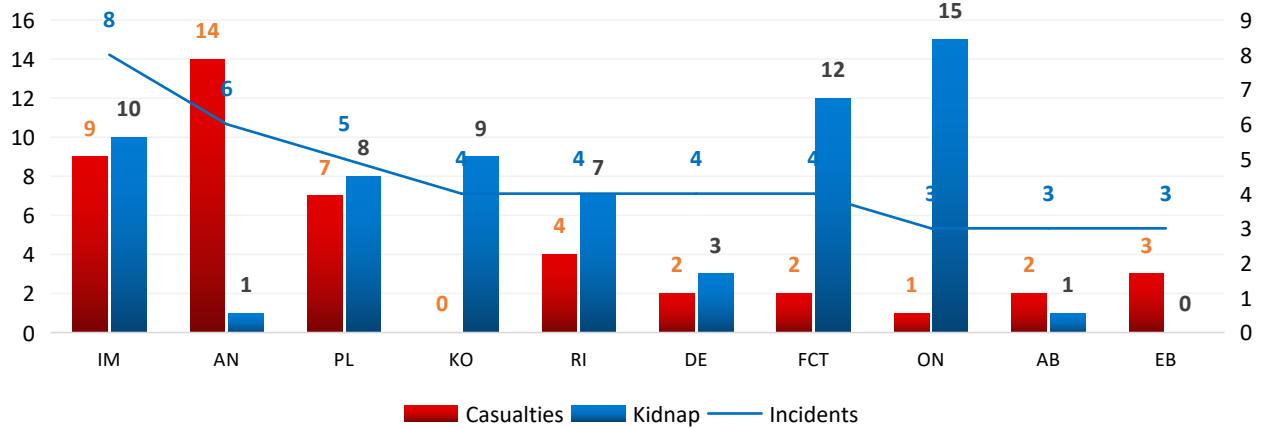
Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Most Affected States: Gunmen Attacks

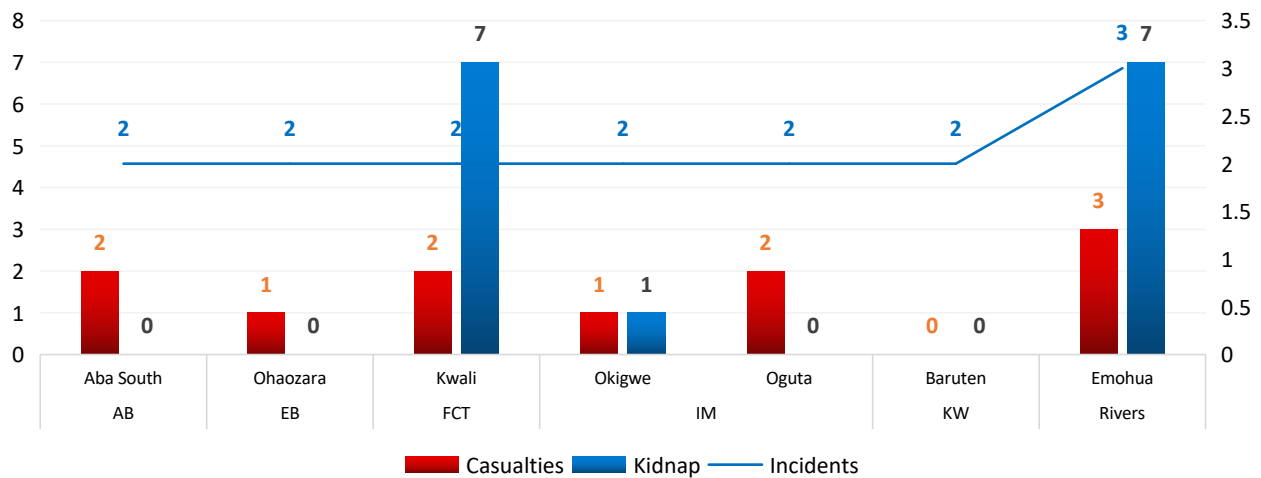
Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Most Affected LGAs: Gunmen Attacks

Period: May 2023 - June 2023



Source: Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Key Findings

Data from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database shows that the South East recorded the highest number of incidents (22) while the North Central recorded the most casualties (34). At the state level, Imo recorded the most violent attacks with eight, while Anambra had the most casualties with 14.

Key Responses

Across the country, the response to gunmen violence by security agencies has been [kinetic](#). There is no specific or isolated approach to identifying, tracking and capturing gunmen in Nigeria. In the South East, some [stakeholders have urged](#) for a complete reform of the security architecture in the zone. They claim that the zone's broken security infrastructure is a key source of insecurity. Other stakeholders have canvassed for the release of Nnamdi Kanu to help [salvage](#) the situation in the region.

Recommendations

- The government should leverage technology to trace and reveal the identities of unknown and unidentified criminals perpetrating violence. For example, dedicated surveillance devices can be massively deployed in public spaces to monitor, track and identify these gunmen.
- The government should address socioeconomic factors like poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy to curb the increasing insecurity.
- Existing community policing initiatives should be strengthened and sustained to foster trust and cooperation between security agencies, community leaders and community members. This strategy is relevant for effective intelligence gathering.
- There is a need to prioritise peacebuilding measures to address gunmen violence that may have hidden or open ethnic and religious nuances.

Conclusion

Acts of banditry, gunmen attacks and farmer-herder conflicts have continued to plague various parts of Nigeria. Despite the move away from other conflict types that characterised previous months like thuggery, the disputes mentioned above have taken centre stage and require attention if the security situation is to be addressed. To address the growing problem, rigorous policy planning and implementation are necessary as the new administration pledges to change the security narrative in Nigeria. Despite efforts by law enforcement agents, the trend of insecurity through the various conflict types through May and June remains an existential threat to security and requires greater decisive action.



Nextier

Contact

info@thenextier.com
+2349131303903
thenextier.com