



## NEWS SITUATION TRACKING - NIGERIA

### ARMED ATTACKS IN NORTH-WEST ZONE

#### Vol. 4

**Location:** Kaduna State in the North-West Zone, Nigeria

**Issue:** Armed Attacks by Suspected Criminal Gangs

**Date:** March, 2019

#### COMMUNITY PROFILING

#### CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

#### INCIDENT PROFILING

**Population:** Kaduna State has a population of 6,113,503 people (2006 population census). Recent 2016 estimate projects a total population of 12,000,000.

#### Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots:

The State shares borders with Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Bauchi, Plateau, Niger, Nassarawa and Abuja Fct. There are 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Kaduna State.

**Ethnicity:** Ethnic groups in the State include; Hausa, Fulani, Bajju, Atyap, Jaba, Adara, Gbagyi, Kurama, Kaninkon, Kurama, Ninzo, Ham, Koro, Kagoro, Gwong, Numana, Gure, Moro'a, Kagoma, Kadara. Hausa/Fulani and Gbagyi ethnic groups are in the majority.

The State is divided into two major zones; the Muslim dominated North and the Christian South. *The deep-seated mistrust between the different ethnic and religious groups in Kaduna State constantly fanned the flames of violent conflicts mainly in Southern Kaduna. LGAs in Southern Kaduna zone include; Chikun, Kajuru, Kauru, Lere, Kachia, Zangon-Kataf, Kaura, Kagarko, Jema'a, Sanga, Jaba*<sup>1</sup>.

#### Direct Actors:

Suspected militia gang and Fulani herders.

#### Affected Persons:

Residents of Ruga Bahago, Ruga Daku, Ruga Ori, Ruga Haruna, Ruga Yukka Abubakar, Ruga Duni Kadiri, Ruga Shewuka, Ruga Shuaibu Yau, Ungwar Barde, Karamai, Sikiya, Gidan Gajere, Gidan Auta, Chibiya communities in Kajuru and neighbouring areas of Kachia LGAs

#### Interested Actors:

Federal Government of Nigeria, Kaduna State Government, Nigerian Army, Department of State Service, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp, Kaduna State Peace Commission, Kajuru and Kachia Local Government Councils, Traditional and Religious Leaders, Community Leaders, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Adara Development Association, Southern

For decades, Kaduna State has been embroiled in violent communal strife that has polarized the people along ethnic and religious lines. The frequency of violence within the State has resulted in humanitarian crisis and weakened socio-economic activities. Additionally, recurrent violence in the State continues to undermine democratic governance and its dividends. As highlighted in WANEP Quick NEWS Update on the violence in Kaduna State (October 2018), the prevailing insecurity in the State is an indicative of an existing suspicion between ethnic and religious groups that has overtime strained inter-group relations and degenerated into violence<sup>2</sup>.

Data generated by the Kaduna State Peace Commission<sup>3</sup>, which has the responsibility of promoting peaceful co-existence within the State has revealed a total of 35 crisis between 1980 and 2017<sup>4</sup>. The vulnerability of the State to other forms of criminality is reflected in rampant armed banditry and kidnapping within the polity. This has further heightened the fragility of the State.

Between February 10 and 11, 2019, 11 people including a pregnant woman was reportedly killed with several others injured in an attack carried out by suspected herders in Ungwar Barde, Kufana District of Kajuru LGA, Kaduna State<sup>5</sup>. In an alleged retaliatory attack on February 12, 2019, 66 ethnic Fulani's including 22 children and 12 women were killed, 4 people injured (including 2 children and a pregnant woman)<sup>6</sup> with 65 others declared missing<sup>7</sup> in attacks carried out by suspected militia gang in eight Fulani communities of Ruga Bahago, Ruga Daku, Ruga Ori, Ruga Haruna, Ruga Yukka Abubakar, Ruga Duni

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/files/2018/Oct/SECTARIAN\\_VIOLENCE-KD.pdf](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/files/2018/Oct/SECTARIAN_VIOLENCE-KD.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> WANEP QUICK NEWS UPDATE, October 2018: "80 People killed and over 44 People injured in communal violence in Kaduna State, Nigeria": [http://www.wanep.org/wanep/files/2018/Oct/SECTARIAN\\_VIOLENCE-KD.pdf](http://www.wanep.org/wanep/files/2018/Oct/SECTARIAN_VIOLENCE-KD.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Kaduna State Peace Commission was inaugurated on November 4, 2017 is saddled with the responsibility of addressing the various ethnic and religious conflict in the State. The Peace Commission was set up based on the recommendations of past commissions of inquiry and committees established to study each instance of conflict. Members of the Commission are assigned to reduce violence and advocate ideas and programmes that affirm diversity, promote peaceful coexistence even in the face of religious and ethnic diversities in the State. **See also:** <http://www.aitonline.tv/post-kaduna-conflicts-el-rufai-inaugurates-peace-commission>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/11/12/the-unending-cycle-of-violence-in-kaduna/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/kajuru-killings-southern-kaduna-people-call-out-gov-el-rufai/hxnjxex>

**Significance of the State:** Kaduna State is a major industrial/trading center in Northern Nigeria and an economic hub for textiles, machinery, steel, aluminium and petroleum products. (one of Nigeria's four main oil refineries is located in Kaduna State). The State is popularly known for its artistry in pottery from the Nok culture.

