

The Saturday COVER



KILLING FIELDS: Nigeria loses 805 lives to insecurity, violence in six weeks

• 28 soldiers, 5 police officers, one EFCC officer killed

By Clifford Ndujibe,
Politics Editor

IN spite of the efforts of the governments at various levels and stakeholders to fight insecurity, Nigeria has remained a killing field.

In the first six weeks of 2025, no fewer than 805 lives have been lost to violence and insecurity across the country.

Among the dead are 28 soldiers, five police officers, and an official of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, according to Saturday Vanguard's checks and timeline in Nigeria Insecurity Tracker, NIT, compiled by Dataxpat.com.

The Nigeria Insecurity Tracker is an effort to chronicle and map insecurity and violence based on a weekly survey of media reports. The data include violent incidents relating to political, economic, and social grievances directed at the state or other affiliated groups, or the state employing violence to respond to those incidents.

The 805 death toll is based on reported incidents and the tally may be higher because many incidents are not reported or under-reported. And abducted victims who get killed in kidnappers' dens are not tallied.

In the second week of January, the military said troops neutralised 156 terrorists and apprehended 464 suspects. And in the 31 days of January, the military said that troops eliminated 358 terrorists and arrested 431 suspects.

However, the 805 lives were fewer than the 1525 lost in the first six weeks of 2021. This indicates that efforts to fight insecurity are bearing fruits.

Timeline of killings in six weeks of 2025

JAN 1: A man and his son burned and killed their kinsman over alleged stealing of ₦25,000 jeans in Ogula LGA of Imo State.

JAN 1: Former Federal Controller of Works, AbdulKazag Ajani, was killed by unknown assailants in Jann, Kwara State.

JAN 1: A 27-year old woman killed her husband with a pestle over a misunderstanding at Lajvagi Dzwau village in Matcha LGA of Niger State.

JAN 2: A jealous and aggrieved man killed a Bishop over suspicion of having affairs with his wife in Olorunda LGA, Osogbo, Osun State.

JAN 3: 11 people lost their lives, four people were injured, and 31 huts were burnt to ashes during a communal clash at Gulu village, Jahin and Miga LGA of Jigawa State.

JAN 3: Suspected Lakurawa bandits attacked Natsini village in Argungu LGA of Kebbi State, killed two police officers and rustled an unspecified number of cows.

JAN 4: Some unknown gunmen killed two farmers while working on their farms in Odo-Ape community, Kabba-Bunu LGA, Kogi State.

JAN 4: Six soldiers and 34 terrorists died during a firefight between troops and ISWAP/Boko Haram terrorists at Sabin Gan Village in Damboa LGA, Borno State.

JAN 4: Security forces and local vigilantes neutralised several bandits estimated at 80 in Jibia LGA of Katsina State.

JAN 4: Suspected bandits ambushed a village in Lusada LGA of Katsina State, killed four persons including the state's Acting Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association MACBAN, Amadu Surajo, and kidnapped three persons.

JAN 4: Troops of 1 Brigade, Sector 2 Joint Task Force North West, Operation Fansan Yamma neutralised a notorious terrorist, Sani Russu in Isale LGA, Zamfara State.

JAN 4: Troops of 1 Brigade, Sector 2 Joint Task Force North West, Operation Fansan Yamma during an ambush operation neutralised some terrorists, while others sustained fatal injuries at Kwanar Jollof in Shinkafi LGA of Zamfara State. Number of deaths estimated at 15.

JAN 5: No fewer than 18 people were killed in coordinated attacks across several communities in Orsi LGA of Imo State. The killings occurred in Umuhu-Okabia, Ezawa, Ihtenansa, Amaokwu and Amaebu.

JAN 5: Unknown men killed three sons of a native doctor at Nise community in Awka South LGA of Anambra State.

JAN 6: Nine people were killed during a fight clash in Owo, Oyo LGA of Ondo State.

JAN 6: 2 persons died in an IED explosion at Isangayari Sani Uthman Istamiyya School in Bayezhin area of Abuja.

JAN 6: The military air component conducted air interdiction on BH/ISWAP terrorists at Wilade in Gwoza LGA of Borno, killing several terrorists estimated at 30.

JAN 7: Nigerian Army troops shot dead two suspects accused of killing four soldiers on protection duty in Rivers. They were neutralised by troops of 5 Battalion during a raid on their hideout in Kalaqobokolo, Ahoada West LGA, Rivers State.

