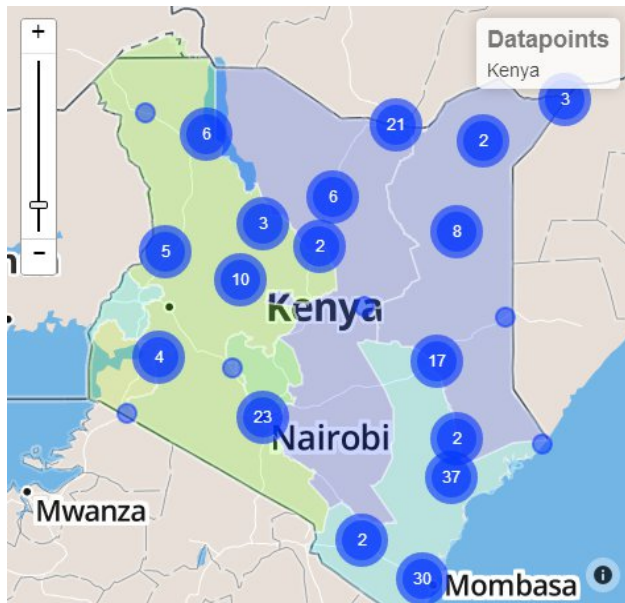


Kenya Situation of Concern: Sentinel Project Monthly Report July 2014



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1.0 Executive Summary

July has been an insecure month in Kenya, especially for residents of the coastal areas. Residents in the area are living in fear due to the unexpected and baffling attacks occurring in the region. To date the masterminds of the attacks have not yet been identified, with continued speculation whether it was an Al-Shabaab plot, politically instigated violence, or a combination of both. Analysis and investigations carried out by different bodies leave more questions than answers.

2.0 Incidents

Incident	Location	Type	Date
Leaflets warn locals of attacks	Busia	Preparation	25-07-2014
Coast Likoni residents in panic after wave of attacks	Likoni	General	23-07-2014
Death Toll in Likoni Rises to Four	Likoni	General	20-07-2014
Curfew imposed in Lamu as policemen killed in ambush	Lamu	General	19-07-2014
Four terror suspects arrested with materials used to make explosives in Majengo, Nairobi	Nairobi	General	19-07-2014
One killed, five seriously wounded in Turkana raid	Turkana	General	16-07-2014
Military destroys four forest camps used by attackers	Lamu	General	15-07-2014
Gunmen loot foodstuff in Mpeketoni, Lamu	Lamu	General	13-07-2014
Kenya Police Reservists Lose Six Guns to Attackers in Lamu	Lamu	General	10-07-2014
Offices ,Vehicle Burnt as Gang Attacks Amu Ranch in Lamu	Lamu	General	07-07-2014
Thousands Flee Lamu and Tana River Hotspots After Fresh Wave of Killings	Lamu	General	07-07-2014
One Killed, Six Injured in Grenade Attack in Wajir	Lamu	General	07-07-2014

Death Toll Rises to 20 in Hindi and Tana Delta Attacks	Lamu	Extermination	05-07-2014
Fears Over MRC Resurgence Puts Security Officials on High Alert	Mombasa	Organization	05-07-2014
Five MRC Recruits Arrested in Sacred Forest	Kilifi	General	03-07-2014
Alarm as Leaflets Issue Quit Ultimatum	Kipini	Polarisation	02-07-2014
Five Turkana herders shot dead in ambush by over 500 raiders	Turkana	General	01-07-2014

2.1 Lamu County

Lamu County has not experienced violent attacks since the Shifta war in 1963–1967. The recent attack has baffled many as those behind the attacks are not yet known, though Al-Shabaab, land claims and politics are all suspected of playing a role in the strike. On one hand the government has rejected the notion that this was the work of Al-Shabaab, while the Western world suspects that Al-Shabaab had a hand in it. These attacks from Lamu County have overlapped into the Tana River County, with attacks occurring in Gamba. This has led to tension in the area and an increase in rumours has been noted.

These attacks have led to an increase in military presence and the ultimatum by the deputy vice president to arrest the attackers within 24 hours has resulted in mistreatment of residents of the area. Innocent civilians from villages in Lamu and Tana River County have been harmed due to the operation carried out by the police in seeking out the terrorists, which led to human right abuses.

The Lamu attacks have also given rise to an increase in hate speech and a division in the political scene with CORD and Jubilee parties pointing fingers at each other¹²³. The Governor of Lamu together with top business people have been marked as the financiers of the attacks. In concurrence with these attacks a affluent businessman was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Mombasa, making such claims questionable. The businessman had reportedly been involved in financing radicalism in Mombasa.

¹ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000125275/raila-uhuru-s-statement-on-mpeketoni-killings-unfortunate>

² <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000129617/arrest-and-charge-me-raila-dares-president-over-insecurity-claims/>

³ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000125294/raila-criticises-president-calls-for-arrest-of-those-behind-lamu-killings/>

The attacks have been detrimental to the tourism industry and the economic welfare of the people. Lamu hotels have been closed down due to the decrease in the number of tourists, and food prices have risen due to mobility challenges arising from insecurity. The destruction of the camps by the military did not yield meaningful results, as none of the attackers captured. Only a few days later the gunmen attacked the area again. Land ownership is thought to be the root cause of the attacks, and the measures put in place by the government include revoking the title deeds of 500,000 acres in Lamu that had been acquired by 21 individual firms⁴. Mombasa has also had a number of cases of gunmen attacking people randomly in the hotspot Likoni. These attacks have been linked to the Lamu attacks.

2.2 Turkana and North Pokot

The incidences noted this month are ongoing inter-clan conflicts between the Pokots and Turkanas. This violence has endured for decades, and measures need to be put in place to establish peace. Peace building efforts should be combined with economic development efforts to ensure an end to the conflict.

2.3 Busia County

Busia is being hit by a wave of fear mongering as leaflets have been distributed in the area warning of impending attacks similar to Mpeketoni. Busia is an area that is rife with rumours and the cause of violence in the area is usually political instigated.

3.0 Mitigation Measures

3.1 Strengthen Intelligence

The intelligence system in Kenya needs an overhaul as its incapacity in noticing and acting upon forthcoming attacks is apparent. The national security surveillance system is a necessary action though it is confined within the Nairobi and Mombasa areas. This will mean that other terror prone areas will be at risk of greater attacks.

3.2 Curb hate speech and build cohesion among different tribes.

Kenya has roughly 46 tribes, and currently ethnic tensions are at their worst. Civic education on ethnic differences and acceptance of other ethnicities will aide in healing the nation and driving it towards positive inter-ethnic relations.

⁴ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000130153/uhuru-revokes-500-000-acre-title-in-lamu>

3.3 Counter Terrorism Mechanism

To intercept the perpetrators of terror attacks a different approach must be taken by the government. Currently racial/ethnic profiling is being carried out against ethnic Somalis. This approach targets innocent people and has led to brutal use of force by the police and has yet to identify those responsible for the attacks. Such profiling is exacerbating the Al-Shabaab sympathizers and giving an upper hand to the Al-Shabaab as division is caused among people in Kenya. By alienating Somalis the government may lose an asset in fighting terrorism. The approach taken should ensure that they do not alienate a certain community but target perpetrators.

4.0 Conclusion

The violence in Kenya has seen a shift towards more terror attacks and this has had a great effect on the politics and economy of the nation. Massive losses in the tourism sector, loss of investors, the withdrawal of NGOs has been as a result of these attacks. The government must step up security measures and put policies in place that protect both people and business to move towards sustained peace in Kenya.