

FATALITY TRENDS JANUARY–APRIL 2014

<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>Page 1</i>
<i>Regional Analyses:</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
- <i>North-East</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
- <i>North-Central</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
- <i>North-West</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
- <i>South-East</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
- <i>South-South</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
- <i>South-West</i>	<i>Page 14</i>
- <i>FCT</i>	<i>Page 16</i>
<i>News Items</i>	<i>Page 17</i>
<i>About Nigeria Watch</i>	<i>Page 18</i>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statistical analysis aims to establish the trends and patterns of violent deaths over the period January–April 2014. These are indeed trying times for Nigeria's security architecture. The first quarter of 2014 witnessed an upsurge in terrorist attacks, especially in the northern part of the country. Within a space of two weeks, two bomb explosions rocked the nation's capital city Abuja, leaving behind over 100 dead and many others injured. On 14 April 2014, the same day that a bomb explosion rocked the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for the second time, over 200 students of the Federal Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State were abducted by Boko Haram insurgents. Two days earlier, approximately 210 students, who were to sit for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) in Borno State, were killed by supposedly Boko Haram attackers under obscure circumstances. It is worth noting that they did not receive the same national and international media attention as the abduction. However, the nation's worsening security profile has attracted scrutiny from major world powers, which have increased pressure on the political authority to take more active measures to address the situation. Members of the United Nations Security Council, including China, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have recently indicated their willingness to join forces with the Federal Government (FG) in its bid to secure the release of the abducted school girls.

Meanwhile, mass protests have continued to mount pressure from various quarters across the country, calling on the government to act decisively in order to bring back the abducted girls. But these are not the only cases that pose serious security challenges to the nation. Frequent clashes between (supposedly Fulani) herdsmen and farming communities have resulted in hundreds of fatalities, especially in the North-Central parts of the country. The recent escalation in herdsmen attacks and cattle rustling in Taraba, Nasarawa, Benue, Zamfara, and other states across the country have not been properly mapped into the national consciousness. In recent times, there have also been increasing incidents of ritual killings in the South-West part of the country. The example of the “Soka horror house” in Ibadan, Oyo State—where hundreds of human body parts were discovered along with a pool of prisoners maintained for rituals involving human sacrifices—triggered general public outrage. The outrage has also resulted in widespread cases of “jungle justice” in adjoining states like Ogun, Ondo, Lagos, and Osun, where many suspected ritual killers have been burnt to death by angry mobs. In addition, frequent cases of boat accidents have claimed many lives in Lagos State.

In order to situate the current trends in violent deaths across the country, this present issue of *Fatality Trends* adopts a regional approach to the analysis. The newsletter gathers statistical studies to indicate trends in the violence that beset the country in the first quarter of 2014 (January – April) and their implications for a variety of security issues. We are hopeful that this edition will provide a useful compass for researchers, security personnel, policy makers, and the general public, who wish to deepen their understanding of the dynamics of lethal violence in Nigeria.

REGIONAL ANALYSES

NORTH-EAST

The North-East zone (NE)—involving Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe states—appears to be the most violent region in Nigeria today. The region is home to the Hausa-Fulani and the Kanuri and also hosts migrant ethnic groups from various parts of the country, including Yoruba and Igbo. Its population of about 22 million is mainly Muslim but includes a Christian minority. The deadly violence affects both Muslims and Christians, and it would be inaccurate to reduce the crisis in the region to a religious war or a contest between Islam and Christianity. In addition, leaders of both religious groups have in various fora condemned such violent acts and have openly declared their abhorrence of terrorist sentiments.

Between January and March of this year, there was a rise in the fatality figures in the NE, with a slight drop in the month of April. The general violent trend in the NE is presented in Figure 1

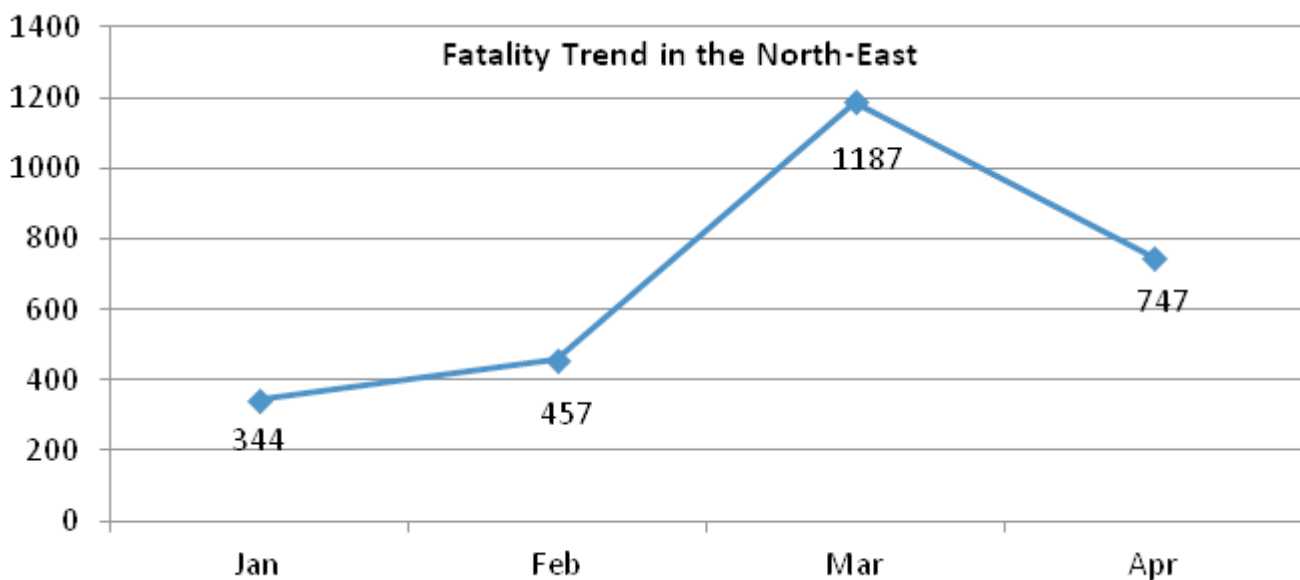


Fig. 1 Fatality trend in the North-East, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

This part of the country has attracted considerable attention from both national and international observers with regard to the spate of organized killings that currently beset the region. The main violence that troubles this region is the upsurge in the activities of the Islamic group known as Boko Haram. Other noticeable drivers of lethal violence in the region include road accidents, sorcery or ritual killings, herdsmen attacks, armed robberies, and killings associated with security forces. Although some sources of violence are specific to certain states, quite a number are spread across several states in the region. For instance, the activities of the Boko Haram sect are concentrated in Borno State, while herdsmen attacks are prevalent in Taraba State. A few states, such as Yobe, Bauchi, and Adamawa, have also witnessed attacks of various frequency from Boko Haram insurgents. After Borno, Adamawa State records a considerably high number of casualties because it has unwittingly created a safe haven for the insurgents along its porous borders with Cameroon. Meanwhile, the declaration of the state of emergency in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states for over a year now is far from making the desired impact, even though it succeeded to some extent in limiting the attacks of the insurgents in the core NE states at the initial stage.

The general trend in fatalities by state in the NE between January and April 2014 is presented in Figure 2.

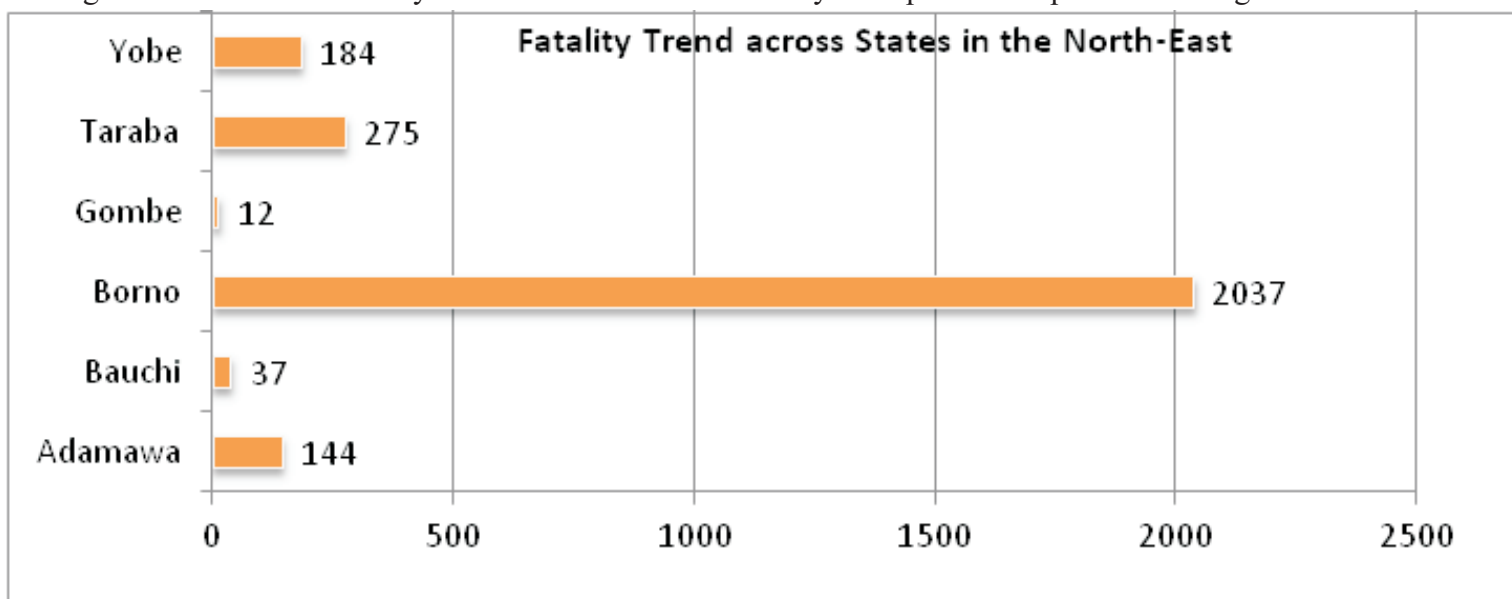


Fig. 2 Fatality trend across states in the North-East, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

As Figure 2 shows, Borno State is the worst-hit by the outbreak of lethal violence and accounts for well over 75% of violent deaths in the region. The spate of lethal violence that occurred in the state between January and April can largely be attributed to the Boko Haram insurgency. The threat to peace in the state assumed a complex dimension with the recent abduction by the terrorists of over 200 school girls from their dormitories. Thus, with the expiration of the second phase of the emergency rule, the FG is caught in the dilemma of whether or not to extend the declaration and what form it should take. The military and some prominent politicians have advocated for the full application of the declaration, whereby all democratic structures, including the Executive governors of the affected states, will be suspended. It is now left for the FG to weigh its options in order not to take rash decisions that might have political boomerang effects. It is noteworthy that the affected states are controlled by the main opposition party, the All Progressive Congress (APC), which has warned the FG repeatedly of the political consequences of applying full emergency rule.

The distribution of fatalities across Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno State between January and April is summarized in Figure 3.

