



## **National Early Warning System (NEWS)**

### **Situation Report on the Mitigation of Threats to the peaceful conduct of the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria**

*January 2019*

#### **Introduction**

As the 2019 Presidential, Gubernatorial and Legislative Elections in Nigeria draw closer, political parties have intensified their electioneering across the country to canvas votes from the electorates. While parties' election activities indicate commitment to the democratic process and participation in Nigeria, these activities have not been devoid of tension and politically motivated violence in the country. The heightened tension and violence preceding the polls have implications to the peaceful conduct of the elections. In the month of January 2019, incidents related to physical violence, armed attacks, abuse of citizens by security forces, destruction of campaign material and property, demonstrations and hate speeches among others were recorded by the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) through the election monitoring platform across Borno, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Imo, Kaduna, Kogi, Kano, Lagos, Rivers, Taraba and Yobe States, among others. The current report highlights the incidents recorded within the month that have implications for the peaceful conduct of the elections, and recommends options for response and mitigation.

#### **Current Election Security Threats in Nigeria**

##### **Physical Violence**

- On January 2, 2019, the Alliance for Democracy (AD) governorship candidate, Hakeem Alao, was attacked by unknown persons at his office in Ibadan, Oyo State. He sustained injuries while his car was damaged.

- On January 5, 2019, Boko Haram fighters attacked a military division in Goniri, Gujba Local Government Area, Yobe State. The attack, which was repelled by the military, led to the death of 80 Boko Haram fighters and the injury of 20 others including civilians.
- On January 7, 2019, suspected Boko Haram fighters attacked Auno village in Konduga Local Government Area, Borno State, killing 15 people with 20 reported injuries. The attacks led to the destruction of properties in the community.
- On January 8, 2019, a leading member of the ruling APC was attacked by opposition party supporters in Dawakin Tofa, Kano State. The incident led to three deaths and injury to two people.
- On January 8, 2019, the campaign rally for the Lagos State APC governorship candidate was marred by violence from by suspected opposition party supporters. One person was killed while and eight people sustained injuries.
- On January 9, 2019, three Local Government Council chairmen in Emure LGA, Ekiti State, were abducted. Two were subsequently released and one was killed by the kidnappers
- On January 11, 2019, a mass defection of PDP supporters to APC triggered violent demonstration by supporters of PDP in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.
- On January 11, 2019, traders in Ijoke and Oja Oba, Ekiti State, were attacked by suspected supporters of the State Governor, for supporting the former governor of the state. Five people sustained injuries.
- On January 11, 2019, the former commissioners Kayode Fayemi, Remi Olorunleke and David Jejelowo were abducted in Ekiti State. Though they were released, two people sustained injuries in the incident.
- On January 12, 2019, a supporter of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was shot during the party's political rally in Lokoga Government Area, Kogi State.
- On January 12, 2019, unidentified youth group attacked supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at the APC's rally in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. 17 people sustained injuries and properties were destroyed.

- On January 12, 2019, the campaign secretariat of the Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Prince Mathew Kolawola of the APC was destroyed by suspected political party youths. Another billboard belonging to Senator Dino Melaye of the PDP was also destroyed in Lokoja, Kogi State. Five people were killed in the incident.
- On January 13, 2019, violence broke out between supporters of the APC governorship candidate and supporters of the PDP opposition leader, Senator Bukola Saraki, during a political rally in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. Three people were reported dead while 16 sustained injuries. Properties of traders in the area were looted during the clash.
- On January 14, 2019, five vehicles belonging to the PDP governorship candidate in Enugu State, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, and his deputy were destroyed by unidentified supporters of opposition political parties.
- On January 15, 2019, intra party violence was reported among AA party supporters over disagreements to support either the PDP or the APC presidential candidate in Imo State
- On January 18, 2019, campaign posters and billboards of the SDP House of Representative candidate for Ankpa Igalamela Federal Constituency were destroyed in Lokoja town and Ankpa Local Government Area.
- On January 18, 2019, an APC supporter was stabbed with a knife during a campaign in Lokoja, Kogi State.
- On January, 18, 2019, a supporter of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) senatorial candidate for Kogi Central was killed at Okene Lokoja Local Government Area, Kogi state.
- On January 18, 2019, the PDP governorship candidate for Kaduna State was attacked by unidentified group at the Kaduna International Trade Fair Complex in Igabi LGA, Kaduna State. Three people were injured in the incident
- On January 19, 2019, campaign vehicles belonging to APC were destroyed at Iva Valley in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State by suspected opposition party supporters.

