

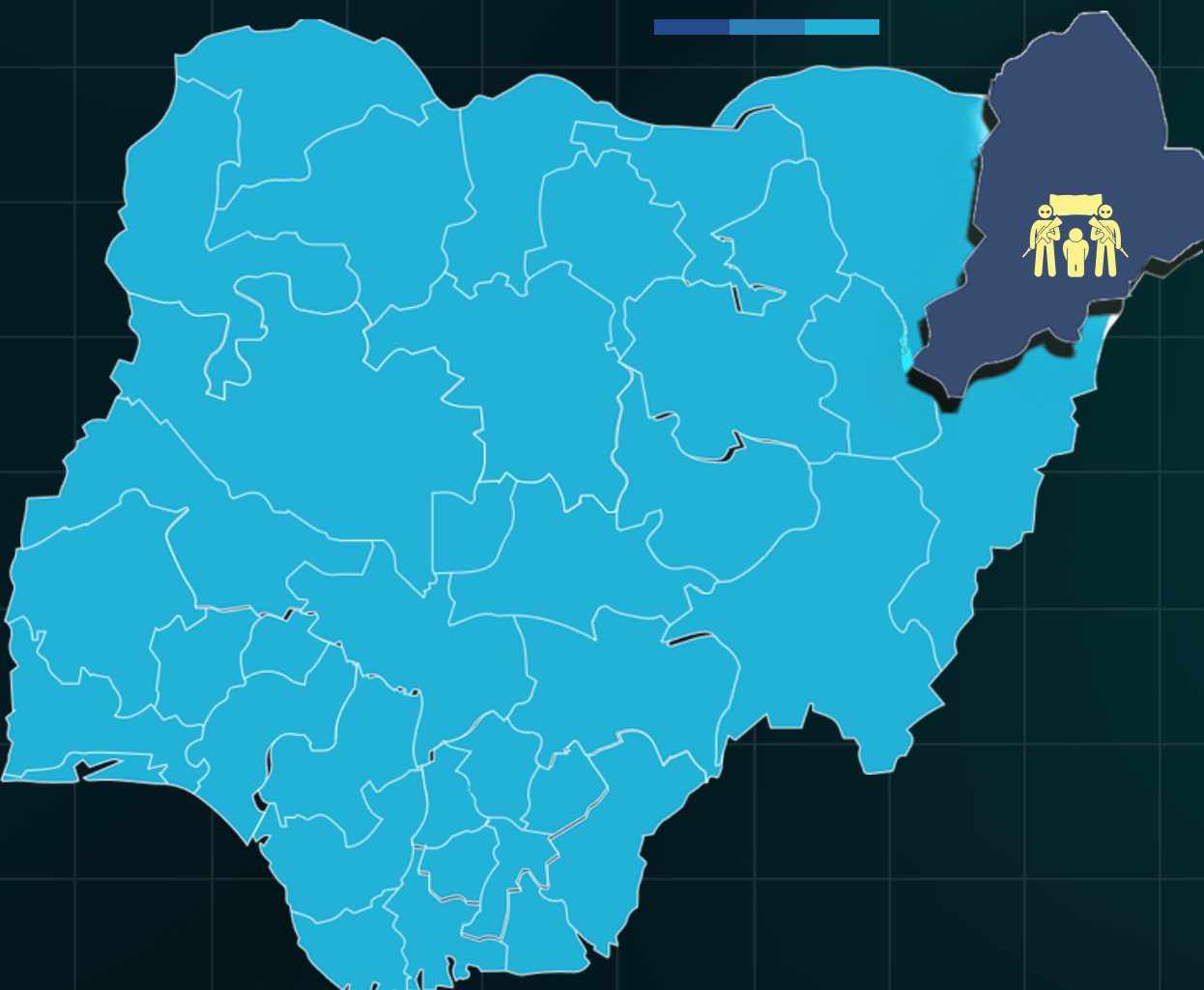


# HumAngle

# TRACKER

**MAY 2026**

**Documenting Conflict/Armed Violence  
Across Nigeria**





# SUMMARY

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## IN MAY:

- The North West region experienced the highest incidents of insecurity.
- Zamfara State has both the highest number of incidents and fatalities in May.
- **196** people were kidnapped in **25** incidents of abduction.
- A total of **148** incidents and **545** fatalities were recorded in May.
- The month reveals a trend that shows the vulnerability of communities despite the security response.





