

MEA RISK'S NIGERIA WEEKLY THREAT & STABILITY ASSESSMENT

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31 OCTOBER TO 6 NOVEMBER 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

Nigeria MEA Risk index



- For the period of 31 October to 6 November 2016, there were 74 critical incidents in Nigeria, resulting in at least 111 recorded deaths, 79 wounded, and 105 arrests. The highest share of incidents fell in the criminality category, which gathered over 32% of the incident pool during the week, followed by nearly 19% by the Human & Social Crises category.

- On the political front, Nigeria is confronted with multiple challenges, dominated this past week by the rejection by many militant groups in the Niger Delta of the ongoing negotiations between the Federal Government and political representatives of the oil producing regions. Militants involved in attacking oil sites and facilities, mainly pipeline, as well as civil organizations active in oil producing regions rejected the talks and refuse to endorse the negotiators selected to represent them.

- Also on the political front, the Federal Government has been facing growing opposition to its request to obtain a financial bailout from the IMF and the World Bank valued at nearly \$30 billion. Not only the international donors insist that Nigeria undergoes a substantial structural adjustments that will inevitably lead to a major austerity plan, but the Nigerian assembly also rejected President Buhari's request stating precisely that the impact of such a loan program will be devastating to the population.

- On the security front, Nigeria continues to be confronted with severe security problems. Despite the Nigerian military often insisting that it won the war against Boko Haram, there have persistent attacks from Boko Haram militants in the northeast, with daring incidents this week in Malam Fatori and in Talala and Ajigin, in the southern part of Borno State, resulting in scores of dead. The military continues also on its anti-Boko Haram offensive and has been able to neutralize many militants, freeing several captives this week.

- Nigeria is also confronted with sustained violence from militants attacking oil sites, herdsmen raiding villages over grazing rights, and dangerous levels of general violence and criminality across the country.
- On the economic front, various government bodies have been pushing for solutions that would reduce government spending, including a new increase in fuel prices in petrol stations, a new law that would allow local governments and municipalities to seek their own sources of revenues, therefore disengaging States and the Federal government, and a new law that would allow the government to charge highway tolls. We anticipate greater austerity measures to be enacted and social unrest could escalate if and when Nigeria agrees with the terms of international lenders for new loans, likely in early to mid-2017.

MAJOR CRITICAL INCIDENTS IN NIGERIA

For the period of 31 October to 6 November 2016. Source: MEA Risk's Critical Incidents Tracker

Borno: 4 Nov 2016

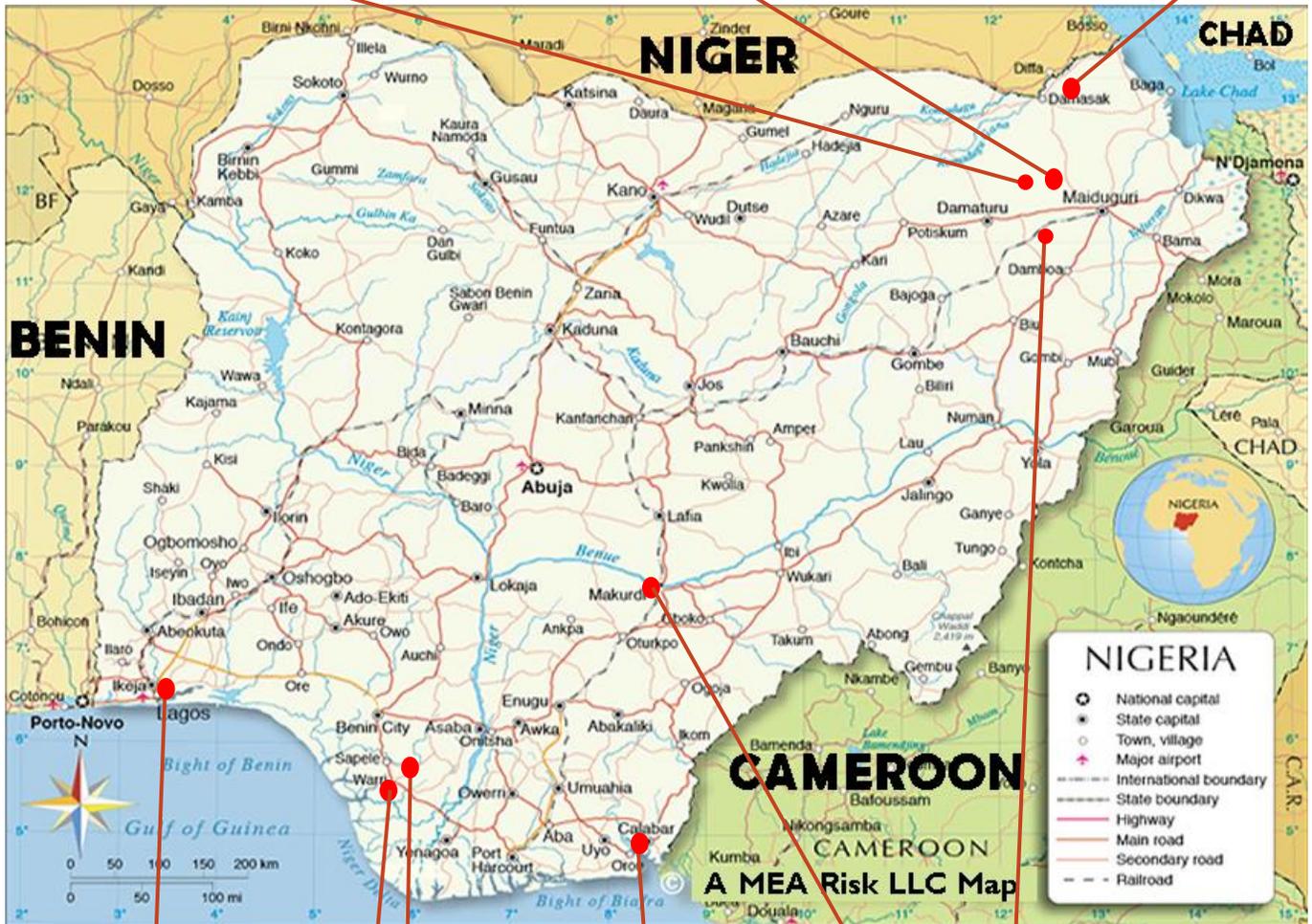
19 dead in Boko Haram-army clash in Malam Fatori. Most victims were from Boko Haram

