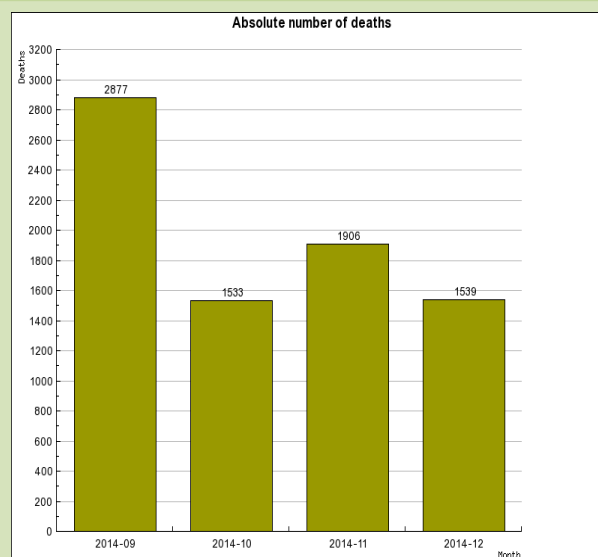


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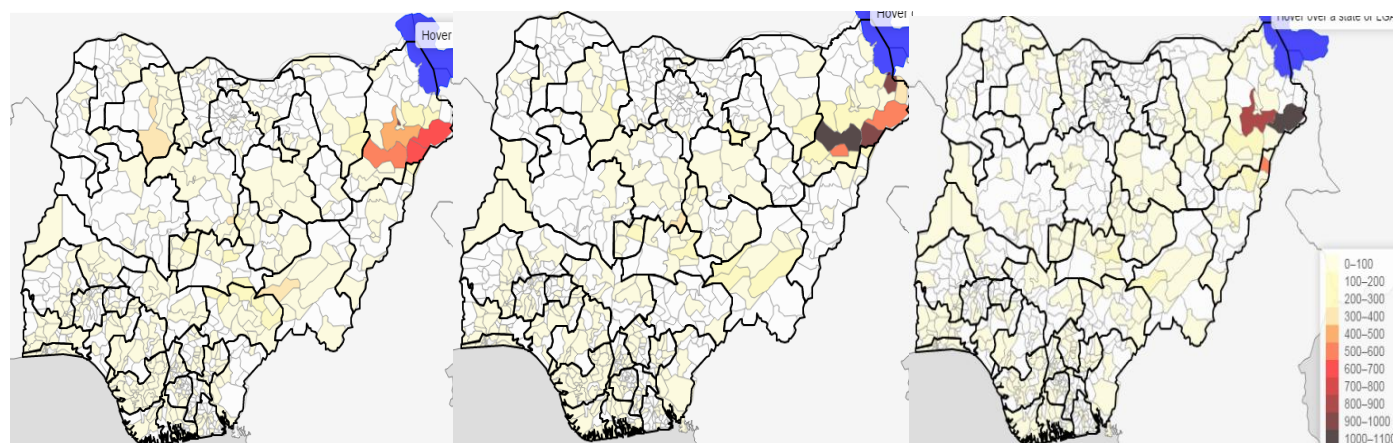
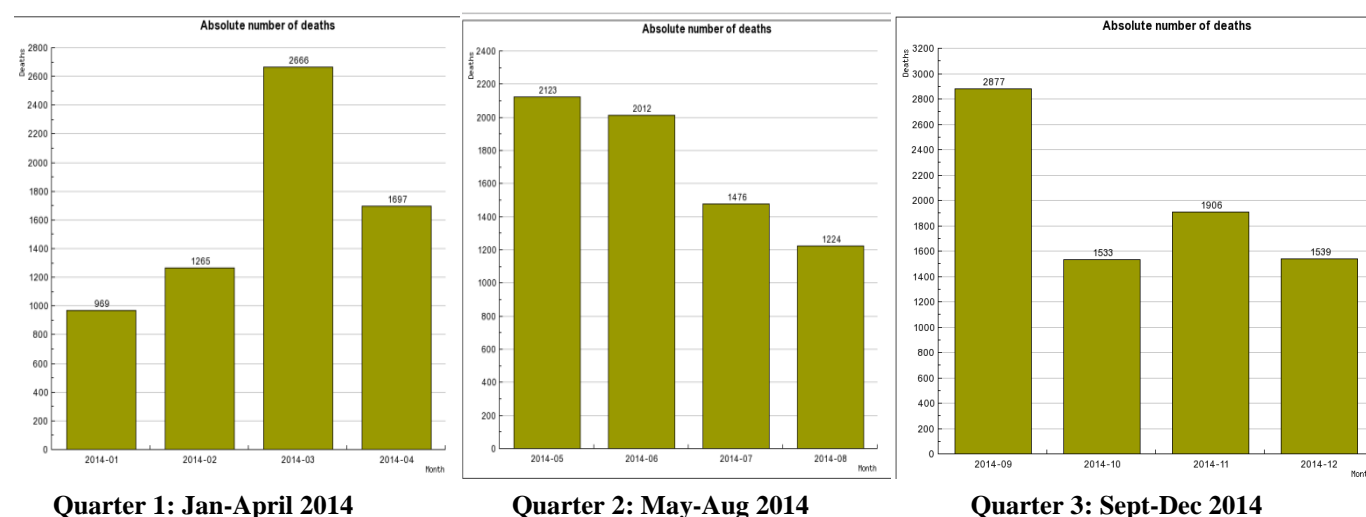
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EDITORIAL

