

2022: Bloody beginning

- * Nigeria loses 217 lives to violence, accidents in 6 days
- * Figure higher than 120 recorded in 7 days of 2021
- * Auto crashes claim 53 lives

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AFTER surviving ferocious waves of insecurity and other socio-economic challenges of 2021, death is the last thing on the minds of most people who crossed over to January, 2022.

Less than seven days into 2022, the Nigerian polity is littered with untimely and aborted dreams. No fewer than 217 people, across the country, have had their lives violently terminated in their prime, according to *Saturday Vanguard's* checks.

The 217 deaths in six days are higher than the 120 deaths recorded in the first seven days of 2021.

On December 31, of every year, many people troop to religious and prayer houses where they thank God for the ending year and supplicate for better tidings—good health, long life, prosperity and other favours in the New Year.

Many people outline a litany of lofty goals they want to actualise in the coming year.

They top it up with the exchange of goodwill wishes and messages with friends and family. No matter how old, instant death is the last thing on the minds of most people. Even those who are ill expect to get well in the New Year.

However, these lofty goals are not the lot of the 217 persons killed.

These 217 deaths are conservative because they are reported cases. They include 53 lives lost in auto accidents. They exclude the expiration of some prominent Nigerians, who died in the last five days such as Olu-badan of Ibadan, Oba Salu Adetunji, Alhaji Bashir Othman Tofa; veteran Nollywood Actress, Iyabo Oko; Retired Deputy General Overseer of Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor J.A. Abiona, who handed over to current G.O, Pastor Enoch Adeboye; and the Olu of Ayepe-Olode, Osun State, Oba David Olajide Omisore. Oba Omisore, the father of former Osun State Deputy Governor, Senator Iyiola Omisore, died on January 4, aged 90.

Time line of violent deaths in six days of 2022

- Jan 1:—No fewer than eight persons died in three accidents in Ebonyi State. One of the accidents happened on Abakali-Etenu expressway and the others occurred in two locations, Ezzamgbo and Nkalagu axis of the road in Obaukwu and Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.
- Jan 1:—An APC chieftain was killed at Eket LGA of Akwa Ibom State.
- Jan 1:—A man stabbed his wife to death in Combi LGA of Adamawa State.
- Jan 1:—Wanted Zamfara Bandit Commander's Kachalla Rugga, Alhaji Auta, scores of bandits estimated at 30 were reportedly eliminated in Military air raids in Zamfara.
- Jan 1:—One person was



President Muhammadu Buhari (m) flanked by L-R: NNPC CEO, Mele Kyari; Minister of State Petroleum, Timpre Sylva; NNPC Board Chairman, Margery Chuba Okadigbo; NNPC CFO, Umar Ajiya; and other members of the board during the inauguration of the Board of Directors of Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) in State House on January 7, 2022. Photo: State House.

