



**IPCR**

# **NATIONAL CONFLICT WATCH**

# BACKGROUND

Since Nigeria returned to elective democracy in 1999, the country's level of insecurity has seen a marked increase. As Nigeria celebrates its longest bout in a stable democratic dispensation, it is equally confronted by the biggest and longest-running threats to its sovereignty and peaceful coexistence since independence. The majority of these threats have been attributed to violent non-state actors operating in the different regions across the country. Nigerians are killed, maimed, and terrified by acts of violence perpetrated by terrorists, bandits, cultists, separatist insurgents, and the so-called unknown gunmen. These carnages happen almost daily and as a result, human security is being undermined in Nigeria.

Violent clashes between farmers and pastoralists in the North Central, North East, and North West regions; banditry and terrorism in the North West, North Central, and North East regions; and cultism and Insurgency in the South East, South West, and South-South regions are protracted. Casualty figures and fatalities are estimated at tens of thousands, spiraling into acute insecurity, which has also ruined infrastructure and capital valued at billions of Naira and created a climate of trepidation and uncertainty among all social and political classes.


Amidst these horrifyingly high levels of insecurity, the prolonged kidnapping and banditry continue to erode family income, causing displacement, and creating a climate of caution on meaningful and profitable investment throughout the regions. While terrorism and insurgency are undermining state sovereignty, and the farmer and herder crisis is disrupting food production and threatening food security, the insecurity is upsetting social cohesion and national unity. Violent conflicts throughout Nigeria's landscape are now incompatible with inclusive and sustainable development, hampering the crystallization of government policies and private investment in the local economy. Consequently, it has become evident that for Nigeria's people to reap the benefits of its long-surviving democracy, concerted policy action and responses must squarely prioritize conflict prevention, long-term peace, and stability.



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The promotion of social justice, the rule of law, good governance models, and peaceful interactions are necessary to foster coexistence among the people. To this goal, Nigeria's security architecture should prioritize non-kinetic and other soft tactics and processes for preventing conflicts, given the proven inadequacy of the traditional military approach to achieving peace. These non-kinetic measures involve a whole range of sub-approaches and components working together in well-coordinated machinery to ensure peace, stability, and security.

A particularly viable and proven sub-approach remains a dedicated early warning and early response (EWER) system, informed by collaborative and coordinated engagements. This conflict EWER architecture serves to identify the earliest warning signs of conflicts and potential flashpoints whilst deploying early response actors to prevent the exacerbation of these threats from becoming full-scale crises.

The Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) National Conflict Watch (NCW) provides an impetus for conflict tracking, conflict anticipation, and conflict prevention. The NCW is a flagship publication of the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response System (NCEWERS) of the Institute. The NCW provides critical conflict early warning data from field agents and the IPCR conflict early warning indicator monitors (CEWIMS) working in conflict-prone communities across all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

This data is intercepted, interpreted, and processed by analysts at the Early Warning Situation Room (EWSR) and then transmitted to Early Warning Response Groups (EWRGs) comprising various military and paramilitary formations as well as other strategic non-kinetic response groups. Alongside its early warning features, the NCW also doubles as a conflict information and documentation system for stakeholders seeking to track data and use same for academic, research, policy, and sundry purposes.



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# OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL CONFLICT WATCH



## EARLY WARNING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

National Conflict Watch prioritizes early warning and conflict prevention by monitoring socio-political, economic, and environmental indicators to identify potential conflicts. It aims to provide timely warnings to government and security agencies, local authorities, and the public, in facilitating preventive measures and proactive responses to mitigate the impact of emerging conflicts.



## REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION

National Conflict Watch is dedicated to reporting and documentation, producing regular reports on the state of conflicts to highlight hotspots and emerging issues. The initiative maintains comprehensive records of incidents, responses and analysis, creating a valuable database for future reference.



## PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

National Conflict Watch aims to raise public awareness and promote education on peace and conflict management. This involves disseminating information through diverse media channels to inform the public about ongoing and potential conflicts. Additionally, the initiative focuses on peace education, aimed at educating communities about conflict resolution, tolerance, unity, empathy and the importance of peaceful coexistence.



## COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

National Conflict Watch emphasizes collaboration and coordination in its conflict monitoring and response efforts. This involves networking with local and international NGOs, community leaders, and government agencies to enhance conflict monitoring and response capabilities through a network to networks approach. Furthermore, the initiative focuses on ensuring a coordinated approach to conflict prevention and management among various stakeholders, promoting synergy and effectiveness in addressing security challenges.

## METHODOLOGY

The National Conflict Watch draws data from real-time conflict early warning reports collated directly from the IPCR-Peace Action for Rapid and Transformative Nigeria Early Response (PARTNER) Early Warning Early Response (EWER) application and web platform as filled by CEWIMS and other community-based peace structures at the scene of conflicts across the country. These reports are subsequently triangulated with information from credible electronic and print media sources and conflict reporting entities of repute amongst others to enhance the validity and credibility of the data. The reports are validated by CEWIMs and other Early Warning Monitoring Reporting Groups (EWMRGs) rolled out by the PARTNER Project. Reports are able to attain high levels of accuracy due to the wide and balanced stratification of support groups like CEWIMs and EWMRGs in communities of interest across the geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Inter-coder reliability mechanisms are adopted to ensure coherence amongst coders and analysts and guarantee the consistency of the data and the subsequent report.

