



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
- o Moderate Capacity of the state to respond to it

• 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 19TH -25TH JANUARY, 2019

S/ No	Scale of Incident	Date of Occurrence	Incidents	Location –	Casualty/property damages/ Affected Population	Coping Mechanism/ responses
1.	High	19-01-2019	INTER-PARTY CLASH: A supporter of the People’s Redemption Party (PRP) was injured and a vehicle destroyed in a violent clash between supporters of the PRP and the All Progressive Congress (APC), during the PRP’s governorship campaign rally at Bauchi Club roundabout in Bauchi State ¹ .	Bauchi State, North-East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PRP supporter injured • A vehicle destroyed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The injured victim was taken to hospital for treatment. • As the general election draws near, there is a surge in physical attacks, intimidation/threats by political parties. Thus, it is imperative for the Nigerian Police to intensify efforts to protect public safety and forestall potential threats to the

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/01/one-person-injured-as-prp-apc-supporters-clash-in-bauchi/>



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			The violent clash occurred when a vehicle belonging to a PRP supporter allegedly broke down in front of an APC campaign office in the area.			<p>general elections of February 16 and March 2, 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of civil society organisations and the media in disseminating peace messages through continuous education and enlightenment in high risk states is imperative in the lead up to the elections.
2	High	19-01-2019	<p>INTER-PARTY CLASH/DESTRUCTION OF CAMPAIGN BILLBOARDS AND POSTERS:</p> <p>Five supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressive Congress (APC) Governorship aspirants, Senator John Owan-Ehoh and Ben Ayade, were reportedly injured with several properties including houses destroyed following a violent clash between both parties supporters at Agbokim and</p>	Cross River State, South-South Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five supporters of the PDP and APC injured • Additional 30 supporters of the PDP and APC sustained minor injuries • Destruction of APC campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are reports that the Governor of Cross River State, Ben Ayade of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) issued a security directive on January 21, 2019 to the State Commissioner of Police to commence a 'stop and search operation' on all political parties campaign convoy in the State. The State Governor indicated that the security directive is due to intelligence reports that some politicians and their supporters were stockpiling arms and ammunitions ahead



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		<p>Etomi communities in Etung LGA of Cross River State. The APC Governorship candidate accused the PDP supporters of destroying his campaign posters leading to the clashes.</p> <p>Preliminary investigations revealed that an additional 30 supporters of the PDP and APC escaped the clash with minor injuries².</p>		billboards	<p>of the election³.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though Police Personnel have been deployed to the affected area to arrest suspects in connection with the crime and restore peace, the mobilization of youths as perpetrators of violence by political parties could heighten voters apathy in the forthcoming elections. It is recommended that, further investigation is conducted by the police to mitigate the stockpile and proliferation of arms by political actors and their supporters to minimize risk of violence before, during and after the elections in the state .
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<https://calabarreporters.com/39161/apc-vs-pdp-clash-injures-5>
<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/ayade-orders-police-to-search-campaign-vehicles.html>



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4	High	20-01-2019	HATE SPEECH: The Coalition for the Defence of Democracy in Nigeria (CDDN) and other civil-society groups protested in Lagos against statement made by former President Obasanjo regarding the installation of an interim government due to President Muhammadu Buhari's health status. The CDDN considered such statement as divisive and has the potential to undermine the people's will. ⁴	Lagos, Lagos state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The APC leadership and supporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the protest, leadership of the CDDN called on the Federal Government and the International Community to immediately appeal to former President Obasanjo, Atiku and other members of the opposition party to minimize rhetorics capable of leading to breakdown of law and order in the lead up to the election. • In order to have a peace campaign environment ahead of the elections, It is therefore important that, leadership of both parties refrain from statement that has the potential to undermine the peace and security of the country. The need for peace messaging and interparty dialogue is also important.
6	High	21-01-2019	INTERPARTY CLASH: Suspected APC	Dekina/Oku	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The injured victims were taken to hospital