For the last quarterly edition of Fatality Trends in 2014, Nigeria Watch analyses the pattern and dynamics of violence between September and December 2014 compared with the findings of previous editions for this year. It emerges that this quarter of the year has been the most deadly in 2014. 7,860 deaths were recorded between September and December compared to 6,600 and 6,841 for January-April and May-August respectively. It should be stressed that the intensification of the Boko Haram crisis in the northeast is largely responsible for the sharp increase in lethal events towards the end of the year.

This edition presents the general trends observed in section A, identifying the most risky states as Borno, Adamawa, Lagos, Nassarawa and Yobe. Section B focuses on the main causes of violence over the period September to December 2014. These are identified as political, religious and criminal issues as well as car accidents. Finally, section C focuses on the Boko Haram insurgency as it is still a major concerning cause of death in Nigeria at this time. In relation with Boko Haram, data reveals that Bama and Konduga LGAs were the most hazardous in the last quarter of 2014.

QUARTERLY TREND ANALYSIS**A. GENERAL TRENDS****Quarter 1: Jan-April 2014****Quarter 2: May-Aug 2014****Quarter 3: Sept-Dec 2014****Fig 1. Mapping of Levels of Violence by Quarter****Quarter 1: Jan-April 2014****Quarter 2: May-Aug 2014****Quarter 3: Sept-Dec 2014****Fig 2. Absolute Number of Deaths by Quarter**

The total fatality figure for the year 2014 hit 21,296. Violent eruptions have always concentrated in the Northern part of the country, especially the northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, and Bauchi as depicted by Figure 1. Abuja, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Taraba also had a fair share in the development. These spikes in violence could be attributed to the incessant armed confrontations between the security forces and the deadly Islamic sect, Boko Haram. For 2014 alone, the northeast region accounted for 9,884 fatalities, out of which 7,174 deaths were recorded in Borno. This figure represented the highest casualty figure since the outbreak of the insurgency in 2009. On Figure 2 the month of September shows the highest casualty figure of 2,877, followed by 2,666 in March, 2,123 in May and 2,012 in June. The overall risk assessment for the entire country indicates that the third quarter of the year was most deadly with about 7,856 deaths. Again, the issue of Islamic terrorism in Borno accounts largely for it. For instance, the death toll rose as high as 500 deaths in Bama LGA when the Army engaged the Boko Haram sect in a fierce battle on the 3rd September. Michika, Konduga, Gombi, Mubi and Hong LGAs are also among the noticeable locations where heavy casualties were recorded at different periods. Apart from the ongoing security issue affecting the north-east of the country, Lagos state also was the theatre of two major events. A

church collapse in Alimosho LGA that led to the death of 87 people and a pipeline explosion in Amuwo Odofin LGA that claimed more than 40 lives. Meanwhile, Fulani herdsmen were responsible for casualties within communities in Keana LGA of Nasarawa state. A breakdown by causes of violence for the third quarter of 2014 is represented in Figure 3.

