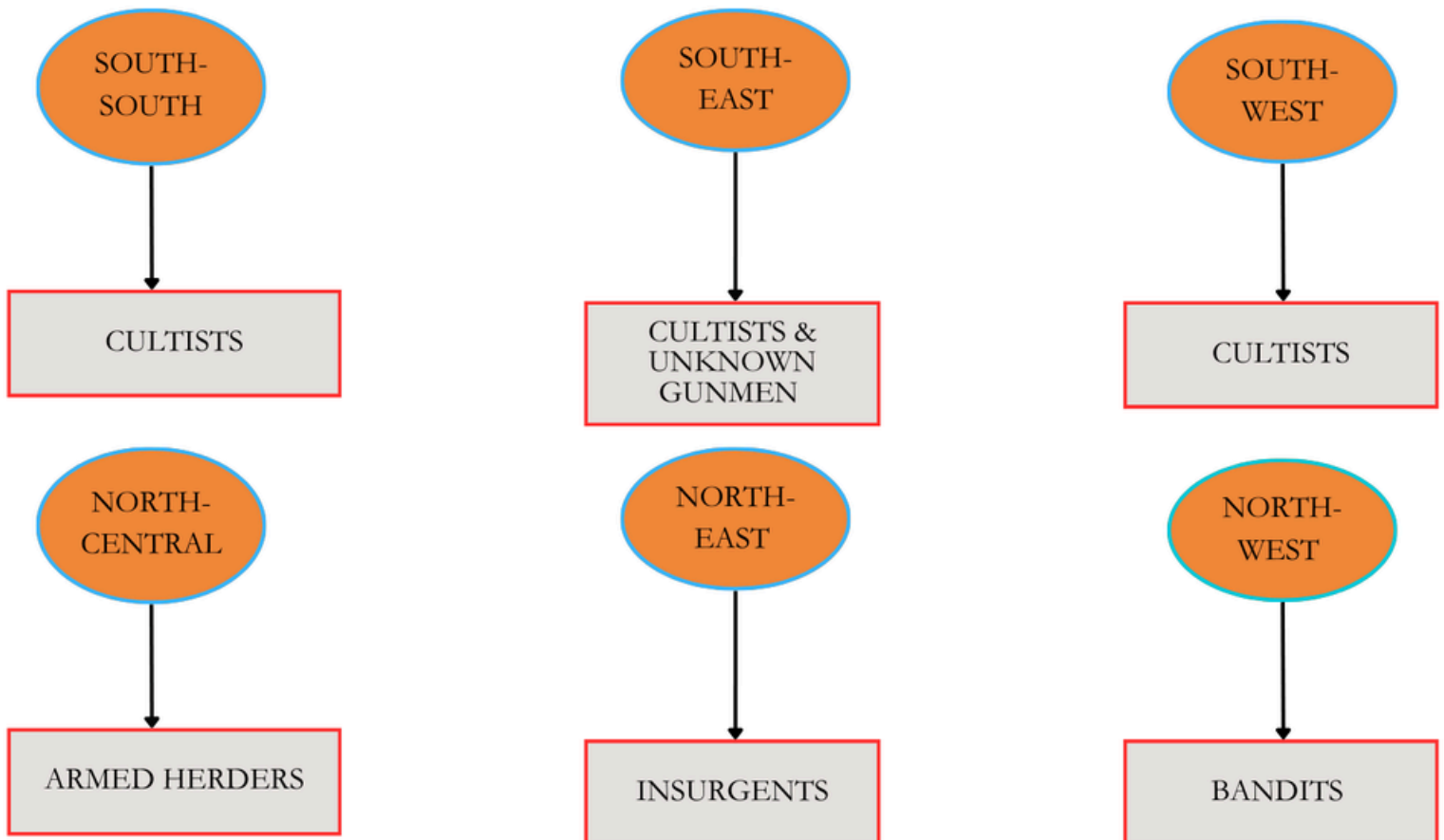


## NATIONAL CONFLICT WATCH, JULY & AUGUST, 2024

Nigeria continues to endure hostile insecurity, which jeopardizes food security, social cohesion, peace, stability, and sustainable development. Kidnapping, banditry, terrorism, cultism, and illegal drug consumption are all contributing to a pervasive culture of violence, which affects all elements of national life—political, economic, health, and socio-cultural. The July-August 2024 period depicts ongoing instability, exacerbated by protests and increased criminality, contributing to uncertainty, terror, and livelihood hazards.

### PREDOMINANT ACTORS



#### Food Security and Livelihoods:

Insecurity in this period has not only harmed urban and rural livelihoods, but it is emerging as the most serious threat to Nigeria's developmental progress. The July-August timeframe is essential for food production, as farmers prepare for the harvest season. However, bandits and terrorists attacks continue to disrupt agricultural activities in the North Central and North West areas, notably in Niger, Kaduna, Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Katsina, Sokoto, and Zamfara states. Farmers continue to risk abductions, assassinations, and extortion as a result of the imposition of protection taxes by violent non state organizations that control significant tracts of farmland.