Borno: 1 Nov 2016

Nine suspected Boko Haram militant killed in a vehicle explosion near Maiduguri near a military checkpoint

Borno: 1 Nov 2016

Eight suspected suicide bombers blown off at military check point in Gubio near Niger border



Lagos: 2 Nov 2016

44 criminals arrested by the police in Lagos

Niger Delta: 1 Nov 2016

militants attack Trans Forcados export line in Warri

Niger Delta: 30 Oct 2016

Niger Delta militants attack gas pipeline in Urhobo region, feeding into a major Lagos gas plant

Cross River: 1 Nov 2016

Army kills wanted militant in Cross River, arrests Priest close to militant groups

Benue: 3 Nov 2016

Criminal gang holds magistrates hostage in Makurdi court

Borno: 31 Oct 2016

Boko Haram ambushes soldiers, kills 9, injures 20 in Damboa

REVIEW

Political and Human & Social Issues

Oil-producing communities in Niger Delta want more concessions in ongoing peace talks, likely to complicate the negotiations

Host Communities of Nigeria, Hostcom, which says it represents the communities in the oil-producing regions of Niger Delta, issued new demands in the midst of negotiations between the Federal government and local leaders seeking to redefine governance and revenue sharing in the oil-rich region. The new demands are likely to complicate the works of the negotiators who have been meeting with President Bouhari, considering that Hostcom has not been included in the direct talks.

Hostcom says it wants to be the recipient of additional incomes originating from the so-called Gas Flare Penalty Fund. Nigeria has been seeking to exit gas flaring by 2020 and has enacted a gas flaring penalty to force oil companies to move away from the practice. The fund is said to be worth some NGN98 billion today, according to Federal government

sources, but local leaders insist that it is much bigger.

In addition, Hostcom also wants to capture 13% of the derivation fund, modeled on the Lagos State share of the derivation fund.

Furthermore, Hostcom is complicating the talks by demanding that it is awarded pipeline surveillance contracts and wants the government to create an agency that would boost security in the host communities.

Other demands include the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill, PIB, by the National Assembly.

Niger Delta militant group criticizes local negotiators, expect more attacks on oil facilities

The Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) says it is not impressed by the local leaders who are negotiating with the Federal Government on the future governance of the Niger Delta. MEND described most of the leaders as "vultures and dead wood." MEND's position is likely to make the reaching an agreement difficult and this means attacks against oil sites may continue. MEND already attributes the most recent attacks on what it considers President Buhari meeting with "corrupt politicians."

President Buhari met in Abuja on 1 November with representatives and leaders of the oil rich region, who presented a 16-point agenda on behalf of the region. The meeting followed with an attack on an export line located in Batan area of Delta State on 2 November, which was considered as a message from the militants that they were not properly represented in the negotiations.

Police in Abuja repress Shiites' demonstrators, who called for release of their leader and members

Hundreds of members of the Shiite leaning Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) demonstrated in Abuja on 2 November for the third time to protest the continuous detention of the their spiritual leader, Ibrahim El-Zakzaky. The demonstration was met with a heavy police presence, and ended before the demonstrators reached the national assembly with the police using force and teargas to disperse the demonstrators. El-Zakzaky has been in prison for over a year after members of his movement clashed with the convoy of the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Tukur Buratai, at Zaria Kaduna State. IMN also demanded the release of 50 of its members arrested by security agents in Jos on 12 October 2016. IMN says 20

of the prisoners are young students, mostly minors and even a 9-year old child.