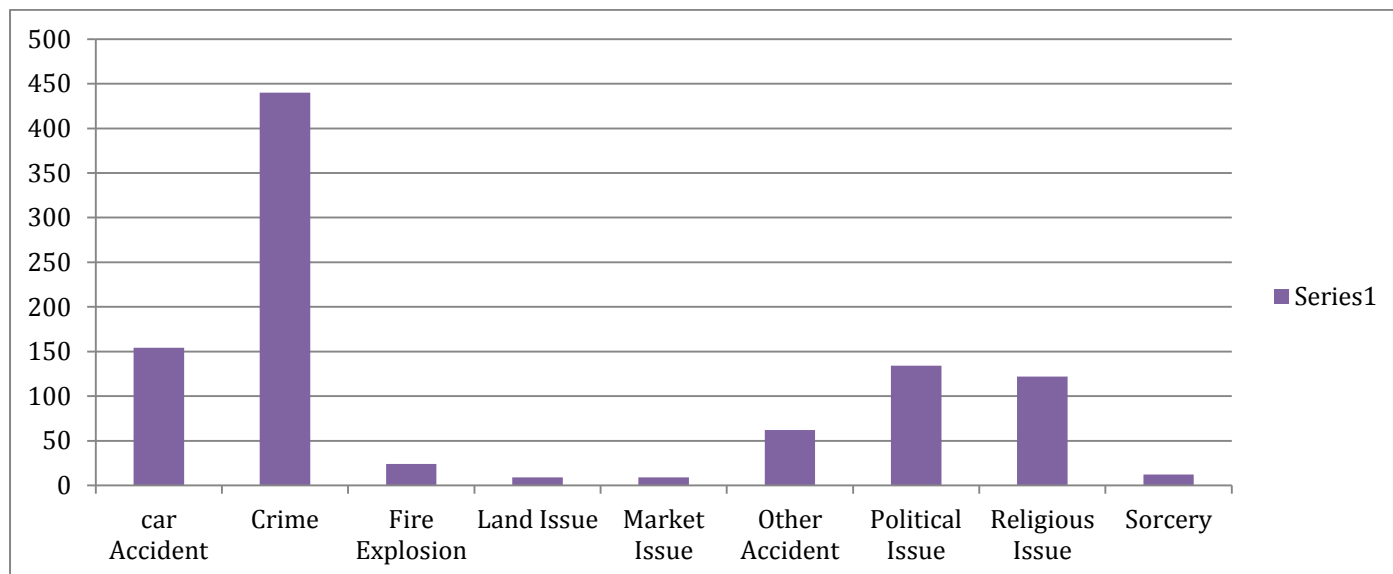


Fig 3. Causes of Fatalities for Sept-Dec 2014

Figure 3 shows “crime” as the most important cause of violence. Events within this category included domestic violence, armed robbery, kidnapping, security forces extra-judicial killings and cultism. Crime is prevalent in high density states like Lagos, Rivers, Kano and Kaduna. Domestic violence is particularly on the increase. Cases of violent deaths involving close family members are assuming a worisome trend. For instance, a man killed his mother in Anambra state while another man hacked his father to death in Edo, and a woman killed her lover in Lagos. Similarly to criminal acts, car accidents are one of the major causes of deaths which have a wider impact on the country. Car accidents are more deadly when they are associated with fire explosion. On the 11th of October, a major road mishap occurred in Ibadan, Oyo state capital. The unfortunate event involved a petrol tanker and led to the death of about 33 persons after the inflammable product caught fire.

Beyond this, it is important to observe where the events took place and how they spread over the four months in the third quarter. September was particularly deadly because of two major events in Bama LGA and Konduga showed the tendency to be a minefield for insurgents’ activities in September. The major insugents’ operations in Konduga LGA accounted for over 600 deaths in September. In October, Mubi and Michika LGAs are the most lethal. The distribution of fatality figures between September and December is presented in Figure 4 below.

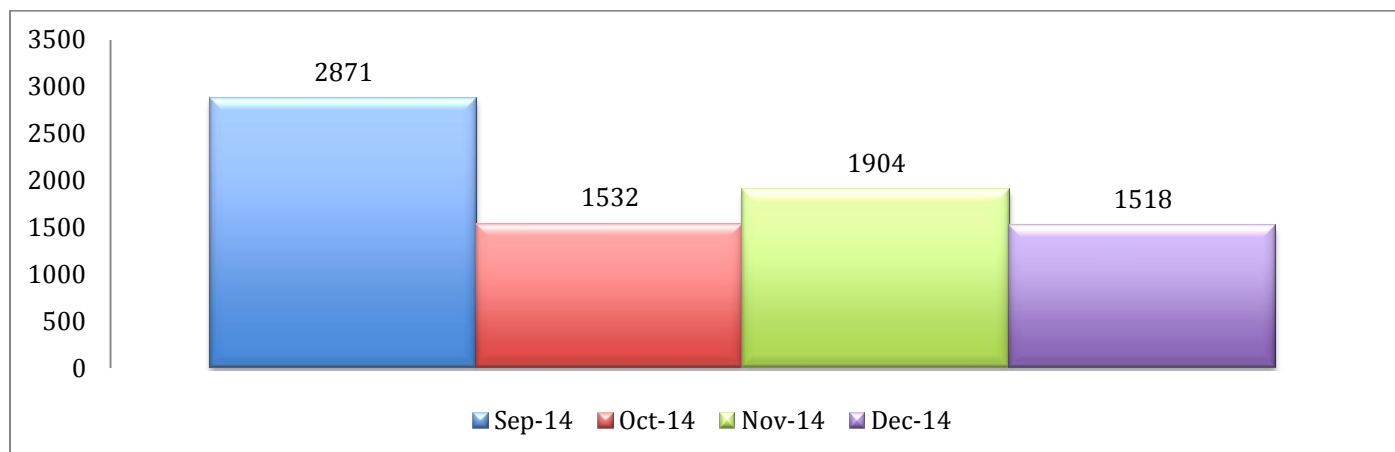


Fig 4. Fatality Figures by Month, Sept-Dec 2014

Figure 4 shows a total figure of about 7,825 deaths for the period September to December 2014. September recorded the highest number of casualties due to the persistent clashes between the army and Boko Haram insurgents in Bama, Borno state where about 757 insurgents were killed within 2 days (September 1-3, 2014). Despite the emphasis put on Borno state in this issue, it is important to keep looking at the bigger picture and how violence has played out in other parts of the country. The distribution of fatalities per state is therefore presented below:

