

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 represents the views of TMG.

Kano State

Checklist Reports

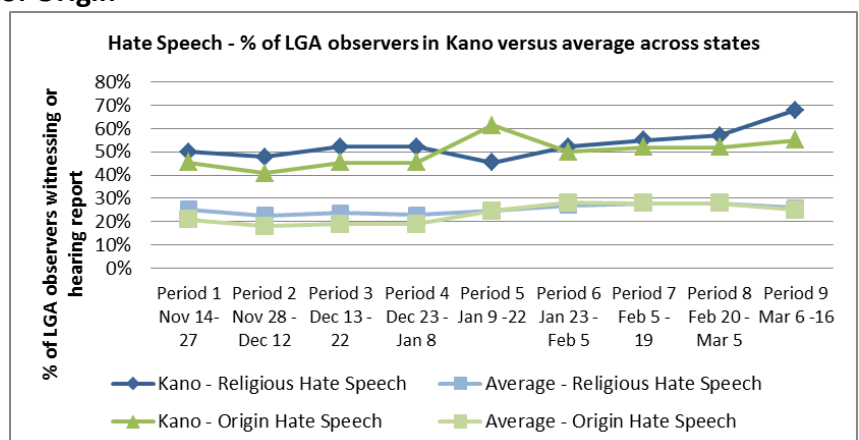
TMG Observers deployed to each LGA in the country send reports every two weeks answering a checklist of questions about the pre-election environment in their LGA. Observers submitted nine reports covering the period between November 14 and March 16. The data, while not statistically representative, provides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

Kano—44 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	7%	14%	7%	7%	27%	20%	18%	18%	18%
Destruction of property	23%	27%	16%	16%	39%	43%	36%	34%	32%
Inciting violence	5%	11%	9%	5%	11%	18%	16%	16%	9%
Attack on candidate or supporters	20%	30%	25%	23%	41%	45%	34%	36%	39%
Hate speech based on origin	45%	41%	45%	45%	61%	50%	52%	52%	55%
Hate speech based on religion	50%	48%	52%	52%	45%	52%	55%	57%	68%

The chart above depicts the % of LGA observers in Kano 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.

Hate Speech Based on Religion and Place of Origin

A very important indicator and early warning sign of election-related violence is hate speech. TMG's observers reported whether they have directly heard or heard reports of candidates or supporters making derogatory statements or committing acts of violence against candidates or their supporters based on their gender, where they come from, their age, their physical disability or their religion. In Kano State, a consistently higher than average percentage of LGA observers have reported hate speech throughout the pre-election period. This is especially true about hate speech regarding religion and where the candidates or supporter is from. This may indicate that tensions are particularly high as the election approaches. In the last four reporting periods (January 23—March 16), at least half of the LGA observers—representing between 23 and 30 of the LGAs—reporting directly hearing or hearing reports of hate speech based on origin or religions. It is important that religious and communi-



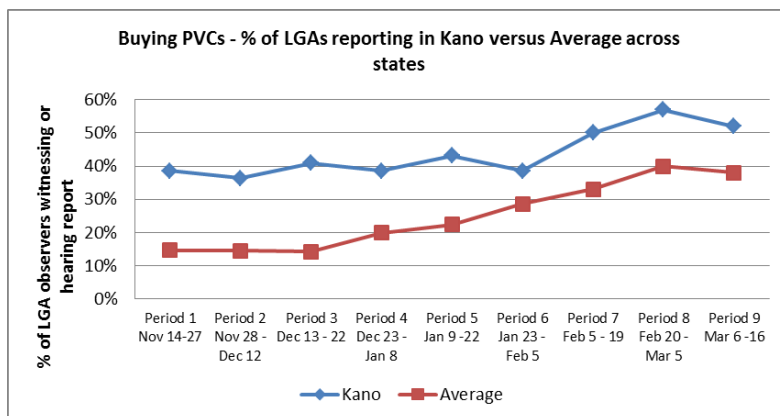
ty leaders counter these messages and encourage their followers and constituents to not allow politics to ferment divisions based on ethnicity or religion.

