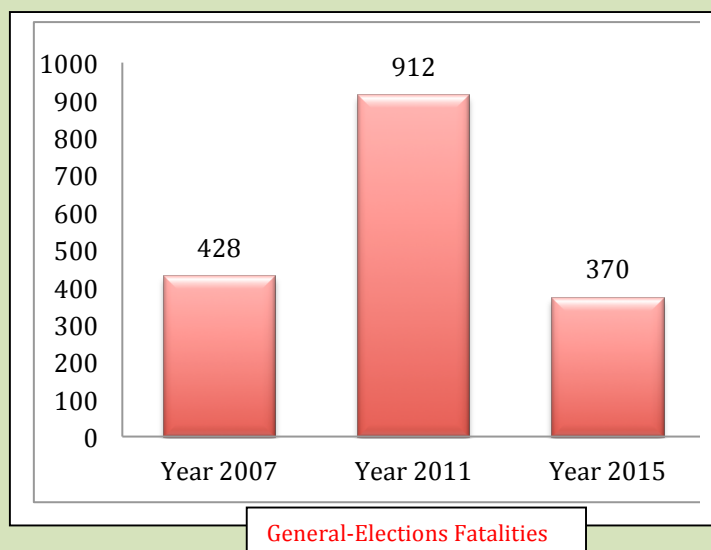


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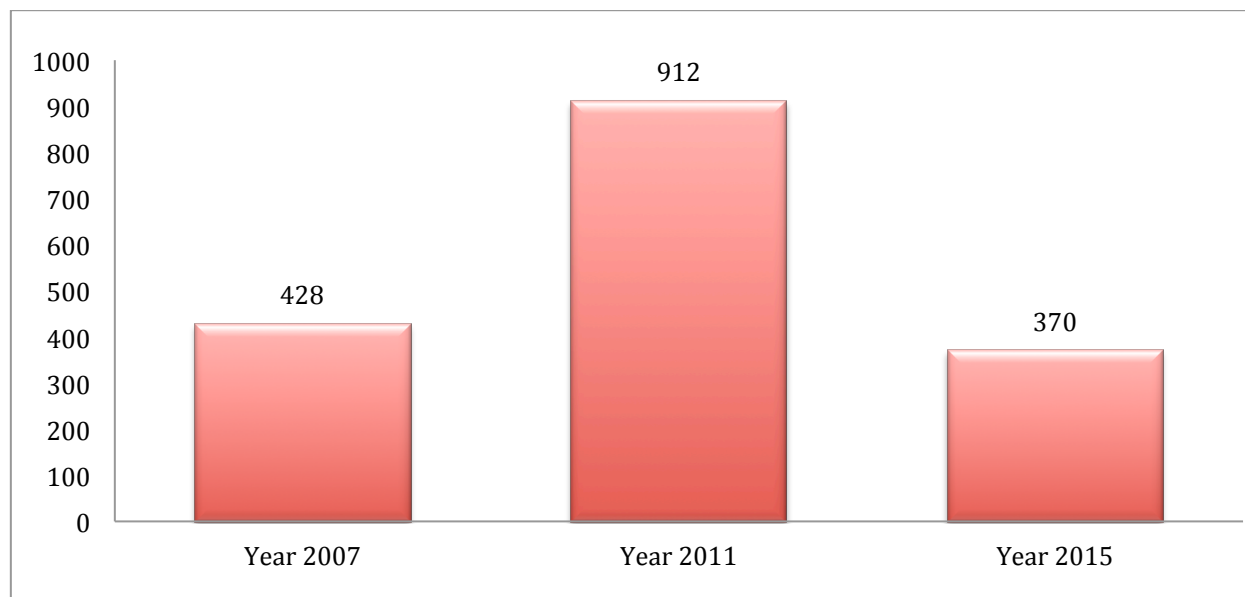