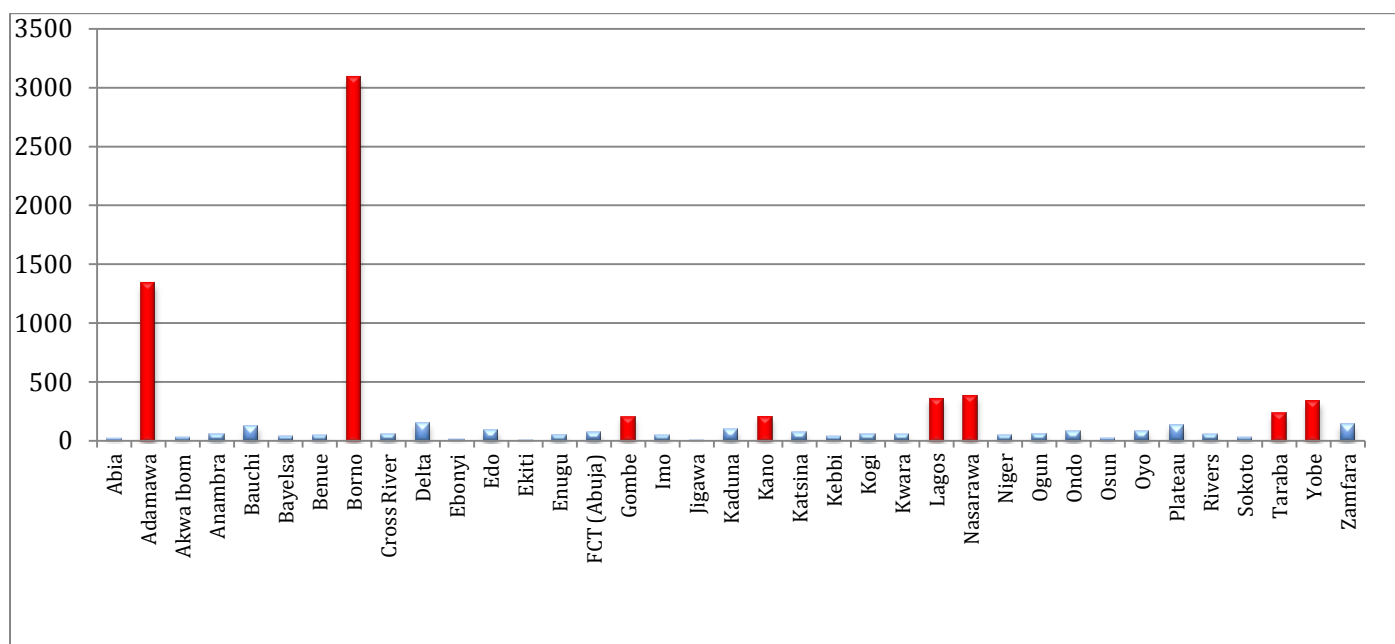


Fig 5. Distribution of Fatalities by State, Sept-Dec 2014

Figure 5 shows the distribution of violent deaths by state. The ongoing campaign against Boko Haram insurgents in the North has continued to generate high numbers of fatalities in Borno (3,085 deaths), Adamawa (1,333), Yobe (332), Kano (205), Gombe (201) and Bauchi (121) within the period under review. However, the dynamics of violence are quite different in Nasarawa (with 379 deaths) and Taraba (234 deaths) states where violent deaths mostly stemmed from communal and herdsmen- farmers clashes. Zamfara state recorded 132 violent deaths, most of which were related to cattle rustling. On the contrary, violent deaths in Lagos state (357 deaths) were mostly caused by car accidents, building collapse and crime related events, which ranged from cultism to armed robbery to political assassinations. The quarterly trends of fatalities for 2014 are represented in figure 6.