Corruption in Politics: President likely to fire two Presidency officials over corruption case

Sources in Abuja say President Muhammadu Buhari is considering firing two of his top aides who have been indicted in a major arms procurement corruption case. A report looking into procurement practices at the Ministry of Defense between 2007 and 2015 listed officials in the current and previous administrations as being implicated in wrongdoing, and indicting several former military leaders, ministers, and contractors.

With the indictments in place, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) will soon begin its investigations on the targeted officials.

Included in the indictment report are two of President Buhari's senior appointees who are likely to be fired so as to allow EFCC to conduct an official probe on them. The two unnamed officials may have been involved in irregularities and fraud during the procurement of military hardware and other purchases while holding sensitive positions in government.

Corruption in Politics: Former Abia Governor arraigned over alleged corruption

The financial enforcement agency, the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) arraigned the former Governor of Abia State, Orji Uzor Kalu in Lagos for money laundering. Kalu was governor of Abia for eight years, ending in 2007. Kalu also owns Slok Ltd. and the Daily Sun and New Telegraph newspapers in Nigeria.

Kalu is charged with 34 counts bordering on money laundering.

Appearing before a Judge, Kalu pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Kalu was alleged to have used his company to retain NGN200 million, part of funds illegally obtained from the Abia State Government accounts.

Senate issues ultimatum to election commission to fast-track election rerun in Rivers State

The Nigerian Senate issued this week an ultimatum to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct the pending National Assembly rerun elections in Rivers State. Today, Rivers State has no representation in the Senate and so INEC is given until 10 December 2016 to organize the elections.

A leading Senator complained that "INEC has failed, refused and or neglected to conduct re-run elections in Rivers State into the Senate, House of Representatives and state House of Assembly. The failure of INEC to conduct the re-run elections in Rivers State within the time frame ordered by the respective Election Petition Tribunals/courts is in breach of the Electoral Act and Section 76 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), thus endangering the nation's democracy. Non-representation of the entire people of Rivers State in the Senate and some constituencies of Rivers State in the House of Representatives and House of Assembly is in breach of the 1999 Constitution, and endangers peace and order in the state."

Indeed, the lack of Rivers representation in the Senate is an issue on the legislative front where, for instance, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) is about to be debated, while a major oil state (Rivers) is not represented.

Arrested Judges get public sympathy

On 31 October 2016, protesters, mostly lawyers and workers in the legal system, marched in Abuja to show their support to the Judges arrested the Department of State Services on allegation of corrupt. The protestors said the arrest was a retaliation against the magistrates not a fight against corruption. The protestors urged the Judges not to

resign and urged the government to respect court orders directing that some suspects be released from custody.

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High mortality rate for women at childbirth

Some 40,000 women die every year from childbirth related complications. The data was released this week by the Association for the Advancement of Family Planning (AAFP). The data indicates that Nigeria has second highest cases of maternal mortality in the world after India, with a maternal mortality ratio reaching 576 deaths out of every 100,000 live births daily.

Bayelsa regions confronted with new oil spills

The towns of Ogbia and Yenagoa in Bayelsa State reported new oil spills that reportedly started on 2 November. Residents in those communities say the spills come from an oilfield operated Nigeria Agip Oil Company, and are having damaging impact on the regions' environments.

One of the sectors most affected by the spills, is the fishing industry, with fish, crayfish and shrimp forced to find shelter to the high seas beyond the reach of fishermen. Some rivers seem to have been badly affected as well.

Dozen women prosecuted by religious police in Kano for alcohol consumption

Eleven women, who were recently arrested in Sabon Gari neighbourhood of Kano, are facing harsh punishment for drinking alcohol. Kano's religious police (State Hisbah Board) are also charging the women of drug consumption and lewd behavior, but stopped short of charging five men caught with the women. The State of Kano is a conservative state, which uses Sharia law as its main code.

Airlines warn of damaged runways at Lagos Airport, three incidents this past week

Airline carriers that use Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) in Lagos are complaining about the decay of the airport runways and are calling on the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to fix and rehabilitate them. Airlines say runway decay has been damaging aircraft gears on landing and take-off.

Three incidents took place this past week. In the one case a private jet saw its landing gear completely damaged upon landing, and in another case, a Nigeria Air Force C130 aircraft lost a

tire also while landing. Both incidents were blamed on the runaway.

A passenger of a third flight on airline carrier Air Peace said the "airplane started vibrating terribly on landing, prompting the pilot to announce to the passengers that the vibration was caused by the bad nature of the runway."

Hundreds of pharmacies shut down in Kaduna over illegal practices, five arrested

Nigeria's pharmacist regulator, the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) has launched a nationwide inspection of the country's pharmacies and drug retail outlets and has focused its enforcement operation last week in Kaduna State. In that State alone, the agency announced that it has shut down nearly 400 pharmacies due to a host of offences ranging from operating without proper licensing, non-renewal of license, to dispensing controlled drugs without supervision.