JAN 7: Bandits attacked a joint team of Katsina State Community Watch Corps and vigilante members, who were returning from a condolence visit at Baure Village, Safana LGA of Katsina State and killed 21 persons.

JAN 8: Armed Cultists suspected to be members of the Greenlanders, invaded Igboke Community a suburb of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa capital, and killed three persons.

JAN 9: A four-man gang killed two Uber drivers in Lagos.

JAN 9: A 10-year old girl was killed by a man for rituals in Orhoakpi, Ethiope East, Delta State.

JAN 10: The Nigeria Immigration Service, NIS, confirmed the deaths of four individuals following an attack by suspected terrorists on its facilities at the Kangiwa border, Kebbi State. Those killed were a local watchman and three contractors.

JAN 10: The troops of Sector 2 of the Joint Task Force North-West Operation Fansan Yamma dismantled terrorists' hideouts in

Fakai area of Shinkafi LGA of Zamfara. The troops in an offensive operation supported by the Air Component Operation Fansan Yamma cleared some terrorists' camps in Fakai axis. Some of the bandits' camps cleared include that of Bello Turji and Mattam Ba, where troops neutralised over 25 terrorists with more than 18 others sustaining gunshot wounds.

JAN 11: Hoodlums stabbed to death a commercial cyclist and took a way his motorcycle at Daku village, Gwagwalada Area Council, Abuja.

JAN 11: 16 persons said to be vigilantes were mistakenly killed in a military airstrike in some communities in Masadun and Zumri LGAs of Zamfara State.

JAN 11: Gunmen suspected to be cattle herders killed nine people and injured many others in Kani LGA of Nasarawa State.

JAN 11: Suspected herders backed a farmer in death and raped a woman at Paikon Bassa community in Gurdi Ward of Abaji Area Council, Abuja.

JAN 11: Kidnappers killed a vigilante and kidnapped his colleague at Igbe community in Ikporodu LGA of Lagos State.

JAN 12: Boko Haram insurgents killed 40 farmers, injured and kidnapped scores of others in Dumba community, Baga, Kukawa LGA of Borno State.

JAN 12: Boko Haram killed two civilians in Chibok village, burned church, and houses.

JAN 12: A Chinese national was stabbed and killed in his office by a man and his henchman at Ogere, Ogun State.

JAN 12: A 23-year old man stabbed and killed his 65-year old father after consuming Colorado at Amukye, Sargale in Delta State.

JAN 13: Two persons were killed at Iwaro, Akoko South-East LGA of Ondo State following clashes among youths of Oka-Odo, Ebo and Owa communities.

JAN 13: 10 persons were reported dead in Salaria village, Panda, Nasarawa State following a night attack by suspected Fulani terror group.

JAN 14: Anambra Joint Security Force

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neutralised 5 alleged Biafra secessionists at Umuja, Orumba LGA of Anambra State.

JAN 14: A gospel singer, Dimilevin Ajayi, killed and butchered his girlfriend, Salome Adaidu, at Agwan Sarki, Orozo, Nasarawa State.

JAN 14: The Defence Headquarters said troops in the last one week, neutralised 156 terrorists, apprehended 464 suspects and rescued 181 kidnapped hostages in different operations across the country.

In the North East, Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Edward Buba said the troops of Operation Hadin Kai eliminated 76 terrorists, arrested 72 suspects and rescued eight kidnappers' hostages during the week.

In the North West, Buba said the troops of Operation Fajana Yamma, neutralised 64 terrorists, arrested 69 persons and rescued 62 kidnapped hostages.

He added that the air component killed scores of terrorists within Alawa Forest in Shiroro LGA of Niger as well as Maikah and Mashighi areas of Kebbi.

JAN 15: Cultists shot and killed a final year student of Akoka State Polytechnic, Ikot Osurua, Akwa Ibom State.

JAN 16: The troops of Defence Headquarters Special Operations Brigade, neutralised six terrorists in Gudu LGA of Sokoto State and recovered weapons.

JAN 16: A man stabbed his brother-in-law to death at Ubumin in Mbatoli LGA, Imo State.

JAN 16: A 23-year old man macheted his father to death over refusal to give him N5,000 at Amukpe, Sapele LGA of Delta State.