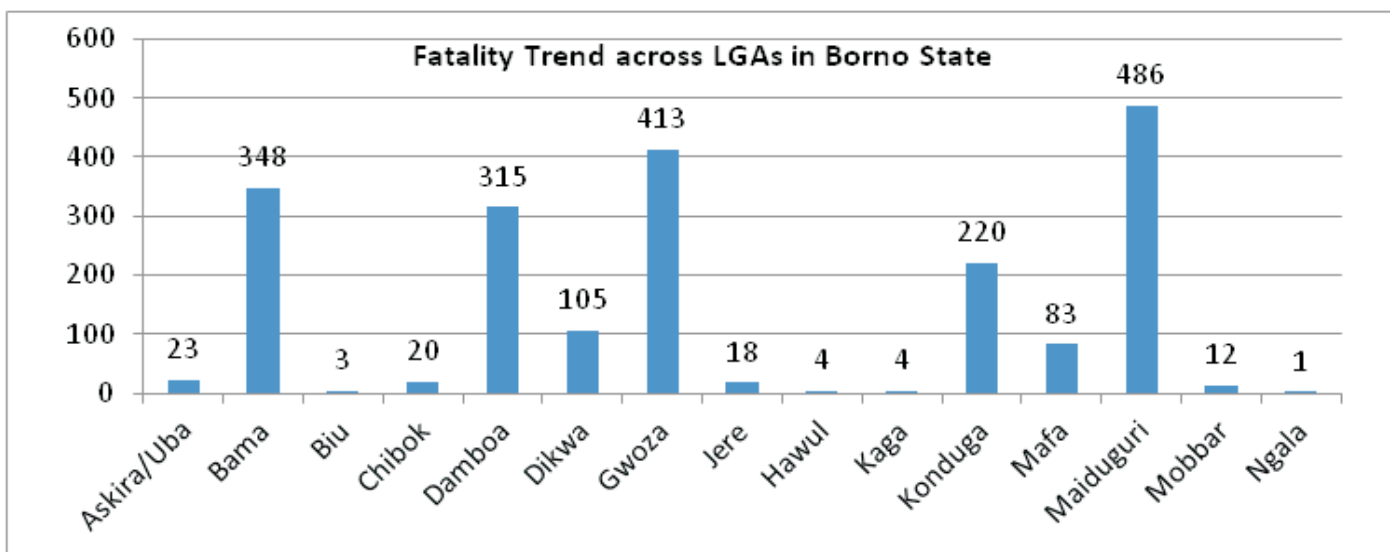


Fig. 3 Fatality trend across LGAs in Borno State, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

As the chart indicates, the activities of Boko Haram are particularly intense in Maiduguri, with 486 fatalities. This is followed by Gwoza, Bama, Damboa and Konduga LGAs, with 413, 348, 315 and 220 fatalities respectively.

Another striking trend in the region plays out in Taraba State, where bloody clashes between herdsmen and farmers are endemic (Figure 4). Wukari LGA is a major flashpoint. It also happens to be the only LGA that has recorded an incidence of Boko Haram killings in the state between January and April 2014.

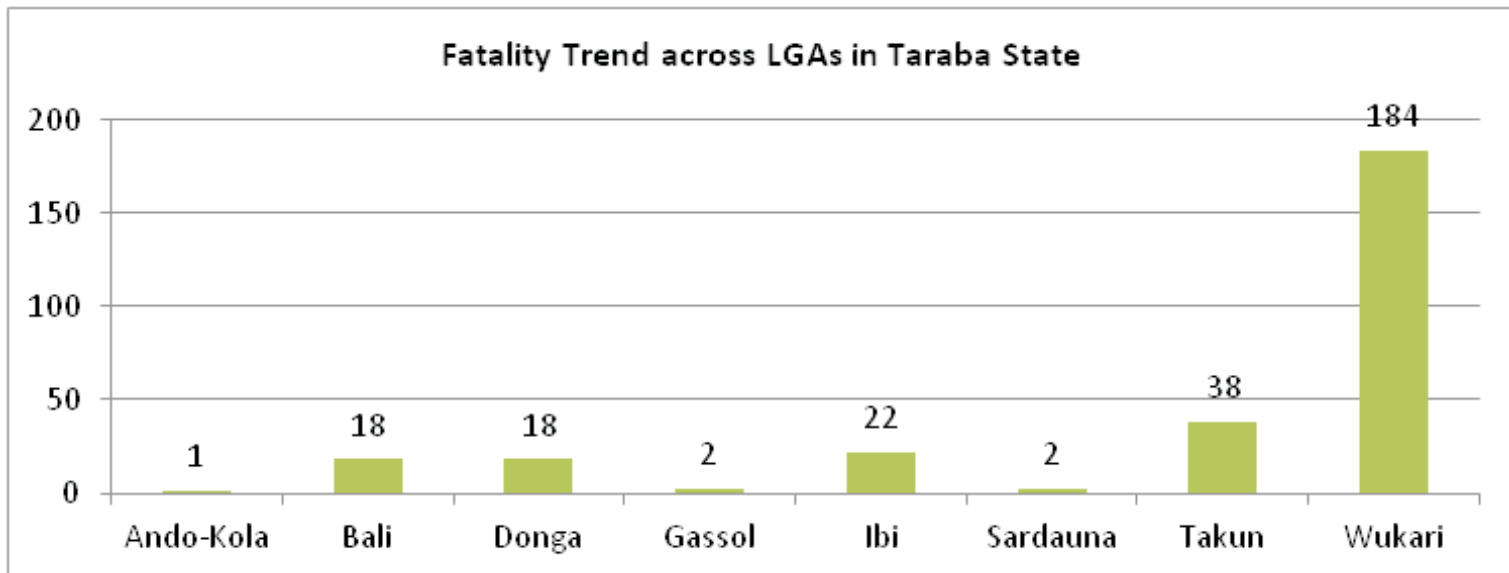


Fig. 4 Fatality trend across LGAs in Taraba State, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

In Wukari LGA, a Boko Haram attack resulted in 21 deaths, while herdsmen attacks accounted for over 173 deaths. Takun and Ibi LGAs also had incidents of violent clashes between herdsmen and farmers, causing 38 and 7 fatalities in each LGA respectively. Most of the fatalities in Donga, Bali, Ando-Kola, and Gassol resulted from the activities of criminals.

NORTH-CENTRAL

The Nigerian North-Central region is a geopolitical area comprising 6 states: Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, and Plateau. The region transverse the confluence of the Niger and Benue rivers and is characterized by diverse linguistic, ethnic, and religious groups - groups whose relationships are largely defined by animosity and tension over religious practices, distribution of natural resources, and indigene/settler clashes. Over the years, herdsmen/farmers conflict and inter-group violence between Muslims and Christians have resulted in hundreds of deaths in the region.

In recent times, however, ethno-religious violence, resource-based conflicts including herdsmen/farmers clashes, armed robbery, and cattle rustling, as well as car crashes have become more frequent and bloodier, resulting in many deaths. In the first quarter of 2014, a total of 1,150 violent deaths resulting from herdsmen/farmers clashes, armed robbery/gunmen attacks, car crashes, other accidents, fire/explosions, natural disasters, land disputes, political violence, and market issues were recorded in the region (Figure 5).

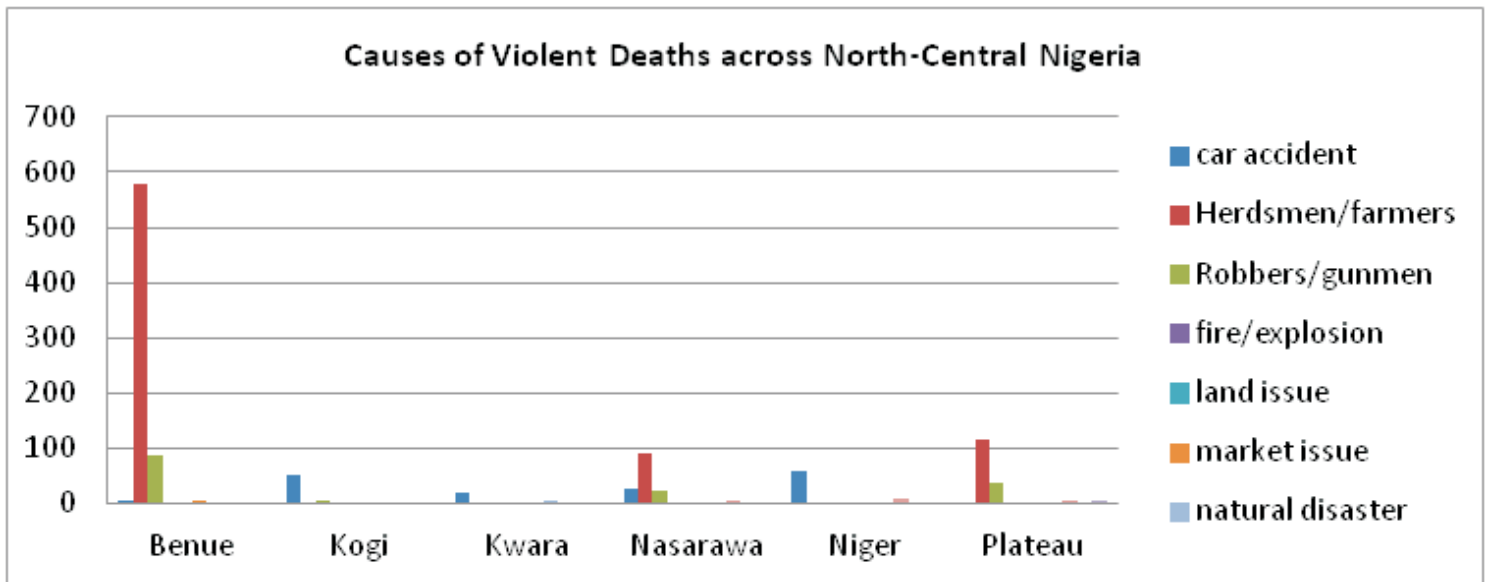


Fig. 5 Causes of violent deaths across states in North-Central Nigeria, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

As the chart indicates, the majority of incidents of violent death in the region occurred in Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa states. Of the total of 1,150 violent deaths recorded, Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa states account for 679, 168 and 146 deaths respectively. The least number of violent deaths occurred in Kwara, Kogi, and Niger states, with 29, 57 and 71 deaths respectively. Most of the violent deaths (786 of 1,150) resulted from clashes between herdsmen and farmers, representing more than two-thirds (68%) of the total number of deaths in the region. Typically, farmers and herdsmen in North-Central are predisposed to mutual conflict because farmers cultivate crops that are attractive to cattle, which pass through their farmlands and trample on crops. Fortunately, however, herdsmen/farmers clashes did not cause any deaths in Kwara, Kogi, and Niger states.

Aside from herdsmen/farmers conflict, a major cause of violent deaths in the region is car crash, which accounts for 159 of the 1,150 violent deaths. Moreover, in Kogi and Kwara states, car crash happens to be the major cause of violent deaths, accounting for 50 of 57 and 20 of 29 violent deaths in each state respectively. In addition to herdsmen/farmer clashes and car crash, armed robbery/gunmen attack was a major cause of violent deaths. As the chart indicates, 156 of the total of 1,150 violent deaths recorded were caused by armed banditry/gunmen attacks. However, armed robbery/gunmen attacks did not cause any deaths in Kwara state. Perhaps this is as a result of the presence of 'Ali Kwara', the famous thief hunter, who has been assisting the Police to combat armed robbery in the state.

Furthermore, the chart shows that conflict over access to land accounted for the least number of deaths, accounting for only 2 of the 1,150 violent deaths recorded. This is contrary to the general impression that access to land is the major cause of herdsmen/farmers conflict in the area. The chart also shows that herdsmen/farmers clashes were more endemic in Benue State. Of the 786 deaths that were caused by herdsmen/farmers clashes, 579 occurred in Benue. Violent herdsmen/farmers clashes were so endemic in the state that in early March this year, State Governor Gabriel Suswan narrowly escaped being shot dead by suspected herdsmen when he visited some communities earlier attacked by armed herdsmen.

