

# Nigeria Electoral Early Warning System

## NEEWS 2015

The Nigeria Electoral Early Warning System or NEEWS 2015 is a mechanism set-up to monitor early warning signs and incidents of electoral violence in the run-up to the 2015 elections. The system includes information collected from crowd sourced citizen observers, media reports from the News Agency of Nigeria, and trained observers deployed in every local government area as part of the Transition Monitoring Group's (TMG) Quick Count 2015. This document contains Search for Common Ground's own analysis and does not necessarily represent the views of TMG.

## Bayelsa State

TMG Observers deployed to each LGA in the country send reports every two weeks answering a checklist of questions about the pre-election environment in their LGA. Observers submitted nine reports covering the period between November 14 and March 16. The data, while not statistically representative, provides some information on key indicators and early warning signs of election-related violence.

Bayelsa State—8 LGAs	Period 1 Nov 14- 27	Period 2 Nov 28 - Dec 12	Period 3 Dec 13 - 22	Period 4 Dec 23 - Jan 8	Period 5 Jan 9 -22	Period 6 Jan 23 – Feb 5	Period 7 Feb 6–19	Period 8 Feb 20 – Mar 5	Period 9 Mar 6 – Mar 16
Attack on rally	0%	0%	0%	13%	13%	13%	25%	25%	25%
Destruction of property	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	25%	25%	25%
Inciting violence	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Attack on candidate or supporters	13%	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	25%	38%	38%
Hate speech based on origin	0%	0%	13%	13%	13%	38%	25%	38%	25%
Hate speech based on religion	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	25%	13%	25%

The chart above depicts the % of LGA observers in Bayelsa State reporting that they directly witnessed or heard reports of incidents relating to six key early warning indicators of election-related violence across the nine reporting periods.

### Moderate Increases in Violence Indicators as Election Approaches

Based on reports from TMG observers, Bayelsa state has not seen as much violence as in other states in the region. In fact, most of the key indicators that are raising concern in other states remain below average in Bayelsa state. During the first six reporting periods—from November 14 through February 5—either zero or one of the eight LGA observers reported witnessing or hearing of incidences for all but one key indicator. However, in the last three reporting periods, there were moderate increases in four key indicators with two to three of the eight LGAs observers witnessing or hearing reports of attacks on rallies, destruction of property, attacks on or intimidation of candidates or their supporters, and hate speech or violence directed at

candidates or their supporters based where they came from or their religion.

It is important that actors pay close attention to the rhetoric and speech used by candidates and their supports, especially if it incites people to use violence or negatively target individuals or groups based on their identity such as their religion, gender, age, disability or where they come from. In addition, political parties, candidates and their supporters should abide by the Abuja Accord signed by fourteen political parties, which commits the parties to peaceful campaigning and non-violent elections. Civil society actors and the media should continue to facilitate dialogue and spread messages about non-violence.

# Help us track and prevent election-related violence

The NEEWS 2015 system collects information from a number of sources including trained election observers, media sources and citizen observers like you. As stakeholders in the peace process, it is our collective responsibility to work together to promote peaceful elections. You too can contribute by reporting early warning signs or incidents of election-related violence.

## What should you report?

You should report any warning signs – such as threats, rumors, inflammatory language, or tensions – or incidents of violence related to the election such as:

- Attacks or threats of violence against election officials, election observers or voters including voter intimidation;
- Attacks or threats of violence committed by or against political party agents, candidates, their supporters, or their property;
- Increased tensions between or attacks on groups and communities related to communal conflict that may be influenced by or influence the elections; or
- The use of inflammatory language or hate speech, especially directed at candidates or their supporters based on their gender, age, disability, where they are from or their religion.

## How do you report?

Send an SMS to one of the following numbers:

**MTN – 09035419841      GLO – 08155529646**

**Airtel – 07083648546      Etisalat – 09098385657**

or

Tweet about it using the hashtag

**#NEEWS2015report**



## About Search for Common Ground

We are an international non-governmental organization that works in 35 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative solutions. We have worked in Nigeria since 2004 and currently have offices in Abuja, Jos, Maiduguri and Port Harcourt. Find out more about us at [www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org) and [www.sfcg.org/nigeria](http://www.sfcg.org/nigeria).

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