### EDITORIAL

*The events leading to the 2015 general elections were marked by cynicisms and drumbeats of war which could spring national disintegration. Fortunately, the elections ended on a relatively peaceful note but not without a trail of fatalities. This edition of Fatality Trend presents the dynamics of violent deaths during the last general elections. Section A compares fatalities for 2007 and 2011 to 2015 general elections. As it is, 2011 recorded the highest casualties of 912, while 2007 and 2015 recorded 428 and 370 respectively. Section B shows the analyses of Pre, During and Post-Election violence in the 2015 elections. Violence appears to be more prevalent in the Pre-election period than both During and Post periods. Section C maps the spread of casualties across the states of the federation during the elections. Rivers state recorded the highest lethal violence with a figure of 70, followed by Kano, 32 and Lagos, 28. In section D, the highest fatality rate of 79% was caused by political groups while the Army, the Police and Armed gangs accounted for 5% each. Finally, section E focuses on the Boko Haram insurgency, which witnessed a steady decline from 1380 in February to 345 in April. This edition promises to give readers a synopsis of the dynamics of violence during the recent 2015 general elections.*

## QUARTERLY TREND ANALYSIS

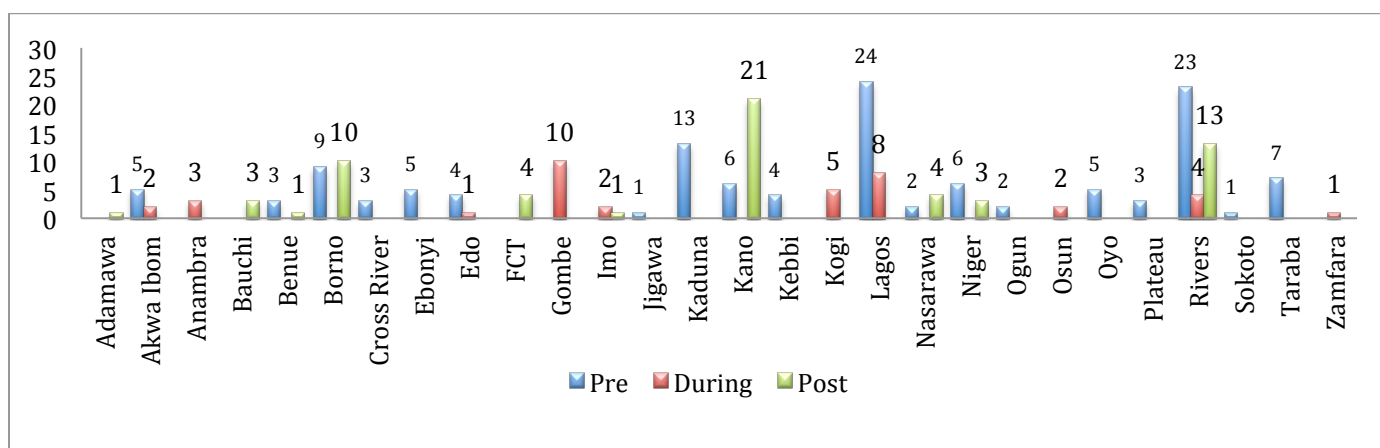
## A. Comparing Fatalities in 2007, 2011 and 2015 General Elections



*Fig 1. Absolute Fatalities by Election Year (2007, 2011, 2015)*

Despite the heightened political atmosphere witnessed prior to the 2015 general elections, the number of deaths recorded this year (370) is the smallest recorded in past elections with 428 recorded casualties in 2007 and 911 in 2011.. Considering the hate campaigns, election postponement and increased threat to national security that characterised the election period, one could have expected higher levels of violence. To a large extent, the maturity with which the former President Goodluck Jonathan handled the electoral defeat by conceding the victory to President Muhammadu Buhari before the official announcement of the results contributed to reducing the post-election violence that could have involved a lot of people. The highest number of deaths recorded in 2011 is attributed to the post election violence in the North Central, especially Kaduna with over 500 persons killed.