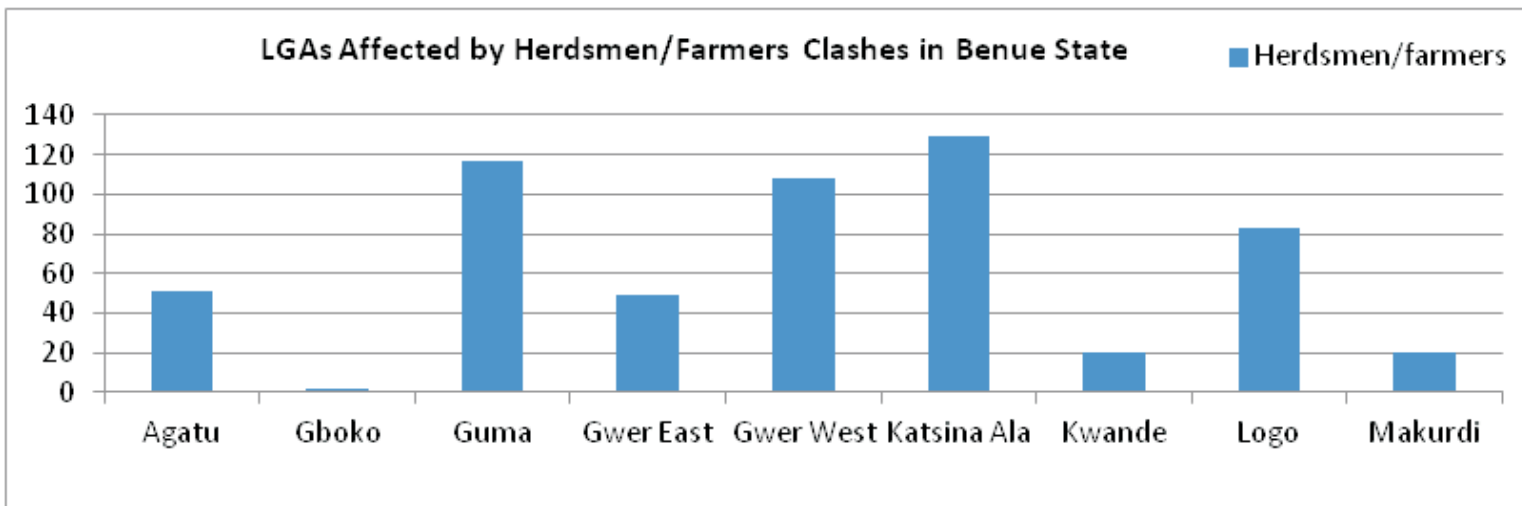


Fig. 6 Fatality figures of LGAs affected by Herdsmen/Farmers clashes in Benue State, January – April 2014
(www.nigeriawatch.org)

Of the 23 LGAs in Benue State, 9 were affected by herdsmen/farmers clashes, resulting in hundreds of violent deaths (Figure 6). However, these clashes were more endemic in Katsina Ala, Guma, Gwer West, Logo, Gwer East, and Agatu. As the chart indicates, out of 579 deaths recorded for the state, 129 occurred in Katsina Ala. This is followed by Guma, Gwer West, Logo, and Agatu, with 117, 108, 83 and 51 deaths respectively, in order of intensity. The trend also shows that these violent clashes were concentrated in the northern and eastern flanks of the state, as 5 of the 9 affected LGAs (Agatu, Guma, Makurdi, Gwer West, and Gwer East) are located around the northern border with Nasarawa State, while 3 LGAs (Katsina Ala, Guma, and Makurdi) are situated around the eastern border with Taraba State.

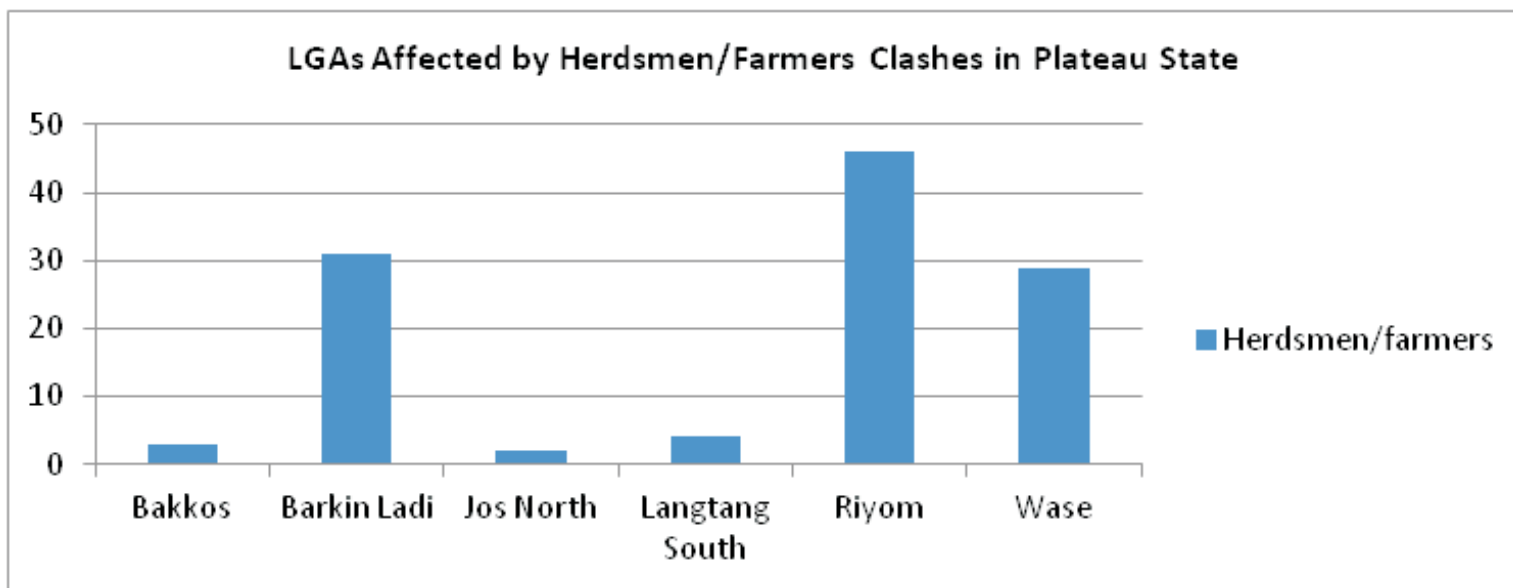


Fig. 7 Fatality figures of LGAs affected by Herdsmen/Farmers clashes in Plateau State, January – April 2014
(www.nigeriawatch.org)

Apart from Benue, another state with a very high number of deaths resulting from herdsmen/farmers clashes is Plateau. Of the total of 786 deaths resulting from herdsmen/farmers clashes in the region, 115 occurred in Plateau State (Figure 7). Although herdsmen/farmer clashes occurred in 6 LGAs in the state, such clashes were more frequent and endemic in Riyom, Barkin Ladi, and Wase LGAs, with 46, 31 and 29 deaths respectively, in order of intensity. Moreover, Riyom and Barkin Ladi LGAs, where the highest number of deaths occurred, are very close to Kafanchan in Kaduna State, where herdsmen/farmers clashes are very common.

Therefore, the herdsmen/farmers conflict has assumed a crisis dimension threatening both the human security and means of livelihoods of both farmers and herders across the entire North-Central region of Nigeria.

NORTH-WEST

The North-West region is one of the largest and most populous of the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria. The zone comprises 7 states: Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara. The region is made up of different linguistic and ethnic groups, such as the Hausa-Fulani, Zabamawa, Dakarkari, Kambari, Gungawa, Dandawa, Kataf, and Bwari. However, the region is numerically dominated by the Hausa-Fulani, who are predominantly Muslims. The relationships between some of these groups, such as between the Hausa-Fulani and Kataf, pastoralists and farmers, and Christians and Muslims, are characterized by violent conflict along ethno-religious divides. For instance, the introduction of the Shari'a legal system in the region around the year 2000 resulted in violent clashes between Muslims and Christians. As a predominantly agrarian zone, clashes over ownership and control of natural resources, especially land, are common. Moreover, most of these conflicts often have ethno-religious, political, and economic undertones. In recent times, however, the region has also come under frequent violent attacks by armed robbers and gunmen, resulting in hundreds of violent deaths.

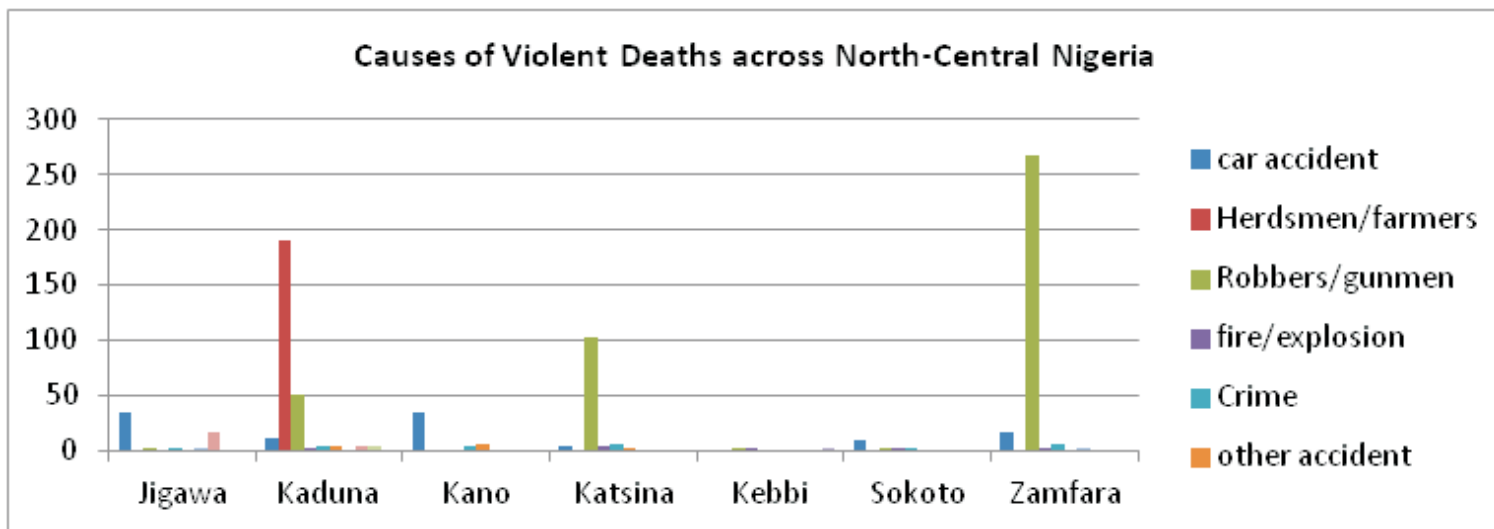


Fig. 8 Causes of violent deaths across states in North-Central Nigeria, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Between January and April 2014, a total of 807 violent deaths occurred in the region (Figure 8). Most of these occurred in Zamfara, which recorded a total of 293 deaths. This was followed by Kaduna and Katsina states, with 274 and 119 deaths respectively. The least number of violent deaths in the region occurred in Kebbi and Sokoto states, with 5 and 14 deaths respectively. More than half (425 of 807) of the violent deaths in the region were caused by armed robbers/gunmen. The trend of violence shows that attacks by armed robbers/gunmen were more endemic in Zamfara, Katsina, and Kaduna states, with 268, 102 and 51 fatalities respectively.

From the chart, the second major cause of violent deaths in the region after armed robbers/gunmen was herdsmen/farmers clashes, which accounted for 191 deaths. However, all deaths resulting from herdsmen/farmers clashes in the region occurred in Kaduna State, which recorded 191 deaths from 6 incidents, with one particularly violent clash claiming 133 lives in Kaura LGA. As the chart indicates, 191 deaths, which represent 98% of all violent deaths in the Kaura LGA, were caused by herdsmen/farmers clashes. In addition, Kaura appears to be the most violent LGA in the state, accounting for over 78% of all the violent deaths: 216 of the 274 deaths recorded in the state occurred in Kaura. Moreover, unlike other states in the region, causes of violent deaths were more varied in Kaduna, including such factors as car crashes, herdsmen/farmers conflicts, armed robbers/gunmen, fire/explosions, crime, and other accidents.

