



# PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY TRACKER

February 2026



**CLEEN**  
FOUNDATION  
*Justice Sector Reform*

# Executive Summary

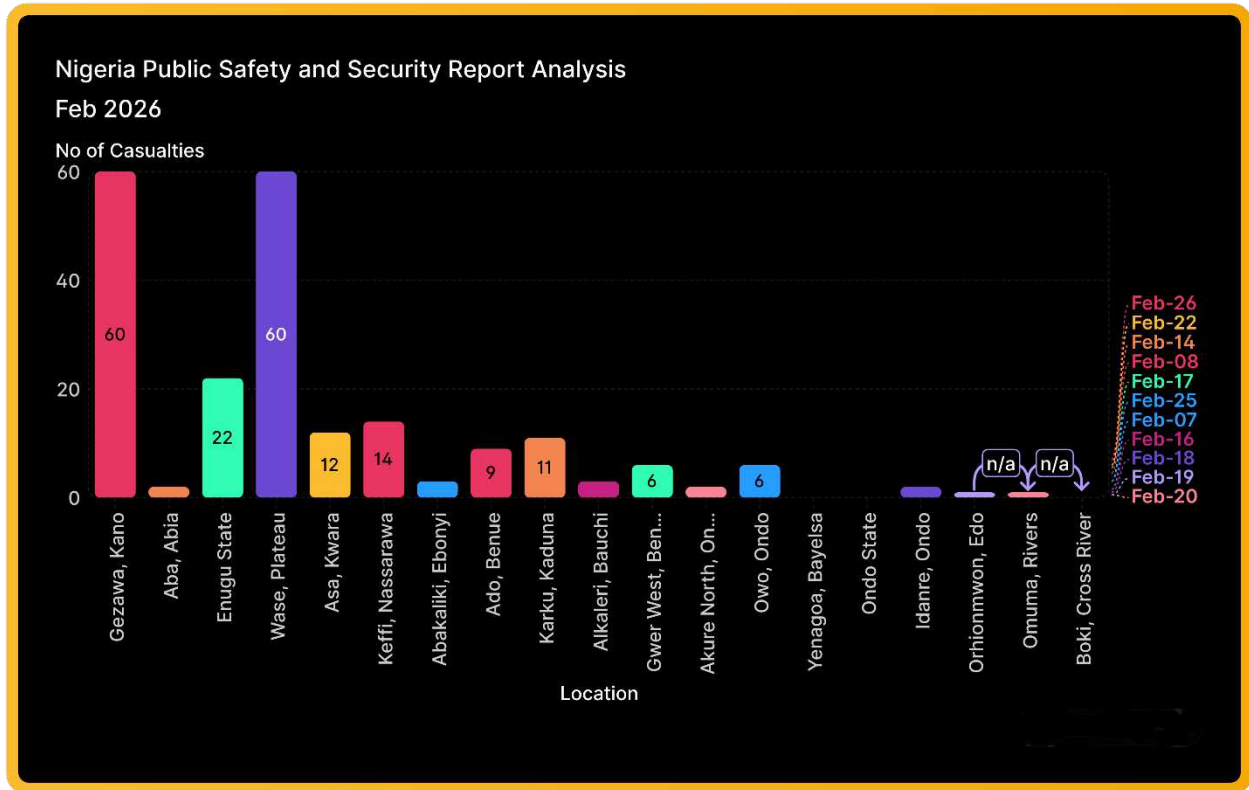
**N**igeria continues to face a complex and multi-layered security crisis that spans insurgency, banditry, political violence, public safety failures, and institutional accountability challenges. Persistent insurgent attacks remain a major threat in parts of Kwara, Adamawa and Zamfara following renewed attacks by Boko-Haram and ISWAP, while banditry continues to be expanded into North-Central states such as Plateau and Benue, increasing rural insecurity and mass-casualty incidents.

Election-related violence, particularly in Ondo, highlights the continued politicization of violence at the subnational level. At the same time, recurring fatal road crashes in states like Kano and Nasarawa reveal weak enforcement of road safety regulations.

Incidents of security force misconduct in Lagos and Ogun further expose gaps in accountability mechanisms. Overall, the lack of coordinated early-warning systems, intelligence sharing, and data-driven policing continues to limit preventive action, leaving security responses largely reactive rather than proactive.