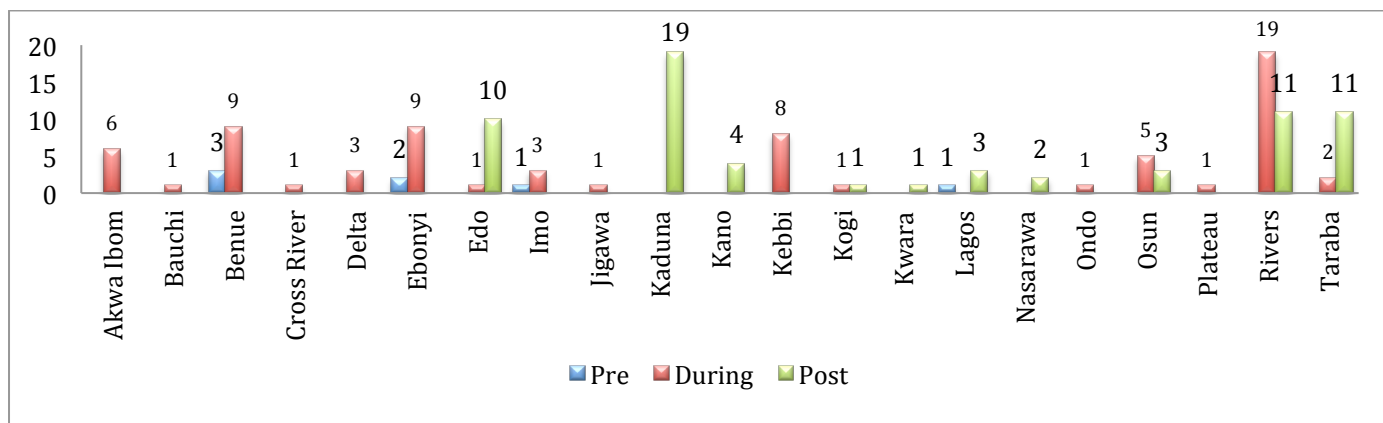
## B. 2015 Pre, During and Post Election Fatalities in States



*Fig 2. Fatality Figures of Pre, During and Post 2015 Federal Elections*

Figure 2 shows pre-election, during election and post-election violent deaths that happened in relation to the 2015 presidential election. States that recorded the highest number of presidential election-related deaths before, during and after election were Rivers (40), Lagos (32), Kano (27), Borno (19), Kaduna (13) and

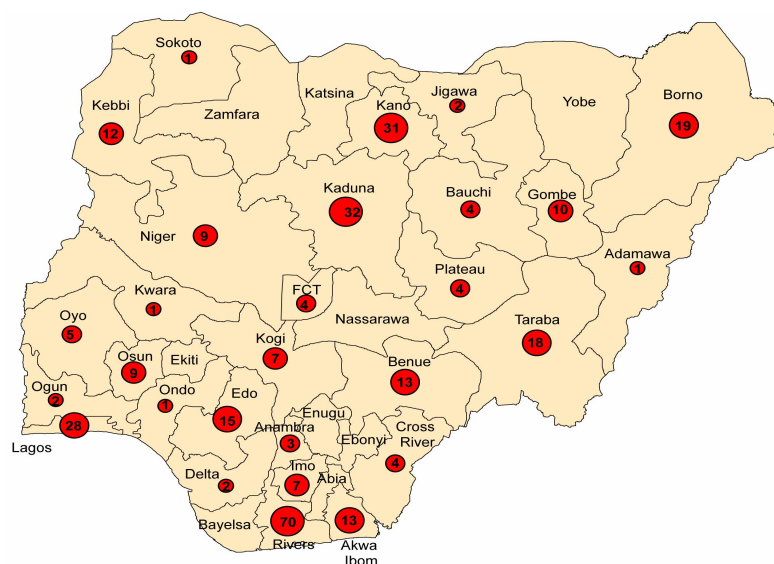
Gombe (10). This is not unconnected with the fact that these states especially Rivers state were the hot beds of the opposition party, the All Progressive Congress (APC). The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive Congress (APC) were in strong contention in those states and as such a lot of politically related deaths were recorded.



