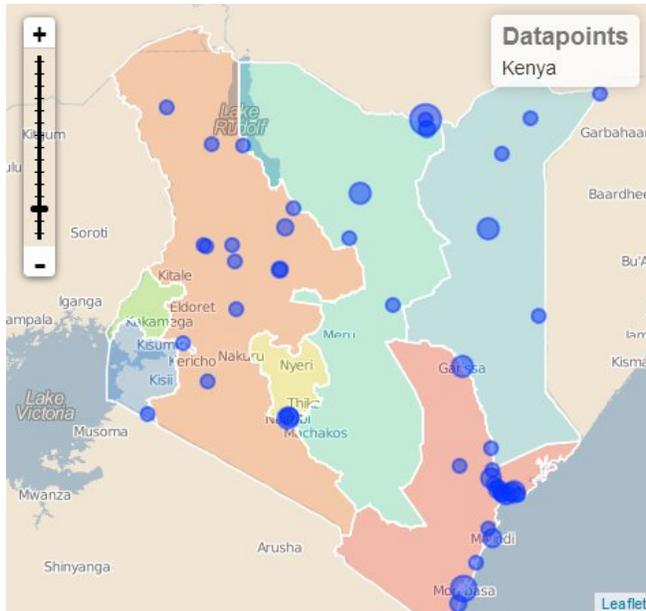


# Kenya Situation of Concern: Sentinel Project Monthly Report January 2014



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## 1.0 - Executive Summary

*January has seen a campaign of violence carried out by groups affiliated with or connected to Somalia's al-Shabaab movement. Nightclub bombings, attempts to strike key infrastructure or transport sites and attacks on police appear to maintain their momentum.*

*Additionally, outbreaks of violence in Garissa and Moyale highlight the need to establish and maintain peace or risk a further descent into regional conflict.*

## 2.0 – Incidents

Renewed Clashes Near Garissa	Garissa	General	2014-01-31
Nine Killed in Fresh Clashed Near Moyale	Moyale	General	2014-01-30
Officers Deployed to Controversial Settlement Scheme	Endebess	Persecution	2014-01-21
Cattle Thieves Kill Herder in Taita-Taveta	Taita-Taveta	General	2014-01-20
Foiled Terror Attack at Nairobi Airport	Nairobi	General	2014-01-16
Armed Police Dispatched After Kalenjin and Maasai Communities Clash Over Land	Gilgil	General	2014-01-09
Bandits Kill Herder in Village Attack	Lodwar	General	2014-01-06
Grenade Hurlled at Police on Patrol	Ukunda	General	2014-01-05
Bombing Attack in Eastleigh Injures One	Nairobi	General	2014-01-04
Four People, 11 Camels Killed in Fresh Inter-clan Violence in Moyale	Moyale	General	2014-01-04
Mother Of Kisumu Politician Slain, 3 Arrested	Kisumu	General	2014-01-03
Attack on Marigat Village	Marigat	General	2014-01-02
Grenade Attack on Coastal Resort	Diani	General	2014-01-02

## **2.1 – Mombasa and Nairobi**

The conflict between the Kenyan government and the Muslim population with hardline Islamic elements in the region has continued a process of acceleration throughout January. The month has seen a series of bombings focusing on Mombasa, Nairobi and their respective environs. The January 2<sup>nd</sup> attack on a Nyali nightclub was followed by further attacks around Mombasa and an apparently botched bombing attempt on the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport terminal on January 16th. At the current rate and considering the the often heavy-handed response to this issue by government forces, one can anticipate that further violence.

## **2.2 – Garissa**

After a notable period of relative calm Garissa was again rocked by clashed which took nine lives and left countless others injured. Fuelled by the same conflict over resources and along community lines, the latest outbreak of violence in the area highlights the need to establish long-lasting and meaningful solutions. The government on a regional and national level appear too quick to state that peace has been made. If conflict in the region follows the trend of earlier outbreaks of violence we can anticipate that further incidents will occur sparsely until dropping off until another flare-up.

## **2.3 – Moyale**

The previous monthly reports issued by The Sentinel Project have noted a growing instability in Moyale and surrounding villages which frequently erupt into open fighting. This month saw continued clashes which resulted in several fatalities and many injuries. Though military or police intervention has been a frequent response to such incidents and would at least temporarily slow the pace of violence, it risks further destabilizing the region without addressing the core socio-political and economic issues which underpin the hostilities.

## **2.4 – Tana Delta**

A team from The Sentinel Project deployed to the Tana Delta to lay the groundwork for its Una Hakika program which aims to counter misinformation through innovative use of technology. During this initial phase the team began baseline surveys which revealed an astonishing deficit of trust, knowledge of and communication between conflicting communities. This precarious situation is made worse by recent government claims that the tension in the region has been contained which risks focusing resources to regions with higher profile conflicts.

## **3.0 - Mitigating Developments**

### Continuing International Pressure On Regional Terror Groups

In keeping with the recommendations of previous monthly reports, it is suggested that available resources be used to address the issue of extremist activities especially as it relates to Mombasa and the coastal region. However, misuse of force or an abrogation of Kenyan law in favour of security risks collapsing the fragile relationship between Kenyan authorities and the Muslim population in the country.

### Resolving Core Points of Conflict on the Kenyan-Ethiopian Border

This mitigating factors remains unchanged from the previous month:

*The flare-up in violence in Moyale District was predicted in an October update published by the Sentinel Project. It highlighted the consistent cleavages which had significantly raised tensions in the border regions. The November update noted that Kenya's porous Northern borders presented a risk of destabilization as weapons filtered into the region and armed the various factions."*

#### **4.0 - Conclusion / Assessment**

Continuing violence in some of Kenya's neighbouring countries such as South Sudan should serve as proof of what happens when community tensions are left to fester, especially when it is politically expedient to ignore these issues or to treat them in a piecemeal fashion.

Though Kenya boasts of strong democratic principles it must both uphold them and substantively address existing grievances if it hopes to maintain its national cohesion.