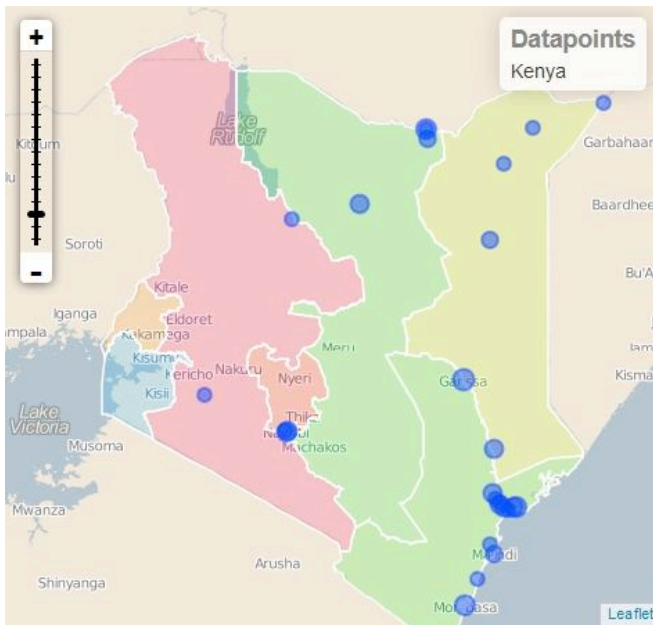


Kenya Situation of Concern: Sentinel Project Monthly Report October 2013



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1.0 - Executive Summary

October saw a potential shift in inter-communal fighting which spread from primarily resource sharing conflicts between agriculturalists and pastoralists to a deepening rift between religious communities as a result of the Westgate Mall attack in September. Government responses and general sentiments in the Kenyan population towards the Somali community in the country are straining relations while terrorist recruiting (allegedly from within the Somali community in Kenya) does not allow for tensions to ease and creates a hostile environment that requires remedy.

2.0 – Incidents

Event	Region	Event Type	Date
Youth Protest 'Arrest' of Muslim Cleric in Kenya	Mombasa, Kenya	General	2013-10-25
Illicit Small Arms Pose Real Threat in Northern Kenya	Garissa, Kenya	General	2013-10-25
20 to 500 cattle raided from Kilelengwani	Kilelengwani Primary School, Lamu, Kenya	General	2013-10-23
Pastor Shot To Death In Mombasa	Mombasa, Kenya	General	2013-10-20
Second Pastor Found Shot Near Mombasa	Kilifi, Kenya	General	2013-10-20
Two or One Orma boy kidnapped (potentially rumour)	Kipao, Kenya	General	2013-10-20
Death Toll From Clashes In Northern Kenya Rises To 6	South Horr, Kenya	General	2013-10-18
Fresh Ethnic Clashes Erupt in Moyale	Moyale, Kenya	Persecution	2013-10-14
Kenya's Ethnic Somalis Live in Fear After Mall Attack	Nairobi, Kenya	Discrimination	2013-10-11
Cattle Thefts Raise Tensions in Tana Delta	Kilelengwani, Kenya	General	2013-10-09
Three Houses Torched in Tana Delta	Kipau, Kenya	Persecution	2013-10-08
Rioters Burn Church After Assassination of Muslim Cleric	Mombasa	General	2013-10-04
Muslim Cleric Killed In Shooting	Mombasa	General	2013-10-03

Arson Suspected at Muslim Cemetery	Magarini District	Persecution	2013-10-03
ICC Charges Kenyan with Bribing Witnesses to Withdraw Testimony	Nairobi	Denial	2013-10-02

2.1 – Coast Province (including Tana River, excluding Mombasa)

Sporadic violence between Muslim and Christian communities has added to the continuing rivalries between the Orma and Pokomo communities that are primarily fueled by competition over resources.¹ Frequent instances of cattle theft and kidnapping have been augmented by an increasing number of incidents in which religious tensions or larger geopolitical factors play a role such as the 3 October arson of a Muslim cemetery in Magarini District near Malindi.²

2.2 – Northern Kenya

In both Eastern and Northeastern Province the destabilization caused by the ongoing fighting between the Kenyan government forces and Muslim militants in neighbouring Somalia has resulted in sporadic but violent incidents across the region.³ This destabilization has been marked by an increase in the number of skirmishes and attacks along religious lines or proclaimed terrorist attacks.⁴ The resulting effect, while not dramatic in number, hints at growing tension in the region which must be addressed.

2.3 – Nairobi and Mombasa

Nairobi and Mombasa have been identified as areas of concern in the wake of the Westgate Mall siege and inter-communal rioting which took place between Christian and Muslim communities. These cities have been identified separate from their respective regions only to highlight their status as potential targets of major terrorist attack due to their being major hubs of government, industry and tourism. As such, they represent the possibility of a growing gulf between these communities as tensions increase and should be noted as particularly vulnerable flashpoints due to community proximity and overall population density.

3.0 - Mitigating Developments

International Attention on Regional Terrorist Groups

One potentially mitigating factor is the renewed focus and international attention on the activities of al-Shabaab. If such attention encourages anti-terrorism resources to be deployed so that terrorist activities can be mediated or significantly neutralized then progress can begin on addressing current disputes between Christian and Muslim communities.

¹ http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000095372&story_title=tribal-tension-in-tana-delta-after-cattle-raids

² http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000094822&story_title=Kenya-goons-set-muslim-cemetery-on-fire

³ <http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/somalis-caught-between-terrorism-and-border-dispute>

⁴ Assessment and Capacities Project – Global Emergency Overview; October 2013, pg 30

4.0 - Conclusion / Assessment

Destabilization and Atmosphere of Suspicion In Wake of Recent Attacks

It is entirely apparent that continued operations undertaken by regional terror groups pose a significant and ongoing threat of destabilization in the region for reasons not only of security but also as a mechanism to escalate inter-communal cleavages which still require time to mend.

Following the Westgate Mall attack which left more than 60 dead there is a renewed focus on Somali migrants and Kenyans of Somali heritage. The result has been heightened criticism of the community, fears from the Somali community of retribution attacks and government efforts to resolve what are perceived as security risks posed by the Somali community.⁵

The highlighted regions in this report indicate a deepening conflict which spans not only community boundaries but also religious differences and resource competition. Non-state actors such as regional terror groups have a detrimental effect on the stability of Kenya and its neighbouring countries. Similarly, the reaction to these attacks has strained relations between communities as government responses have been criticised for being too-heavy handed.

⁵ <http://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-piles-pressure-somali-refugees-return-home>