

**INTRODUCTION**

Security reports for the month of September present the continued efforts and struggle by security agencies and government to fight insecurity in the country to a stop. It must be mentioned that security agencies have taken drastic step intended to restore normalcy to some troubled states of the country. For instance, with the support from the Governor of Zamfara state, the military directed a shutdown of telecommunications in some part of the state in a bid to aid the war against banditry in the state<sup>1</sup>. There has been reports that this strategy by the government is yielding some results but notwithstanding, there are still reports of some bandit attack in the state<sup>2</sup>.

Similarly, the month under review also recorded politically motivated violence in Anambra state as we approach the forthcoming gubernatorial election in the state scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2021.

What remains unsolved in these events of violence in the state is who to take responsibility for the violence being recorded in the state of late. Contrary to popular opinion and thoughts, IPOB has come out to announce that the group ‘has not declared a no election in Anambra state’<sup>3</sup>. Nonetheless, election pundits have continued to finger the group or ‘unknown gunmen as being responsible for the violence being recorded in the state’<sup>4</sup>.

Furthermore, despite several steps by the government to curtail kidnappings, this act of treachery to the State, remains an enigma begging for urgent solutions. The rate of kidnappings in the country simply suggests the complementing rate of poverty in the country<sup>5</sup>.

Kidnappings in the country since its popular emergence in the Niger Delta till its infamous spread across the country has been for its economic gains<sup>6</sup>



<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nwest/483366-why-we-shut-down-telecommunications-networks-in-zamfara-governor.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://punchng.com/telecom-blackout-killings-abductions-continue-in-zamfara-two-week-shutdown-extended/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2021/09/27/we-have-not-declared-no-election-in-anambra-ipob-insists/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://guardian.ng/politics/insecurity-killings-threaten-anambra-governorship-election/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://noi-polls.com/unemployment-and-poverty-cited-as-top-reasons-for-rise-in-kidnapping/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/blog/drivers-nigerian-kidnapping-morph-politics-poverty>

which buttresses the need for government to find a solution to the ravaging poverty in the land.

Unfortunately, the rate of killings from violent conflicts in the country has remained unabated as there were several reports of killings across the country in the month under review.

The CSS Tracker for this month examines these events that were reported with the view of providing workable recommendations for relevant stakeholders and policymakers.

## METHODOLOGY

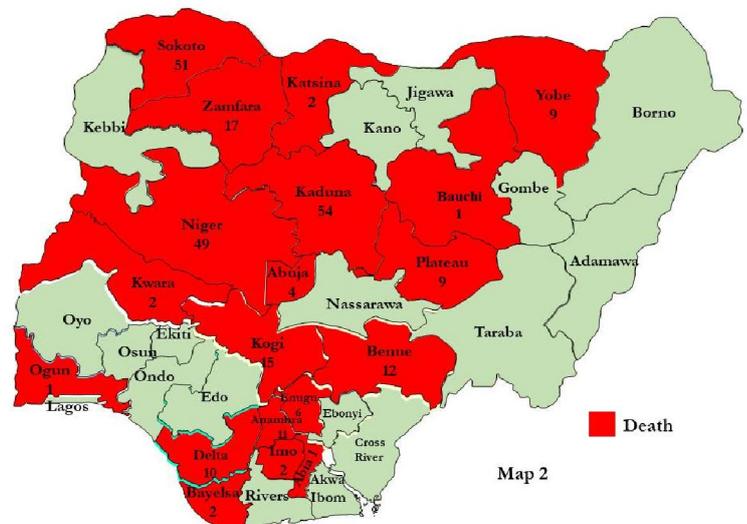
CLEEN Foundation adopted a unique approach in gathering information to populate the CSS Tracker. The Foundation made use of Google Alerts which is a web intelligence tool to gather information on reported incidences of violence/insecurity in the country. The reported cases provided the opportunity for critical analysis. Recommendations were made based on reported issues within the reporting period of 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## KIDNAPPINGS

Within the reporting period, there were **222 reported cases of kidnapping** across the country. Map 1 shows that Zamfara state had the most reported cases of kidnapping with 77 cases. Yet again, this included 73 school children that were kidnapped from Government Day Secondary School in Maradun Local Council of the state<sup>7</sup>. This again calls the effectiveness of the Safe School

<sup>7</sup> <https://guardian.ng/news/zamfara-imposes-curfew-closes-schools-as-bandits-kidnap-73-students/>

Initiative<sup>8</sup> of the government to question especially in seriously troubled states of the federation susceptible to kidnapping of students. Another trend in cases of kidnapping in the country now is how family members of political officeholders are kidnapped for ransom<sup>9</sup>. This could portend a general disenchantment and grievances from the masses based on inequitable distribution of economic resources the increasing poverty in the land. Hence, there is an urgent need for government to tackle socio-economic challenges facing average Nigerians.