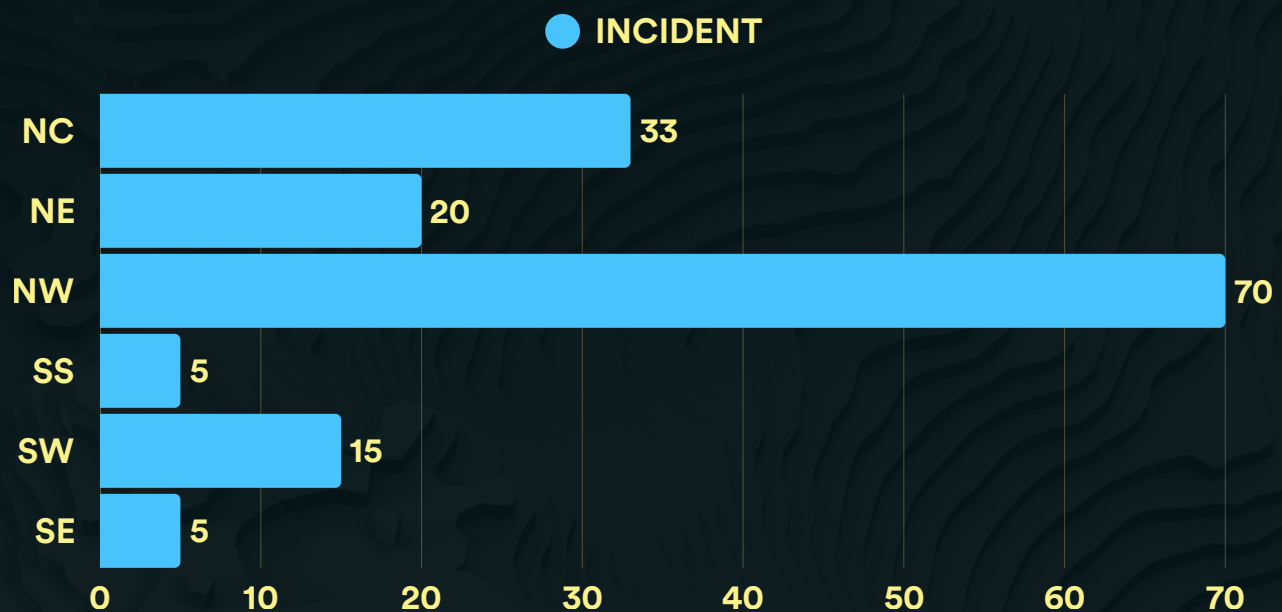
# INCIDENTS OF INSECURITY, MAY 2026

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In May, 148 incidents of insecurity were recorded. This represents about 15% decrease in incidents from last month. Regional breakdown showed the North West region had the highest incidents, which stood at 70. It's followed by the North Central, which experienced 33 incidents, and the North East with 20.

In southern Nigeria, the incidents recorded are relatively low. South West experienced 15 incidents, while both South South and South East had 5 incidents each.