Five people were arrested for criminal offences such as resisting inspections and breaking of seal.

A senior PCN official says "pharmacies are expected to have pharmacists to supervise the dispensing of ethical products to the public. What we observed in Kaduna state is that so many premises commenced operations without fulfilling minimum requirements. Some of these premises

store products in environments where the quality, safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical products cannot be guaranteed. This exposes the public to serious danger.”

Widespread HIV in refugee camps in northeast Nigeria

HIV (Human Immuno-deficiency Virus) appears to be a widespread phenomenon in the northeastern regions that host camps of refugees that were forced out of their homes and villages by the incessant attacks of Boko Haram.

International NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW) just in one such camps, the number of women and girls affected with HIV has increased sharply from 2014 to today, jumping for 200 to 500. It believes the actual number to be higher considering that many affected persons prefer to remain anonymous instead of reporting their disease.

Food poisoning kills six in Okene, Kogi State

Six people, including four of the same family living in Ogaminana area of Okene in Kogi state dies of food poisoning after consuming a meal based on cassava flour. Officials at the Adavi Local Government (municipality) traced the source of the

cassava flour to the a farm in Ohuepe village.

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Three percent increase in fuel price in NNPC petrol stations

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has announced an increase in the fuel price across its nationwide petrol stations and in retail outlets distributing its products. The increase is 2.8% to NGN145 per liter. The decision is in line with Nigeria seeking to increase revenues amid low oil prices, however this is likely to have a chain reaction in other sectors, such as transportation and industry, with impact on general consumption.

Parliament debates constitutional change to allow financial autonomy to local governments, outcome uncertain

Members of Nigeria's parliament have made progress in pushing for a constitutional amendment that would allow local governments to run their financial affairs in a more autonomous way. The bill scaled through the second reading in the House of Representatives on 2 November, with the purpose of changing section 162 of the 1999 Constitution. The section today requires that local government bills are paid and revenues collected

by a State Joint Local Government Account, giving no financial autonomy to local entities. The sponsor of the bill, Ms. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha says she seeks to abolish the state-local government joint account, saying that it would foster the autonomy, transparency and accountability of local government administration in the country. However, that may also force local entities to seek to raise their own funds, reducing the Federal and Provincial governments' funding obligations.

But Onyejeocha argues that "The practice of true federalism is lacking in Nigeria, especially at the local government level. Some state governments even deprive their local governments of principal source of their revenues. Unless more stable internal source of revenue are exploited, and state-local government joint account abolished, the objective of strengthening local governments relationship with state and federal governments will remain a mirage."

Industry group wants government to privatize unproductive state assets to cope with economic crisis

The President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Mr. Frank Jacobs, has asked the government to push for the privatization and sell of state assets that are unproductive. Such privatization, including oil refineries, could yield important returns and

fresh revenues for the government, which is facing adverse economic conditions.

Weak economy prompts parliament to OK resumption of highway toll collection

The Senate passed a motion to allow the Federal government to generate new revenue from the collection of tolls on some federal highways across Nigeria. MPs argued that the maintenance and expansion of the highway system require motorists' contribution, but it is a decision likely prompted by dwindling revenues at the Federal and provincial levels.

Power companies' debts affecting their suppliers and gas producers

Gas producers in Nigeria are facing massive account receivables and rising debts of their clients, particularly power firms. The indebtedness to gas producers in Nigeria is currently over NGN110 bn with most of this debt (about 80%) owed by electricity generation companies. The gas producers confirmed the concerned echoed private investors who placed investments in electricity companies but said that the power sector could collapse as a result of the liquidity crisis affecting the sector.

Foreign Airlines complain of their inability to access hard currency in Nigeria

Foreign airline carriers in Nigeria, represented by the Association of Foreign Airlines' Representatives in Nigeria have issued a formal complaint this week about the Central Bank not allowing them access to foreign exchange at the inter-bank foreign exchange market, resulting in a weakening of their position on the Nigerian market. The airlines counted on the Minister of State for Aviation's (Hadi Sirika.) pledge to grant them forex concession, in an effort to ease access to foreign currency. However, with Nigeria facing hard currency shortages, the problem of access remains.

MPs say foreign oil firms violate Local Content law

The Nigerian House of Representatives' Committee on Local Content, has accused international oil companies active in the country of knowingly violating the Nigerian Local Content Act on the employment of expatriates. The companies are accused of exceeding expatriate quotas and not seeking approval on new employment of foreign nationals from the Nigeria Content Development Management Board (NCD-MB) before applying to the Ministry of Interior. Some members of

the the Committee tie this employment practice to the insecurity in the oil producing regions, as a source of trouble, and lament what they see lost opportunities for qualified Nigerian nationals to get employment in these foreign companies. The Federal Ministry of Interior and Nigerian Immigration Services are being asked to perform verifications that the NCD-MB has provided its agreement before allowing a new permit to a foreign worker.