JAN 16: A Computer Science student of Westland Polytechnic, Ilobu, Ogun State was shot and killed in the town by gunmen suspected to be from Ifon community.

JAN 18: An officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Assistant Superintendent (AS) Aminu Salisu, was shot and killed during an operation in Awka, Anambra.

JAN 18: Joint security personnel in Katsina State foiled bandits' attack on Ruwan-Doruwa Village, Dutsen-ma LGA and neutralised seven suspected bandits.

JAN 19: A man alleged to be a cultist, Nasir Usiaka, was killed by two masked men at Owo in Owo LGA of Ondo State.

JAN 19: Gunmen shot Celestial Church prophet to death in Sunday service at Adiroko, Ogun State.

JAN 19: Police confirmed one person dead in a clash between the people of Omega-Agalagu and Okunwuyima Communities in Ikwo LGA of Ebonyi State.

JAN 20: A robbery attack at Ngalda Market in Yobe State led to the loss of seven lives and

injuring of 11 others.

JAN 20: The Police killed a kidnap kingpin in Yola LGA of Adamawa State.

JAN 20: Military kills Turji's son, several other terrorists estimated at 34 during a coordinated operations between troops of Operation Fajana Yamma and the air component along Shinkafi, Kagara, Fakar, Moriki, Maiwa and Chindo axis, Zamfara State.

JAN 20: An old woman, Kehinde Ojo, was stoned to death at Nawarudeen, along Isabo Road in Abeokuta, by 64-year-old, women and others.

JAN 21: The Vice Chairman of the Civilian Joint Taskforce (CJTF) in Kawuri, Godori, Borno State stepped on a bomb believed to have been planted by terrorists a day earlier and died in the instant explosion.

JAN 22: Troops neutralised Bello Turji's second-in-command, and six others around Gebe and Isa LGAs of Sokoto State.

JAN 22: An NYSC corps member, serving at PCE Pankshin, Salwan Adamu Fado, was reportedly beaten and severely injured by unknown hoodlums at the Pankshin township stadium. He died later.

JAN 22: Gunmen killed two persons, abducted five, and injured one at Akansan Garmadi in Rumay, Kaduna State.

JAN 22: A woman set ablaze on January 21 by her husband over alleged infidelity died at Eziekwere village, Abagana in Njikoka LGA of Anambra State.

JAN 24: Gunmen ambushed and killed an undertaker along Egbe-Ogbe-Ponyan Road in Yagba East LGA of Kogi State.

JAN 25: Police neutralised 6 IPOB/ESN men in Imo.

JAN 25: Man strangled his father to death for not buying him motorcycle at Eben Quarters, Isua Akoko, Ondo State.

JAN 25: Troops, killer terrorist commander and 74 others in operations across the country.

JAN 26: 22 soldiers were killed in a Jihadist suicide attack in Maiduguri, Borno State.

JAN 26: Troops eliminate 70 terrorists in Borno.

JAN 27: Herdsmen-killed two persons in Abiri community, Ika North-East LGA of Delta State.

JAN 28: Five persons were reportedly killed during an attack by gunmen at Ajeunle-Powerline community in Akure North LGA of Ondo State.

JAN 28: Bandits killed a herder and abducted officers at Dogon-Kurmi near Iala LGA of Niger State.

JAN 28: Gunmen killed a woman they abducted with her husband, son and husband's elder brother at Chikakore, Kutuba in Bwari Area Council, FCT Abuja.

JAN 29: 2 persons were killed when gunmen invaded Vanguard Media Staff Cooperative Society land in Lokoji community, Ogun State.

JAN 29: Police neutralised 5 suspected kidnappers and rescued three victims at Sagamu-Ilebu Ode expressway, Ogun State.

JAN 30: Bandits tied tree and abducted 24 during attacks on four communities in Shinkafi LGA of Zamfara State.

JAN 30: Bandits kidnapped the 4-year-old son of a council chairman, and killed his aide in Mahumashi LGA of Katsina State.

JAN 30: Anambra's security outfit raided dreaded Ilu forest in Ihiala LGA, and killed gunmen.

JAN 31: Herdsmen killed five labourers at Ayeunle, Powerline community in Akure North LGA of Ondo State.

JAN 31: Terrorists killed a family (husband, wife and their child) while asleep at Lightubang village in Mangu LGA of Plateau State.

