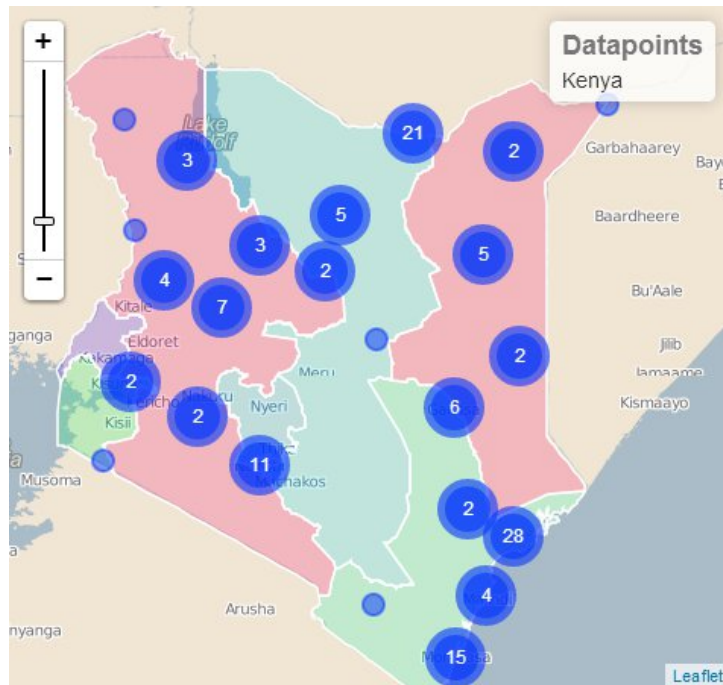


Kenya Situation of Concern: Sentinel Project Monthly Report March 2014



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1.0 - Executive Summary

March has seen a higher number of incidences compared to February, from deaths caused by outbreaks of violence to the prevention of a major terrorist attack. These incidents occurred in areas where violence has been previously reported. March witnessed a number of explosions which has raised concerns that these events are a prelude to a larger attack.

2.0 - Incidents

Six Killed in Eastleigh Blast	Nairobi	General	2014-03-31
Twenty Five Arrested as Garissa Placed on High Alert Over Terror Alert	Nairobi	General	2014-03-31
Man Killed While Assembling Explosive Device in Pangani	Nairobi	General	2014-03-30
Five Injured ,Cattle Stolen in Baringo Raid	Baringo	General	2014-03-25
Security Beefed Up After Empty Bullet Boxes Found In Mall	Nairobi	General	2014-03-24
Four Killed, Twenty Injured in Likoni Church Attack	Mombasa	General	2014-03-23
Security Tightened in Mombasa	Mombasa	General	2014-03-20
Mombasa Republican Council Recruits Snub State Call Surrender	Mombasa	General	2014-03-19
Two Suspected Terrorists Arrested in Changamwe	Mombasa	General	2014-03-17
Five Killed as Kagong Village, Turkana is Raided	Turkana	General	2014-03-15
Two Killed, Six Houses Torched In Border Clashes	Nyabondo	General	2014-03-07

2.1 - Mombasa

Mombasa has seen a high number of incidents related to violence. The Likoni church incident, in which gunmen stormed a church service and began shooting at members of the congregation, has left 4 dead and 20 injured. In Mpeketoni, a grenade was also found in a church after a week. This is not the first time places of worship have been attacked, and measures need to be put in place to allow people to practice

their religion without threat of violence. This attack came just days after security was tightened due to a foiled terrorist attack in Mombasa.

In another incident, the swift response by the Kenya Anti-Terror Police and FBI bomb experts saw the interception of an explosives-laden car and the arrest of two suspected terrorist. The two are allegedly part of an eleven person group on a mission to commit a massive terror campaign in Kenya. Authorities claim that had the terrorists gone on with their plan, this would have been one of the largest terrorist attacks on Kenyan soil. However, the Anti-Terror Unit is working on a small budget and are therefore unable to carry out their work efficiently. According to the Associated Press, the unit had only been allocated \$735 in the month of March.