**Fig 3. Fatality Figures of Pre, During and Post 2015 State Elections**

Figure 3 shows pre-election, during election and post-election violence that occurred in respect of the 2015 governorship election. The highest number of deaths was recorded in the following states: Rivers (30), Kaduna (19), Taraba (13), Ebonyi (11), Edo (11), Lagos (11), Benue (9), Kebbi (8) and Osun (7). It is worthy to note that Rivers state recorded 19 deaths during the actual day of governorship election. Majority of the deaths were attributable to the tough struggle between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the affected states. Both parties fought each other to a standstill in places states like Rivers and Kaduna states.

### C. Mapping the 2015 General Elections Fatalities By States



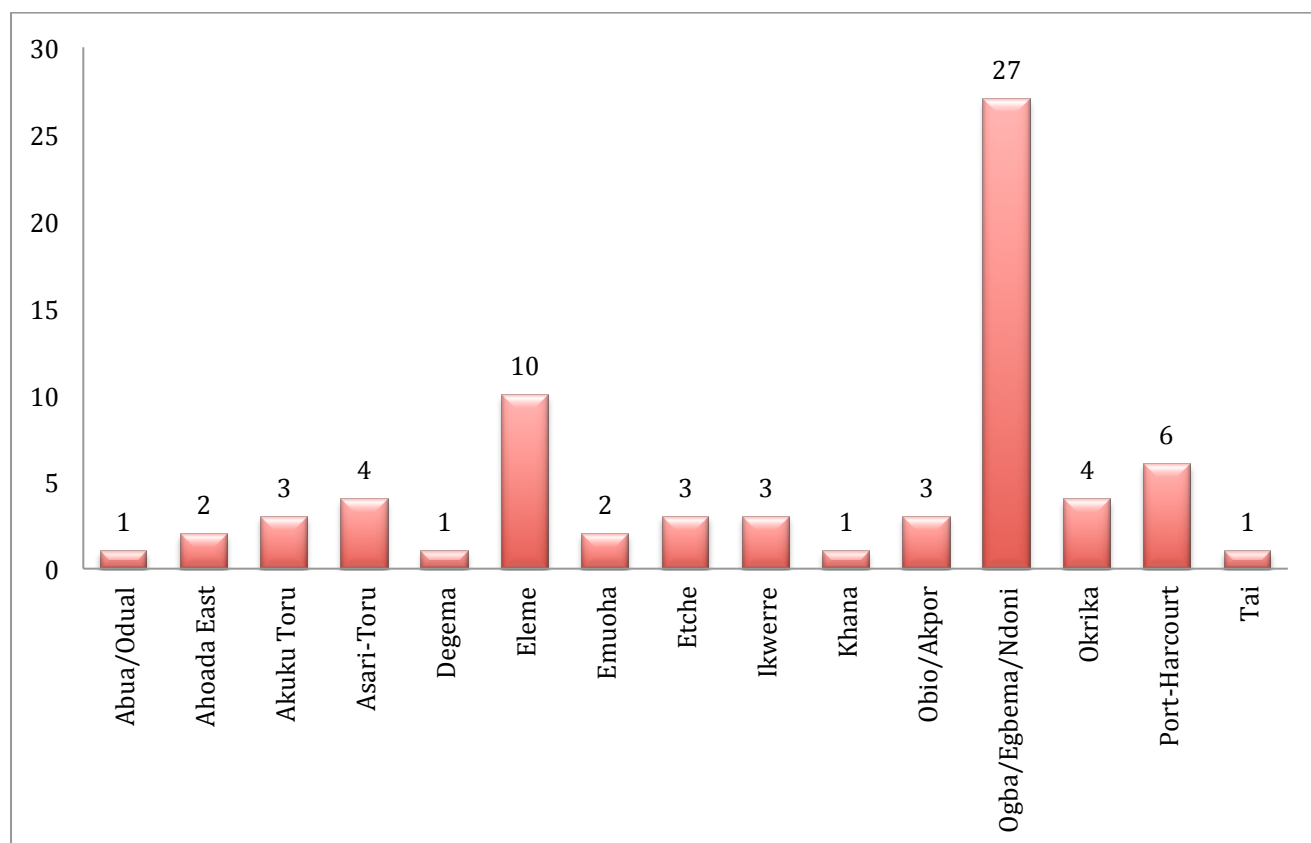
**Fig 4. Mapping of 2015 Election Fatality Figures by States**

