

FACTSHEET

November 2017



ECOWAS Counter Terrorism Strategy Tracker



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy Tracker (ECTS-Tracker) is an open data platform that provides practical analysis of operational policy framework for ECOWAS counter-terrorism, actions, supports, and serves as a knowledge base that promotes a common regional approach for counterterrorism by both state and non-state actors through the documentation and analysis of cases, activities, and incidences of extremist violence across the West African sub-region. This is done specifically by looking at the location, trends, and patterns of incidences of violent extremism within the West Africa sub-region. The ECTS-tracker also serves as a tool in monitoring the efforts of states in implementing the ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Strategy (CTS).

2.0. OVERVIEW OF THE MONTH

in the month of November, countries in the West Africa/ Lake Chad region witnessed a hosts of terrorist attacks. These attacks are largely perpetrated by Boko Haram, al-Qaida and Islamic State-affiliated groups. In the period under review, Boko Haram caused over 98 deaths, including both civilians and military. Many of these deaths recorded in the Lake Chad region occurred from suicide bombings, a tactic (Soft Attack) increasingly favoured by the insurgents.

The Nigerian government on its front is also militarily training to contain Boko Haram in the Sambisa forest. This period witnessed the deployment of 150 soldiers to complement the fight against terrorism in the region by Benin Republic deployed. The troops comprised of 8 officers and 142 soldiers, arrived Multinational Joint Task

Force (MNJTF), headquarters in Farcha Camp, Ndjamena, Chad.¹

3.0 TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF EXTREMIST VIOLENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM

A. PROGRESS

ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism strategy is based on three pillars: preventing terrorism, pursuing terrorism, and reconstructing communities in the aftermath of conflict. This period demonstrated progress on these fronts, as well as the challenges that remain. The G5 Sahel comprising troops from forces from Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso launched the Joint Multi-National Military Operation. The operation is aimed at countering and combating Islamist insurgencies such as al-Qaida and Islamic State-affiliated groups, and to also take total control of porous borders in all the areas concerned. The Operation is supported by France and the

¹ <https://www.premiumpremtimesng.com/news/top-news/249556-benin-deploys-150-troops-fight-boko-haram.html>

United State of America, who has promised up to \$60 million in support of the operation.²

In line, with the recent killing of four United States of America Special Forces in Niger, The United State Government, reached agreement with Niger government, to make use of armed American military drones in countering jihadist terrorist groups, which include Nigeria-based Boko Haram, Algeria-based al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and Islamic State fighters operate.³

4.0 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

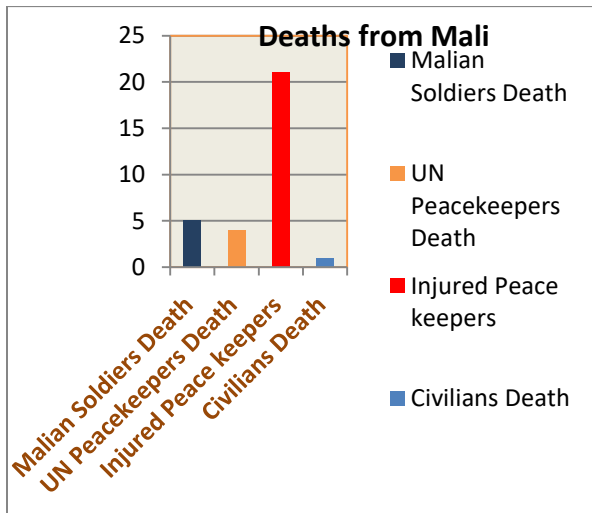
A. MALI

In the period under review, Mali confronted a series of assaults from Islamic jihadist extremists operating across the border of Sahel West Africa region, which boasts an array of criminalities and jihadist activities in

² <https://www.voanews.com/a/g5-sahel-force-launches-military-operation-african-scrublands/4097532.html>

³ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201712010129.html>

the state. These assaults came from different locations which led to the demise of five (5) Malian Soldiers, One civilian, four United Nations peacekeepers, while 21 peacekeepers were injured during the clash⁴. One of the prominent assaults was an ambush on the convoy of the President of the High Court of Justice in Mali, Abdrahamane Niang.⁵



B. NIGERIA

In November, Nigeria continues to face challenges in curbing the Boko Haram insurgency. The Nigerian military force continues its offensive operation (Deep Punch II) against Boko Haram insurgents. Military operations of various degrees assault aiming at clearing the remnant of the insurgent have led to the death of over 21 terrorists at different locations and the rescue of 30 hostages held in captive by an insurgent⁶. Seventeen soldiers paid the ultimate price by losing their lives in combat, while 15 were left with various degrees of injuries.

C. BURKINA FASO

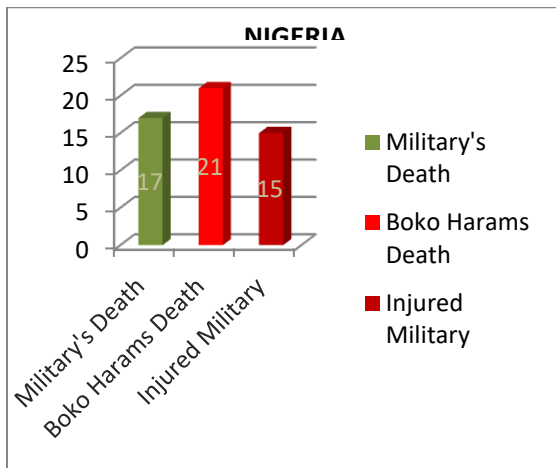
Burkina Faso faced with terrorist threats from the Islamic States of Greater Sahara branch. A group that claimed their first attack on Burkina soil in September 2016.

⁴<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/peacekeepers-killed-mali-attacks-171125140442660.html>

⁵ <https://www.voanews.com/a/six-dead-after-ambush-on-malian-high-court-president/4094918.html>

⁶<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/250843-nigerian-soldiers-kill-14-terrorists-rescue-30-hostages-army.html>

This period, ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron, who became first French president to pay a visit to the Sahel West African nation, after three decades.⁷ Two masked terrorist individuals riding on a motor scooter injured three civilians, after detonating grenade at a French army vehicle, heading for an army barrack housing French special services, and security forces.⁸



5.0 TERRORIST ATTACKS

Boko Haram terrorist continues to make use of soft attacks, most of which were Improvised explosives device (IED), on

innocent civilians. The Terrorists attacked various communities and military formations across North-east region of Nigeria⁹, such as Binge village in Lawanti, Jere Local Government, Masu, Mafa Local Government¹⁰ and Maikadiri village in Askira-Uba Local Government¹¹ during the period under review. They were responsible for the death of over eighty-one civilians, with thirty-five left with various degrees of injury.

⁹ <http://saharareporters.com/2017/11/13/latest-boko-haram-video-shows-insurgents-displaying-captured-military-tanks-casualties>

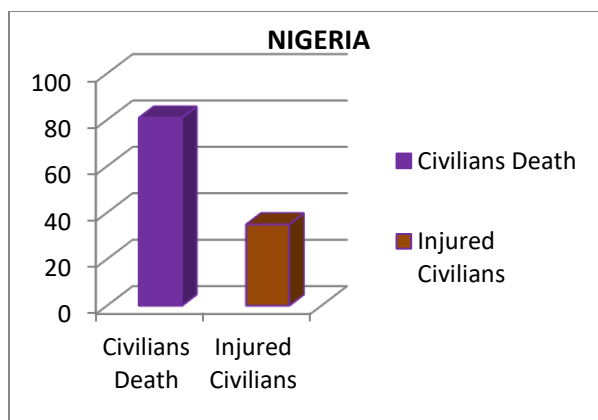
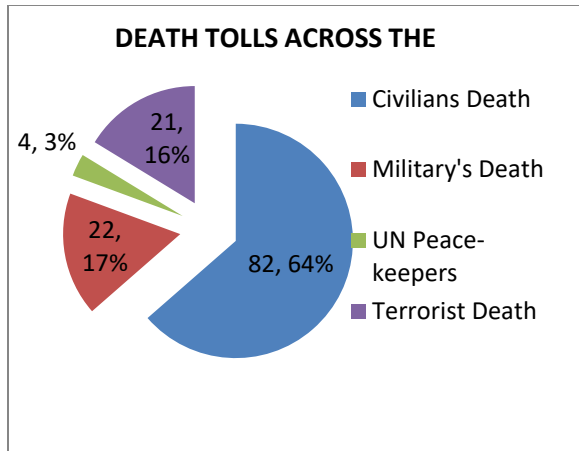
¹⁰ <https://www.today.ng/news/nigeria/34761/killed-boko-haram-attacks-borno-communities>