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			<p>supporters destroyed a borehole constructed by Hassan Abdullahi (APC House of Assembly Member representing Dekina/Okura Constituency in the North-Central Region of Kogi State) leading to violent clash between supporters of both parties. The supporters of APC accused the PDP of pasting their posters on the borehole constructed by the APC aspirant ⁵</p>	<p>ra constituency in the North-Central Region, Kogi State</p>	<p>were injured</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties belonging to both parties were destroyed 	<p>for treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased political intolerance characterized by violent confrontations between the APC and PDP supporters threatens the peace and security of the State in the lead up to the election. • There is need for the Nigeria police to increase the presence of their personnel at political rallies and also improve community-police engagement to support intelligence and risk analysis that minimizes the occurrence of inter party conflicts across the States. .
7	High	21-01-2019	<p>INTER PARTY CLASHES: The PDP Presidential Campaign Organisation</p>	<p>Abuja-FCT, North-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDP in Taraba State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accusations and counter accusations of armed violence continue to trail ongoing



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		<p>(PCO) accused the APC of instigating violence in Taraba State in order to disrupt the March 2, 2019 governorship election in the State.</p> <p>The Director, Media and Publicity of the PDP-PCO, Kola Ologbondiyan, stated at a press conference in Abuja-FCT that suspected APC thugs killed a PDP member and destroyed campaign billboards, banner and posters in Wukari town, Taraba State on January 17, 2019⁶.</p>	Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One PDP member dead and campaign billboards, banner and posters destroyed 	<p>campaign by political parties, albeit, the need to commit to the Code of Conduct signed by political parties at the National and State levels to ensure compliance by their supporters to be law abiding in the lead up to the election.</p>
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<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/pdp-accuses-apc-of-plot-to-derail-taraba-guber-poll.html>



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8	Medium	21-01-2019	<p>Threat of Election Violence in Benue, Nassarawa and Taraba State: There are reports and allegations that the Benue State-based armed group led by Terwase Akwaza plans to work for key political leaders leaders to carry out attacks in Benue, Nassarawa and Taraba States⁷.</p>	Abuja-FCT, North-Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of Benue, Nassarawa and Taraba States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security strategies by the Police and other agencies should be supported by early warning analysis. This requires a sustained engaged with specialised civil society institutions that compliments security intelligence with risk analysis from the communities. This will improve the effectiveness of the police to improve public safety and mitigate threats especially in States or communities considered as hotspots for electoral violence.
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<https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/lai-mohammed-says-desperate-opposition-politicians-are-arming-boko-haram-members-and/1bpjsgy>



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9	High	21-01-2019	<p>ARMED ATTACK BY SUSPECTED POLITICAL PARTY THUGS: There are reports that the Kogi-East Senatorial candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Dr. Victor Adoje and his supporters were attacked by suspected supporters of the All Progressive Congress (APC) at Ejule/Ala Ward, Ofu LGA of Kogi State⁸.</p> <p>Several ADC supporters were injured and canopies/ chairs destroyed.</p>	Kogi State, North-Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADC supporters injured • Several canopies and chairs destroyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security forces intervened to restore order following the incident. • CSOs in Ofu LGA should engage political aspirants and supporters on dispute management strategies to strengthen dialogue among political parties.
10	High	22-01-2019	<p>VIOLENT DEMONSTRATION/INTER-PARTY CLASH: Youths alleged to be supporters of the APC destroyed PDP offices, several branded vehicles, motorbikes, campaign billboards and</p>	Benue State, North-Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several PDP offices, branded vehicles, motorbikes, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State House of Assembly has commenced investigations into the violence. • Police personnel were deployed to the affected area to maintain order, as

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/01/26/thugs-attack-sdp-senatorial-candidate/>



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		<p>flags in Gboko town, Benue State during a violent demonstration⁹.</p> <p>The youths were protesting the removal of the Gboko Local Government Council Chairman.</p> <p>The Benue State House of Assembly suspended six Local Government (LG) Council Chairmen for three months over alleged gross misconduct, misappropriation of LG funds and abuse of office. The suspension followed allegations issued by the State Governor, Samuel Ortom of the PDP¹⁰.</p>		<p>campaign billboards and flags destroyed</p>	<p>investigations continued to apprehend perpetrators.</p>
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<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/01/cars-motorbikes-offices-burnt-as-apc-pdp-supporters-clash-in-gboko/>
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/01/benue-assembly-suspends-6-lg-chairmen-apc-says-its-politically-motivated/>