Government plan to borrow \$30 billion faces internal and external resistance. Senate rejects request

Efforts by the Nigerian government to borrow \$30 billion from international lenders to cover its budget deficit have run into delays and resistance from sources opposed to the move.

President Muhammadu Buhari had sent a request to the House of Representatives and Senate to borrow the sum of \$29.960 billion to provide infrastructure and execute its safety net programs from 2016 to 2018. But the move is not only facing resistance domestically but it has yet to enact reforms that would pave the way to international financial aid.

With Nigeria facing its first full-year economic decline in over 25 years

amid a severe reduction in oil production and earnings, resulting in a 40% fall in the value of the Naira, the country is looking to increase its debts to cover its budget deficit. While both the IMF and the World Bank have been pressuring Nigeria to launch new reforms as a condition for new loans, many politicians and economists within Nigeria have been vocal going against Nigeria's call for new loans.

Among those opposing Nigeria's move to up foreign borrowing is Femi Falana, a leading human rights activist and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), who recently called on the federal government to drop its plan to borrow \$29.960 billion.

Falan argued that such move would force such a severe structural adjustment "that would be putting the collective destiny of the younger generation in jeopardy should it go ahead with the controversial decision."

Falan said the government should use the funds recovered from corruption and theft to fund its projects, arguing that just the oil companies and the Nigeria oil giant NNPC "are owing the federal government a joint \$20.2 billion."

Also under pressure from various sources, led the Nigerian Senate to overwhelmingly vote against the presidential debt request in a voting session that took place on 1 November 2016. A debate on the matter was turned down by Senate

President, Bukola Saraki, moving it directly into a voice vote that saw opposition to the debt louder.

Foreign oil companies preparing to downsize labor force in Nigeria

Sources in Lagos say both Shell and Chevron will collectively downsize their Nigeria-based employees by 1,700 workers, 250 of them are scheduled to go on training for new careers outside of the oil and gas sector. The move is the result of the companies' operations and financial results affected by unplanned downtime and civil unrest in Nigeria during the third quarter of 2016.

Shell and Chevron have reportedly approved about N50 billion severance packages (about \$150 million) for some 1,700 workers in Nigeria out of 25,000 workers slated for layoffs in their global operations.

Electrical company disconnects President's party (APC) offices as unpaid bills exceed N1 million

The Abuja Electricity Distribution Company has disconnected power supply to the National Headquarters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) over a NGN1.2m debt. APC is President Bouhari's party that enabled him to run in 2015.

The party is reported to owe NGN1.2 million, after it managed to pay recently N500,000.

Security

MPs pressure President to deploy troops against herdsmen

Nigeria's House of Representatives is pressure the Presidency to deploy troops in Oshissa in Delta to forcibly remove herdsmen in an effort to avoid a new wave of attacks against local populations. Members of Parliaments (MPs) say herdsmen have settled around Oshissa since late October and may be planning more attacks. The MP representing the region says an attack has already taken place on 27 October and has led to deaths and scores of wounded.

Responding to the national call to control the herdsmen, the Nigerian military issued a statement to assure that it would soon be embarking into a campaign aimed at stopping "the Fulani herdsmen of unleashing terror across the nation."

Army says two Boko Haram militants killed in Borno

The Nigerian army intercepted a group of suspected Boko Haram militants on 3 November it says were on a mission to steal supplies in villages near Borno's capital

Maiduguri. A confrontation took place, which resulted in the killing of two insurgents. The army recovered weapons and two motorcycles.

Navy braces for increase anti-piracy and anti-insurgency operation

The Nigerian Navy has launched new maneuvers called 'Exercise Sharkbite' at the Eastern Naval Command. The two-day training operation is meant to prepare almost 3,500 troops to engage militants and criminals as the Navy braces for a new offensive against sea pirates, in particular along the country's costal line. The Navy has been mandated to also contribute to enforcement against pipeline sabotage and oil theft. The naval maneuvers focus on Rivers to Cross River State, covering 24,000 nautical miles.

The Nigerian armed forces are already active in combating piracy and militant activity in many key regions of the country. They have set up a joint sweeping operation, code-named Operation Awatse, aimed at removing militants and criminal elements from the Arepo, Ishawo and Elepete creeks in Lagos and Ogun states. The Nigerian air force already launched aerial bombardment in summer 2016.

Nineteen dead in Boko Haram-army clash in Malam Fatori

On 4 November 2016, suspected Boko Haram militants raided a Nigerian army base in Malam Fatori in northern Borno. The site is located north of Megumeri, near the border with Niger. The incident ended with the killing of one officer and four soldiers, while the militants lost 14 of their own. The officer killed in the attack carried the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The military recovered one General Purpose Machine Gun, seven AK-47 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition.