Another major cause of violent deaths in the region was car crash, which accounted for 111 of the total of 807 deaths. As Figure 8 shows, car crashes were more frequent in Kano (6 incidents) and Jigawa (5 incidents), causing 35 and 34 deaths respectively. The least cause of deaths in the region was sorcery, which caused 1 death in Kebbi State, followed by political issues, which caused 1 death each in Jigawa and Zamfara states. Generally, more than half of all the violent deaths in the region were caused by armed robbers and gunmen. As the chart indicates, 425 of the total of 807 violent deaths recorded were caused by the activities of armed robbers and gunmen. However, there were only 3 Boko Haram attacks in the region, causing 21 deaths. Two of the Boko Haram attacks occurred in Jigawa and together resulted in 17 deaths, while the third attack happened in Kaduna and resulted in 4 deaths.

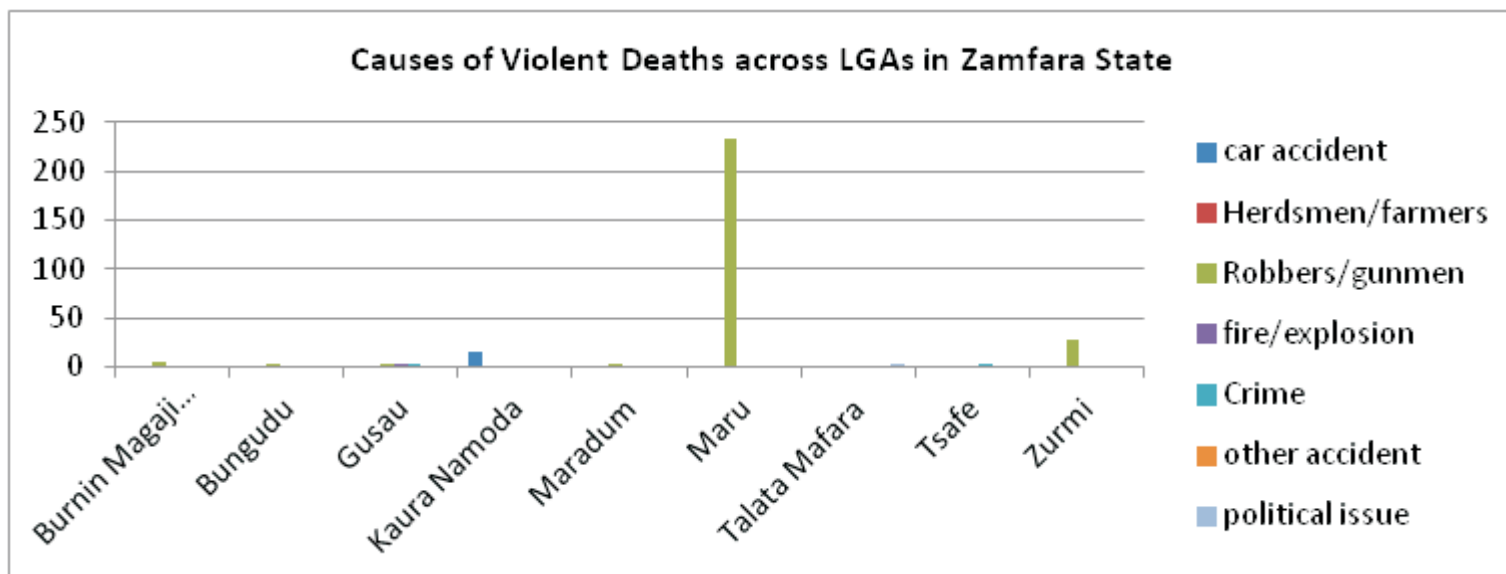


Fig. 9 Causes of violent deaths across LGAs in Zamfara State, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Armed robbery and gunmen attacks were endemic in Zamfara State (Figure 9). The trend also shows that these attacks were more frequent than other causes and accounted for the highest number of deaths across the state. In addition, the state appears to be the most violent in the region, accounting for over 43% (293 of 807) of deaths. Of the 14 LGAs in Zamfara State, 9 had incidents of violent deaths, with Maru as the most violent, accounting for almost 80% of all violent deaths. As the chart indicates, 234 of the total of 293 violent deaths occurred in Maru. It is also noteworthy that all the violent deaths in Maru were caused by armed bandits. In order of intensity, Maru was followed by Zurmi and Kaura Namoda LGAs, with 28 and 16 deaths respectively. However, while all the violent deaths in Kaura Namoda were caused by car crashes, those in Maru and Zurmi were caused by armed robbers and gunmen. On the whole, political violence accounted for the least number of deaths in the state, followed by crime and fire/explosions, with 2 deaths each.

SOUTH-EAST

The South-Eastern part of Nigeria, comprising Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo states, appears as a hub of violent criminal activities. Armed robbery, assassinations, kidnapping, and cultism have all thrived in the zone. The fatality trend across states in the South-East between January and April 2014 is presented in Figure 10.

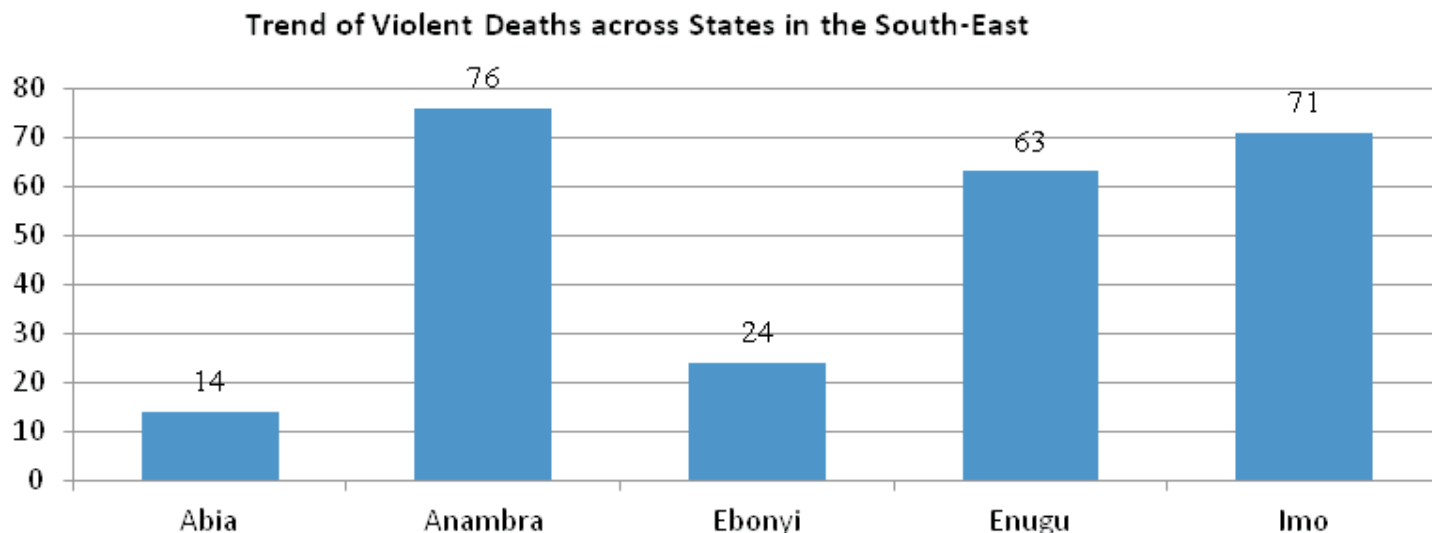


Fig. 10 Fatality trend of violent deaths across the South-East, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Approximately 31% of all the violent deaths in the zone occurred in Anambra State. This was followed by Imo (28%) and Enugu (25%). The least number of deaths were recorded in Ebonyi and Abia states, with 10% and 6% fatalities respectively. Perhaps the low number of violent deaths recorded in Abia State is a reflection of government efforts towards improving the security of lives in the state following the kidnap of a journalist and some school children in July 2010. The incident prompted the deployment of security personnel to the state capital Aba and its environs to combat criminal activities. The distribution of violent deaths in the South-East by month between January and April 2014 is presented in Figure 11.

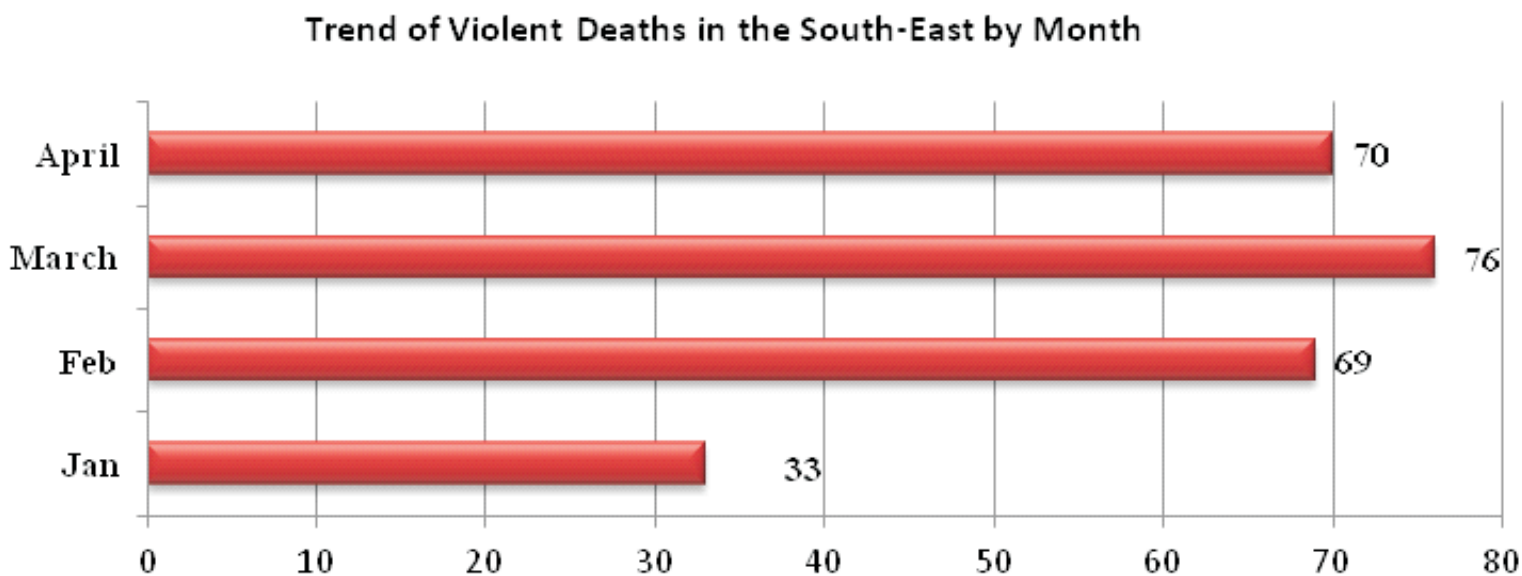


Fig. 11 Monthly trend of violent deaths in the South-East, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

As the chart indicates, March recorded the highest number of violent deaths, with 76 deaths from 33 events accounting for 31% of fatalities within the period in focus. This was followed by February, with 69 fatalities from 27 violent events accounting for 28% of the total of 70 fatalities, and April, with 70 deaths from 19 events representing 28% of all fatalities.

The month of January had the least number of fatalities (33 deaths), with 23 incidents accounting for 13% of all fatalities. The major causes of violent deaths in the South-East include car accidents, crime, cattle grazing, land issues, market issues, and religious issues (Figure 12).