**Economy:** Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy with about 80% of the population engaged in livestock and crop farming and has a comparative advantage as a huge producer and exporter of cotton, peanuts, sorghum and ginger. Scarcity of resources such as water and pasture for crop farming and cattle grazing often results in violent conflicts between local farmer and herders in communities within the State.

**Available minerals** include; clay, serpentine, asbestos, amethyst, kyannite, gold and graphite.

**Politics:** All Progressive Congress (APC) is the ruling party while the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) is the main opposition party in the State.

**Religion:** The major religion in the State is Islam, Christianity and Traditional beliefs.

Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU), Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), Southern Kaduna Peace and Reconciliation Committee, Mobgal Fulbe Development Association (MOFDA), Gan Allah Fulani Development Association (GAFDAN), Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

Kadiri, Ruga Shewuka and Ruga Shuaibu Yau, Kajuru LGA of Kaduna State. Reports from Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) have revealed that over 100 livestock and several properties including motorcycles and bicycles were destroyed with several houses burnt down in the attack<sup>8</sup>.

However, claims of alleged killings and the resulting figures of fatality disclosed by the State Governor, Nasir Ahmed El'Rufai, has been a subject of controversy and criticisms from the Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Kaduna State Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)<sup>9</sup>, disputing the occurrence of such attack on the communities. Additionally, the State Governor's pronouncement of the killings on the eve of the rescheduled Presidential and National Assembly elections (February 16, 2019) provoked public outrage, as analyst viewed it as a deliberate attempt to heighten ethno-religious tension, considering the tense political environment.

Despite joint security and peacebuilding interventions by the State Government, security agencies and development partners to deal with the incessant violent clashes in Southern Kaduna zone, another major attack occurred. On February 26, 2019, 40 people including a Police Officer was reportedly killed in an alleged reprisal attack carried out by suspected herders in Karamai, Gidan Gajere, Gidan Auta and Chibiya communities in Maro district, a border town between Kajuru and Kachia LGAs of Kaduna State<sup>10</sup>. Additionally, an estimated 40 houses were reportedly burnt down and church buildings damaged in the affected communities, thus resulting in internal displacement of residents<sup>11</sup>. Also, a boarding school for the missionaries' children was shut down in the same attack<sup>12</sup>.

The motive behind the coordinated attack remains unknown, as investigations have commenced in trail of the perpetrators of the crime. Security interventions in the affected communities have resulted in the arrest of seven suspects by the State Police Command<sup>13</sup>. Besides this, on-the-spot assessment is being conducted<sup>14</sup> by the State Governor and the security service chiefs. Plans by the State Government to set up a judicial commission to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the violence in the LGA<sup>15</sup> have also commenced.

**Recent similar attack by suspected armed groups in Kaduna State includes:**

- On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018, violent clash between youth groups in Kasuwan Magani Village, Kajuru LGA of Kaduna State that resulted in the deaths of 55 people with several others injured. Several houses and vehicles were burnt down with business activities shut down<sup>16</sup>.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018, 22 people were killed with 44 others injured in an alleged retaliatory attack by suspected armed groups in Kaduna metropolis, Kaduna State<sup>17</sup>.
- On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, attack by armed men in Military camouflage that led to the death of 3 people in Narayi community, Chikun LGA of Kaduna State.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/how-66-fulani-were-killed-in-kaduna-villages.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/314665-miyetti-allah-releases-names-of-131-victims-of-kajuru-kaduna-violence.html>

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> <https://allafrica.com/stories/201902180713.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2019/03/02/death-toll-from-kaduna-attack-rises-to-40/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/at-least-40-christians-killed-in-two-attacks-in-kaduna-state-nigeria.html>

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> <https://allafrica.com/stories/201902170124.html>

<sup>14</sup> <https://punchng.com/insensitive-people-recklessly-dismissing-kaduna-deaths-says-el-rufai/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/317134-kaduna-govt-to-set-up-inquiry-commission-on-kajuru-killings.html>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.thecable.ng/police-55-people-were-killed-in-fresh-kaduna-violence>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nwest/292087-kaduna-crises-el-rufai-orders-communities-to-repair-destroyed-public-assets.html>

<sup>18</sup> <https://leadership.ng/2018/10/23/despise-24-hr-curfew-26-killed-in-kaduna-metropolis/>

## OPPORTUNITIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The intervention of the Kaduna State Peace Commission in promoting peace and unity in violence prone communities through dialogue between leaders of ethnic, religious and youth groups in the State is commendable and should be sustained. This approach should be complemented with confidence building structures to foster trust and confidence in security agencies to enhance security in the State;
- The Federal and State Government should strengthen peace education through a robust engagement with youth groups, women organisations, religious leaders and ethnic/traditional leaders, political parties and other relevant stakeholders in Kaduna State. It is also important to promote peace education in Primary, Secondary and tertiary schools. Here emphasis should be placed on nonviolence, tolerance, peaceful co-existence and negotiation among the youths in schools to foster intergration and national cohesion.
- The State Government in consultation with telecommunication firms, should enhance communication infrastructure and services in hard-to-reach communities for early warning alert to checkmate threats to human security and timely response by security agencies;
- The Federal and State Government, in partnership with civil society groups, traditional/religious institutions, the media and development partners should strengthen local community peacebuilding infrastructure to resolve the recurring violence in the southern and other parts of Kaduna State.