- killed as thugs attempted to lynch Amotekun operatives in Osogbo, Osun State.
- Jan 2:—Three persons were killed by gunmen at Rafi Bana Bassa LGA of Plateau State.
- Jan 2:—Bandits broke into homes in Kaduna village, killed housewife and eight others.
- Homes were attacked by bandits in Kerawa, Igabi LGA and in Zangon Kalaf among others.
- Jan 3:—Three persons were killed in Afaha Oku, Ikpa community in Uyo LGA of Akwa Ibom State.
- Jan 3:—Six passengers were confirmed dead following multiple accidents which occurred on the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway.
- Jan 3:—The police killed a hoodlum while repelling an attack on the palace of the Chairman, Imo State Traditional Institution/Community Policing (Eze Imo), Eze Emmanuel Okeke.
- Jan 3:—One person was killed in Orlu LGA of Imo State.
- Jan 3:—Two children comprising a male and female were confirmed dead while five other people were said to have sustained serious injury in an auto crash, which occurred along Iyo-Ikot Ekpen expressway.
- Jan 4:—Eight died and 17 others were injured in Akwa-Ibom, Lagos-Abeokuta expressway auto crashes. While six people died in the accident in Lagos, two died in Akwa-Ibom, with 12 and five injured respectively.
- Jan 4:—The Zamfara State's Police Command said it has neutralized two suspected bandits along Puntua-Gusau road in Tsale Local Government Area of the State while repelling an attempted attack on Iba Community in Tsale Local Government.
- Jan 4:—Four prisoners were reportedly shot and killed during an attempt to escape from Koseri correctional custody, Ilesha, Osun State by security men.
- Jan 4:—A vigilante, killed a Nigerian Air Force Man in Omuakwa community, Ikwere Local Government Area of Rivers State.
- Jan 4:—Bandits killed one person and injured another in the house of an officer attached to the Inspector General of Police Special Intelligence Response Team (IRT), ASP Aliyu Umar in Zaria, Kaduna State.
- Jan 4:—Nine persons were killed while five others sustained injuries, following attacks by terrorists in Igabi and Zaria Local Government Areas of Kaduna State. Two of the bandits were killed by security forces sustained gunshot injuries and were now receiving medical attention.
- Jan 4:—No fewer than four persons died in an auto accident involving three commercial vehicles near a customs checkpoint at Asara Unit Ila Command in Sokoto.
- Jan 4:—Gunmen killed seven members of the same family in Sabon Birnin village in Igabi LGA of Kaduna State, and another 17 persons in 13 villages in Kerawa Ward of the same LGA.
- Jan 5:—Three persons were confirmed dead, while 17 others sustained varying degrees of injuries in a lone accident along Lagos-Ibadan expressway.
- Jan 5:—Two persons were gunned and five injured when soldiers invaded Adigbo area of Abeokuta claiming to be after terrorists.
- Jan 5:—A vigilante group in Zamfara state killed eight suspected locals who were said to be giving information to bandits.
- Locals in Gada of Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State, told journalists that the vigilantes killed the suspects without any resistance at Gada in Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State.
- Similarly, another vigilante group blocked 4 suspected informants at the GSM market in Kauran Namoda and allegedly, executed them. In the two incidents, the vigilantes were said to have embarked on an intensive manhunt before the suspected informants were apprehended.
- Among the suspected informants killed were a woman, her husband and two sons.
- Jan 5:—A man, Nana Oyi-bo, 24, allegedly stabbed his neighbour, Onos Obade-ke to death during a heated argument at Old Eku road in Sapele, Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State.
- Jan 5:—Bandits killed two security guards, and kidnapped two Chinese workers at the Zungeru Multibillion Naira Hydro Electricity Power Dam in Wushishi Local Government Area of Niger state.
- Besides those kidnapped, the bandits were said to have also shot another Chinese also working at the site.
- Jan 6:—Two persons were reportedly killed and several others wounded in renewed hostilities over the protracted land dispute between Igbide and Okpolo-Enwehe communities, Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State.
- Jan 6:—A Jeep driver ran into and killed woman, and her son in along Ikot Ekpen road, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital.
- Jan 6:—No fewer than 19 persons lost their lives in an auto-crash in Bagauda near Nigeria Law School campus along Kano - Zaria highway.
- The accident occurred when two commercial buses—Toyota Hiace - with registration numbers KBT 152 XA and NSR 275 ZX collided.
- Jan 6:—A suspected ritualist disguised as a lunatic, was reportedly set ablaze by a mob at Ughelli, headquarters of Ughelli North Local Government Area, Delta State.
- The incident which took place at the front of the Otowodo Primary School. The suspect had drawn the suspicion of some persons who sighted him making a conversation with an expensive Android phone in front of the school.
- Jan 6:—One person was killed and illicit drug estimated at N6.5million was seized as troops of Operation Safe Haven intercepted a drug syndicate along Akwanga-Gwandu Road in Songs LGA of Kaduna State.
- Jan 6:—No fewer than 60 people were reported dead when bandits razed five communities in Anka and Bukuruym LGAs of Zamfara State.