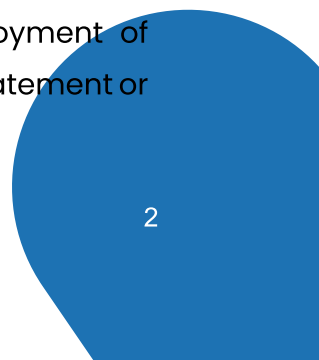
# Categorized Security Tracker

## (Feb 2026)



Between 4th and 26th February 2026, Nigeria recorded 32 major security incidents across 19 states, resulting in over 320 confirmed fatalities, dozens of injuries, and multiple abductions. These incidents spanned multiple categories, including terrorism and banditry attacks, kidnapping and abduction, communal and armed violence, election-related violence, accidental deaths arising from road, environmental, and industrial causes, domestic and criminal homicide, security force misconduct, as well as explosions and arson.

The North-Central and North-West zones remained the most affected regions during the reporting period, particularly Plateau, Benue, Zamfara, Kebbi, and Adamawa, where several high-fatality attacks were recorded. Election-related violence also resurfaced in Ondo, signaling rising political tensions at the subnational level as the race for 2027 begins. Banditry and terrorist attacks accounted for the highest number of fatalities overall, while road traffic accidents significantly contributed to mass-casualty incidents nationwide. Government responses largely involved the deployment of security personnel and tactical units; however, in several cases, no official statement or immediate response was recorded at the time of reporting.

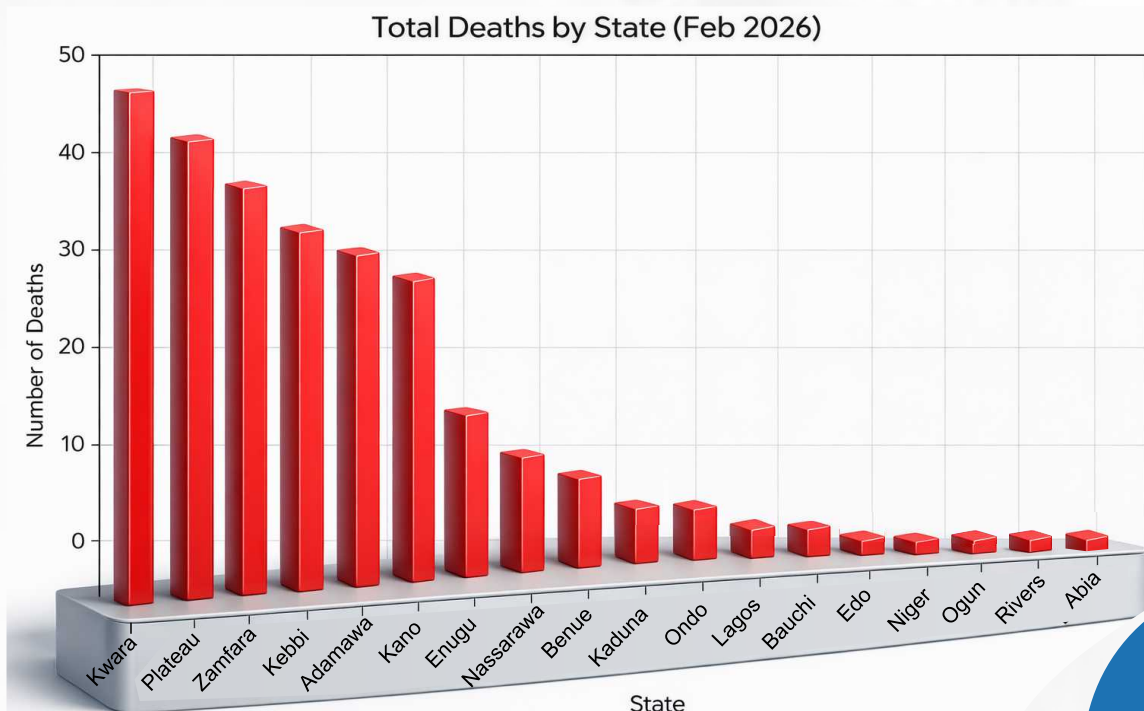


## Data Analysis & Observations

# 1 Fatality Trends

The month of February 2026 was exceptionally violent. The reported incidents account for at least 250 deaths. The Northern and Middle Belt regions bore the brunt of the violence.

- Terrorism/Banditry remains the leading cause of death (approx. 140+ deaths).
- Public Safety/Accidents (Road, Rail, Mining) contributed to a significant secondary spike in mortality (approx. 90+ deaths).
- Kwara State recorded the highest death toll (46 deaths), primarily due to a singular ferocious attack in Kaiama.
- Plateau State (41 deaths) and Zamfara State (38 deaths) remain hotspots for banditry and industrial accidents due to illigal mining activities.
- Kebbi and Adamawa also saw significant casualties linked to extremist group activities (Lakurawa and Boko-Haram/ISWAP).