In Kwale, The Mombasa Republican Council members refused to surrender after the state called them to concede. This demonstrates that there is a lot that the government needs to put in place in order to disband the outlawed group.

Mombasa is an area where security has often been challenged, and government efforts need to be increased through more resources allocated, but due to budget limitations this may be a problem. The government has now placed a shoot-to-kill order on criminals terrorizing residents in the county.

2.2 - Turkana

This is a volatile region having experienced constant attacks in recent months, the latest being a Saturday night raid, the second raid of this month. The next day armed locals confronted the police during a demonstration. The government has deployed security personnel to track down the bandits to recover stolen animals and restore peace. However, the residents claim that the government has been slow in their response. Considering this is the second attack in the month, the government needs to be alert as it is likely another may arise soon due to Turkana being a volatile area.

2.3 - Nyakach, Kericho

Violence broke out in this region barely three days after security teams from both areas held an inter-county baraza to discuss the rising spate of attacks and counter attacks by the two communities. This violence stems from a string of attacks between the two communities. In recent incidents the death toll has risen to 6 and more than 50 houses have been torched. However, peace has been restored in the area and no further incidents have been reported since 9th March 2014. The government has been cited by residents as doing little to bring peace to the area. Politicians from both sides have traded accusations citing inadequate water resources as motivation for funding the attacks. Considering the trend of attacks in the region, it is highly likely that similar attacks may erupt in future if the government does not intervene effectively to calm the situation in the area.

2.4 - Moyale

Tension in the area has been high but fortunately no violence has occurred. Local leaders from different communities in the region signed the 'Boma Peace Agreement' in February and the Marsabit county government now claims that due to the signing of the treaty, peace has been re-established in the area. This is a short term approach if the government does not look into the root cause of the problem in order to avoid future attacks.

2.5 - Nairobi

A security alert was issued after four empty boxes of ammunition were found at the Nakumatt Junction mall. There is high speculation where the ammunition is going to be used in light of last year's West Gate mall attack. Malls and other places where there is high traffic of people are targeted by terrorists and thus call for heightened security.

A week later two bombs were detonated in Nairobi. One explosion occurred when a terrorist was apparently killed by his own device, and the second occurred the following day when three explosives went off simultaneously in Eastleigh, killing six people and injuring many others.

2.6 - Garissa

Garissa has been listed as an area of high security threat over possibility of terror attacks and recent security breaches. Its proximity to Somalia makes it an easy entry point for terrorists. If border security is not tightened then this could serve as a leeway for terrorists.

3.0 - Mitigating Developments

Tighten Security

After a series of small bomb explosions a larger terrorist attack may be anticipated due to previous cycles of attacks following the same method. The government and residents should stay alert during this period and increase vigilance.

Appropriate and Proportional Response to Islamic Extremism

As stated in the previous update the government response should be properly focused and proportional. The current handling of suspected terrorists has raised some concerns. A human rights group in Mombasa wants the Anti Terror Police Unit probed over claims of human right abuses. The outcome of this may trigger peace or violence in the area if not handled correctly as it is a sensitive issue.

Increase in Resources

The government needs to increase the budget for the Anti Terror Police as well as other security sectors as without an increase in funding security forces will not be effective in combating crime. The government needs to step up and involve themselves fully in curbing inter-community killings, as this has been prolonged for some time. Continuous finger-pointing will not do much to bring about peace in these areas, and the cause and not the symptoms of violence need to be dealt with.

Increase Pastoralist Participation in Peace Building

Most of the violence observed in the rural areas is due to resources, especially land and water. The pastoralists who are in search of water and land to sustain their livestock often end up in conflict with other communities, as resource-sharing is not clearly defined. Cattle theft is also a lucrative business with meat being sold to butcheries. Pastoralist and those who are affected by resource-based conflict should be engaged in the peace-building efforts. Currently NGOs and the local government are partnering in educating pastoralist communities on resource sharing and peace building, and such efforts should be strengthened.

4.0 - Conclusion

Kenya is in a state of high security alert in light of the occurrence of the above incidents. The President recently stated security as a major concern in the annual State of the Nation address, and allocation of adequate resources, and government cooperation with civil society are imperative in addressing the national security concerns.