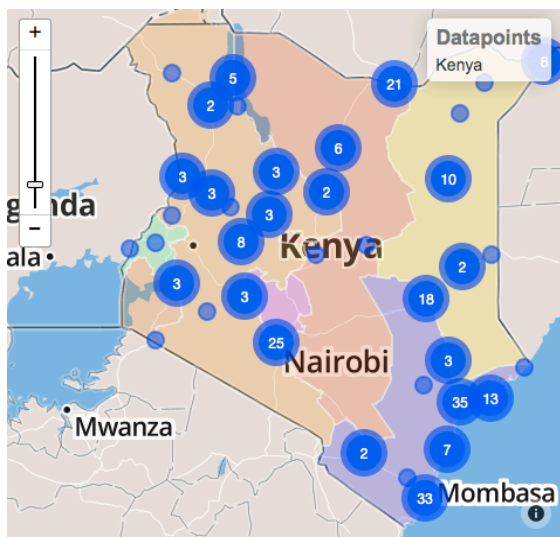


Kenya Situation of Concern: Sentinel Project Monthly Report September 2014



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1.0 Executive Summary

Kenya has been relatively peaceful in the month of September in comparison to previous months. Security has been enhanced in most counties and fewer incidents of violence have been noted. However, this does not give Kenya a clean slate in terms of security. The reason for fewer incidents of violence can either be attributed to the tightening of security or the fact that the terrorist perpetrators are in the planning stages for future attacks. Most of the recent violence is between pastoralists and farmers who are fighting over resources due to the drought, which has made pasture land scarce. In Mandera county interethnic conflict continues.

2.0 Incidents

Incident	Region	Category	Date
Garissa attacks raise fears of ethnic targeting	Garissa	Polarization	2014-09-28
Seven injured in Garissa town grenade attack	Garissa	General	2014-09-26
Brothers shot dead, sister seriously injured as bandits raid Baringo	Baringo	General	2014-09-22
Assistant Chief critically injured after grenade attack in Mandera	Mandera	General	2014-09-17
Families flee Laisamis after night attack by armed morans	Laisamis	Persecution	2014-09-17
Police shoot and kill terror suspect as 'most wanted terrorist' escapes	Mombasa	General	2014-09-15
Police sent to avert border clashes amid rising tension	Nandi Kisumu	General	2014-09-15
Police arrest 33 foreign militia members in Mandera, recover security personnel uniform	Mandera	General	2014-09-11
Two killed and one injured in fresh inter-clan attacks in Mandera	Mandera	General	2014-09-10
Court terminates Governor Issa Timamy's charges over Lamu killings	Mombasa	General	2014-09-10
Police boss escapes death narrowly, one person killed in Mandera ambush	Mandera	General	2014-09-07
Tension high in Turkana after raiders kill one and abduct four others	Turkana	General	2014-09-04

2.1 Marsabit

The inter-clan violence in the area has continued this month. Deaths of several people have been recorded including the assistant chief¹. The ongoing inter-clan war, fuelled by politics and resources, must be resolved as it affects the economic activities in the area. The continuity of the violence has raised concerns whether the government can be able to fight insecurity in the area.

2.2 Lamu and Mombasa

Residents have observed relative calm² since the curfew has been in place and would like to see it extended. The presence of security forces has also enabled the people to live without fear. However some people are of the opinion that the three-month curfew has affected the economy³. The question lies in either extending the curfew, which may worsen the economic status of the county, or lift curfew and increase the risk of insecurity. The government has opted to extend the curfew as intelligence indicates the attackers may still be in the area. To further ensure peace, a peace pact was signed in Lamu⁴ to ensure the residents live in harmony while the court terminated the Lamu's governor charge for the Mpeketoni attacks.

In Mombasa a terror suspect was shot dead by police while another escaped. The security forces in the coastal region can be congratulated for their effort in keeping peace in the region, though this should not lead to mean laxity on the security forces as terror attacks must be continually thwarted for sustained peace in the county.

2.3 Garissa

In Garissa attacks⁵ were intercepted by police forces, demonstrating their alertness. However the area is under tension due to the spontaneous attacks carried out of which most are considered to be targeted. This may fuel an inter-ethnic attack if steps are not taken to prevent this. Leaders need to ensure that a rift is not created between the different communities in the area.

2.4 Turkana

Most of the incidents of the conflict in the region are caused by resources. The Turkana governor in peace talks with South Sudan due to insecurity at the borders which arise from sharing of resources⁶. To

¹ <http://the-star.co.ke/news/article-190366/chief-shot-dead-mandera>

² <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000136609/calm-in-mpeketoni-hindi-as-locals-adjust-to-curfew>

³ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000136358/night-curfew-is-affecting-our-economy-lamu-leaders-say>

⁴ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000135290/lamu-communities-bury-hatchet-by-signing-peace-deal-vow-to-address-drug-abuse>

⁵ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000136477/soldiers-foil-attack-planned-on-military-base>

⁶ <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/thecounties/article/2000136482/governor-in-peace-efforts-with-neighbouring-south-sudan?pageNo=1>

enable peace in the area both residents and politicians need to work together in ensuring equitable sharing of resources.

3.0 Mitigation measures

3.1 Broker peace talks to foster peace and unity between communities

Leaders meet with their communities to ensure that different communities in an area can live together peacefully. Community leaders should be cautious as to not cause divisions among various communities, as this has sparked violence in the past. In order to ensure lasting peace community leaders should live by example and ensure amicable relations amongst various clans and ethnic groups. Peace talks should be all inclusive, such that every resident participates in the peace building process.

3.2 Improve Surveillance and Security

Current surveillance and intelligence has been successful, though requires continued enhancement. The recent success of surveillance includes foiled attacks on a military base in Garissa, however the perpetrators escaped. In another incident in Mombasa one terrorist was shot while another escaped. Kenya still has a long way to go in terms of perfecting its security sector, though steps are being taken in that direction. In September there have been noted cases in which those that are entrusted with providing security have been involved in heinous acts towards civilians, which has caused residents to lose confidence in the security sector. This type of conduct along with corruption may mar the progressive actions if it is not dealt with.

4.0 Conclusion

September was a reasonably calm month in comparison to previous months. The security sector has certainly shown marked improvements, though there are still concerns whether the government can continue to provide the enhanced security required for lasting peace.