FEB 1: Gunmen killed one person and abducted nine at Piroje village in Lau LGA of Taraba State.

FEB 1: One person was shot dead while four others were abducted by kidnappers at Shendai, Namu district in Quana-Pan LGA of Plateau State.

FEB 2: 15 persons were killed when herdsmen attacked Ahegi-Nkelegha community in Ishiaku LGA of Ebonyi State.

FEB 2: 21 bandits surrendered, and one was killed at Amar village of Karim Lamido LGA of Taraba State.

FEB 3: Three persons were killed in a renewed bloody clash between rival cult groups in Onne, Elemo LGA of Rivers State.

FEB 3: Gunmen invaded Ega-Oke in Obokun LGA of Ogun State, killing four people.

FEB 3: Clash between residents and security agents claimed four lives during a demolition exercise at Rimi Zakara, Ungogo LGA of Kano State.

FEB 3: A man stabbed a police inspector to death at Manigi village in Masegu LGA of Niger State for marrying his son's girlfriend, and causing the son heartbreak.

FEB 3: Gunmen killed two persons and kidnapped many at Galadimawa in Rumay, Kaduna State.

FEB 4: Three siblings were killed, and their bodies stuffed in a deep freezer in Nnewichi, Nnewi North LGA of Anambra State.

FEB 4: Four were confirmed dead in the leadership tussle between Ega-Oke community of Obokun LGA of Ogun State.

FEB 4: Kidnappers killed one and abducted four in Shendai community of Namu District, Plateau State.

FEB 4: Gunmen invaded Ijeun-Egba community in Onigade LCDA of Lagos, killed two persons and injured several others.

FEB 4: Two people were killed by improvised Explosive Device, IED, planted by Boko Haram terrorists on their way to a market along Harang and Jibuhwui villages of Hawu LGA Borno State.

FEB 4: Bandits killed a vigilante and kidnapped 6 girls in Pandogan community, Rafi LGA of Niger State.

FEB 4: A woman was killed by a stray bullet during a clash between the Bobous and

Greenlanders at Swali Ultran Modern Market, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

FEB 5: Gunmen killed the Chief Security Officer, CSO, of the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium, Richard Timothy and his 23-year old son, Stas, at their Igwuruta-Ali residence near Port Harcourt.

FEB 5: The decomposing remains of Apambra House of Assembly lawmaker, Justice Azuka, who was kidnapped on December 24, 2024 was found at the Second Niger Bridge.

FEB 5: At least five persons including All Progressives Councilship aspirant in the last local council polls, Amedu Agaba, reportedly lost their lives while several others sustained injuries during a bloody clash between suspected armed herdsmen and local hunters at Okomajui village of Okete Ward in Oshikpo LGA of Benue State.

The killings were after a February 4 peace meeting after one herder and two hunters had been killed in the area.

FEB 6: The Police neutralised two bandits at Awana district in Akure LGA of Bauchi State during a tactical operation in collaboration with hunters.

FEB 6: Bandits killed one and kidnapped the former Director General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brigadier General Mahabazu Igba, and nine others at Isia village, Bakori LGA, Katsina State.

FEB 6: A female student of Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen, while a stray bullet killed a woman in Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State.

FEB 7: A 37-year old man killed his 45-year old elder brother over feud at Adegebe village, Abagana in Njikoka LGA of Anambra State.

FEB 7: Bandits killed 12 traders and abducted four in Katsina State.

FEB 7-8: No fewer than 48 terrorists were killed and 25 injured in a co-ordinated attacks across multiple fronts by troops at Kashabawa, Awarara, Zaki and Sakarawa in Zamfara State.

FEB 8: Assaulters killed an uber driver and searched his vehicle in Lagos.

FEB 9: No fewer than 19 persons died after a boat and icelanders cult groups clashed in Obelle community, Emohua LGA of Rivers State.

FEB 9: A trigger-happy police man shot and killed a man at Omuagwa, Rivers State.

FEB 9: Bandits killed one and abducted many during an attack on Rarah community in Rabbah LGA, Sokoto State.

FEB 9: Armed robbers killed the pastor of Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA, in Ebu community of Yamali/Deba LGA of Gombe State.

FEB 9: Police killed a bandit and lost two personnel in separate incidents in Yobe State.

FEB 9: Two persons died during a fight by two rival cult groups in Wadata area of Makurdi, Benue State.