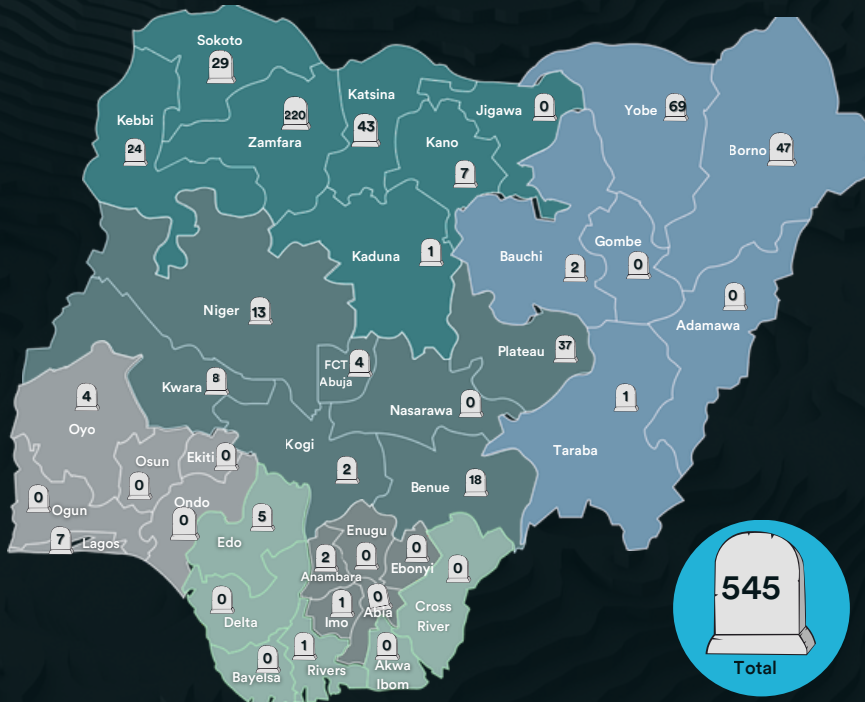
The states that experienced more incidents than others are: Zamfara (North West) 35, Borno (North East) 13, Plateau (North Central) 13, Sokoto (North West) 13, and Katsina (North West) 11.





# FATALITIES RECORDED IN MAY 2026

## Fatalities across states



In May, there were 545 fatalities from the documented 148 incidents. The North West region accounted for 59% of this number. It recorded 324. The North East had 119 while the North Central had 82 fatalities throughout the month.

The South West recorded 11 fatalities, followed by South South with 6 and South East with 3.

The states with high numbers of fatalities are: Yobe (North East), 69; Borno (North East), 47; Plateau (North Central), 37; and Katsina (North West), 43.



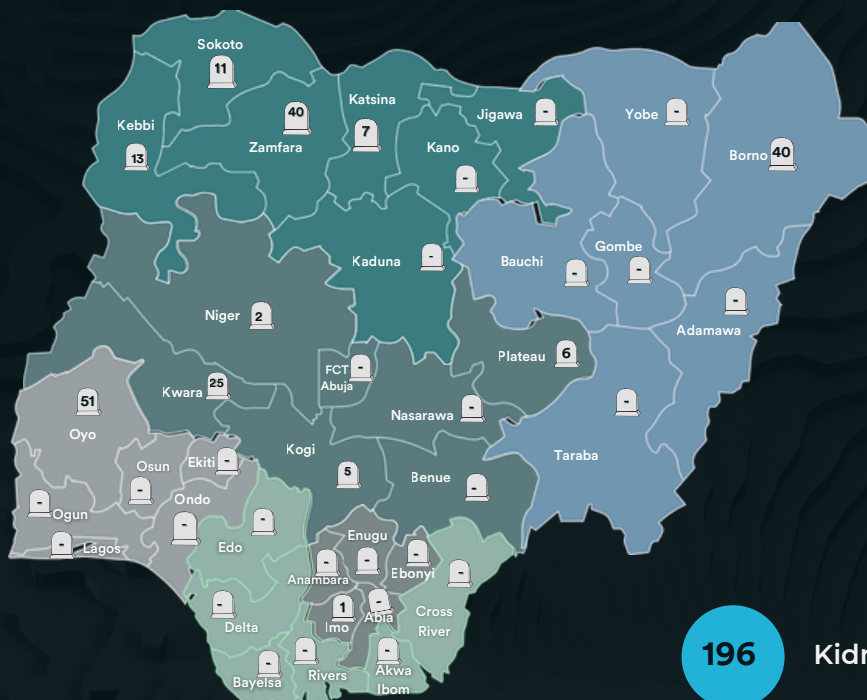
# KIDNAPPING ACROSS NIGERIA, MAY 2026

Incidents of kidnapping across the country in May indicated that 196 people were abducted in 10 states, in 26 documented incidents.

Oyo (South West), Borno (North East), and Zamfara (North West) states recorded the highest number of people kidnapped.