Causes of Violent Deaths in the South-East

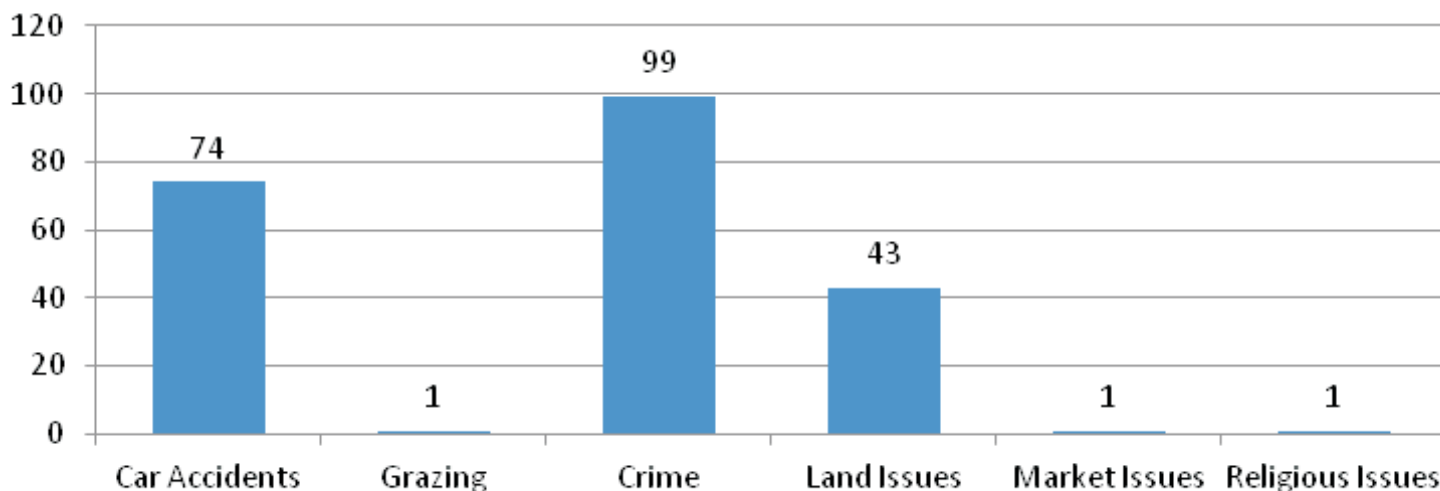


Fig. 12 Causes of violent deaths in the South-East, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

There were 99 crime-related deaths from 64 incidents, representing 45% of the entire fatality figures in the South-East between January and April 2014. As the chart indicates, a total of 99 fatalities resulted from criminal activities, which includes cultism, kidnapping, ritual killing, armed robbery, and assassination. Criminal activities were followed by car accidents, which caused 74 deaths and accounted for 34% of all fatalities. Others causes of violent deaths include land issues and cattle grazing, which account for 34% and 1% of fatalities respectively.

Distribution of Crime-Related Deaths across States in the South-East

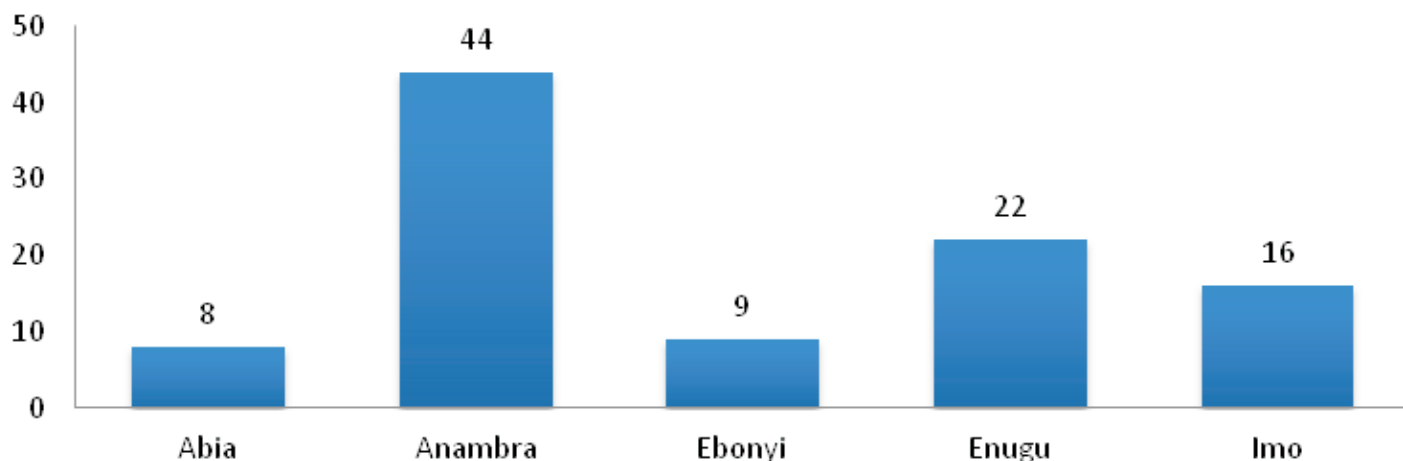


Fig. 13 Crime-related deaths across states in the South-East, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Figure 13 indicates that the fatality figure arising from criminal activities was highest in Anambra State, with 44 deaths representing 45% of the total violent deaths in the region. This was followed by Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi, and Abia states, with 22%, 16%, 9% and 8% of the fatality figure respectively.

As Figure 13 indicates, Anambra State had the highest number of fatality figures in the region. Perhaps the high incidence of violent deaths in Anambra is explained by the fact that the state is the gateway that connects the South-East with the South-South part of the country. Not surprisingly, Onitsha—the commercial nerve centre of the state and a major city in the Eastern region—accounted for most of the crime-related fatalities. In particular, Upper Iweka in Idemili North LGA—a strategic location that connects travellers from different locations—could best be described as a haven for criminals, largely because of its dense population and its proximity to the Onitsha Head Bridge and to Asaba, the Delta State capital. The distribution of causes of violent deaths in Anambra State is presented in Figure 14.

Categories of Violent Crimes in Anambra State

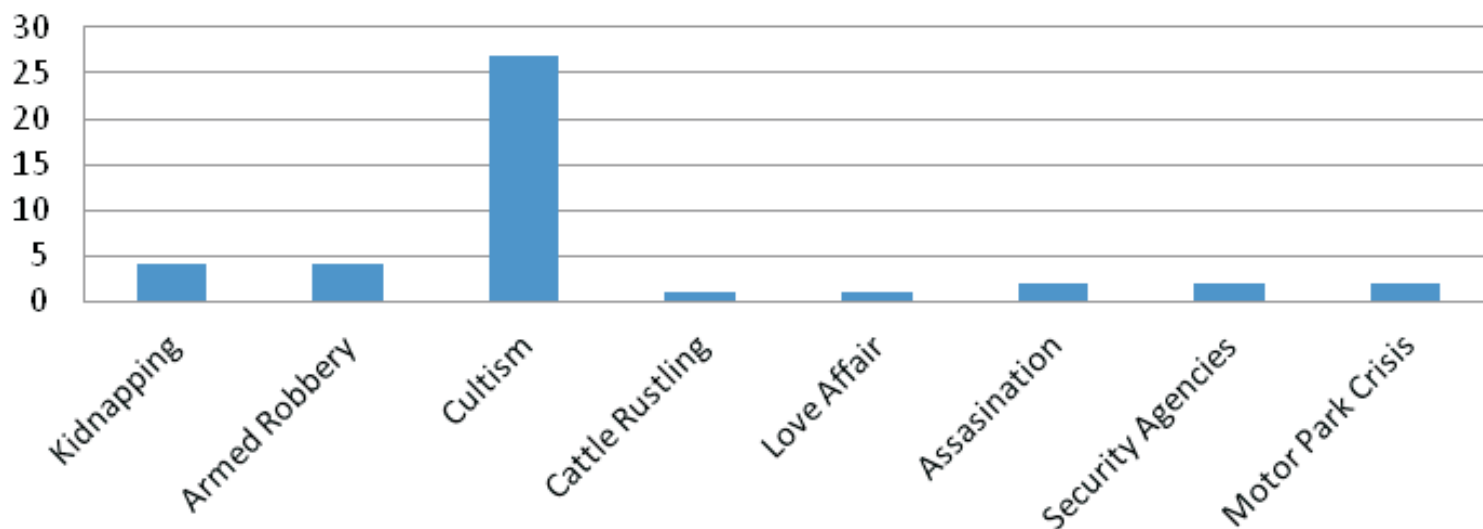


Fig. 14 Categories of violent crimes in Anambra State, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Figure 14 show that cult-related violence is prevalent in Anambra State, with 27 deaths accounting for over 63% of fatalities in the state. Cult violence was followed by armed robbery and kidnapping activities, which caused 4 deaths each and together represent 18% of crime-related deaths. Other causes of violent deaths include assassination, motor park leadership crisis, and killing by security forces, with each accounting for 5% of the total fatality figures in the state.

Crime-Related Fatalities across LGAs in Anambra State

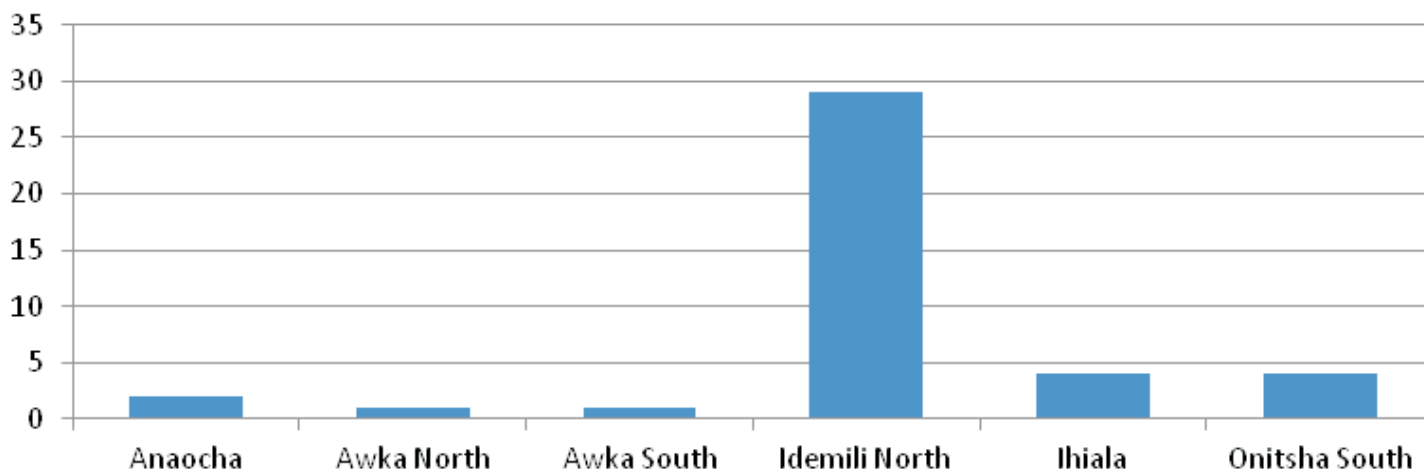


Fig. 15 Crime-related fatalities across LGAs in Anambra, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Among all the LGAs in Anambra State, Idemili North recorded 29 fatalities, representing 71% of all crime-related deaths in the state. This was followed by Onitsha South and Ihiala LGAs, which individually accounted for 10% of the total fatality figures. The least number of fatalities were recorded in Anaocha (5%) and Awka North and Awka South (together 2%) of the fatality figures in the state.