Army recovers one Chibok girl in Sambisa Forest, in Borno

The Nigerian military recovered on 5 November 2016 another Chibok schoolgirl among escaped prisoners of Boko Haram during a sweeping operation in the Sambisa National Park. The girl was discovered carrying a 10-month-old child, and both were dispatched to a local hospital.

Two logistics for and suppliers to Boko Haram arrested in Borno

The Nigerian army has arrested on 30 October two suspected logistics men involved in supplying drugs, fuel and other products to Boko Haram in

Borno. Each of the two had their own specialities and had deep relations with supplier channels.

One of the two was apprehended in Bama Local Government Area of Borno, while trying to cross into Sambisa forest. The suspect was carrying packets of Glucose Intravenous infusion, assorted analgesics and pain killer drugs, clothes, bathroom slippers, insecticides, salt, and other products.

The second suspected was apprehended in Maiduguri. He had been supplying Boko Haram operating in and from the Sambisa National Park with fuel and other petroleum products.

Eight alleged Boko Haram bombers die in failed suicide attempt in Gubio, Borno State

On 1 November, eight Boko Haram suicide bombers loaded in a pick-up van detonated themselves in a failed attempt to cross over a military check point at Gubio town, in Borno State. The explosion took place when an army checkpoint officer insisted on searching the vehicle, before one of passengers detonated his explosives.

A military statement says “the suicide bombers who came in a Bedford pick up vehicle primed with Improvised Explosive Devices including suicide vests attempted to force their way through the checkpoint but met stiff

resistance from troops who insisted that the vehicle be thoroughly checked.

Thirty eight people rescued from Boko Haram in Borno near Niger, six militants killed

The Nigeria military active in the northeast has freed 38 people from Boko Haram. Half of the Boko Haram victims were women and the other half were children. The women and children were kept captive in the extreme northeast, very near the border with Niger.

A military spokesman said “as the operation progresses, troops have cleared pockets of insurgents from their hideouts in Momo and Tunshe villages around Marte general area Borno state.

The military had to confront militants during its sweeping and rescue operation, killing six insurgents and wounding many.

Terrorism

Boko Haram ambush in Borno claims five soldiers and four vigilantes

On 30 October five soldiers were killed along with 4 vigilante members when Boko Haram militants launched a violent attack. The incident led to 19 soldiers sustaining injuries. The troops

were on a sweeping mission in Talala and Ajigin, in the southern part of Borno State, and were ambushed by suspected Boko Haram militants in Ugundiri village, affiliated to the Damboa Local Government Area.

Criminality

Human Rights Watch accuses Nigerian officials of abuse at refugee camps, government reacts

Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a damning report accusing Nigeria's security services from the police, army, vigilante groups and camp leaders of raping young girls and women in various camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The report, which was published on 31 October 2016, states that authorities used abusive practices, with some victims forced to take drugs and others forced to engage to have sex based on false promises of marriage.

The report hinted that the government was complacent and has taken no measures to bring the perpetrators to justice, even stating that "Government officials and other authorities in Nigeria have raped and sexually exploited women and girls displaced by the conflict with Boko Haram. The government is not doing enough to protect displaced women and girls and ensure that they have access to basic rights and services or to sanction the abusers, who include camp leaders, vigilante groups, policemen, and soldiers."

Reacting to the report, the Federal government promised to investigate the report's findings. The Inspector

General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, has set up a special investigation team to probe reported alleged sexual abuses, exploitation, harassment, gender-based violence and professional misconduct in the IDP centers.

Nigeria to expand police force with 10,000 new recruits

After many delays due to technical disagreements, the Nigerian parliament is working to enable the funding of a new wave of recruits that will see the nation's police force increase by 10,000 personnel. The promoters of the project want the new recruits to focus on community policing, assigning some nine personnel per local government, before expanding to as many as 30 police personnel per local government in the longer term.

The police' central command has been calling on parliament to allow recruitment to take place at the State level, but lawmakers insisted on pushing recruitment at the local level.

Gang attacks Delta bank in Ughelli in Delta State using dynamite, steal N25m

A gang of thieves raided a Union Bank branch in Ughelli, Delta State, stealing NGN25 million after blowing up the bank's vault with dynamite.

The branch manager and some senior staff were arrested and taken to Asaba

for questioning in connection with the incident.

Niger Delta militants claim attack on Effurun-Otor gas pipeline feeding into a major Lagos gas plant

Niger Delta militants on Sunday , 30 October 2016 claimed an attack on the Effurun-Otor gas pipeline in the Urhobo region of Niger Delta to protest their lack of participation at the talks between the Nigerian government and leaders from the oil-producing south. The Effurun-Otor pipeline supplies the Utorogu gas plant that powers Lagos, a city of around 20 million people.