The breakdown of the number of people kidnapped in each of the 10 states is: Oyo (51), Borno (40), Zamfara (40), Kwara (25), Kebbi (13), Sokoto (11), Katsina (7), Plateau (6), Niger (2), and Imo (1).

## Kidnapped people across states:



196

Kidnapped people in May



# EVENTS AND FATALITIES IN MAY 2026

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“**Violence against civilians**” describes any action that inflicts harm on civilians, and when organised armed forces or non-state actors target civilians. This event included violent attacks, abductions/forced disappearances, and sexual violence. This occurred 77 times and recorded 281 fatalities in May.



“**Battle**” describes violent events where organised groups engage in a battle. These include armed clashes as well as non-state actors overtaking territory. In May, 14 incidents of battle were experienced, resulting in 104 fatalities.



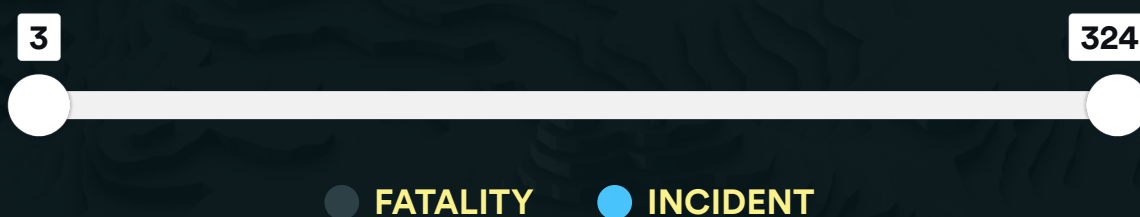
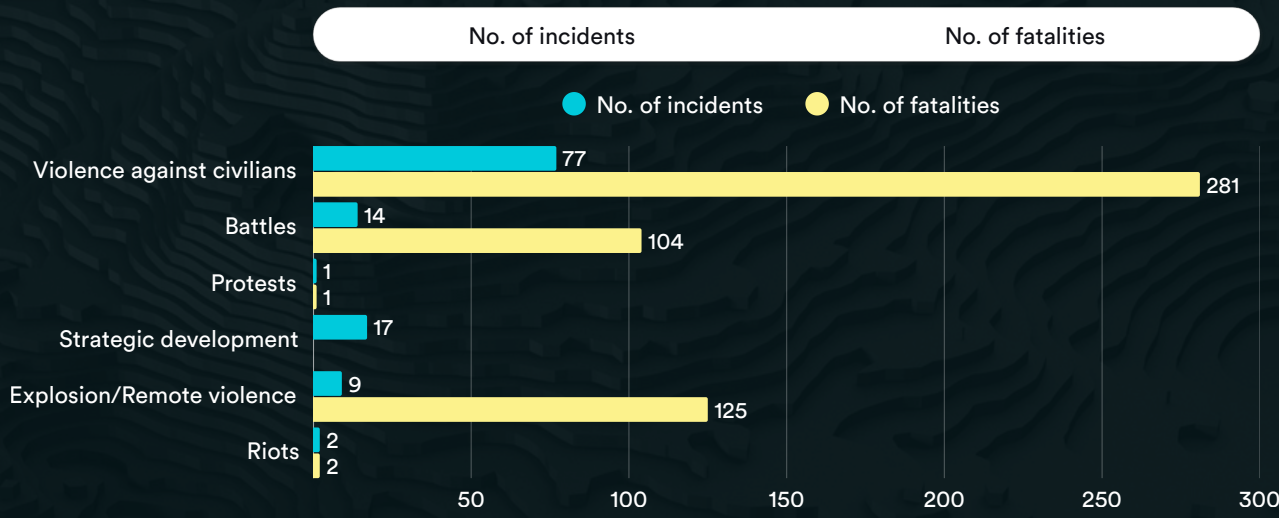
“**Explosions/remote violence**” describes remote explosives, landmines, artillery, or missile attacks, as well as air strikes. These were recorded 9 times and caused 125 fatalities.



“**Strategic developments**” involve disrupted weapons use, looting/property destruction, and changes in groups/activities and related acts. This happened 17 times with zero fatality.