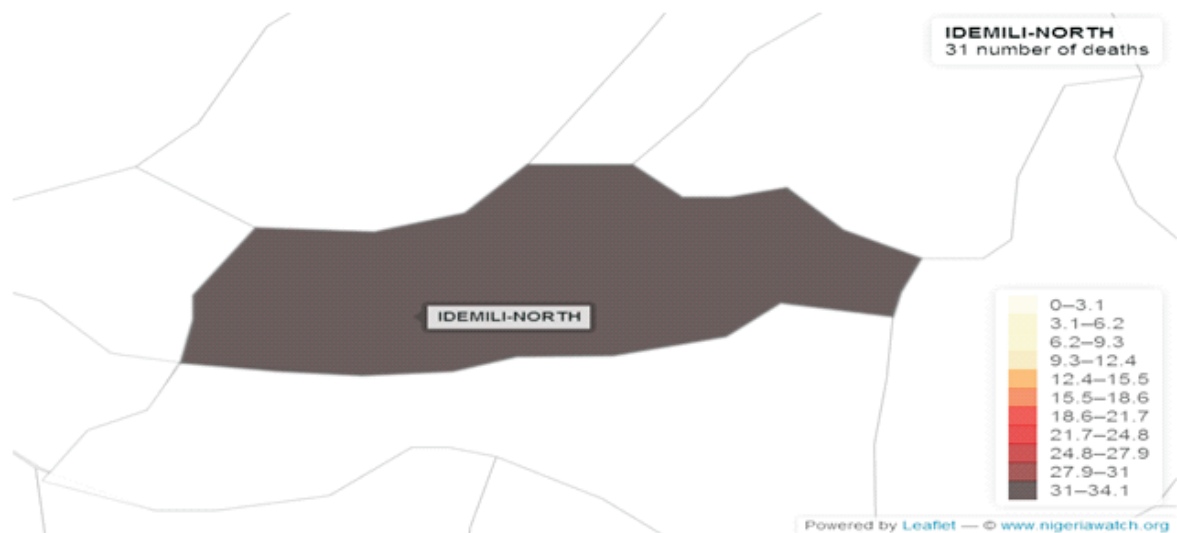


Fig. 16 Mapping of crime-related deaths in Idemili North LGA in Anambra, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

SOUTH-SOUTH

Like most geo-political zones in Nigeria, the South-South comprises 6 states: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers. The region has an estimated population of 24.6 million and consists of diverse ethnic and tribal groups, such as the Ijaw, Edo, Ogoni, Ekwere, Ishekiri, Urhobo, Isoko, and Okrika. The states in the region form the core of the oil-rich Niger Delta area. Typically, the main violent issues emerging from this region centre on environmental pollution and degradation, which involve the activities of multinational oil companies and FG agencies, especially the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). Communal clashes, kidnappings for ransom, and blowing up of oil installations and pipelines were some of the largest security challenges in the South-South, until recently when the FG introduced its Amnesty Programme. However, in spite of the amnesty intervention, the South-South has continued to witness other forms of criminal violence. The fatality trend across the states in the South-South is summarized in Figure 17.

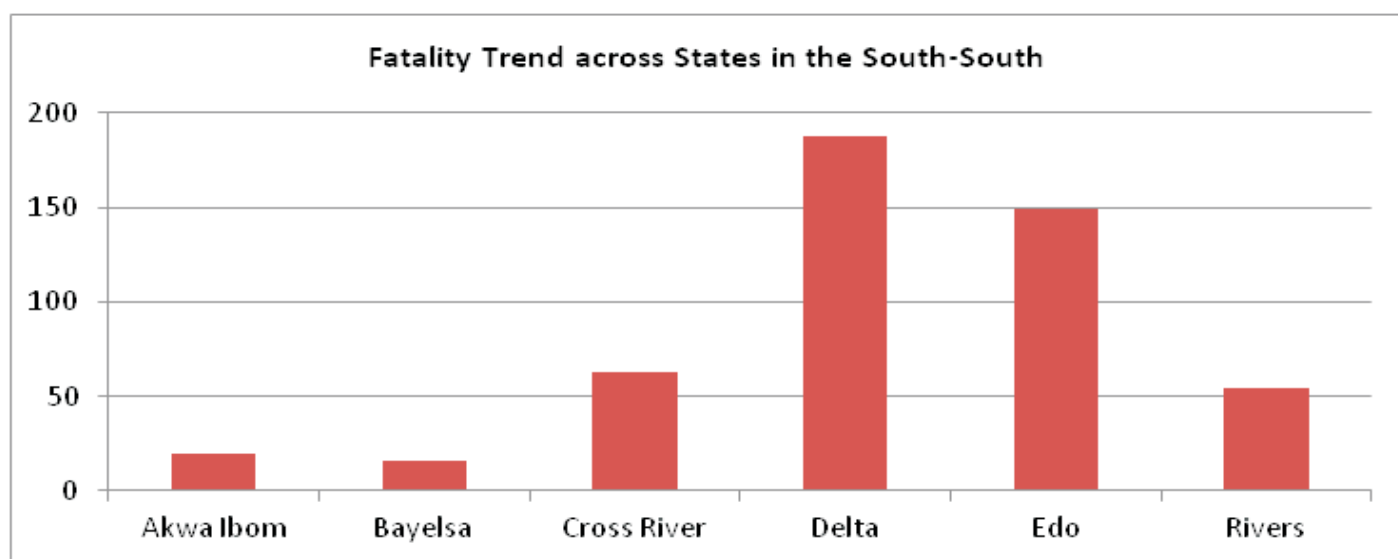


Fig. 17 Fatality trend across states in the South-South, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

The chart indicates that fatality figures in Delta and Edo states are on the high side. Specifically, road accidents remain the major cause of fatalities in Delta and Edo—and, indeed, in most states in the region. Other causes of violent deaths include cattle grazing, land/communal crises, rape, fire/explosion, cultism, and natural disasters.

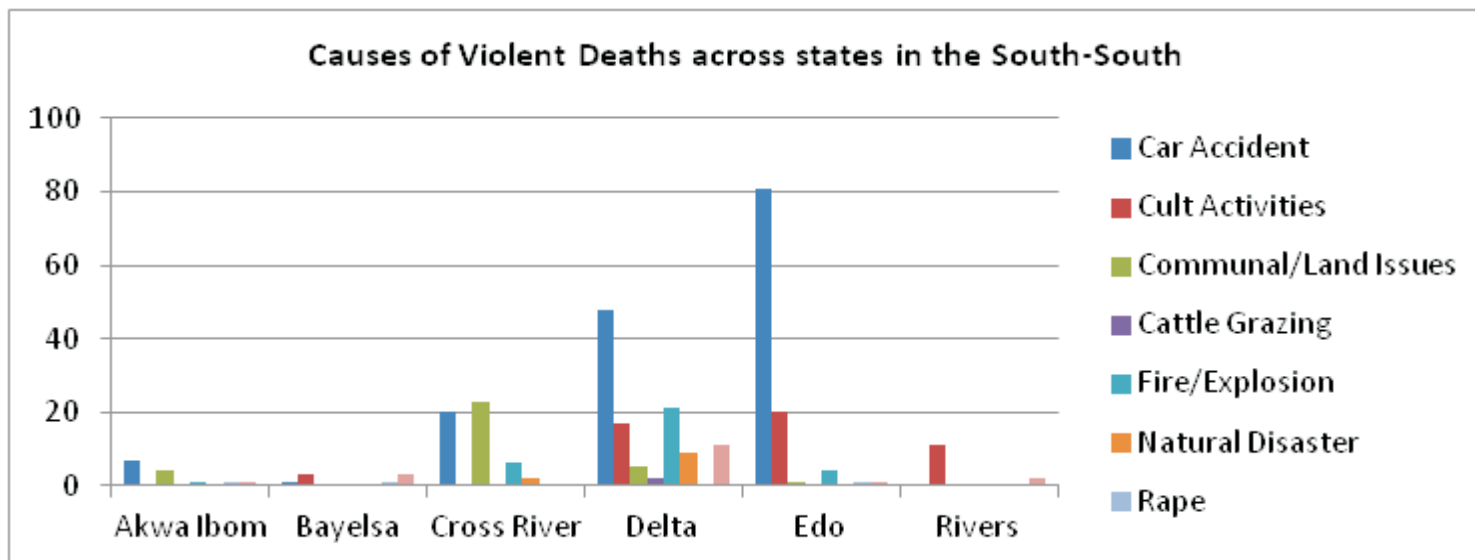


Fig. 18 Causes of violent deaths across states in the South-South, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

Figure 18 shows the distribution of the causes of violent deaths across the states in the South-South. The majority of the incidents of car accidents took place in Edo State. Perhaps the heavy traffic and the deplorable state of the Benin/Ore Expressway are responsible for the soaring death count of 81 in Edo. Cult-related violence is also noticeable in Edo, Delta, and Rivers states. Although cult-related violence has thrived in Rivers State for quite some time now, there was a resurgence in cult violence within the first quarter of 2014, with the highest fatality figures in the state. Contests over land were the major cause of lethal violence in Cross River State. Most disturbing was the case of the tussle over land ownership between Ediba and Usumutong communities in April, which resulted in 15 fatalities. However, violence was relatively low in Awka-Ibom and Bayelsa states, even though there were a number of fatalities from cases of road accidents, communal clashes, cult violence, and criminal activities. The general pattern of violence in this region is rather changeable. It dropped from 128 to 79 deaths in January, picked up to 144 in March, and then dropped to 129 in April (Figure 19).

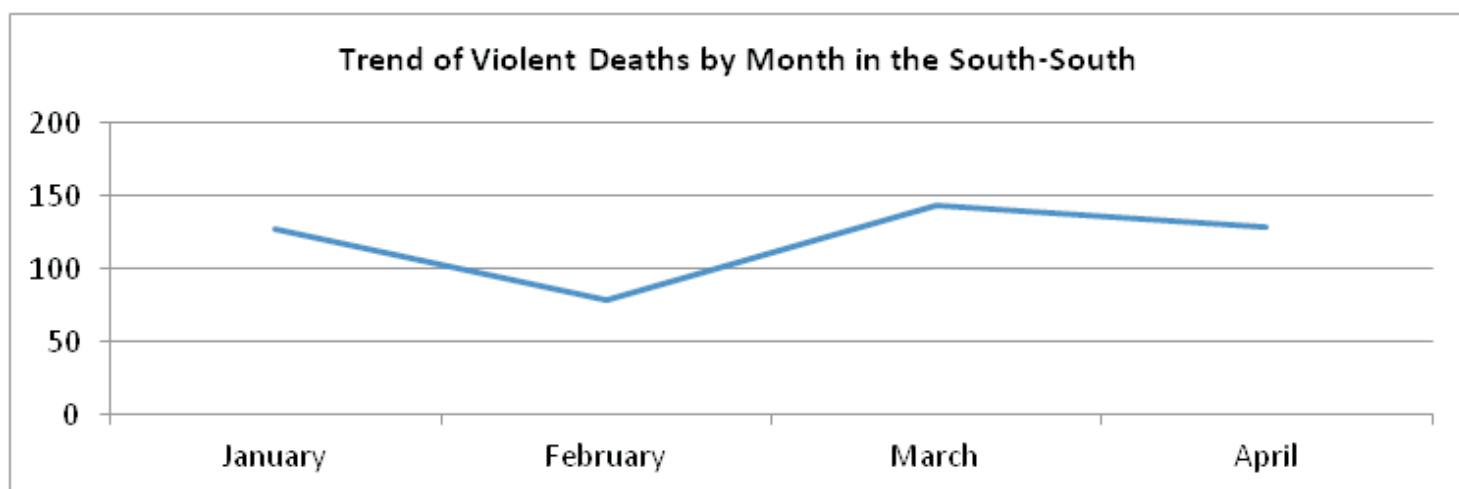


Fig. 19 Monthly trend of violent deaths in the South-South, January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

The changing trend in violent deaths may have been caused by poor management of roads, as multiple road crashes were recorded along major highways in Delta and Edo states. Relevant government policies on traffic management and road maintenance should significantly reduce the changing fatality trend in this zone.

