

**PSJ-UK/iNSDEC NOVEMBER MONTHLY INSECURITY REPORT**

**“Fewer Attacks, Greater Human Cost: The Escalation of Mass Abductions and  
Organized Criminal Violence in Nigeria”**

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## **Executive Summary:**

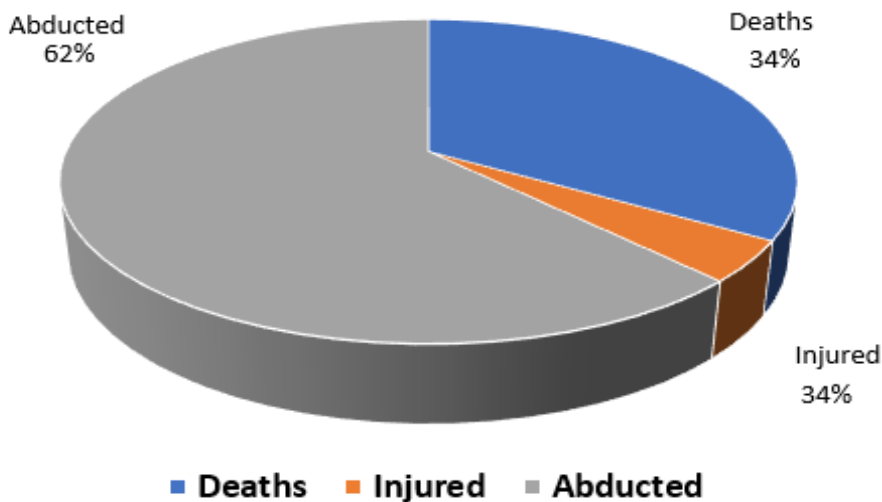
Nigeria's security landscape in November 2025 reflects a deepening and increasingly complex insecurity crisis, marked by a paradox of reduced attack frequency but significantly heightened human impact. During the reporting period, a total of 973 persons were affected, comprising 142 deaths, 38 injuries, and an unprecedented 793 abductions. While the number of recorded attacks declined to 46, the scale and severity of outcomes particularly mass kidnappings demonstrate a shift toward fewer but more organized and high-impact atrocities, primarily targeting civilians. The North Central and North West regions emerged as the epicenters of violence, jointly accounting for the majority of deaths and abductions. Niger State stood out nationally, recording the highest number of both fatalities and abductions, reinforcing its status as a critical insecurity hotspot. The North East, although still affected by insurgency-related violence, recorded comparatively lower casualty figures, while the Southern regions experienced minimal fatalities, with incidents largely limited to isolated abductions. This pattern reinforces a persistent northsouth disparity in insecurity exposure and intensity.

Analysis of perpetrators shows that bandits and criminal gunmen dominated the violence landscape, far outpacing insurgent groups such as ISWAP and Boko Haram in terms of incident frequency. The heavy reliance on abduction as a tactic underscores its growing role as a tool for financing, coercion, and territorial control. Collectively, the November data reveal an evolving threat environment that poses severe risks to human security, economic stability, and national cohesion, necessitating urgent, intelligence-driven, and regionally tailored policy responses.

**Introduction:**

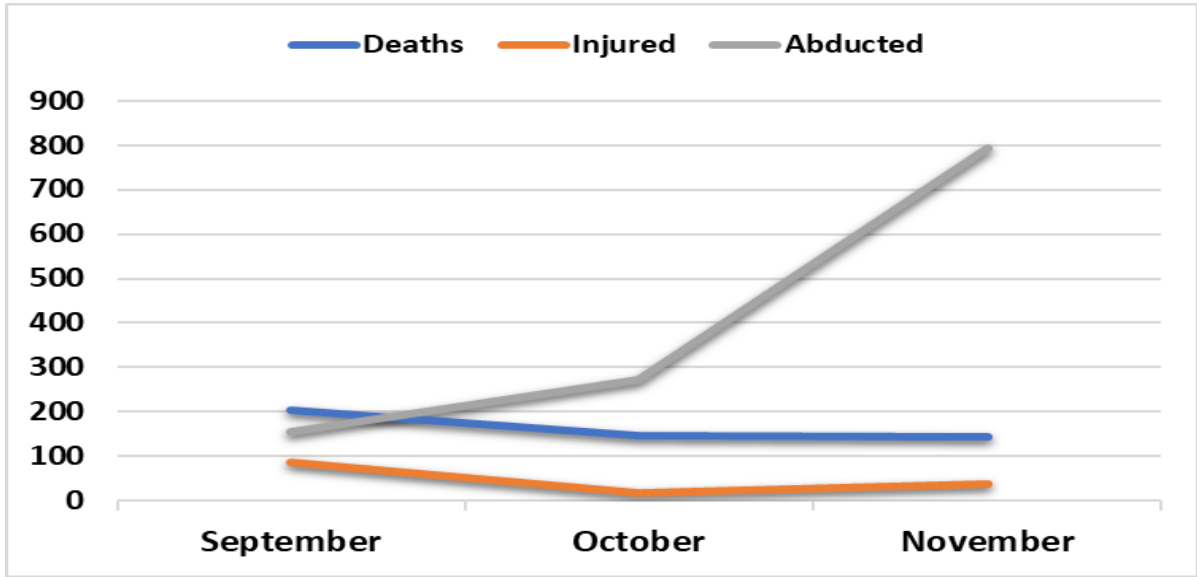
In November, Nigeria recorded a total of 973 affected persons, comprising 142 deaths, 38 injuries, and 793 abductions, indicating a continued deterioration in the national security situation. Abductions accounted for the vast majority of cases, highlighting the growing reliance on kidnapping by criminal and armed groups as a key tactic for financing and exerting control, particularly in vulnerable rural communities and high-risk transit corridors.