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11	Low	22-10-2019	<p>DISRUPTION OF ABIA STATE GOVERNORSHIP ASPIRANTS DEBATE:</p> <p>Four members of the National Association of Abia State Students (NAAS) were injured and several properties destroyed during the State governorship debate at Abia hotel along Finbarrs road, Umuahia in Abia State¹¹. The students sustained injuries following teargas canisters fired by security officials to disperse protesting students who mounted a barricade in a bid to prevent the State Governor, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu of the PDP from leaving the premises. The properties were reportedly destroyed by members of</p>	Abia State, South-East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four students injured • Several properties destroyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the short term, security enforcement of order is required. At the medium term, the State Government, State Ministry of Education, the University administration and the Police should dialogue with the student union leadership of the Univerisity to identify strateigies that addresses the complaints of the students as well as reduce their vulnerability to political manipulation to violence throughout the election period in the State
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<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/4-injured-property-destroyed-as-abia-governorship-debate-ends-in-fiasco.html>



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			NAAS.			
12	Low	23-01-2019	ABDUCTION: A member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) was reportedly abducted in an attack carried out by unidentified gunmen at his residence in Ohueta, Okehi LGA of Kogi State ¹² .	Kogi State, North Central Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One member of the SDP abducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Police Command has commenced investigations to rescue the victim and apprehend perpetrators of the crime. • However, following this abduction case there is a need for security personnel to strengthen the security of political parties aspirants to forestall any such incident during and after the general elections.
13	Low	23-01-2019	ARREST: Officials of the State Police Command reportedly arrested three people at Yaba axis of Lagos State, while attempting to recruit several persons as fake ad-hoc staff of the Independent	Lagos State, South-West Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three people arrested • Computer and 511 INEC Lagos ad-hoc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer stated that the arrest followed complaints from the Deputy Director of INEC, Shomolu LGA, that some individuals in a shop at the Federal College of

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/01/26/thugs-attack-sdp-senatorial-candidate/>



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			National Electoral Commission (INEC). Items recovered include; a computer and 511 INEC Lagos Adhoc Recruitment forms with attached passport photographs ¹³ .		recruitment forms with attached passport photographs recovered	Education were impersonating INEC workers and recruiting ad-hoc staff. Arrested suspects have been arraigned at the Chief Magistrate Court in the State for conspiracy, impersonation, forgery, fraudulent act and unlawful possession of INEC materials ¹⁴ .
14	Low	23-01-2019	STAMPEDE: One supporter of the APC was killed and several others injured at a stampede during the APC's Presidential campaign rally at Ramat Square, Maiduguri LGA of Borno State. The stampede occurred following the collapse of the roof of a pavilion at the venue of the rally ¹⁵ .	Borno State, North-East Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One APC supporter dead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injured victims assisted by officials of the Red Cross and taken to the hospital for treatment.

<https://guardian.ng/news/fake-inec-officials-arrested-while-recruiting-ad-hoc-staff-in-lagos/bid>.

<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/one-dead-many-injured-at-buharis-campaign-stampede-in-borno.html>



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15	Medium	24-01-2019	<p>ARMED ATTACK/ABDUCTION: The APC candidate for the Edo State House of Assembly, Mr. Michael Ohio-Ezomon, was reportedly abducted in an attack carried out by unidentified gunmen at his residence in Eme-Ora, Owan-West LGA of Edo State.</p> <p>The attackers killed the security personnel attached to the APC candidate¹⁶.</p>	Edo State, South-South Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The APC candidate representing Owan-West constituency abducted • Security Personnel dead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Police Command have commenced investigations into the incident in trail of perpetrators of the crime. In view of this attack, the State Police Command should review its security strategies to provide adequate security to political aspirants to forestall a mirrored response capable of affecting the peaceful conduct of elections in the State.
16	High	25-01-2019	<p>HATE SPEECH: A faction of the APC in Rivers State has threatened to disrupt the conduct of the 2019 elections in the</p>	Rivers State, South-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats issued by APC candidates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal High Court in Rivers State had ordered INEC to remove all APC candidates in Rivers State from the 2019



