



# WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

## West Africa Early Warning and Response Program - Weekly Alerts on Peace and Security in West Africa

### • HIGH

- o High potential for political destabilisation/instability
- o High number of death (above 20)/major properties damages
- o High number of population affected ( inability of the population to cope)
- o Low capacity of the state to respond to it

### • MEDIUM

- o Significant effect on political destabilisation
- o Significant reported cases of loss of life (5 to 20) and property
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### • LOW

- o Low effect on Political destabilisation
- o Loss of life (0 to 5)and property destruction not significant
- o High Capacity of the state to respond

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS ON THE NIGERIA 2019 ELECTIONS

WEEK OF 26 JANUARY TO 03 FEBRUARY 2019

S/ No	Scale of Incident	Date of Occurrence	Incidents	Location –	Casualty/property damages/ Affected Population	Coping Mechanism/ responses
1.	Low	28-01-2019	<b>ARSON:</b> The Independent National Electoral Commission’s (INEC) office at Oyigbo LGA in Rivers State was reportedly set ablaze by suspected hoodlums <sup>1</sup> . Several chairs were reportedly destroyed in the incident as investigations have commenced to ascertain the real cause of the fire incident.	Rivers State, South-South Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several properties including chairs destroyed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following further investigations, the Resident Electoral Commissioner in the State, Mr. Obo Effanga stated that the fire was as a result of electrical fault, even as the State Police Command has commenced investigations to ascertain whether the fire was ignited by arsonists or an electrical fault<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>

<https://www.withinnigeria.com/2019/01/28/inec-office-set-ablaze-in-rivers-state-few-weeks-to-elections/>  
<https://punchng.com/inec-douses-tension-as-fire-guts-rivers-office/>



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2	High	30-01-2019	<b>ABDUCTION BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN:</b> The Chief Press Secretary (CPS), Hassan Mijinyawa to the Taraba State Governor, Darius Ishaku (campaigning under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party-PDP) was abducted in an attack carried out by unidentified gunmen along Bali-Gashaka Expressway in the State, while on his way to Sardauna LGA in continuation of the State Governor's campaign tour. Also abducted was a government official and an unidentified expatriate. s <sup>3</sup> .	Taraba State, North-East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chief Press Secretary (CPS), a government official and an expatriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CPS regained freedom days after he was abducted. Aduction and Kidnapping remains a threat to political actors and public safety especially at the North in the lead up to the election. Security Intelligence linked with early warning mechanism is imperative.</li> </ul>
2	Low	29-01-2019	<b>ABDUCTION OF POLITICAL ASPIRANTS:</b> There were reports that Hon. Donatus	Abia central in Abia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APC Chairman of Abia State</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following his release, the APC leadership in the area expressed appreciation and</li> </ul>



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			Nwankpa, Chairman of the APC in Abia State was abducted and later released by unidentified gunmen.	State		contribution of the public leading to the release of the chairman.
	High	30-01-2019	<b>KIDNAPPING:</b> There are reports that Hamisu Mijinyawa the APC Chairman of Demsa Local Government of Adamawa State was abducted by unidentified persons requesting for 20 million Naira as ransom for his release.. <sup>4</sup>	Demsa LGA of Adamawa state , North-East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APC Chairman of Demsa LGA kidnapped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the incident, leadership of the APC in Demsa LGA stated that , negotiations with the suspected kidnappers was ongoing.</li> <li>• The North Eastern Nigeria remains a priority high risk area due to the impact of violent extremism and insecurity to public order. This has implication to the ability of INEC to effectively conduct a elections in this region. Strategies to minimize risk for political actors will include additional</li> </ul>

<https://www.naijanews.com/2019/01/30/gunmen-kidnap-apc-chairman-in-adamawa-demand-n20m-ransom/>



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						security to by security agencies to the vulnerability of political aspirants in from this region to kidnappers especially within the campaign period.
	High	31-1-2019	<b>INTER-PARTY CLASH:</b> There was a violent clash between supporters of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and Allied Peoples Movement (APM) during the campaign tour of APM in Abeokuta-North LGA of Ogun State. 12 political party supporters including a female supporter was injured with several properties vandalised including two vehicles belonging to the Campaign Director-General of the APM's governorship candidate, Adekunle Akinlade in the State <sup>5</sup> .	Ogun State, South-West Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Political Party supporters including a female injured.</li> <li>• Two vehicles belonging to the APM's Campaign Director-General</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injured victims received treatment at several hospitals in the State.</li> <li>• Security Personnel were deployed to restore order. The use of illicit weapons including machetes and small arms by political party supporters ahead of the general election on February 16 and March 2, 2019 will affect the ability of security agencies to prevent violence especially in heavily politically areas in Ogun State. Violent clashes is likely to continue if the security agencies do not coordinate a continuous dialogue process between the</li> </ul>