In a statement, the Niger Delta Greenland Justice Mandate group said it would not support the talks being held by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and representatives from the Niger Delta to end the oil infrastructure sabotage.

Attacks on pipelines by militant groups have slashed Nigeria's oil production helping to tip the country into recession as it struggles to adapt to the low price of crude globally.

The militants warned that their attacks will not stop. "This is not ending soon, we shall fulfil our promise of uprooting your entire assets in our land," dismissing the talks in Abuja, saying they would "never get our support."

Army Foils Attack on NPDC Wellhead in Niger Delta

On 31 October 2016, the military forces active in the Niger Delta have prevented militants known the Bakassi Strike Force from attacking a Nigerian Petroleum Development Corporation (NPDC) wellhead at Kokori Oil Field, which is located at Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State. The attackers fled upon seeing a military team engage them. One of the attackers was killed during the attempt escape.

A statement released by the military on 31 October said the troops also discovered the dead body of a Bakassi Strike Force militant who had earlier engaged in a gun battle, but who escaped with injuries.

Police arrest 44 suspected criminals in Lagos

Some 44 suspected criminals, mostly armed robbers and kidnapers were arrested by the Lagos police.

This latest wave of arrests fetched two AK-47 rifles, 14 locally-made pistols and 193 live cartridges.

Cattle rustlers kill five in Shoro, Niger State

Cattle rustlers on 31 October 2016 attacked Gbada community in Kaure, Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State and killed five persons. Witnesses say a gang of 30 cattle rustlers started the attack in the middle of the night to steal cattle and killed five villagers along the way. The police said the attackers fled to neighboring Kaduna State.

Navy arrests four for oil theft in Akwa Ibom

The Nigerian Navy in Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has apprehended three Cameroonians and a Nigerian with large volumes of petroleum products. After their arrest, the suspects were paraded in front of the press. The suspects used a boat powered with two 40 horsepower outboard engines.

Police in Kogi arrest a dozen for illegal mining

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Kogi State command, says it has arrested 12 people for alleged illegal mining of Feldspar stone at Oworo in Lokoja.

The NSCDC has been tasked recently with the responsibility of securing all mining sites in the state.

Seventeen policemen arrested for taking bribes

The Lagos State Police Command has arrested 17 policemen during the month of 2016 for acts of misconduct, including taking bribes.

Some of the arrested policemen are also likely to be dismissed from the police force, while others could be demoted.

Army in Bauchi kills suspect kidnapers, rescues teen boy

The Nigerian army in Bauchi killed two suspected kidnapers on 2 November during an exchange of fire in Rafin Gigi village in Alkaleri Local Government Area.

Troops involved in the operations rescued a 16-year-old boy who was recently kidnapped, and recovered NGN770,000 in cash. The kidnapers had demanded a ransom of N1.6m from the family, but the family only raised NGN770,000.

Niger Delta militants attack Trans Forcados export line in Warri

On 1 November, suspected militants have bombed a state-run oil pipeline near the southern Nigerian oil hub of Warri in the latest blow to the industry.

The Trans Forcados export line was attacked late on 1 November, just

hours after President Muhammadu Buhari met with representatives of militant groups in the oil-rich Niger delta to discuss how to end the unrest plaguing the region.

“The attack was carried out with the aid of dynamite and it is coming less than 48 hours after the resumption of operations at the flow station,” a security official, who declined to be named, told French news agency AFP.

Four companies convicted in money laundering case involving former First Lady

A Federal High Court in Lagos convicted this week four property development and management companies for laundering \$15.5 million, money that was said to be owned by former First Lady, Patience Jonathan. The companies are tied to a former Special Adviser on Domestic Affairs to ex-President Goodluck Jonathan, Waripamo-Owei Dudafa, who is accused to acting as a middleman in facilitating the transfer of Ms Jonathan's funds. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had in August frozen the accounts of the four companies and seized the \$15m in the course of probing Dudafa for money laundering.

The former First lady has been under investigation by the EFCC following accusation of financial mismanagement leading to the freezing of some accounts connected to her. But Patience Jonathan insists

that she earned her money through legitimate donations.

At least five dead in rival gang war in Llorin, Kwara

At least five gang members were killed in Llorin, the Kwara State capital, following clashes between two rival cult groups. The gangs used guns, machetes, and other weapons to attack each other, when the fight escalated, spreading to the Ipata Market and Kankatu areas of Llorin. Ten gang members have been arrested, including the gang leaders.

Gangs raid three Makurdi courts, hold Judge, lawyers hostage

A dozen gunmen stormed three courts in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, on Wednesday, 2 November and held a sitting judge hostage. The gunmen, who shot into the air, caused panic in the courts' neighborhoods, forcing residents to evacuate.

Authorities say at the Benue State High Court 9, the Presiding Judge, Justice Mary Abounu, who is the wife of deputy governor, was already seated when the gunmen stormed her court and held her and the people in her court hostage.