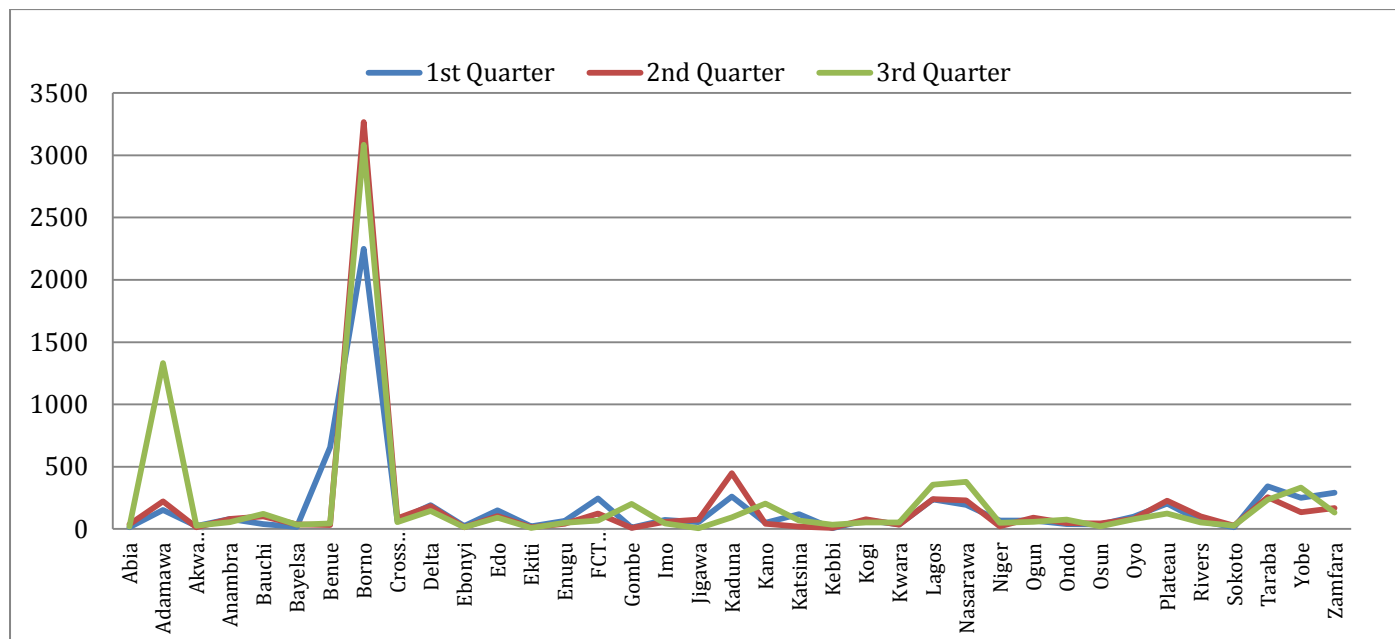


Fig 6. Fatality Trends by State, Sept-Dec 2014

Figure 6 shows a comparative analysis of the trends of violent deaths for all quarters and by state. Different socio-cultural and political contexts affected the results of these quarterly fatality figures. While some states show considerable increase in fatality rate, there were significant decline in others. The table below is the summary of states that show significant fluctuations in lethal violence in the third quarter of 2014 compared with the first and the second quarters.

There were significant rise in fatalities in Adamawa, Gombe, Yobe, Kwara, Nasarawa and Ondo states. This rise is explained by the fact that the first three states (Adamawa, Gombe and Yobe) have been the hotbed of Boko Haram activities. Efforts by security personnel to combat insurgent activities have resulted in several deaths of the insurgents, soldiers, youth vigilantes and civilian population. On the contrary, Anambra, Benue, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, FCT (Abuja), Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kebbi, Kano, Kogi, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Taraba and Zamfara witnessed a drop in the number of violent deaths. Aside the increase or decrease in violent deaths in the above listed states, we observed more stability in other states. While Katsina and Niger recorded high fatalities in the first quarter of 2014, Borno, Cross River and Sokoto recorded high fatalities in the second quarter. There was insignificant increase in fatalities in Akwa Ibom and Enugu states in the third quarter. Finally, the steady rise in violent deaths from 6,600 (first quarter) to 6,841 (second quarter) and 7860 (third quarter) calls for an immediate response to avert more deaths in Nigeria.