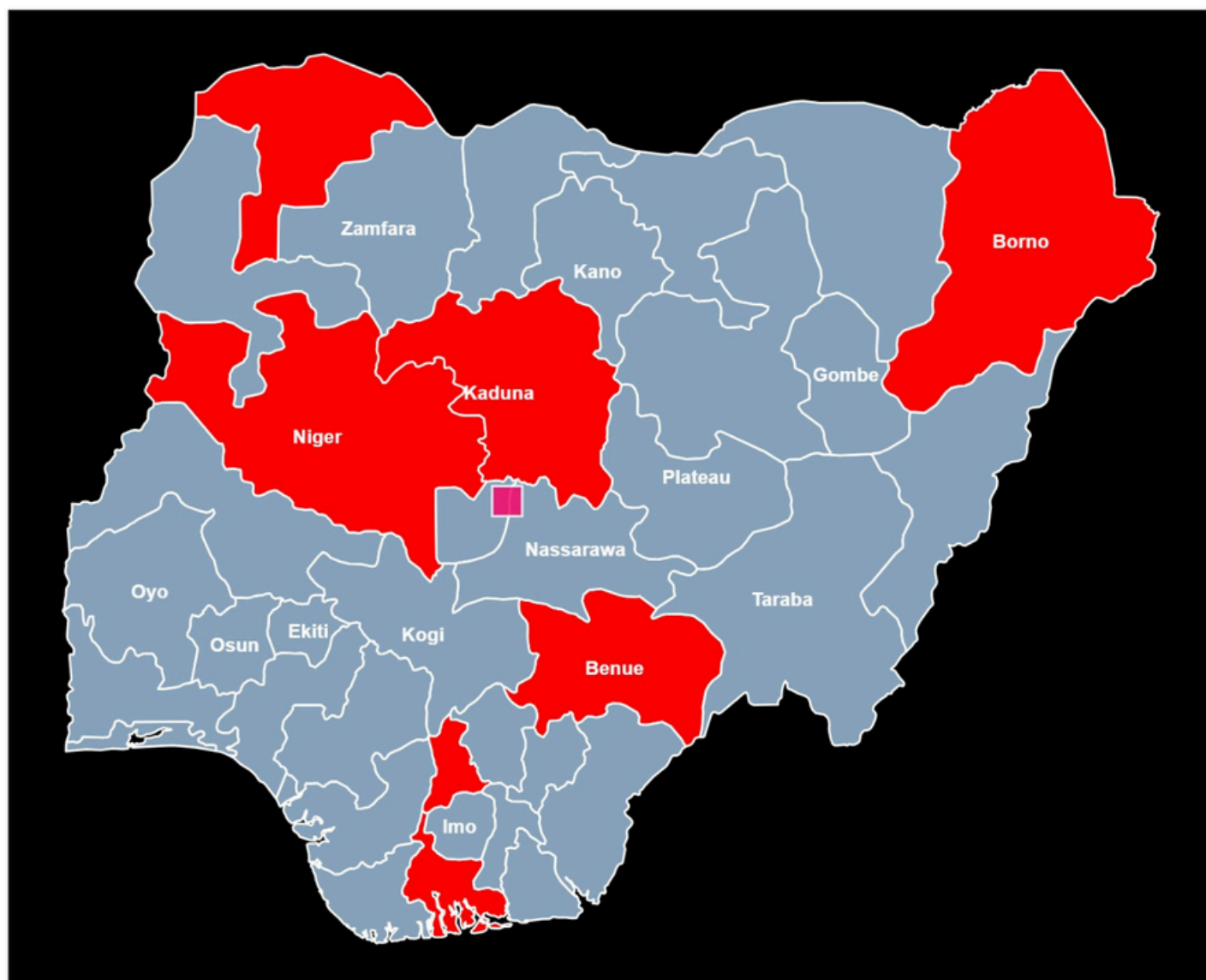


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## #BadGovernance Protests: A New Wave of Unrest:

In addition to persistent security problems, August 2024 saw the emergence of large #EndBadGovernance protests in numerous states, indicating mounting frustration with political instability, corruption, and poor public service delivery. These rallies, mostly led by youth groups and civil society organizations, erupted into skirmishes with security forces, resulting in several episodes of violence, property destruction, and conflicts in major cities including Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Borno, Niger, Jigawa, Katsina, and Port Harcourt.