SOUTH-WEST

The South-Western part of Nigeria comprises Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo states and is mainly inhabited by the Yoruba, who are renowned for their strong industrial base, modern bureaucracy, accomplished academics, and strong presence of a skilled labour force in various sectors. Thus, the region attracts different categories of individuals and corporate bodies, including traders, professionals, business persons, administrators, and students, all of whom come from various parts of the country and beyond to explore the booming economic and educational opportunities. Lagos and Ibadan are particularly densely populated, owing to their previous political statuses as the nation's capital and the seat of government of the Old Western Region respectively. As expected, most of the violent incidents that took place in the zone between January and April 2014 were concentrated in Lagos, the economic nerve centre of the region (Figure 20).

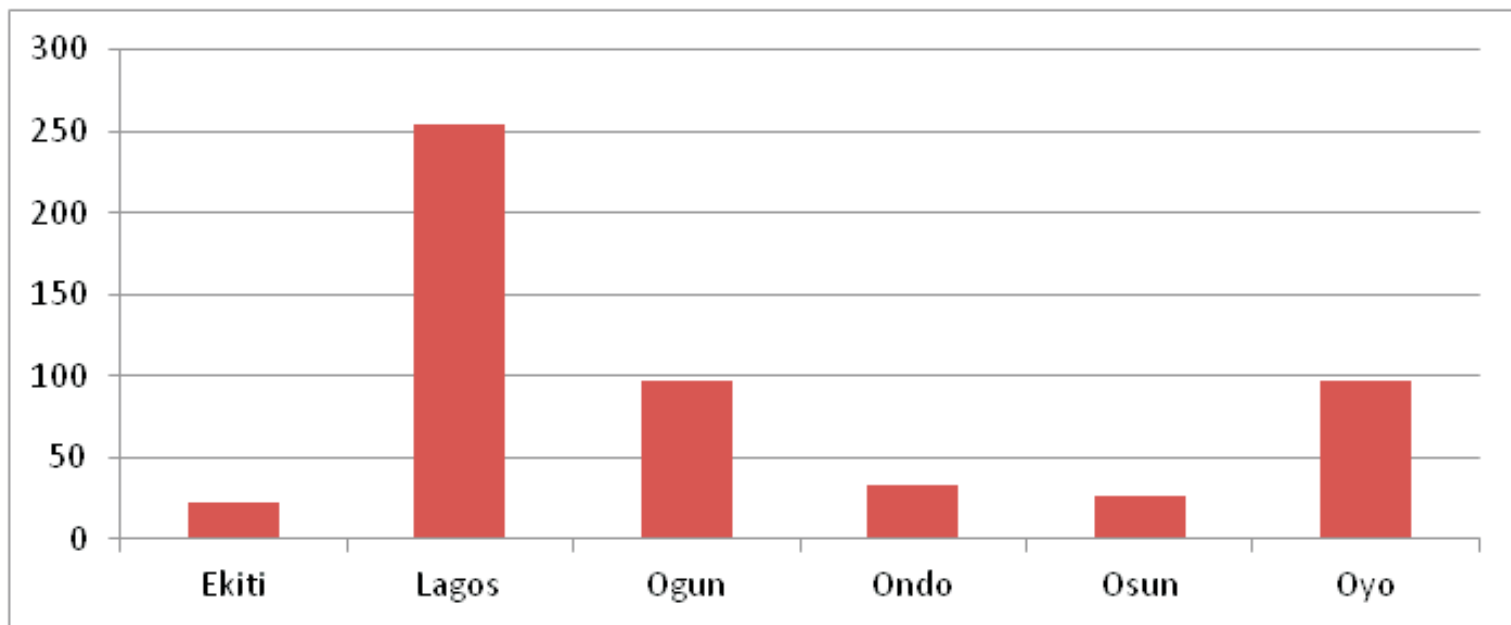


Fig. 20 Fatality trend across states in the South-West, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

The security of the region has always been undermined by criminal activities such as armed robbery, killing by security forces, cultism, domestic violence, and ritual killings. Frequent road accidents pose serious security concerns, and road accidents are most prevalent on the Lagos-Ibadan highway. This is often attributed to over-speeding drivers and, of course, the poor state of the roads. A summary of the breakdown of fatalities as experienced across the states in the South-West is represented in Figure 21. The main causes of violent deaths in the region are categorized as crime, car accidents, other accidents, cultism, sorcery, and fire/explosion. As the chart indicates, Lagos State experienced all these forms of violence in various degrees. Other states within the region also witnessed some of this lethal violence, which results in a number of fatalities depending on the social forces at work in each state.

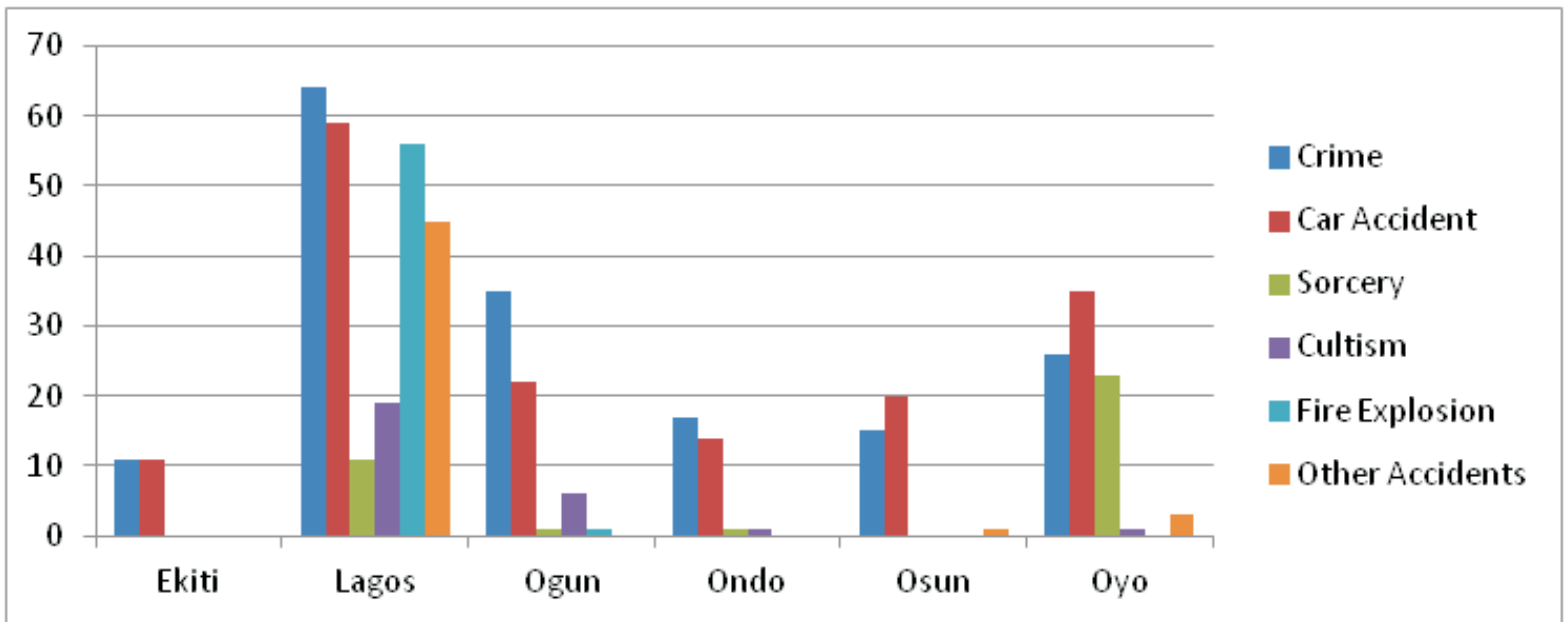


Fig. 21 Causes of violent deaths across states in the South-West, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

In Lagos, crime, car accidents, fire/explosion, and other accidents accounted for most loss of life. In the NW database, the 'Other Accidents' category encompasses fatal deaths arising from collapsed buildings, boat mishaps, drowning, and electrocution. One group of accidents that increased the fatality figure in this category is the cases of boat mishap. Lagos experienced 3 cases of capsized boats, which led to the death of 31 persons between January and April 2014. However, criminal activities have the widest spread across the state, while road accidents are concentrated in Ikeja, Ibeju-Lekki, Epe, Amuwo-Odofin, and Oshodi-Isolo LGAs. Cult clashes are most frequent in the Mushin and Ikorodu axis, although Ifako-Ijaye, Apapa, and Ojo also had cases of cult-related violence. Apapa and Kosofe LGAs experienced high fatalities from fire/explosion. The fatality trend across LGAs in Lagos is summarized in Figure 22.

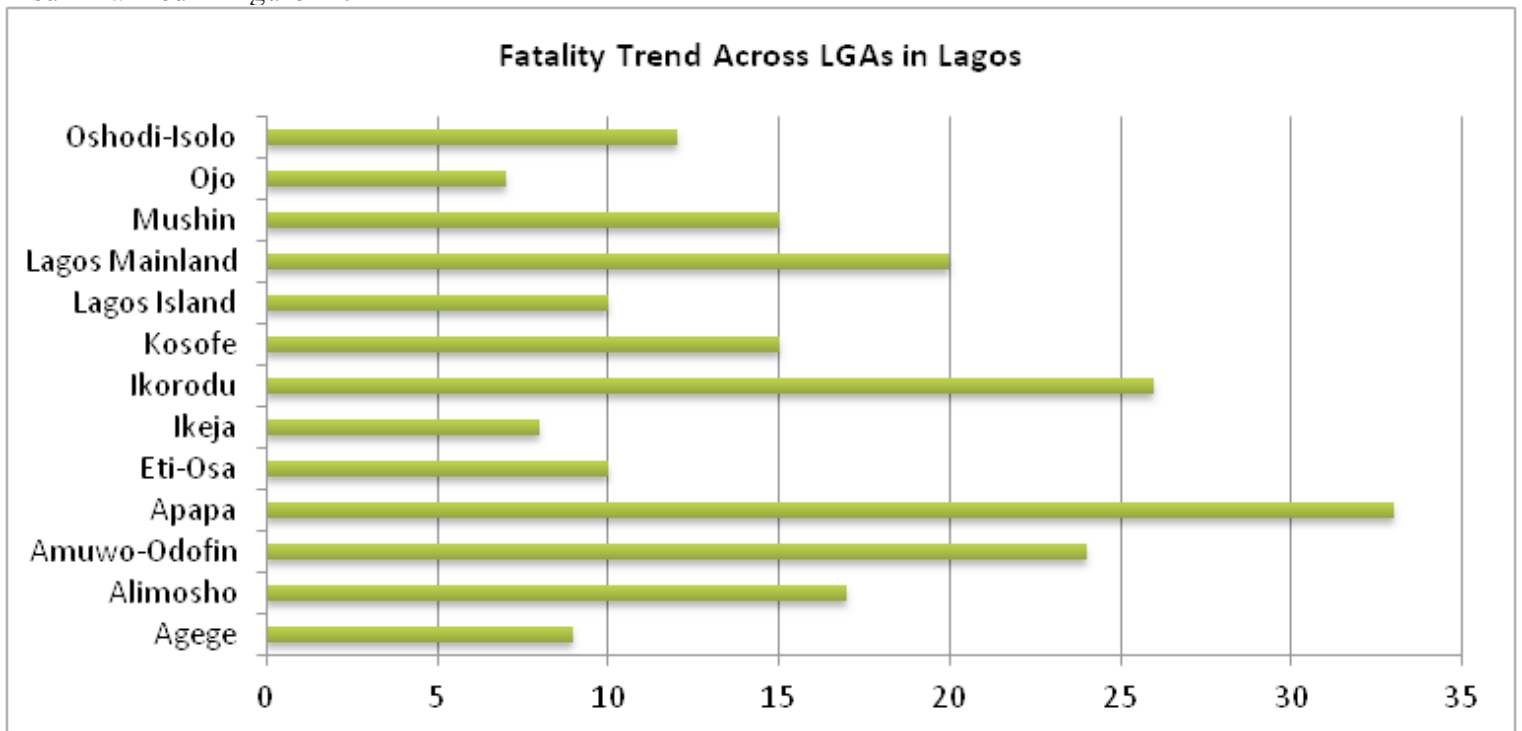


Fig. 22 Fatality trend across LGAs in Lagos, January – April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

As is shown in the chart, Apapa LGA has the highest fatality figure, which resulted largely from crime and road accident. Fatalities in other LGAs were caused mainly by crime.