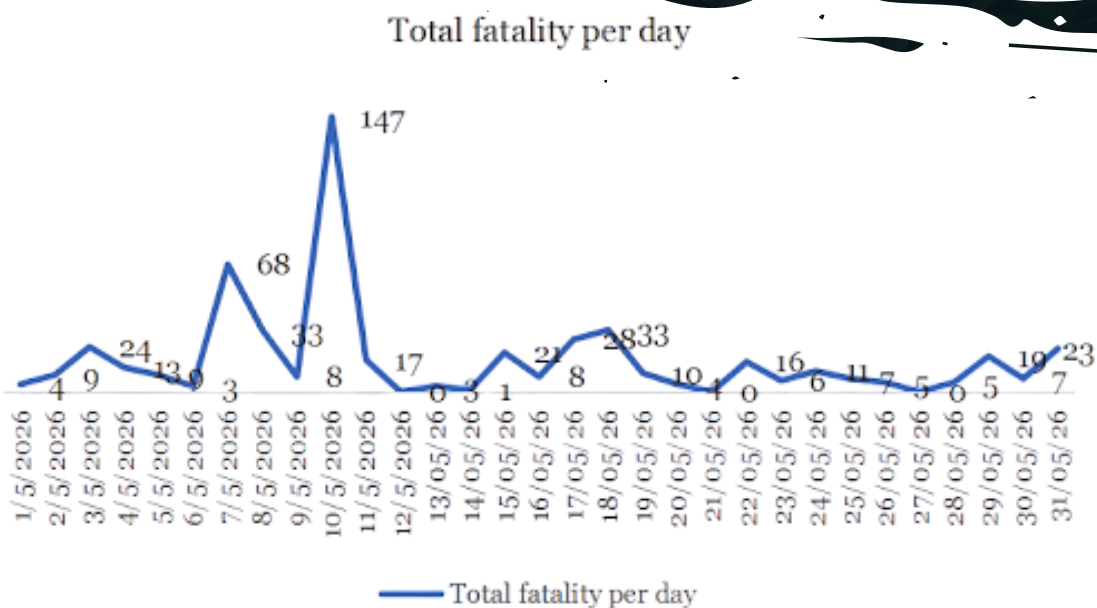


“**Riots**” refer to mob violence and violent demonstrations and describe when rioters violently interact with other rioters, another armed group, or civilians, outside of demonstrations. In May, this was recorded 2 times causing 2 fatalities.



## HUMANGLE CONFLICT TREND BRIEF, MAY 2026

May, like the previous months, had experienced a sustained pattern of insecurity with 148 recorded incidents that resulted in 545 deaths, and at least 196 people abducted. The fatalities, comparably, in May, are only one short of the ones recorded in April, 545. This means, while number of incidents have reduced, lethality of the insecurity events persists.