<https://punchng.com/scores-injured-as-apc-apm-supporters-clash-in-ogun/>



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			<p>The incident occurred when the campaign team of the State APC governorship candidate, Dapo Abiodun and APM's House of Representative member representing Abeokuta North/Odeda/Obafemi-Owode constituency, Mikky Kassim, met at Elega junction in the LGA.</p>			<p>political parties in the State. This is in addition to improved intelligence to manage the illicit use of small arms and light weapons by political party supporters. Also civil society needs to increase the advocacy to political parties to commit to a code of conduct to forestall further violence in the State.</p>
	Medium	01-02-2019	<p><b>DISRUPTION OF INEC'S TRAINING PROGRAMME:</b> Unidentified persons disrupted INEC's training programme for ad-hoc staff at Dikenafai Technical School, Ideato-South LGA of Imo State. The attackers took away INEC's training equipment including a megaphone<sup>6</sup>.</p>	Imo State, South-East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INEC's ad-hoc staff .</li> <li>• INEC's training equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INEC and the Police have commenced investigation on the incident. Direct attack to INEC equipment and resources has raised concerns of security. This is juxtaposed to the existing threat to the peaceful conduct of election in Imo state due to the intra and inter party tensions in the State.</li> </ul>

<https://punchng.com/hoodlums-disrupt-inec-training-in-imo/>





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	Medium	1-2-2019	<p><b>ALLEGATIONS/PROVOCATION/VIOLENCE:</b> The leadership of the Benue State chapter of the APC in Benue State have accused the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of sponsoring armed militia to disrupt the APC governorship campaign in Gbamjiba, Guma LGA of the State. Several campaign posters belonging to the APC and PDP were reportedly destroyed in the incident<sup>7</sup>. Gbamjiba is the country home of the Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, who is also the PDP governorship candidate in the State.</p>	Benue State, North-Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign posters of the APC and PDP destroyed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The antecedent of violence and insecurity in Benue State increases the possibilities of political and electoral violence especially with the existing tension between the APC and PDP to win at the the February 16 and March 2 polls. Increased occurrence of violence is likely and therefore requires continuous peace education and non violence voter participation by INEC, the security agencies and civil society organisations in the State.</li> </ul>
6	High	02-02-2019	<p><b>INTERPARTY CLASH:</b> There are reports that one person was killed and many</p>	Tungbobiri community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One person killed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the incident, injured persons</li> </ul>

<https://punchng.com/benue-apcs-offensive-songs-disrupted-campaign-police/>



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			injured following attacks by suspected Peoples Democratic Party supporters at the campaign rally of Captain Karimu, the APC senatorial candidate of Bayelsa West at Tungbobiri community in the area. <sup>8</sup>	in Bayelsa West district of Bayelsa State		received treatment.
7	High	02-02-2019	<b>INTERPARTY CLASH/ASSASSINATION:</b> There are reports that, the youth leader of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) Ojo Enesi and the youth mobiliser for Obeiba	Obeiba Ihima, Okehi LGA, Kogi State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two members of the SDP</li> <li>• SDP Campaign materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SDP leadership has released a statement calling on Federal Governemnt intervention to forestall attack of opposition party supporters on their</li> </ul>

<https://www.naijanews.com/2019/02/03/one-shot-dead-scores-injured-as-thugs-invade-apc-rally/>



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			<p>Ihima, Okehi local government area were killed by suspected supporters of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Kogi State. Prior to this incident, leadership of SDP complained that eight of their supporters were stabbed by APC's supporters during the campaign of the SDP's senatorial candidate for Kogi central<sup>9</sup></p>			<p>members and candidates across the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Interparty Advisory Council should facilitate interparty dialogues with political parties to mitigate the increase of political violence and intolerance that capable of affecting ongoing political party campaigns in the State.</li> </ul>
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<https://www.legit.ng/1219514-how-apc-thugs-allegedly-killed-brother-kogi-sdp-supporter-narrates-ordeal-photos.html>





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8	Medium	02-02-2019	<p><b>DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES/PVCs:</b></p> <p>There are reports that the Independent Electoral Commission headquarters at Umuahia in Abia State was set on fire by unknown persons. An estimated 15.000 Permenant Voter Cards were destroyed.<sup>10</sup></p>	Umuahia, Abia State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The INEC office and 15000 PVCs destroyed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to minimise public anxiety over the incident, the Resident Electoral Commissioner of Abia State has assured the public that the authentic list of registered voters is intact as the incident will not affect the voting process of Febuary 16 or March 2, 2019.</li> <li>• There is need to reinforce security at INEC offices and key officers to safeguard public confidence and credibility of the electoral process in the State.</li> </ul>
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<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/02/arsonists-break-into-inec-office-set-ablaze-15000-uncollected-pvcs-register/>