## CONFLICT HOTSPOTS

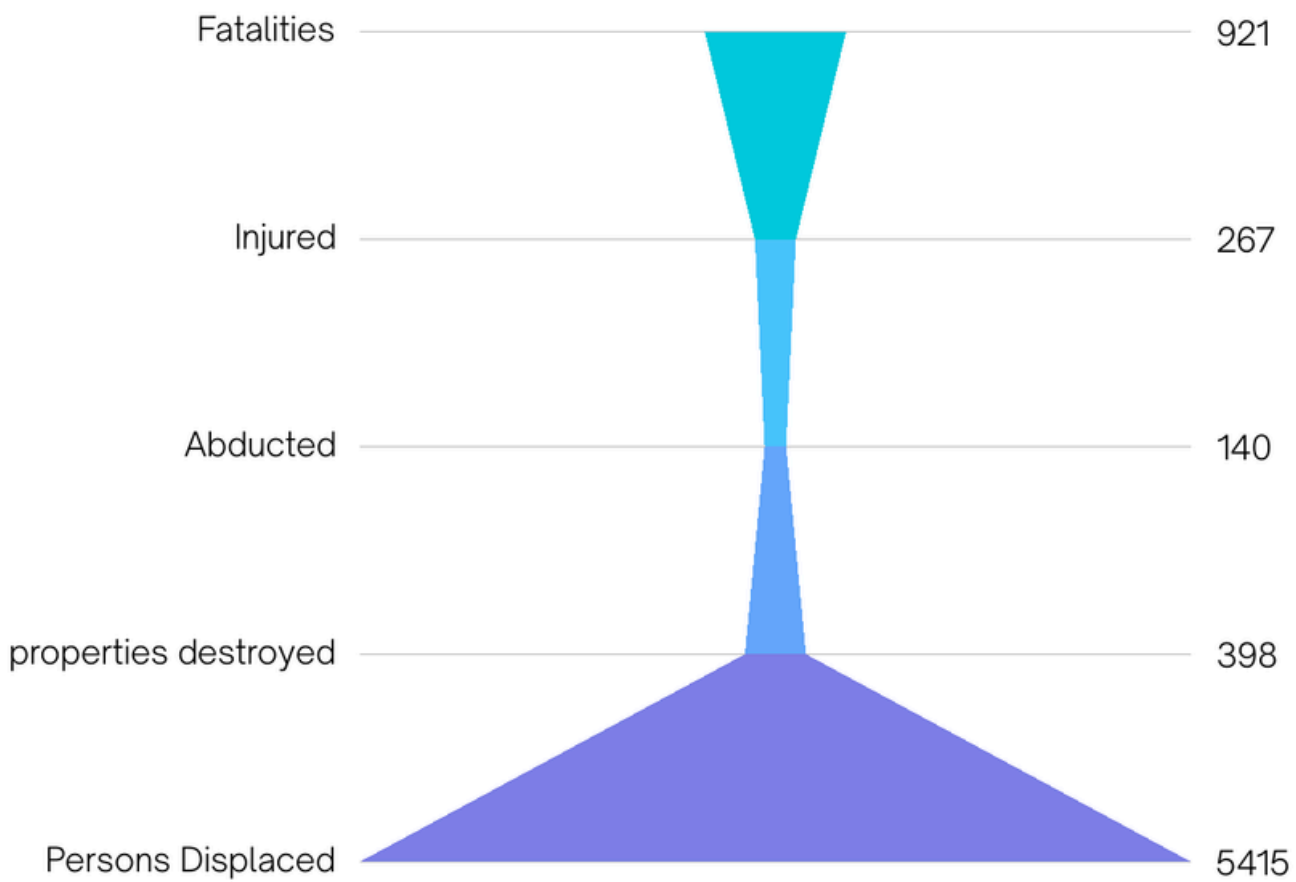


The protests amplified the already tense situation in the Southeast, and South-South regions, where ongoing issues of cultism, kidnapping, and ritualist violence persist. The protests have drawn attention to the lack of government accountability, further straining the capabilities of security agencies. In the South-South, youth restiveness, coupled with the #EndBadGovernance protests, has worsened the security dynamics, as local grievances intersect with broader national dissatisfaction.



### Security Dynamics in Southern Nigeria:

The Southeast remains a focal point of separatist agitations and attacks by ‘unknown gunmen’, while the Southwest continues to face heightened cases of cultism, kidnapping, and ritualist killings. In the South-South, criminal activities related to cultism, drug abuse, and arms proliferation are further destabilizing the region. The #EndBadGovernance protests have intensified existing frustrations, particularly in urban centers, creating new flashpoints for violence. The combination of protests, ongoing criminal activities, and separatist agitations has placed tremendous pressure on security forces, who are spread thin and unable to fully contain the rising unrest.



### Conclusion

The July-August 2024 period has seen no respite in Nigeria’s security situation. The combination of criminal violence, food insecurity, and civil unrest—exemplified by the #EndBadGovernance protests—has exacerbated the already fragile state of peace and stability. There is an urgent need for more effective coordination among security agencies, as well as greater efforts to address the root causes of discontent, including governance failures, socio-economic inequality, and systemic corruption.