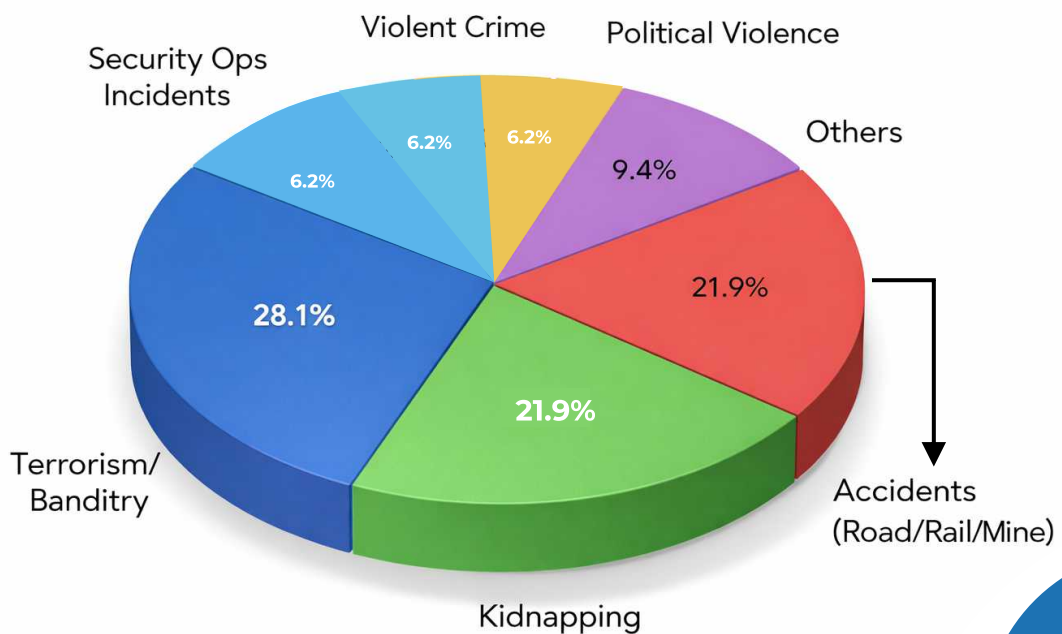


# 2

## Incident Categorization

- Terrorism & Banditry cumulated to 31.2% largely responsible for the majority of deaths, often involving indiscriminate fire on communities.
- While Kidnapping was at 25%, and it has become a persistent threat across the South-West and North-Central zones, frequently targeting religious gatherings and travelers.
- Accidents was at 18.8%, as road, rail, and mining accidents contributed significantly to the mortality rate, highlighting a secondary crisis in public safety infrastructure.
- Violent Crime & Political Unrest accounted for the remainder, with a noticeable spike in election-related violence in Ondo State and Edo State.

Distribution of Security Incidents by Category



# 3

## Strategic Observations



- Kidnappings and arson attacks frequently occurred at religious/holy grounds during service, suggesting a pattern of targeting soft targets during hours of perceived vulnerability.
- While Ondo State did not amount to the deadliest in terms of raw numbers, it recorded the highest frequency of diverse incidents (Political thuggery, Monarch murder, and Church abductions), indicating a multi-faceted security breakdown.
- Security Force Casualties as attacks in Adamawa and Bauchi specifically targeted military bases and Joint Task Force (JTF) personnel, showing a bold escalation in insurgent tactics.

# 4

## Government & Security Response



- Although security responses in most incidents were reactive, there were notable proactive interventions in some cases. In the Bayelsa IED incident and the Edo murder case, arrests were promptly committed. Additionally, in Plateau, the Ministry of Solid Minerals took swift action by ordering the immediate shutdown of the affected mining site to prevent further risk and facilitate investigation.
- Reactive gaps as In several instances (Bauchi abduction, Benue kidnapping, Rivers domestic violence), police "had not yet received official reports" or had "no official statement," suggesting a lag in communication between local incidents and central commands.

# 5

## Recommendations



- Increased high-way patrols to deter kidnappings and expand tactical rescue units for kidnapping hotspots.
- Institutionalise community-level Early Warning & Early Response (EWER) systems and strengthen community policing.
- Places of worship, especially those holding night vigils, require better coordination with security agencies.
- The mining disaster highlights a need for stricter enforcement of safety protocols and emission monitoring in the solid minerals sector.



Get in Touch!

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