The sustained number of fatalities alongside widespread abductions underscores the dual impact of insecurity: loss of life and mass deprivation of liberty with serious humanitarian and socio-economic consequences. The geographically widespread nature of these incidents, as reflected in the November dataset, confirms that insecurity remains a national challenge, requiring urgent, coordinated, and intelligence-driven responses in line with the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC monitoring framework.



**Figure 1: Total Atrocities for November, 2025 (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)**

A comparative review of insecurity trends between September and November reveals notable shifts in both the nature and intensity of atrocities across the reporting period. In September, recorded incidents resulted in 203 deaths, 85 injuries, and 155 abductions, reflecting a month characterized by high lethality and widespread physical harm. October saw a marked reduction in fatalities and injuries, with 147 deaths and 18 injured, alongside an increase in abductions to 272, indicating a gradual transition from lethal violence toward kidnapping-focused criminal activity. By November, this trend became more pronounced. Fatalities slightly declined to 142, while injuries rose to 38, but abductions surged dramatically to 793, representing a more than fivefold increase compared to September and nearly three times the October figure. This sharp escalation underscores a strategic shift by armed groups and criminal networks toward mass abductions, likely driven by economic motives and reduced immediate confrontation with security forces. Overall, while deaths and injuries showed a downward or fluctuating pattern over the three months, the exponential rise in abductions points to a worsening insecurity landscape, with kidnapping emerging as the dominant threat to civilian safety and national stability during the period under review.

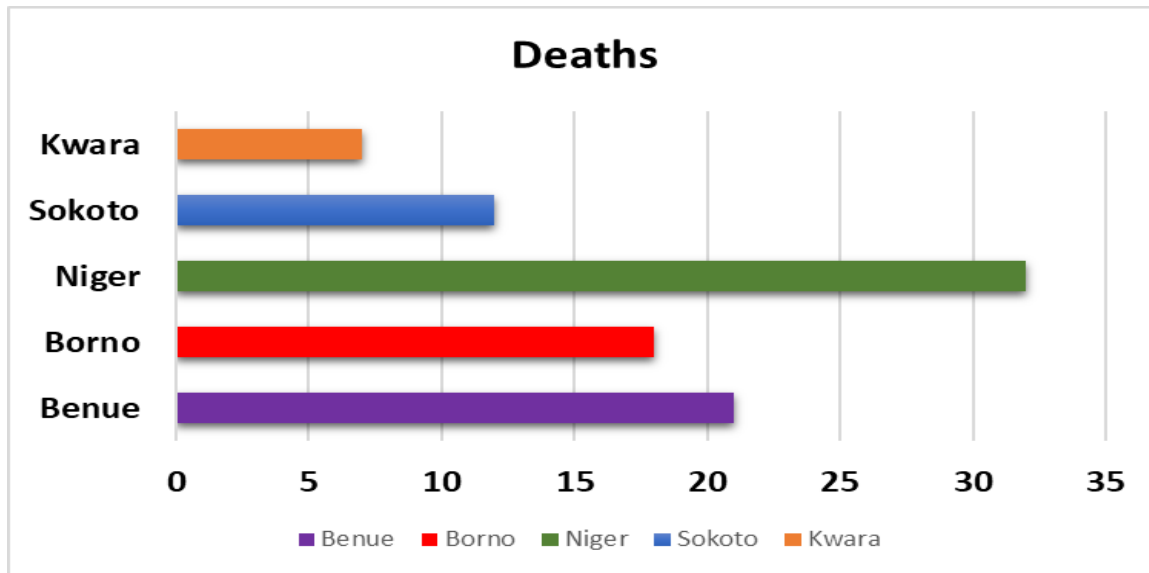


**Figure 2: Comparison between Total Atrocities Committed between September-November 2025 (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)**

### **States with Highest Death Record:**

An assessment of state-level fatality data for November 2025 indicates that deaths from insecurity incidents were concentrated in a few high-burden states, reflecting persistent and region-specific security challenges. Niger State recorded the highest number of fatalities (32 deaths), underscoring its continued vulnerability to armed banditry, violent attacks on communities, and insecurity along rural and transit corridors. This positions Niger as the epicenter of lethal violence for the month under review. Benue State (21 deaths) and Borno State (18 deaths) followed closely, reflecting ongoing communal clashes, armed attacks, and insurgency-related violence. Benue's fatalities are consistent with recurrent farmer-herder conflicts and armed assaults on rural settlements, while Borno's figures highlight the lingering impact of insurgent activity despite sustained military operations. Sokoto State recorded 12 deaths, largely attributable to banditry and violent incursions in affected local government areas, while Kwara State reported 7 deaths, indicating a comparatively lower but still concerning level of fatal insecurity incidents.