Map 2

<sup>8</sup> <http://theirworld-awas-legacy.s3.amazonaws.com/Safe-Schools-Report-Nigeria.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2021/09/06/gunmen-kill-ward-head-abduct-sgs-brother-lawmakers-family-in-katsina-2/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/09/gunmen-kill-ward-head-abduct-sgs-brother-lawmakers-family-in-katsina-2/>

## KILLINGS

The level of killings in the country either by ‘unknown gunmen’ or ‘bandits’ is in its crescendo. There were **258 reported killings** in the month under review across the country. These killings also included targeted attacks and killings of security personnel across the country<sup>11</sup>. This raises a great concern of trust and dependability among the citizens who sees security agencies as the haven away from the various forms of insecurities in the country. **Map 2** gives a presentation of states and the number of killings witnessed within the period. The month also recorded politically motivated killings in Anambra state which can be linked to the forthcoming gubernatorial election in the state in November 2021. Also, Kaduna state remains a ‘redzone’ due to number of killings in the state. For instance, it was reported that 48 persons were gruesomely killed in Zango Kartaf and Kaura local government areas of the state<sup>12</sup> in the month under review and this is coupled with other killings reported in the state within the period. The rate of killings in the country in recent times is troubling and continuously queries the ability and sincerity of the government both at the Federal and State levels to provide



political, administrative, and dynamic solutions to these challenges. As alluded earlier, the month also recorded painful killings of security personnel across the country thereby further heightening the tension in the affected

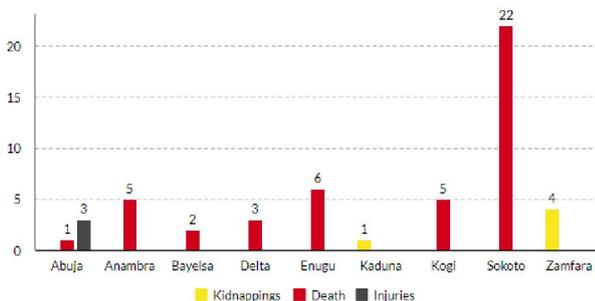
communities. The **Chart below** shows the record of killings of security personnel in the country in the month under review.

The chart shows that Sokoto state recorded the highest number of attacks on security personnel which led to the unfortunate loss of lives of 22 personnel<sup>13</sup>. These sort of attacks of security personnel not only adversely affects the morale of other security and law enforcement personnel to continue in the fight against the insecurity facing the country but also beclouds the image of the of country due to its negative impact on foreign and domestic investors) while also bleeding out the economic development of the country.

## CONCLUSION

Concerns on (in)security in Nigeria today is showing the propensity of a total anomie unless government intervenes with result yielding measures. Increasing cases of killings and kidnaping in the country heightens poverty in the country as investors become wary of setting business capable of

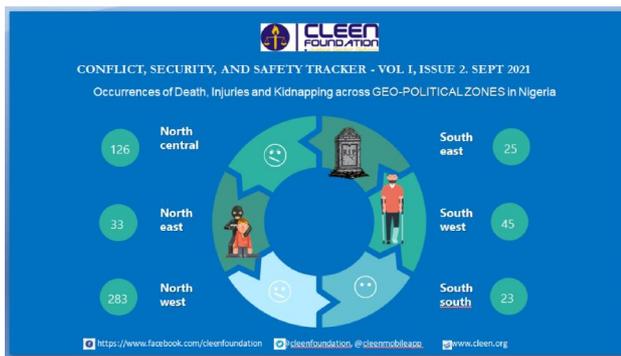
Security Personnel Attack



<sup>13</sup>

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/486881-bandits-killed-17-security-agents-in-sokoto-attack-lawmaker.html>

ameliorating the sufferings in the land. It is



therefore expedient that the government come up with workable solutions to these challenges before it permanently damage the last fiber of cohesion in the country.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. **Intensified Air Reconnaissance:** The ability of security agencies to intelligently monitor camps of bandits or insurgents will help to mitigate attacks and nip security challenges to the board. This strategy will help to reduce casualties of personnel, mitigate attacks, and provide intelligence capable of defeating insurgents.
2. **Improved School Security:** There is need for the government to revisit the Safe School Initiative and embark in the implementation of providing a standby security arrangement for schools to avoid cases of school children kidnap in the country. In view of the growing trend of student kidnap in the country, there is need to have a multistakeholder approach which will consist of both the private and the public sectors to design a security arrangement which will specifically respond to the protection of students across the country.

3. **People-centric Solution for Insecurity in the South-East:** The government over the years have instituted several military operations with the aim of solving the insecurity challenges in the South-East region but unfortunately these initiatives and operations have had very minimal impact on the state of things in the region. With the increasing spate of killings in Anambra state ahead of the gubernatorial election, there is an urgent need for the government to intentionally review the kinetic approach being used in the region and embrace solutions that are people centric.

4. **Improved Strategies for the Protection of Security Personnel:** The month under-review had reports of killings of security personnel by different groups. It is therefore imperative for government to leverage on a relationship with host communities designed to provide intelligence to security operatives on the safety and security of not just the communities but also the lives of the security personnel. The strategy is to build an alliance with community members capable of providing support and protection to security operatives for them to discharge their roles appropriately. In a similar vein, the government needs to prioritize the protection of frontline personnel who have dedicated their lives to combating crime in all its form and protecting the territorial integrity of Nigeria