FEB 10: Bandits killed a trader along Bandume Road, Katsina.

FEB 10: The Police confirmed the killing of three persons in a cult clash in Wadata area of Makurdi, Benue State.

Greenlanders at Swali Ultran Modern Market, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

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Woman stabs friends during argument in Ogun

By James Ogunnalke, Abeokuta

Operatives of Ogun State command of Nigeria Police have arrested a woman identified as Deborah, for allegedly stabbing two ladies, Adebayo Omokehinde and Kolapo Aishat, during a scuffle in the Aiyetoro area of the state. Spokesperson for the state police command, Omolola Odutola, disclosed that the suspect allegedly fled the scene after committing the crime but was apprehended days later.

She said, "On January 30, 2025, the suspect allegedly attacked the victims, stabbing them multiple times with a broken bottle and inflicting severe injuries before fleeing the scene.

Odutola disclosed that the suspect had confessed to the crime after her arrest on Wednesday and subsequent interrogation.

She stated, "Deborah allegedly stabbed them multiple times on their breasts, hands, eyes, and other parts of their bodies in a vicious assault that left both of them in critical condition. The suspect

immediately absconded, evading arrest for nearly two weeks.

"However, luck ran out for her on February 12, 2025, when our officers successfully apprehended her. Upon questioning, Deborah confessed to committing the crime. Medical

reports were immediately issued to the victims, directing them to a general hospital for urgent treatment."

Odutola said, the suspect will be charged to court for prosecution upon completion of investigations.

1000 members of Lions Club converge in Ogbomoso for annual convention

By Demola Akinyemi, Ilorin

No fewer than One thousand members of Lions Club International, District 404B4 have converged on Ogbomoso area of Oyo state for a three-day annual convention, dubbed "Ajisegirt 2025 with the theme "Service without Boundaries".

The members on Thursday in a convoy paid homage to the palace of Soun of Ogbomoso, Oba Ghandi Afolabi Olayo, Orumogege 11, to receive royal blessing and later Bowen University Teaching Hospital to support Paediatric Cancer patients.

They also plan to march through the streets of Ogbomoso

on Saturday to create awareness of members of the club in the ancient town before proceeding to the convention later in the day.

Speaking earlier at a press conference on the activities of the club, the District Governor Lion Engineer Taiwo Fatoki said that Lions Club International was out to complement the efforts of governments by rendering assistance to the less privileged in the society.

Lion Fatoki also said that one Thousand diabetes patients have enjoyed free treatment provided by Lions International District 404B4 in the last six months in Lagos, Ogun and Oyo states.

Fatoki who assumed office as the governor of the club in July

Minister embarks on industrial tour, calls for synergy with stakeholders

By Providence Ayanfeoluwa

The Minister of State for Industry, Senator John Enoh, has concluded a two-day industrial tour of the South-West on February 12 and 13, 2025, aimed at strengthening

collaboration between the government and industry stakeholders while addressing challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's industrial landscape.

In a statement, Enoh noted that the tour would serve as a catalyst for promoting industrial growth, fostering innovation, and supporting the private sector.

According to the statement, some of the industries visited during the tour included Sunflag Nigeria Limited, GB Foods, Friesland Campina Nigeria Plc, Berger Paints, Mojec International Limited, Coleman Wire & Cable, Equipment and Protective Application International Limited (EPAIL), and Veonocks Tiles. During the tour, the Minister also paid official visits to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and his Ogun State counterpart, Mr. Dapo Abiodun, while inspecting select industries in their states.

This industrial tour was part of the administration's industrial revolution agenda and aligns with the Minister's six key priorities: the Nigeria's Automotive, Industry Development Plan (NAIDP), Special Agro-Processing Zones (SAPZ), Cotton, Textiles and Garments (CTG) Industry, Petrochemical, Chemical & Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, MSME Census, and the Industrial Revolution Work Group (IRWG).

2024 said that about 500 diabetes patients were screened and treated in Mushin, Lagos state while equal number of patients were treated in Otta, Abeokuta in Ogun state and Ibadan, Oyo state capital respectively.

The District governor who described diabetes as a silent killer among the people all over the world advised Nigerians to take care of their health by conducting regular tests on their health in reputable healthcare facility.

He explained that the Lion Club which has been in existence for over a century was established to provide humanitarian services to the people all over the world.