B. CAUSES OF FATALITIES

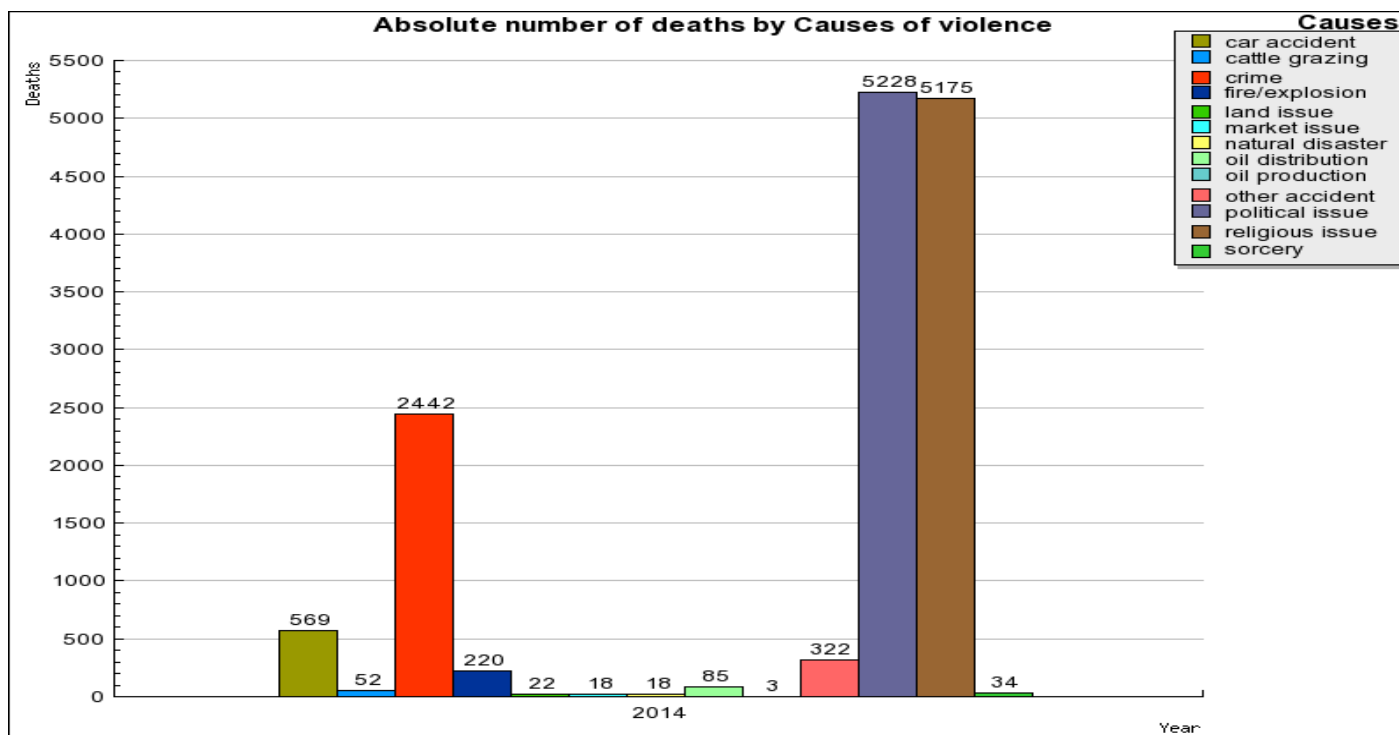


Fig 7. Absolute Number of Deaths by Causes of Violence, Sept-Dec 2014

Expectedly, the main drivers of lethal events in the third quarter, according to Figure 7 are political issues, religious issues and crime. Political and religious issues are mainly incidents linked Boko Haram and security forces killings in the northeast. At the very least the Boko Haram crisis accounted for 3,964 deaths out of the 5,220 fatality recorded for political issues. Other events under political issues are also evidence of political build-ups toward the 2015 General Elections and violence that were associated with the two gubernatorial elections that took place in Ekiti and Osun states in the second quarter of 2014.

C. THE BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

The last quarter of 2014 witnessed a substantial rise in Boko Haram killings. In fact, the confrontation between security forces and the sect became so brutal that the insurgents took over and declared Sharia state in major townships in Borno and Adamawa states.

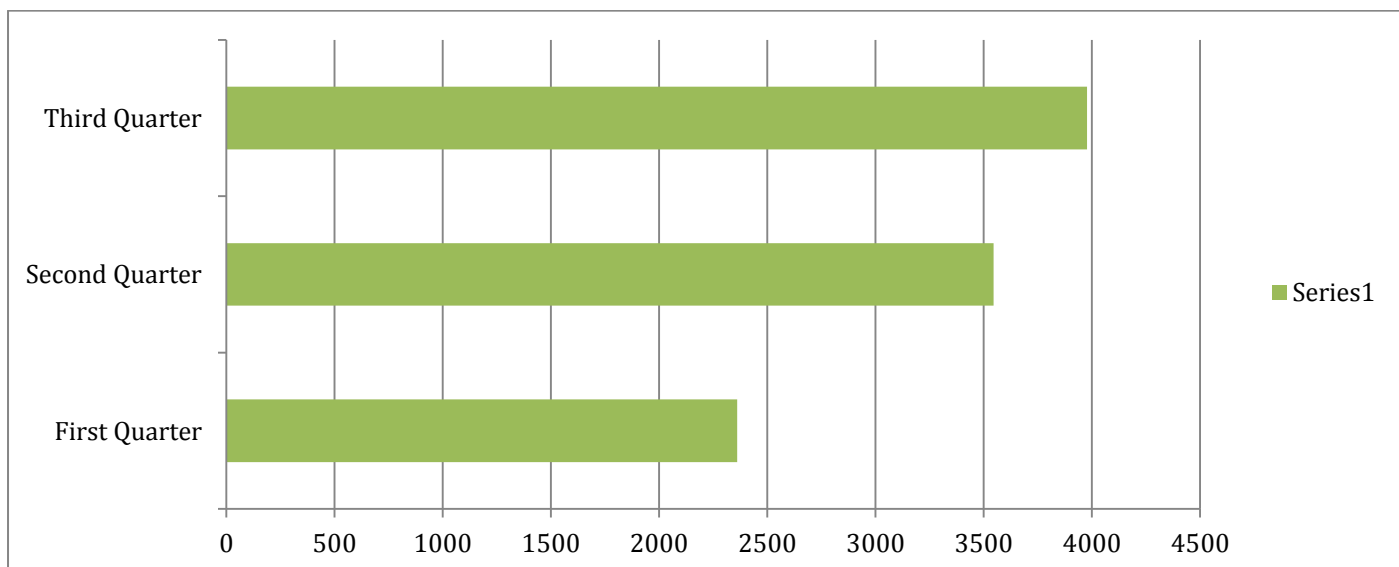


Fig 8. Boko Haram Killings by Quarter

Figure 8 indicates that the Boko Haram crisis is intensifying as the third quarter records 3,978 fatality in the compared to 2361 and 3545 in the first and second quarters respectively. Figure 9 below presents Boko Haram deaths by state.