“The gang broke into a courtroom and the chambers of another nearby court, where they stole a computer, a printer, a generator as well as files for various

cases,” said a magistrate who witnessed the attack.

“After the criminals were done with my court, they proceeded to High Court 9, presided over by the wife of the deputy governor, Justice Mary Abounu, and carted away a refrigerator, three stabilizers, a set of computers, window blinds and left behind empty bottles of drinks.”

At the Upper Area Court, the registrar says the thieves stole NGN280,000.

Suspected herdsmen kill two in Adamawa

Two people have been killed on 1 November by suspected herdsmen believed to be of Fulani origin, at Kwayine village while scores were injured in Demsa local government area of Adamawa State.

An eyewitness said the herdsmen attacked the village in the cover of the night, leaving behind two dead.

Kwayine village is located few kilometres from Kodomun village where a dozen people were killed two months ago resulting to constitution of farmers/herder committee by the state government to bring to end farmer/herder crisis in the state.

The eyewitness said many villagers had since fled Numan and Demsa towns to the state capital for the fear of being targeted again.

Federal government files criminal charges of fraud and bribery against Supreme Court employees

Nigeria's Attorney-General Abubakar Malami filed criminal charges against Supreme Court employees, including Saleh Gambo, the court's Chief Registrar, the Assistant Director of Finance at the apex court, and the Deputy Director of Finance. The three men are charged to have defrauded the Supreme Court of Nigeria of NGN2.2 billion for their own personal use. They have also allegedly received bribes of up to NGN10 million from a private contractor to the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Kidnappers strike in Ekiti

Five people were abducted by gunmen on 5 November in Ise/Orun local government area of Ekiti state. Although the gunmen are unknown, they are suspected to be professional kidnapers who abduct people for profit. Among the victims is a Pastor. This latest incident took place two days after an Administrative Secretary of the election commission INEC in Ekiti State was abducted in Osun state, and then released on Friday in Ilesha.

The Weeks Ahead

Politics & Security

Several Nigerian security and enforcement bodies, such as the navy, army, air force, police and others are bracing for a long-term confrontation with various groups active in regional militancy, criminality and insurgency across the country.

In general, the short and medium terms outlook are negative. A political compromise on the future of the oil producing regions remains remote at best, as militants have already signaled that they do not endorse those selected to represent them. Such lack of endorsement came this past week in the form of pipeline attacks, which we expect to continue going forward, forcing the Nigerian military to deploy more assets to contain such attacks.

The tasks of the military are likely to be difficult, considering that authorities are also dealing with the permanent issues of Boko Haram in the northeast, an Islamist militant group that has reignited fresh attacks on the northern provinces, despite the military authorities' narrative that the war against Boko Haram has been won. This week's failed suicide mission that

ended up with the killing of eight insurgents shows that Boko Haram faces no shortages of would-be suicide attackers. More of these attacks are likely in the foreseeable future.

Also facing the security authorities is the difficult issue of the Shiite community that is considered by Abuja as an arm of Iran in seeking to destabilize the country. The continued crackdown of the Shiites in Nigeria represents a very difficult problem and a tough balancing act, when it comes to insuring domestic security while allowing religious freedom.

Also worth watching is the government's stance on the grazing wars, which for Nigeria it manifests in a conflict pitting so-called Fulani herdsmen against farmers. Pressure on the government to mount a punitive campaign against the herdsmen is growing and it can turn into a campaign against the ethnic Fulanis, further plunging Nigeria into another cycle of violence.

Finally Nigeria will continue to confront a complex set of criminal factors, from white collar corruption and fraud cases affecting government and businesses, to general criminality, as highlighted by the growing cases of kidnapping and cult wars.

Human and Social Issues

On the social front, Nigeria faces a great many challenges as well, include the same ones that most Africa's commodity exporters are facing. The dwindling oil export revenues is forcing the government to seek new austerity measures, as the domestic currency the Naira drops and inflation increases. As such, the population is expected to bear the brunt of the upcoming cost containment measures that will be eventually enacted by the government, and that will likely lead to growing social unrest.

Economy

The economy is struggling amid a counter-performing oil sector, which has seen its revenues decrease as a result of low oil prices, and a declining production, partly due to attacks against oil facilities.

With dwindling revenues, the government is looking for a sort of IMF/World Bank bailout, with fresh funds to support the country's budget and compensate for its deficit. Getting those funds will be difficult and will be tied to Nigeria's willingness to enact structural reforms. Domestically, resistance will continue to grow against an IMF bailout, but already the government is working to cut back on cost by increasing prices of many commodities and reducing spending on many social programs.

About mea risk llc

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What we track, rate and notify our clients on is the ability of the nations to remain stable, and by extension providing information to organizations and individuals to secure their presence and protect their assets in the regions that we track. This is not only in terms of using traditional metrics such as financial and macro-economic data, but we also take into account human, social, and political factors that have often been neglected, to strengthen our coverage of security and defense issues.

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