- On January 19, 2019, two political groups (Sabon Layi and Magame Youth Groups) clashed in Jalingo Local Government Area of Taraba State resulting the death of two persons and injury to seven others.
- On January 19, 2019, the Special Adviser to the Governor of Rivers State on Lands and Survey, Chief Anugbom Onuoha, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen at Ada George, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
- On January 19, 2019, inter political party clashes were reported in Wukari, Taraba State. Five people were wounded while properties were destroyed.
- On January 20, 2019, PDP supporters allegedly attacked the campaign team of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), destroying vehicles, posters and billboards of the party.
- On January 22, 2019, alleged APC party supporters destroyed properties of PDP at its secretariat in an attempt to disrupt the party's rally at Okene, Kogi State.
- On January 22, 2019, two children were shot and wounded during a violent clash between supporters of APC and PDP over destruction of campaign materials in Anyigba, Dekina Local Government Area, Kogi State. Two vehicles belonging to the PDP candidate were destroyed.
- On January 22, 2019, violent protest was reported in Gboko Local Government Area of Benue over the suspension of six local government chairmen of the APC. 12 people were injured in the incident.
- On January 22, 2019, inter party clash between APC and ADC supporters resulted in the destruction of chairs, canopies and other campaign materials at Ofu Local Government Area of Kogi State.
- On January 24, 2019, the Imo State Social Media Agent of the APC was attacked and injured by suspected opposition party supporters.
- On January 24, 2019, An interparty clash between PDP and APC supporters led to the death of a PDP and shooting of an APC during a PDP political rally in Kaduna State.
- On January 25, 2019, there was reported complaint by Prince Henry Okafor, the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) candidate for Ohagi Egbeme-Oguta-Oru Federal

Constituency, Imo State, of politically motivated destruction of his private residence by the Imo State Government.

- On January 29, 2019, intra political conflict by PDP supporters during a rally in Okwo, Ohaukwu LGA, Ebonyi State resulted to six people injured.
- On January 29, 2019, citizens complained of abuse and restriction of movement by security agents during the APC National campaign event at Dam Anyiam Stadium. 10 people were injured during the event.

### **Ethics and Procedure**

- On January 3, 2019, concerns were raised by the former Governor of Ekiti State, Ayodele Fayose of the PDP, over the appointment of Mrs. Amima Zakari as the Chairperson of the 2019 General Election Coalition Committee by INEC Chairman on the ground that she is related to President Buhari.
- On January 19, 2019, PDP supporters in Ekiti State accused Governor Kayode Fayemi, of frustrating their campaign efforts by denying them access to the venue for their events in the State.
- On January 25, Governor Rochas Okorocha of Imo State was accused of using 645 government-owned buses to convey party supporters to their campaign venue. In addition, the governor was also accused of shutting down public schools to facilitate the political rally of his son in-law, Chief Uche Nwosu of the AA.