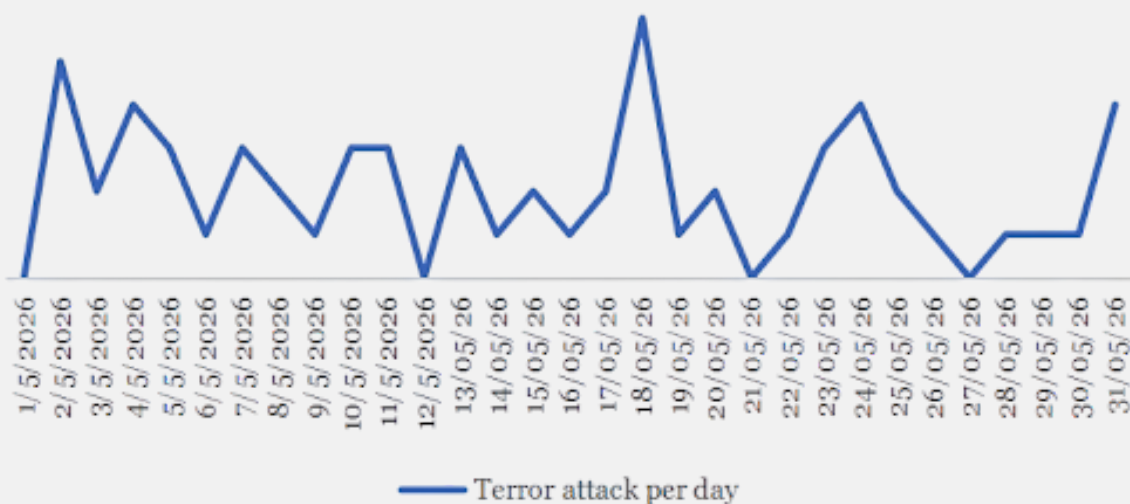


On the type of events, terrorist attacks remained the dominant threat in various communities. It accounts for nearly half the number of incidents documented. The most affected regions were the North West, North Central, and North East, where armed groups continued to target rural communities, villages, travellers, security personnel, farmers, and traditional authorities. Fatality peaks were recorded on the 3rd, 7th, 8th, 10th, 17th, 18th, and 31st, largely driven by non-state armed actor attacks, IEDs, and by large-scale military operations and airstrike-related incidents.

While both the North West's Katsina and Zamfara states have seen attacks mostly from rural terrorists, Sokoto has shown a growing footprint of Lakurawa-linked violence, including attacks on farmers, soldiers, and villages. The persistence of attacks on agricultural communities across the region highlights how insecurity continues to undermine human security through rural livelihoods loss, cutting down food production, and degrading local economies.



## Terror attack per day



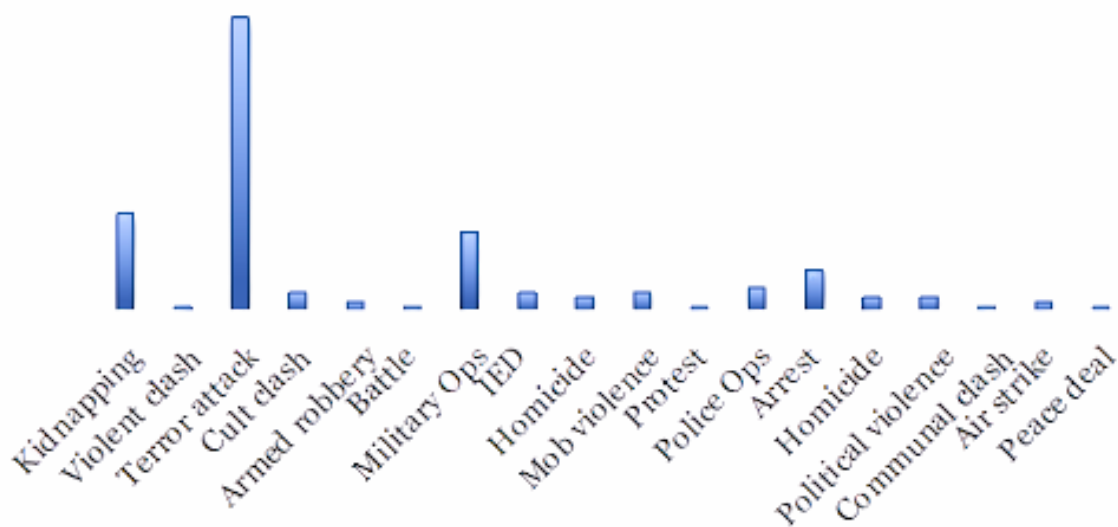
Kidnapping in the month continues to be another protection concern, with 25 incidents and 196 people taken by armed groups. Across Oyo and Borno states, non-state actors have targeted schools and educational institutions. This led to the kidnapping of 50 pupils and teachers in Oyo State, and another 40 students in Borno, demonstrating that educational facilities remain vulnerable despite counter-insurgency and anti-kidnapping efforts.

The State response in the month included a documented 17 military operations, five police operations, nine arrests, and two airstrikes that yielded results. Data from the HumAngle Tracker however, proved response is not yet adequate to decimate the non-state actors. Thus, implied that the coexistence of successful military offensives alongside persistent attacks shows resilience and adaptability of



non-state armed actors, reinforcing the need for a more integrated approach that combines security interventions with community protection, intelligence gathering, conflict prevention, and governance measures in affected communities.

Incidents by category





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*January*

*February*

*March*

*April*