Figure 4 shows the distribution of fatalities that occurred in relation with the 2015 general elections in Nigeria. About 189 violent events, traced to 30 states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), resulted in 351 deaths. From the above figure, the 5 states which recorded the most casualties during the elections included Rivers state (70 deaths), Kaduna (32 deaths), Kano (31 deaths), Lagos (28 deaths) and Borno (19 deaths). However, contexts to the fatalities differed. Fatalities in Rivers and Lagos states mostly occurred during the pre-election period and on the voting days. Kaduna, Kano and Borno states recorded

most fatalities occurring while celebrating the victory of General Mohammed Buhari of the All Peoples Congress (APC).

It is worth noting that while 81% of all the states and FCT recorded election fatalities, 19% were free from such records. The Nigeria Watch security map shows that Abia, Bayelsa, Ekiti, Enugu, Katsina, Ogun, Yobe and Zamfara recorded zero election related fatalities between January and April, 2015 despite the pockets of violence witnessed in those states.

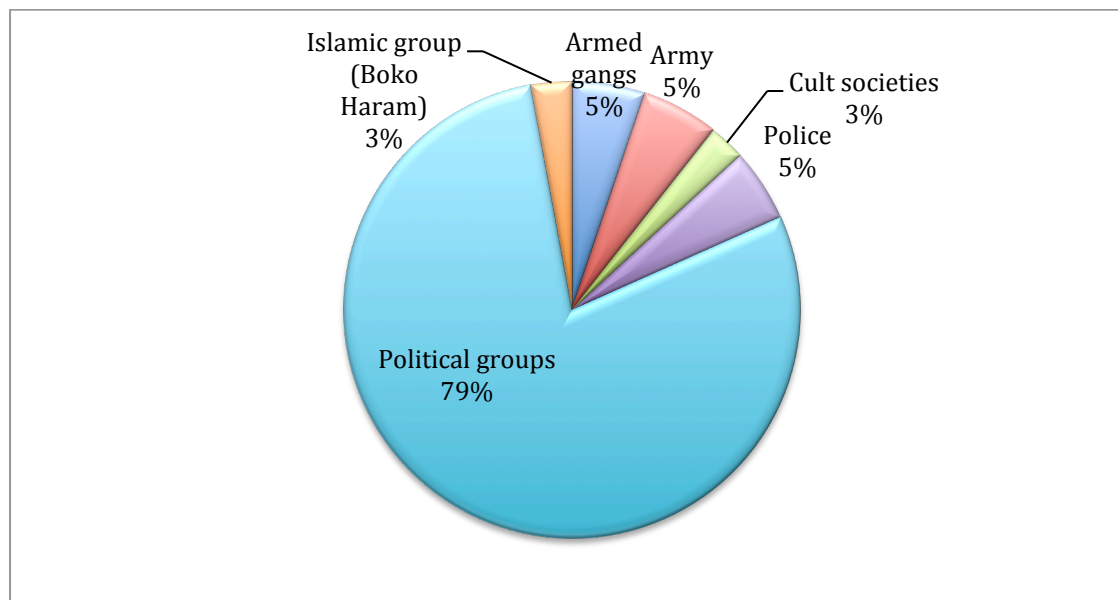
In Rivers State, 15 out of the 23 LGAs recorded at least one death during the elections. Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni was the most volatile LGA for fatalities, accounting for 27 out of the 70 deaths recorded in Rivers State in the course of the elections. The spread of violence in other LGAs across the state is summarized in Figure 5



**Fig 5. Fatalities By LGAs in Rivers State**

### D. Fatalities By Protagonist in the 2015 General Elections

Several actors were responsible for the numerous deaths recorded before, during and after the 2015 general election. This section takes a cursory look at these actors.