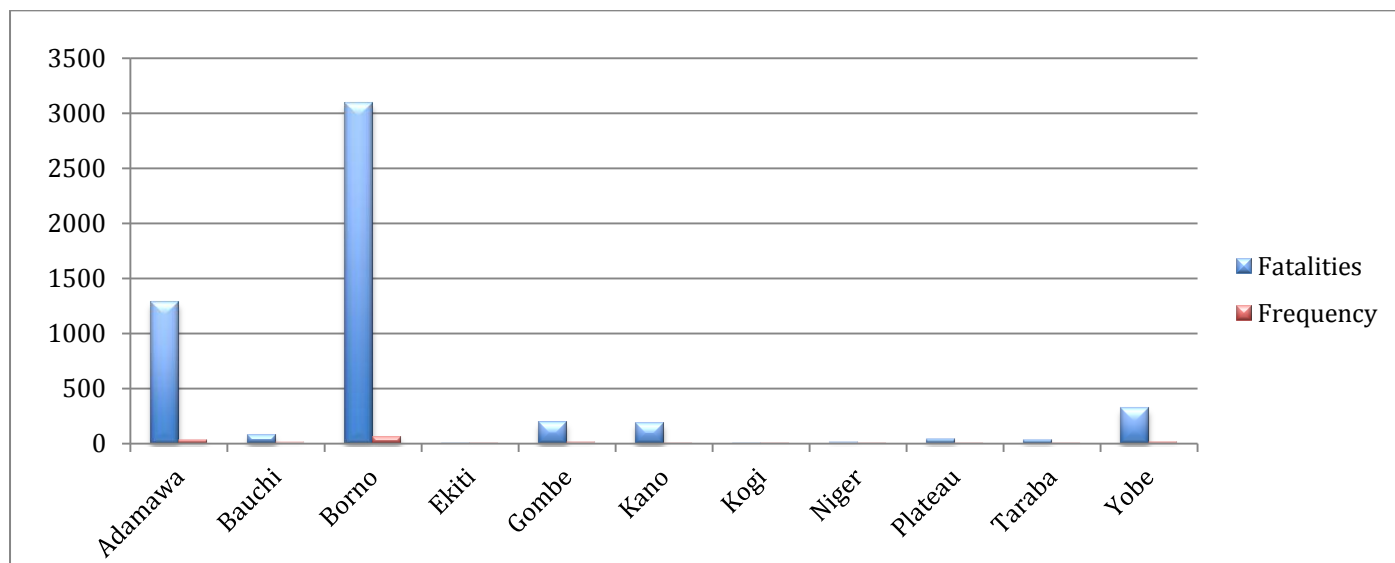


Fig 9. Boko Haram Killings by State

Boko Haram killings have been linked to some events down south, especially in Ekiti and Kogi states. According to the media, the case of jail break in Ekiti in November 2014 was linked to Boko Haram attack. Niger state also witnessed an explosive attack of a female suicide bomber that killed 6 people. Borno state is always the most touched by Boko Haram activities, followed by Adamawa and Yobe states. In Borno State, 11 out of the 27 LGAs were particularly vulnerable to insurgents' attacks in the third quarter of the year. Figure 10 presents the summary of fatality figures that were recorded in the problematic LGAs.