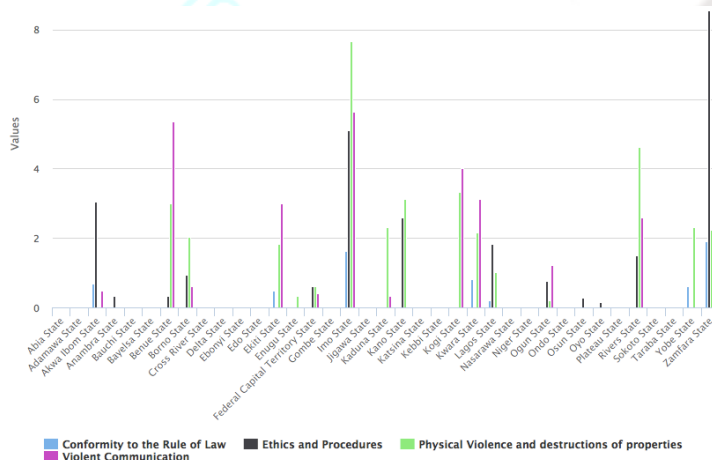
### **Hostile Communication**

- On January 2, 2019, the PDP South West Coordinator in Ekiti State, Fayose, accused the current Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo, of looting, misusing state funds, and buying votes in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.
- On January 10, 2019, there was reported hostile communication between youth groups supporting former Governor of Benue State, the senator representing Zone B and the Governor as they threatened to disrupt each candidate's campaigns in the State.

- On January 19, 2019, supporters of Action Alliance (AA) senatorial candidate for Imo East, Barr Chyma Anthony threatened to disrupt effort by any opposition party candidate to emerge winner in Owerri during the scheduled governorship elections of March 2, 2019 in the State. They are insisted that it is the time for their zone to produce a governor for Imo State.

### Statistical Overview of Electoral Threats

Data generated from the WANEP NEWS Election Monitoring System indicated 51 incidents of election related threats within the categories of Physical violence, Hostile Communication, Ethics and Procedure and Rule of Law in the month of January 2019. Out of the 51 incidents recorded, there were 113 fatalities and 141 injuries. A significant number of the incidents occurred in Borno, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Imo, Kaduna, Kogi, Kano, Lagos, Rivers, Zamfara and Yobe States. These States constitutes potential hotspots for electoral violence in line with existing trend analysis from December 2018 to January 31 2019. Physical attacks recorded the highest frequency with 25% of the total number of incidents reported. Hostile Communication and ethics and procedure recorded lower percentage margins in terms of frequency of occurrence.



**Fig. 1: A graph representing frequency of incidents across the States of Nigeria**

The Dredit: WANEP NEWS data graphs indicates the predominance of physical violence from all the incident reports submitted across the States.

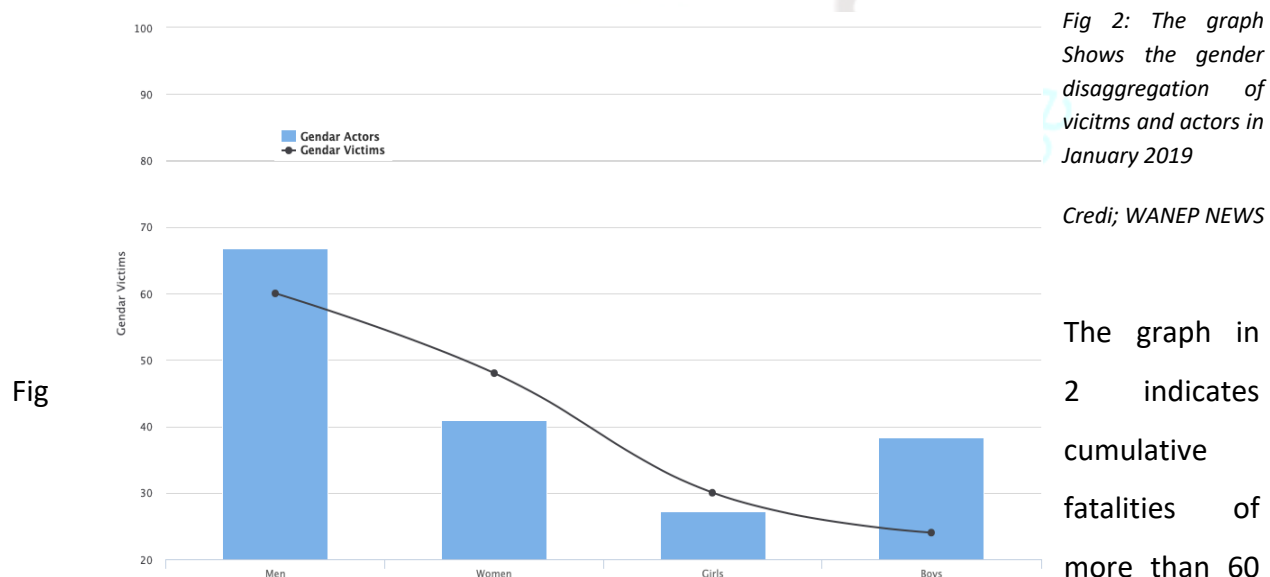
There was a significant increase in fatalities with a total of 99 deaths recorded and 77 injured in January in comparison to December 2018, which recorded 11 deaths and 41 injuries. The reduction in the number of armed attacks could be attributed to intensification actions by security operations in the hotspot areas including, Borno, Benue and Kaduna States. In contrast, the increase in fatalities