¹¹

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/249176-two-killed-several-houses-burnt-boko-haram-storms-borno-village.html>

⁷ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201711280410.html>

⁸ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201711280410.html>



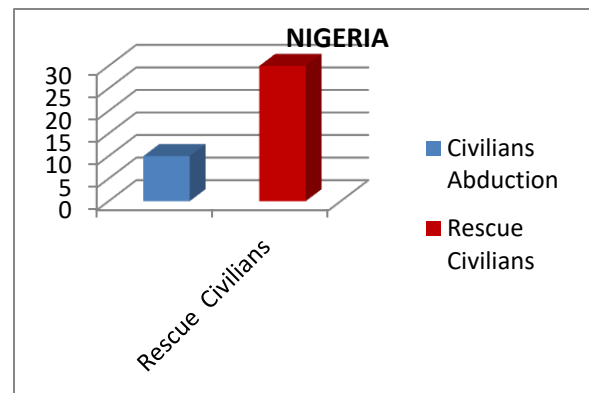
6.0 FOOTAGE

Terrorist faction loyal to Abubakar Shekau Boko Haram sect released 8 minutes and 56 seconds video, screening the sect in gun battle with Nigerian Army in Sabon Gari, village of Madagali Local Government Area Adamawa State. The video also showed

captured military equipment and mutilated bodies of soldiers killed in battle.¹²

7.0 ABDUCTIONS

In the course of the month in review, Boko Haram insurgents attacked Ngoshe Village in Gwoza, and abducted 10 people, most of which were youth.¹³



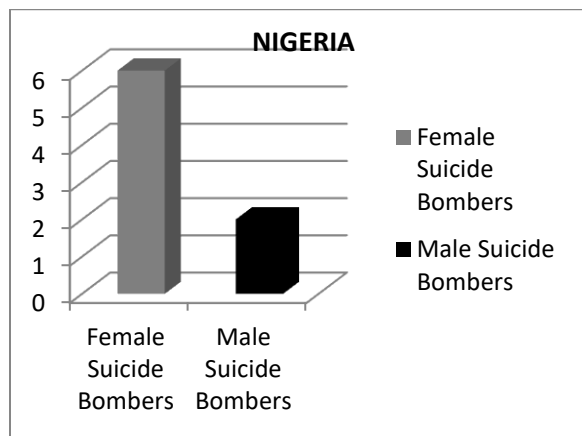
8.0 IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE

Under the period in view, Boko Haram terrorist mostly use female suicide bombers to attack soft attacks, a total of eight (six by

¹² <http://saharareporters.com/2017/11/21/new-video-shows-boko-haram-killing-soldiers-adamawa-state>

¹³ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-east/248436-boko-haram-attacks-borno-village-abducts-10-residents.html>

female, two by male) suicide bombing was recorded.¹⁴



9.0 LOGISTICS

During this period, terrorist extremists perpetrated their activities by moving around and making use of pick-up trucks (Hilux), Cars, Motorcycles, motor scooter and bicycles across the Lake Chad and Sahel regions.

¹⁴ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/248605-four-killed-maiduguri-suicide-bombings-police.html>