Attacks on Candidates and Supporters

Following the Independent National Election Committee’s (INEC) announcement of the postponement of the polls, there was a sharp decline in the number of LGA observers in Kano state reporting witnessing or hearing reports of attacks on candidates or their supporters (Period 7). Since then, there has been a steady increase in the number of LGA observers reporting reaching 39% (17 of 44 LGAs) in Period 9 (March 6 –16). This mirrors the increase seen in the periods prior to the postponement (Periods 4–6). This indicates the potential for tensions to continue to increase as the polls approach. Violence not only results in the loss of lives and property, but it also deters participation in the democratic process. 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.

Buying of Voter’s Cards

Kano state has also seen a higher percentage of LGA observers reporting witnessing or hearing reports of the buying of voters’ cards throughout the pre-election period. The illegal buying of voters’ cards is an important indicator of electoral violence as it could undermine the credibility or the perception of credibility of the poll, which can lead to violence. It is important that the National Orientation Agency, the Independent National Electoral Commission and civil society groups engage in voter education and continue to inform voters of efforts to deter illegal voting including the use of electronic card readers at polling stations.

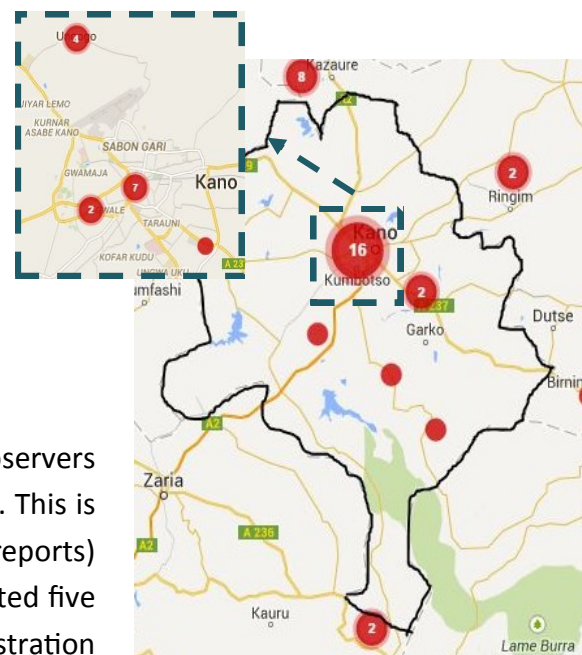


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Critical Incident Reports

In addition to sending reports every two weeks, TMG’s Quick Count Observers send text message reports when an incident of election-related violence or an indication of tension occurs. Search for Common Ground is also monitoring media reports of violent incidents related to the elections from the News Agency of Nigeria. These reports are then mapped. View the full map and more details about the incidents at <https://neews2015.crowdmap.com/>

Of the 227 critical incident reports received from TMG observers through March 16, 18 of those reports came from Kano state. This is the third highest number of reports behind Jigawa state (23 reports) and Sokoto state (20 reports). In November, observers reported five incidents of violence and tensions related to the voter registration process in Ungogo, Tudan Wada and Tsanyawa LGAs. Observers also



NEEWS 2015 CrowdMap—Kano State,

reported intra-party tension around the political primaries in these three LGAs. Observers also reported attacks on rallies in Kura LGA (January 13) and Gwale LGA (January 17). They also reported clashes and destruction of property in Madobi (January 24), Gwale (January 29) Garum Mallan (February 2), Wudil (February 3) and Dawakin Kudu. Following the bomb explosion at the Central Mosque on December 2nd, and observer witnessed groups going from house to house targeting supporters of a particular political party. This incident shows the potential for acts of terrorism to spark election-related violence. Political party leaders should urge their supporters to not respond to acts of violence—including terrorist attacks—with violence against opposing party supporters.

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 and www.sfcg.org/nigeria.

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