and injuries does not suggest a widespread frequency of violence but was as result of a specific incident with significant reported casualties such as the attack of January 5, 2019 in Goniri, Yobe State that resulted in 80 deaths and 20 injuries. Physical attacks including abductions, intolerance, and intimidation increased from three incidents in December 2018 to 13 in January 2019.. There are also perceptions that situations of physical violence might increase in the week leading up to the elections and post-election period.

Importantly, the gender dimension of incidents recorded in January is reflected in the graph below.

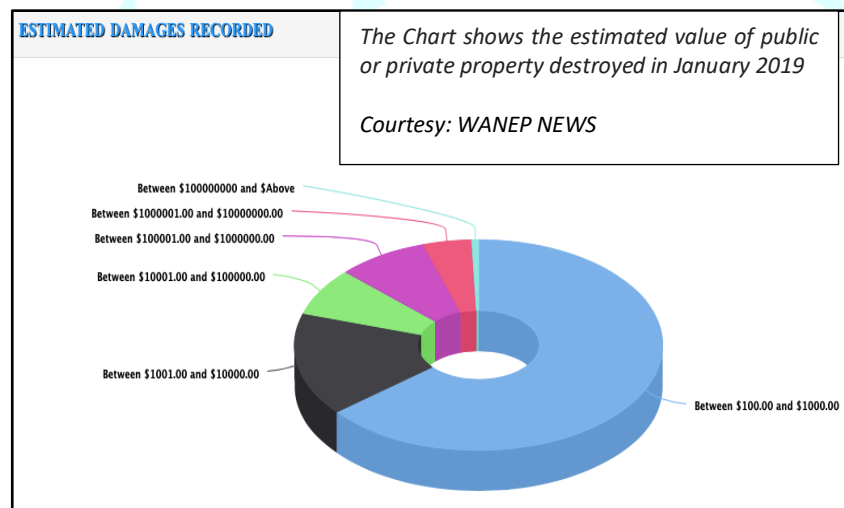
### Gender Disaggregation of Victims and Actors of Election Related Violence in Nigeria in January 2019



males and 41 females as both victims and actors in the reporting period. Given the increasing level of negative impact of the violent incidents on women, this could increase a low level of participation by women in the election for fear of violence.. The high fatality among men is also an indication of their involvement as victims as well as perpetrators of violence in the period leading to the elections. In terms of comparative analysis for stakeholders highlighted as actors or victims in the December 2018 and January 2019 reports, political party members and

supporters, especially youth, were most reported as primary actors and victims of election related violence in the reports.

### Estimated value of damages to property in Nigeria in January 2019



The cumulative figures of damage to property indicates that nine vehicles and several other campaign materials, including banners, posters, billboards, and offices of political parties were destroyed across the states. The value of the damaged

properties range between estimated value of USD \$100 and \$100,000,000, as presented in the pie chart.

### Recommendations

- The National Peace Committee (NPC), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Faith-Based Organisations, the media and international partners should strengthen inter-party dialogue, civic and peace education, and non-violence at all levels to enhance peaceful conduct of the elections;
- National and international observers should intensify their engagement with stakeholders and the general public in implementing and monitoring adherence to the provisions of the Peace Agreement and Code of Conduct by Political;
- Security agencies should intensify proactive security responses through a linking early warning with intelligence to enhance a broad based security operations that mitigate electoral violence in the February 16 Presidential elections across the country.