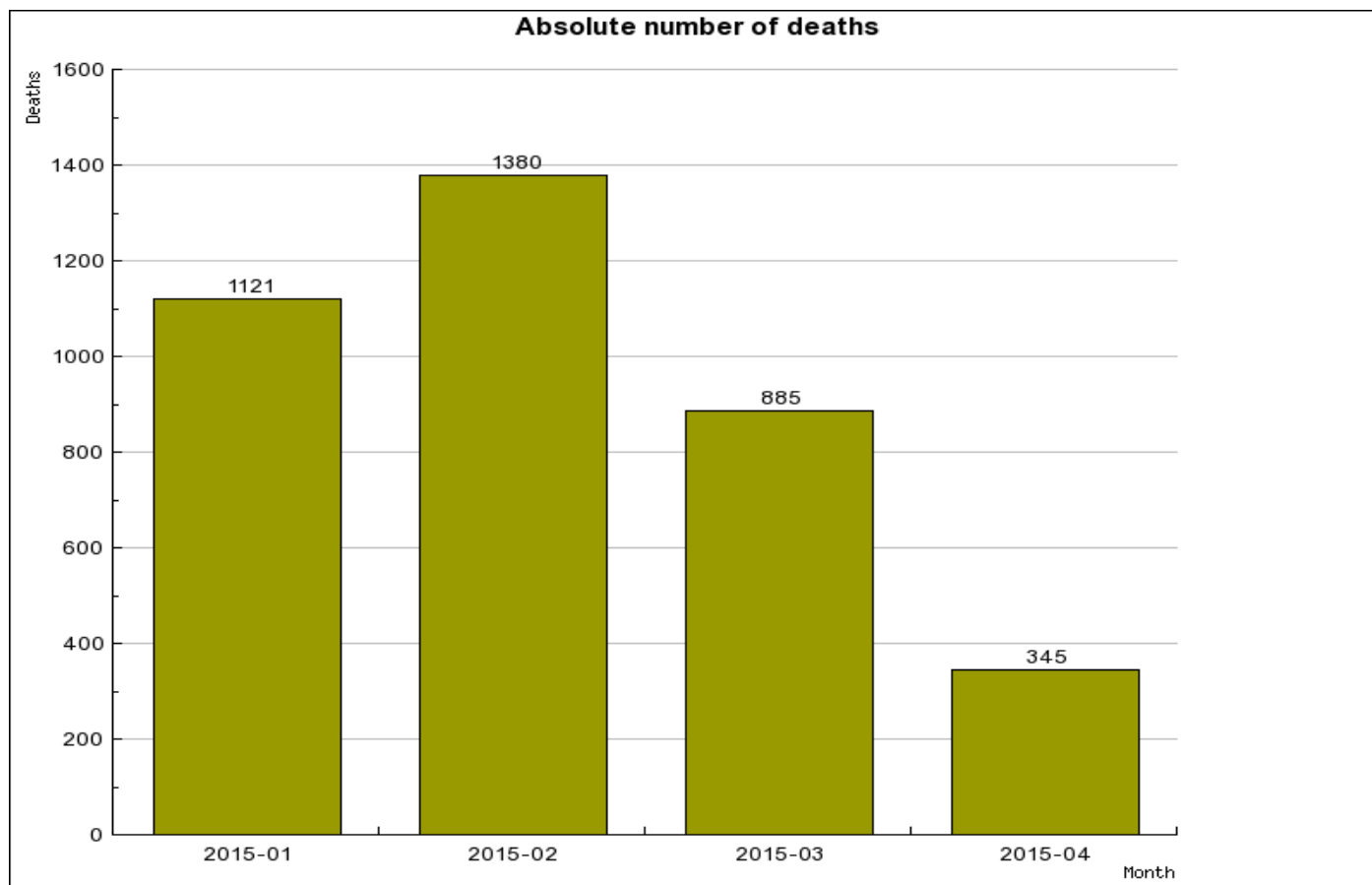


**Fig 6. Fatalities By Protagonists**

Figure 5 shows the distribution of protagonists of fatalities in the 2015 general election in Nigeria. About 275 deaths (79%) occurred from the activities of political groups. These political groups encompass both contestants and supporters of political parties. 19 persons (5%) were killed by soldiers, 18 persons by the police and by armed gangs respectively. People killed by soldiers and the police were mostly people who disrupted or attempted to disrupt electoral processes. Beyond this, 9 lives were lost to the activities of cult groups, often engaged by politicians to directly kill opponents or disrupt political meetings. Finally, Boko Haram killed 10 persons in Dukku and Nafada areas during the presidential election.

The activities of all the protagonists cuts across the states of the federation except the cult groups that operated mostly in Rivers state. It was widely believed by residents of the state that most of the cult groups were recruited by the political class to promote their interest in the elections. Based on this assumption, one can conclude that the killings in Rivers were both political and cult- related.

### E. Boko Haram Insurgency in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2015



***Fig 7. Fatality Trends by State, Sept-Dec 2014***

Figure 6 depicts a drastic decrease in the Boko Haram violence from February to April in the North-East. Perhaps, this can be attributed to the preparation towards the 2015 general elections, when the Federal Government stepped up security measures for the elections to take place. During this period, many territories including Askira (Askira/Uba LGA), Buratai (Biu LGA), Alagarno (Damboa LGA), Baga (Kukawa LGA), Gamboru (Ngala LGA) and Damasak (Mohbar LGA) that were hitherto lost to the insurgents were also recovered. The reduction in fatalities from 1380 in February to 345 in April speaks loudly the effective measures the government put in place to secure a conducive environment for the elections to held.