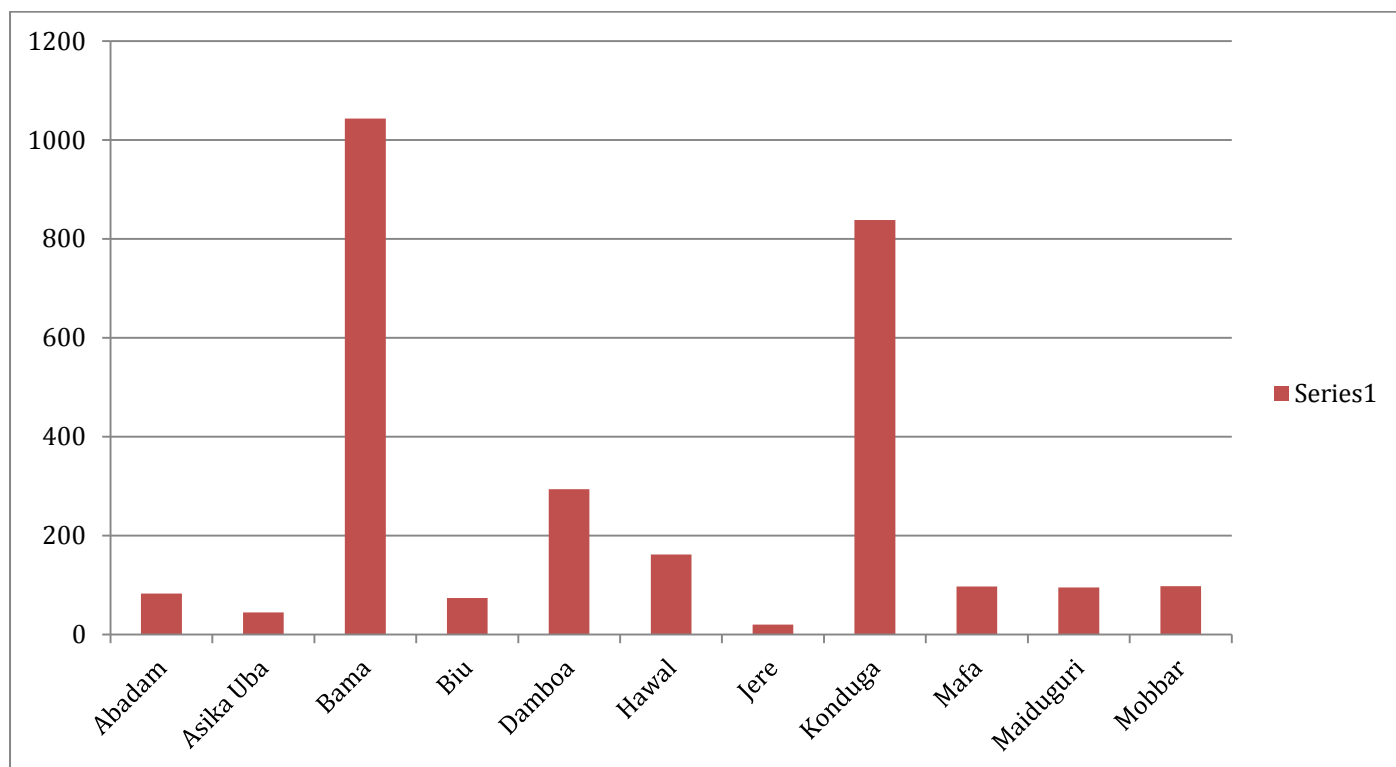


Fig 10. Boko Haram Killings by LGA, Sept-Dec 2014

Out of the 11 LGAs most subjected to Boko Haram attacks, heavy casualties were recorded in Bama, Konduga and Damboa LGAs. Heavy casualties often resulted from clashes between the insurgents and the army. For instance, Bama LGA recorded over 500 fatalities on September 3, 2014 during a major shootout between the insurgents and the army. In Konduga LGA, instances of armed raids and reprisal attacks by the sect often resulted in mass killings of people.

NIGERIA WATCH'S ACTIVITIES

TRAINING

The Nigeria Watch Team conducted a training on 'How To Use the Database' for staff at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) in Abuja on 30th October 2014. The venue of the Training was the conference room of IPCR in Abuja. The training was in line with the overall goal of ensuring that intending users of the database are trained on how to use the statistical tools and security graphs of the online resources. About 50 participants, including directors, research fellows and technical staff of the Institute attended the training. All members of the Nigeria Watch team were present at the event as facilitators. It is expected that the training will kick-start a scientific collaboration between IPCR and Nigeria Watch.

EVERY CASUALTY'S VISIT

The representatives of Every Casualty paid an official visit to No. 9 Parry road office of Nigeria Watch project in university of Ibadan on the 18th November 2014. The delegates included Elizabeth Minor and Annabelle Giger. The purpose of this visit was to learn from Nigeria Watch's activities as a member of their [Casualty Recorders Network](#) and exchange knowledge of best practice in the field of casualty recording. While with us, Liza and Ann presented the scope of Every Casualty's work to the team and how their activities can be beneficial to the project. It was also the opportunity for them to learn more about our work and to offer suggestions on how to improve it. Every Casualty team's one week with us was very insightful and highly educative.

STAFF TURN OVER

Mr Super Afeno Adomovo, formerly the Deputy Coordinator at Nigeria Watch finished his work with the project in January 2015. Super was very energetic, honest and hardworking while he was with us. He is currently with Peace Initiative in Niger Delta (PIND) as a Research Coordinator. The Nigeria Watch team wishes farewell to Super as he moves to the next calling of his career.

JOB PLACEMENT

IFRA-Nigeria is offering a full-time position to a Junior Researcher/Information Retrieval Specialist to update the Nigeria Watch database on fatalities in Nigeria (see www.nigeriawatch.org). Nigeria Watch database aims at compiling and monitoring the number of homicides and violent deaths in Nigeria to provide quantitative data and assist in the analysis of trends of violence. For details: www.ifra-nigeria.org.

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 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. As part of its strategic initiatives, NW partners with research /academic institutions, government agencies and NGOs to provide training on how to use its data as the first step to provide training on how to use its data.

Fatality Trends is published quarterly by NIGERIA WATCH PROJECT. All correspondence should be forwarded to the Project Coordinator adams.nwifra@gmail.com Tel: +2348056683323 No. 9, Parry Road, University of Ibadan, www.nigeriawatch.org