**High-Level Security Advisory: Major Incidents in Nigeria, May 1–September 5, 2025Date: September 6, 2025**  
  
**Purpose:** To provide a factual overview of major security incidents (terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, etc.) across Nigeria’s six geopolitical zones from May 1 to September 5, 2025, based on verified sources, including the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), U.S. Department of State reports, and authentic X posts from official accounts. This advisory emphasizes staff preparedness through practical precautions and supports senior management with strategic actions to enhance operational resilience and risk mitigation. Information is drawn from reliable data, focusing on trends rather than isolated events to avoid undue alarm.

**Executive Summary**

Nigeria's security landscape from May to September 2025 remained challenging, with persistent incidents of terrorism, kidnapping, and banditry affecting all zones, though with varying intensities. Key trends include a slight decline in overall terrorist attacks in Q1 2025 (per Castor Vali report), but rising fatalities due to advanced tactics like drone use by ISWAP; stable kidnapping rates with increases in southern highways; and surges in farmer-herder violence (64% year-on-year in Q1). ONSA reported significant successes, such as the arrest of two Ansaru leaders in August 2025, dismantling key networks linked to high-profile kidnappings. Humanitarian impacts persist, with over 2 million IDPs in the North East and ongoing displacement in other zones. For staff, the focus is on immediate personal and travel safety measures. For senior management, strategic actions include intelligence partnerships and tech integration for risk dashboards. This advisory promotes evidence-based preparedness to support business continuity.

**Zone-Specific Security Summaries 1.**

**North East (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe)**

**Incident Summary**: Terrorist activities by Boko Haram and ISWAP continued, with a five-week resurgence in mid-May 2025 resulting in over 300 deaths, including civilians and security personnel. In Borno, attacks in Gwoza and Bama LGAs killed 52 farmers and fishermen, with nearly 20 abducted. ISWAP's use of drones and collaboration with bandits enhanced their capabilities, as noted in Castor Vali's Q1 2025 report. Kidnappings targeted NGO workers and locals, contributing to 8.3 million people needing assistance (80% women and children). Flooding in Borno displaced additional populations. ONSA highlighted the arrest of Ansaru leaders in August, disrupting networks with ties to the region.Impacts: Operational disruptions on roads like Maiduguri-Damaturu; heightened risks for staff in humanitarian or logistics roles; strained supply chains due to food insecurity.Staff Precautions (Preparedness Focus):

* Limit non-essential travel to Borno and Yobe; use daylight hours and verified escorts for approved trips.
* Carry identification and emergency contacts; avoid rural areas and IDP camps without coordination.
* Report suspicious activities via secure channels to enable quick response.

**2. North West (Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara)**

**Incident Summary:** Banditry and kidnappings dominated, with a mass abduction of over 50 in Zamfara's Sabon Garin Damri on August 3, 2025. Attacks in Katsina targeted hospital workers and farmers, abducting dozens. Castor Vali noted a 17% drop in bandit attacks year-on-year in Q1 but surges in Niger, Kaduna, and Sokoto. ISWAP recruitment rose, with ~30,000 bandits operating in 100 gangs. ONSA's August arrest of Ansaru leaders (Mahmud Muhammad Usman and Mahmud al-Nigeri) disrupted high-profile kidnapping networks financing terrorism. Farmer-herder clashes killed 33 across states.Impacts: Highway disruptions (e.g., Kaduna-Abuja); risks to rural operations; economic strain from reduced trade.Staff Precautions (Preparedness Focus):

* Avoid night travel on major highways; use armed escorts and GPS tracking for essential journeys.
* Secure accommodations with reinforced access; maintain low profiles in rural areas.
* Participate in regular safety drills for abduction scenarios.

**3. North Central (Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, FCT)**

**Incident Summary:** Communal violence and banditry persisted, with attacks in Plateau's Marit and Gashish on May 5 killing six. Herdsmen-bandit clashes killed 33 in Benue and Kogi. A dam collapse in Niger's Mokwa LGA in May displaced 3,000. DSS and Army operations in August neutralized over 50 bandits and rescued hostages. Farmer-herder violence rose 64% year-on-year (Castor Vali Q1). Kidnappings on FCT highways continued.Impacts: Infrastructure damage from floods; travel risks on rural roads; food security threats from farmland losses.Staff Precautions (Preparedness Focus):

* Monitor weather and road alerts; avoid flood-prone rural areas in Niger and Plateau.
* Use secure transport with communication devices for FCT commutes.
* Prepare personal emergency kits for displacement risks.