For early response purposes, these reports at early warning stages are intercepted, interpreted, and, processed by trained analysts at the IPCR NCEWERS situation room and timely forwarded to the Early Warning Response Groups made of various military and paramilitary formations and reconciliation groups across the country.

The NCW will be rolled out every month to provide a descriptive and easy to understand early warnings and incident reports for public consumption. This shall enable policy makers, respond stakeholders, experts and the general public make informed decisions on emerging conflicts and strategies for mitigating existing insecurity in Nigeria and Africa.

# NATIONAL CONFLICT WATCH; MARCH-APRIL, 2024

■ ABDUCTED    ■ INJURED  
■ FATALITIES  
■ PROPERTIES DESTROYED

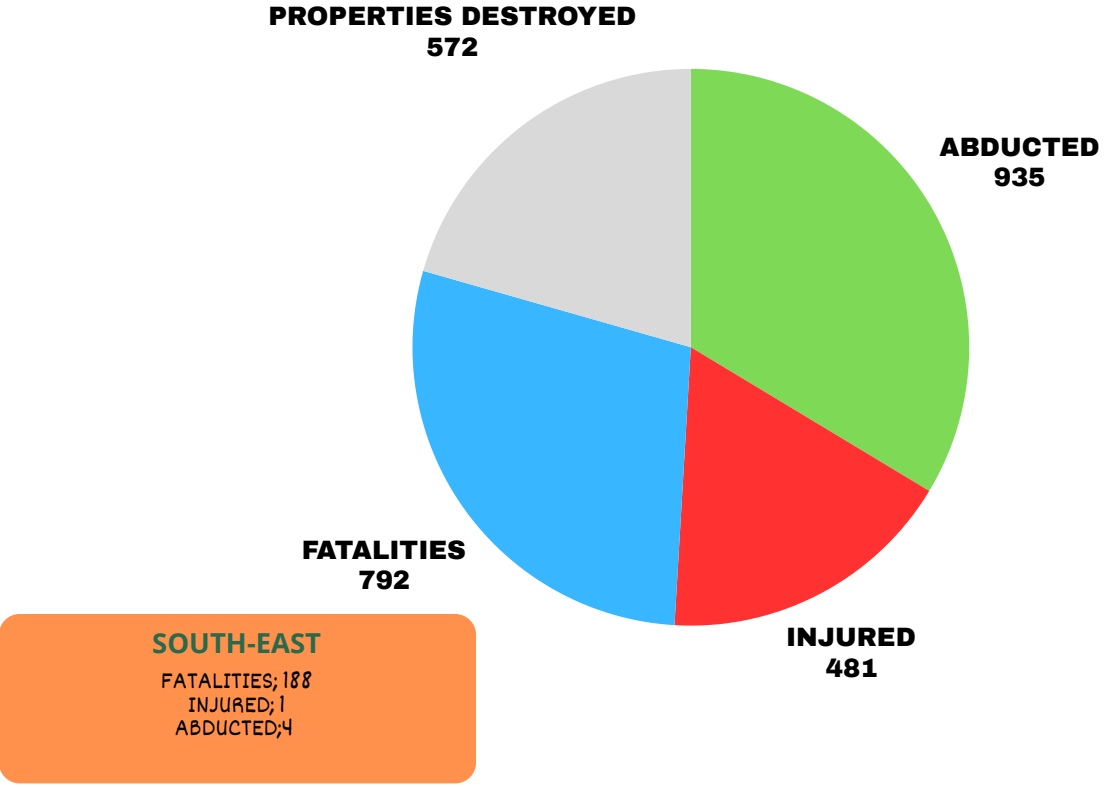
**NORTH-WEST**  
 FATALITIES; 105  
 INJURED; 34  
 ABDUCTED; 690

**NORTH-EAST**  
 FATALITIES; 173  
 INJURED; 31  
 ABDUCTED; 46  
 PROPERTIES DESTROYED; 28

**NORTH-CENRAL**  
 FATALITIES; 222  
 INJURED; 399  
 ABDUCTED; 157  
 PROPERTIES DESTROYED; 532

**SOUTH-SOUTH**  
 FATALITIES; 81  
 INJURED; 16  
 ABDUCTED; 13  
 PROPERTIES DESTROYED; 5

**SOUTH-WEST**  
 FATALITIES; 3  
 INJURED; 7  
 ABDUCTED; 22  
 PROPERTIES DESTROYED; 7



## PREDOMINANT ACTORS

**NORTH-EAST**  
INSURENTS

**NORTH-WEST**  
BANDITS

**NORTH-CENTRAL**  
ARMED HERDERS

**SOUTH-EAST**  
CULTISTS & UNKNOWN GUNMEN

**SOUTH-WEST**  
CULTISTS



## CONFLICT HOTSPOTS

**NORTH-EAST**  
BORNO STATE

**NORTH-WEST**  
KADUNA & ZAMFARA STATES

**NORTH-CENTRAL**  
BENUE & PLATEAU STATES

**SOUTH-EAST**  
ANAMBRA & EBONYI STATES

**SOUTH-WEST**  
OYO STATE