FCT (ABUJA)

The FCT (Abuja) is Nigeria's political and administrative headquarters. The FCT comprises 6 area councils: Abaji, Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali. In the last issue of *Fatality Trends*, car accident was the major cause of violent deaths, and the majority of these accident occurred in Abuja Municipal and Kuje area councils. However, in the first quarter of 2014, Boko Haram violence accounted for the majority of fatalities in the FCT (Figure 23). Other factors—robbers/gunmen attacks, crime, communal clashes, fire/explosions, religious issues, other accidents, and killings by security forces—were to various degrees responsible for fatalities in the FCT within the period in focus.

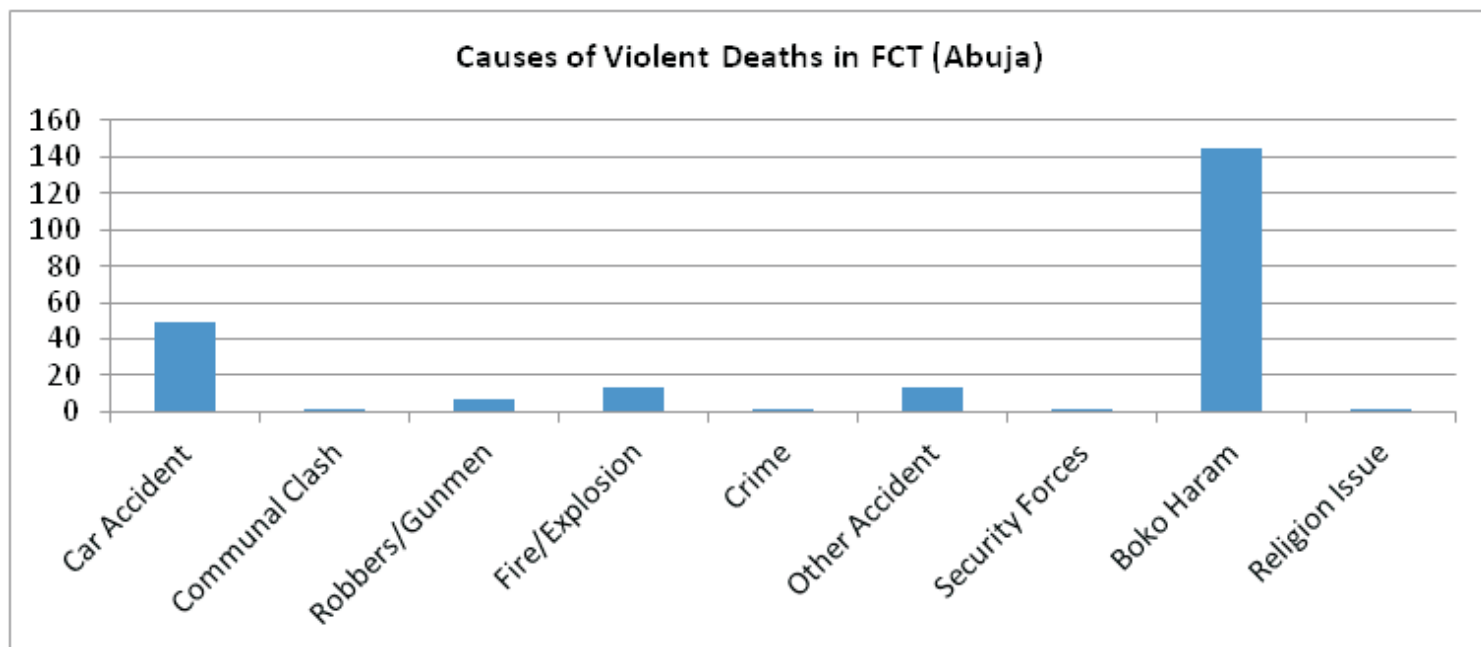


Fig. 23 Causes of violent deaths in the FCT (Abuja), January–April 2014 (www.nigeriawatch.org)

As the chart indicates, 145 (62%) of the total (234) deaths resulted from Boko Haram attacks. Within the period in view, there were two major Boko Haram-related violent incidents, resulting in hundreds of fatalities in the territory. On Sunday, 30 March 2014, 21 Boko Haram detainees were killed by security forces during an attempted jail break, in which terrorists tried to release their colleagues from a detention facility in Asokoro district, within the precinct of the presidential villa in Abuja. Two weeks after the failed jail break, there was a bomb blast at a bus station at Nyanya on the outskirts of the FCT. The bomb blast was perpetrated by Boko Haram terrorists and resulted in 124 fatalities, making it the single most violent incident in the FCT within the period.

Car crashes followed Boko Haram violence as a major cause of violent deaths in the FCT. As the chart indicates, 49 (21%) of all violent deaths resulted from car crashes. Moreover, car crash was the most recurrent cause of fatalities in the FCT (38 incidents). This means that there was an average of 1 death in each crash. On the other hand, it appears that incidents of violent deaths resulting from crime are decreasing in the FCT; only 2 deaths resulted from crime in the area within the first quarter of 2014.

NEWS ITEMS

IFRA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR:

The new director of IFRA-Nigeria Dr Xavier Moyet began official duties in March 2014. Dr Moyet is an anthropologist whose research interest focuses on African Charismatic Churches and Globalization. Members of the Faculty of the Institute of African Studies and the Nigeria Watch team have, at different fora, officially welcome Dr Moyet to his new assignment. The new director will also serve in this capacity as the Scientific Supervisor of the Nigerian Watch project. The Nigeria Watch team wishes Xavier an inspiring and result-oriented tenure as he takes up this challenging position.

PSWG MEETINGS:

Nigeria Watch participated in two meetings of the Peace and Security Working Group (PSWG). The team was represented by Dr. Adeola Adams, Afeno Super Odomovo, and Manuel Reinert on 4 February 2014, and by Dr. Xavier Moyet and Manuel Reinert on 9 April 2014. The first meeting served to summarize the objectives of the group (to “enhance the effectiveness and coordination of interventions that are designed to reduce conflict, or to prevent the start or resumption of violent conflicts in Nigeria”); to discuss efficient tools for sharing information, data, and analyses; and to agree on the members of the PSWG steering committee. Relevant information sharing tools were proposed and subsequently implemented (e.g. Web Map, Dropbox). The steering committee is composed of the following: CITAD, Fund for Peace, Mercy Corps, NSRP, Nigeria Watch/IFRA, PIND, Search for Common Ground, SDN, USAID, and Working Group on Armed Violence. The second meeting was dedicated mainly to electoral violence and conflict sensitivity during electoral processes. Several organizations (notably USAID, Mercy Corps, and UNICEF) presented specific programs of prevention and monitoring. Furthermore, sub-groups (region-based and issue-based) gave reports on their activities (mainly the sub-group on the Niger Delta). Finally, Nigeria Watch presented the different issues tackled in its call for proposals for research and fieldwork grants and encouraged members of the PSWG to participate.

SPSP CONFERENCE:

The Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) held its annual International Conference at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State between 24 and 26 March 2014. IFRA-Nigeria is one of the principal partners of SPSP in the areas of research and capacity building. The theme of the conference, '100 Years of Inter-group Relation in Nigeria', was adopted as part of the centenary celebration of Nigeria as a political entity. Various aspects of the theme were addressed by peace scholars and practitioners who came to participate in the conference from different parts of the country. At the opening ceremony, State Governor Alhaji Abdufatah Ahmed was represented by the Secretary to the Kwara State government. Other dignitaries that attended the event included the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin; the Director of the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, Dr Adedimeji; the Director of the Institute of African Studies, Prof. Dele Layiwola; and Emeritus Professor Tekena Tamuno. The Director of IFRA-Nigeria Dr Xavier Moyet was represented by Manuel Reinert. During one of the joint sessions, the Nigeria Watch project was presented to the conferees by Dr Adeola Adams, who also took the opportunity to circulate the 2014 Call for Proposals for grants to carry out research based on the Nigeria Watch database.

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES FOR CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

More than 70 applications were received for the '2014 Call for Proposals' to undertake research based on the Nigeria Watch project. All the proposals went through the screening processes, and 23 applicants have so far been selected to participate in the research on the trends of lethal violence in Nigeria. Successful candidates have already been contacted and informed about the modality for conducting the research work. Selected participants will be invited to attend a training session on how to use the database. The final reports of both the 'invisible violence' (fieldwork) and the 'online database' research is expected to have been completed and submitted by September 2014.

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR'S VISIT: The Scientific Director of the Nigeria Watch project Prof. Marc-Antoine Pérouse de Montclos paid a working visit to the Parry Road office of the Nigeria Watch project on 18 and 19 February 2014. Prof. Montclos used the opportunity to assess the level of work and address some pending issues.

NIGERIA WATCH PROJECT LAUNCH:

There will be official presentations of the Nigeria Watch project in Ibadan and Abuja in May and September 2014 respectively. The Ibadan event has been slated for 22 May 2014 at 1.00 pm. The venue is the University of Ibadan Conference Centre, UI Hotels. The event will formally make available to members of the public access to the Nigeria Watch project. Expected dignitaries at the occasion include the Ambassador of France His Excellency Mr Jacques Champagne de Labriolle; the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan Prof. Isaac Folorunso Adewole; the Head of the French Cooperation Mr Patrick Perez; the Director of the Institute of African Studies Professor Dele Layiwola; the Director of IFRA-Nigeria Dr Xavier Moyet; the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Oyo State House of Assembly; the State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development; the State Commissioner of Police; the Sector Commander of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC); the Commandant of Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp; and the Director of the State Security Service. A reception will be organized at the instance of the Ambassador of France for Special Guests at IITA later in the evening of the same day.

ABOUT NIGERIA WATCH

Nigeria Watch (NW) was established in 2006 by French researcher Prof. Marc-Antoine Pérouse de Montclos of the University of Paris 8. Since mid-2013, the project has been implemented under the supervision of IFRA-Nigeria at the University of Ibadan, with funding from the DFID and as part of the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme. NW is a database that monitors and compiles violent deaths, including accidents, crimes, natural disasters, fire outbreaks, and oil-related violence, occurring in Nigeria since 1 June 2006. It relies principally on ten Nigerian daily newspapers. Other sources of information, such as human rights organizations and Federal security agencies, are used to cross-check data and mitigate methodological biases. NW provides the research community, policy makers, security experts, and the general public with concrete data on violence in Nigeria. It thereby helps decision makers and other stakeholders to monitor violence by providing an original set of data. In a country where there are few statistics on crime, the database helps to cross-check various sources of information to give trends of violence. The primary objective is to measure the physical risk to people in the hazardous environment of Nigeria.

As part of its strategic initiatives, NW provides training on how to use its database. Furthermore, it generates discussions, workshops, seminars, and conferences framed around national security issues, based on information regularly extracted from the database. This helps to strengthen and redirect policy options, with the overall aim of reducing the frequency of violent deaths in Nigeria. NW database is updated daily by its team of researchers, and it is frequently used by scholars and other interested parties.

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