**4. South South (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Rivers)**

**Incident Summary:** Militancy and cultism affected oil infrastructure, with 33 deaths from armed violence in late March (trends into May). Kidnappings targeted oil workers, with piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. A state of emergency was declared in Rivers on March 18 due to militant attacks and instability. Cameroonian refugees strained resources. Oil theft decreased due to coordinated efforts (ONSA, August).Impacts: Disruptions to energy operations; coastal travel risks; humanitarian pressures.Staff Precautions (Preparedness Focus):

* Employ security escorts for coastal and oil-related travel; avoid unverified vessels.
* Enhance personal cybersecurity to counter related digital threats.
* Coordinate with local authorities for movement in Rivers during heightened security.

**5. South East (Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo)**

**Incident Summary:** Secessionist violence by IPOB/ESN included clashes in Imo and Anambra. Biafran attacks surged 125% year-on-year in Q1 (Castor Vali), concentrated in Onitsha, Owerri, and Enugu. Kidnappings by "unknown gunmen" targeted civilians. Unemployment fueled gang activity. In May, gunmen killed 11 in Abia, attributed to IPOB.Impacts: Business disruptions in urban centers; risks during public events.Staff Precautions (Preparedness Focus):

* Avoid IPOB hotspots; monitor local alerts for protests.
* Use varied routes and secure vehicles for urban travel.
* Train on de-escalation for potential encounters.

**6. South West (Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo)**

**Incident Summary**: Banditry spread from the North West, with 33 killed by herdsmen-bandits in Ondo and Oyo. Farmer-herder violence expanded into the zone (64% rise, Castor Vali Q1). Cybercrime surged in Lagos, with ransomware and phishing. Rare ISWAP-linked threats persisted.Impacts: Urban crime affecting digital operations; rural expansion of violence.Staff Precautions (Preparedness Focus):

* Implement cyber hygiene; use secure networks in Lagos.
* Avoid rural night travel in Ondo/Oyo; secure urban facilities.
* Stay informed on public events to avoid risks.

**General Precautions for Staff (Preparedness Focus)**

1. Travel and Mobility:
   * Prioritize verified transport and daylight travel in high-risk zones; use GPS and escorts where required.
   * Vary routines to reduce predictability; carry emergency kits and share itineraries.
2. Personal and Facility Safety:
   * Maintain low profiles; report incidents promptly via secure apps.
   * Secure facilities with CCTV and access controls; conduct regular drills.
3. Health and Awareness:
   * Update vaccinations and monitor health advisories amid humanitarian strains.
   * Engage in mandatory training on kidnapping response and cyber threats.
4. Monitoring:
   * Use official apps and X from verified accounts (e.g., @PoliceNG,

@HQNigerianArmy) for updates.

TEMPLATE  
**1. Newsletter Structure**

* **Header:** “Regional Security Bulletin – September 2025”
* **Intro/Highlight Box:** A short executive summary (key national trends in 3–4 sentences).
* **Regional Snapshots:**
  + Use **zone-by-zone sections** with icons/maps (North East, North West, etc.).
  + Include *Key Incidents*, *Impacts*, and *Precautions* in short bullet points.
* **Staff Safety Tips:** Quick reminders (travel safety, facility security, health precautions).
* **Closing Note:** Contact or reporting channel for incidents.

**2. Format & Tone**

* Use **infographics** or small charts (e.g., % rise in violence, IDP numbers).
* Highlight *arrests, progress, or successes* to balance the risk narrative.
* Keep each section short — ideally one column per zone.

**3. Delivery**

* **Internal circulation** via email in PDF/HTML format.
* Could be designed with **branding colors and a clean layout** (like a one-pager or two-pager).

👉 You already have rich data in the Word report — the newsletter should be a **digest**: *short, visual, and action-focused*.

The Organization LOGO  