### NIGERIA WATCH'S ACTIVITIES

#### TRAINING

The Coordinator of the Nigeria Watch Project attended a special training of the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators, (ICMC) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State between March 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The participants at the training were introduced to the Nigeria Watch database on 'How To Use the Database' as part of the NW existing partnership with ICMC. The training was in line with the overall goal of ensuring that intending users of the data are trained on how to use the statistical tools and security graphs of the online resources. About 20 participants, including directors, research fellows and technical staff of the State ministries attended the training.

#### OFFICIAL VISIT

Prof. Joseph Y-shek Cheng visited Nigeria Watch office at Parry road in March 24, 2015. Cheng is a Professor of Political Science and Coordinator of Contemporary China Research Project from City University of Hong Kong. Cheng was taken through the database and he promised to advertise the project to scholars in China.

#### NEW STAFF

A new staff, Mr Victor Eze was employed to join the Nigeria Watch team in the middle of March 2015 after the disengagement of Mr Super Afeno Odomovo from the NW in January 2015. Mr Victor was recruited among other 30 applicants for the advertised position of a Junior Researcher/Information Retrieval Specialist. This is wishing Mr Victor a successful tenure with the Nigeria Watch Project.

### 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.

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**Fatality Trends** is published quarterly by NIGERIA WATCH PROJECT. All correspondence should be forwarded to the Project Coordinator [adams.nwifra@gmail.com](mailto:adams.nwifra@gmail.com) Tel: +2348056683323 No. 9, Parry Road, University of Ibadan, [www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org). The Editorial team acknowledges the contributions of Annabelle Giger (UK International Editor), Heloise Lucaccioni, Dr Xavier Moyet and Prof Montclos Perouse Marc-Antoine.