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		<p>State if the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) fails to restore its candidates on the ballot.</p> <p>The threat was issued by nominated National and State Assembly candidates of the faction¹⁷.</p> <p>The APC candidate for Onelga/Ahoada-West Federal constituency, Henry Odili, accused INEC and the court of conspiring with the State Governor, Nyesom Wike, to displace APC in Rivers State.</p>	South Region		<p>general election following a suit issued by the PDP . The State High Court also nullified the primary election conducted by the APC in the State¹⁸.</p> <p>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggrieved APC party members should adhere to the court rulings pending the final pronouncement of the court judgement in order avoid confrontations in the area. • The National and State leadership of the party sould intiate dispute resolution mechanisms with the aggrieved parties to
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<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/01/no-election-without-our-candidates-rivers-apc/>
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/01/rivers-polls-we-have-enough-grounds-to-reverse-judgment-cole/>



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						forestall the instigation of electoral violence in Rivers State
17	High	24-01-2019	INTERPARTY CLASH: Members of the Peoples Democratic Party in Kogi West senatorial district has expressed serious concern over attacks perpetrated by suspected All Peoples Congress supporters against their party members at Odokoro Gbede during a campaign tour of Ijumu Local Government Area. The PDP Zonal Chairman Taiwo Kola-Ojo of the area stated that they were attacked while entering Odokoro community. Two vehicles belonging to the party and other campaign materials including chairs were destroyed. ¹⁹	Kogi West, Kogi state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two vehicles and chairs were destroyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police Area Commander, Kabba and the Divisional Police Officer, Ayetoro Gbede intervened to stop further violence. • CSOs, Election Monitoring Groups and the media in Kogi State should increase campaigns and enlightenment on political tolerance. • INEC and CSOs should engage the leadships of the political parties through the interpolitical platforms on the need to ensure compliance to the rule of law and code of conduct for political parties.

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/01/26/in-protest-against-onnoghens-suspension-pdp-suspends-atikus-campaign/>



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18	High	25-01-2019	<p>INTERPARTY CLASHES: The former governor of the Bayelsa state Chief Timipre Sylva and leader of the APC party demonstrated over the killings, intimidation and destructions of their party (APC) members and properties in the Bayelsa state. After speaking at the Police headquarters in Yenagoa, Chief Sylva expressed worries about destruction of APC presidential candidate campaign material by suspected PDP supporters in the area and the attitude of the police to conclusively investigate into the killings of the APC members in Brass Local Government Area in Bayelsa.²⁰</p>	Yenagoa, Bayelsa state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters and billboards were destroyed. • Members of the APC killed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Sylva Timipre has called the APC members and sympathizers to desist from reprisal attacks and also said that they will not allow any confrontation between the police, the state’s Independent National Election Commission and the members of the PDP. • Following the APC’s complaints over killings of its party members in Brass LGA and the alleged failure of the Police to properly investigate into the matter, raises concern of the level of threats and the fragility the state violence especially on the backdrop of pre-existing broader conflicts in the Statae. .
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<https://www.legit.ng/1217852-former-bayelsa-governor-sylva-leads-protest-intimidation-apc.html>



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- 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
- o Moderate Capacity of the state to respond to it

• 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

19	Low	25-01-2019	<p>DESTRUCTION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS: The PDP governorship candidate for the Lagos state Mr. Jimi Agbaje has condemned the destruction and removal of his campaign billboards and posters from the 3rd Mainland bridge by suspected APC supporters in the state.</p>	Lagos, Lagos state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Billboards and posters destroyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the accusation made by the PDP governorship aspirant, the Lagos State Signage and Advertising Agency (LASAA) has said that, the removal of some of those posters was not political motivated as PDP did not comply with LASAA guidelines in placing the posters and billboard.