Overall, the distribution of deaths across these states demonstrates that lethal violence in November was not isolated but geographically diverse, with the North Central and North East zones particularly affected. These findings emphasize the need for state-specific and intelligence-led security responses, alongside strengthened community protection mechanisms, as highlighted in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.



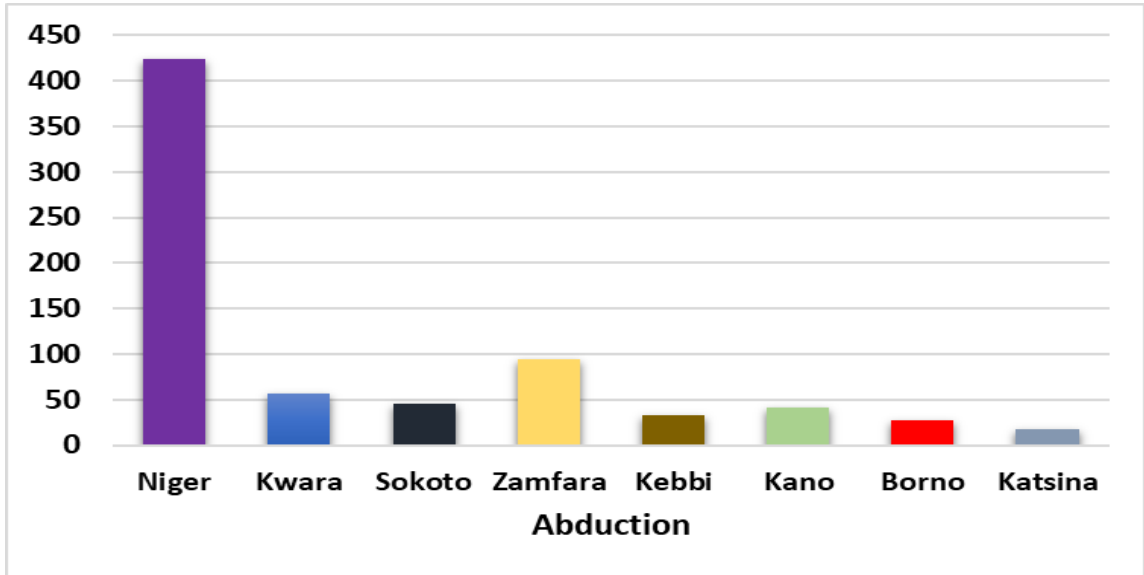
**Figure 3: States with the Highest Deaths Cases in November, 2025 (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)**

**States with Highest Abductions:**

State-level analysis of abduction incidents in November 2025 reveals a heavy concentration of kidnapping cases in a limited number of states, highlighting the scale and intensity of the abduction crisis during the reporting period (November Excel dataset). Niger State recorded an exceptionally high number of abductions (424 cases), accounting for more than half of all reported abductions nationwide for the month. This underscores Niger State’s status as the principal hotspot for kidnapping, driven by sustained bandit activity, attacks on rural communities, and the vulnerability of major transport corridors. Other states with significant abduction figures include Zamfara State (94 cases), reflecting the continued dominance of bandit groups and organized criminal networks, and Kwara State (56 cases), signaling the further southward spread of kidnapping beyond traditional epicenters. Sokoto State recorded 46 abductions, while Kano State accounted for 41 cases, indicating growing pressure on both rural and peri-urban communities. Kebbi State (33 cases) and Borno State (27 cases) also featured prominently, with abductions linked to cross-border criminal movements and residual

insurgent activities respectively. Katsina State reported 17 abductions, remaining affected but at a relatively lower scale compared to other high-burden states.

Overall, the distribution of abductions in November demonstrates a widening and intensifying kidnapping landscape, particularly across the North Central and North West regions. The dominance of Niger State in the abduction statistics highlights the urgent need for targeted, intelligence-driven security interventions, improved surveillance along transit routes, and strengthened community-based protection measures, as emphasized in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.



**Figure 4: States with the Highest Cases of Abductions in November, 2025 (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)**

### Frequency of Attacks in November:

The analysis of attack frequency in November 2025 indicates a notable decline in the number of reported incidents, with 46 attacks recorded nationwide during the month. When compared with preceding months, November represents one of the lowest incident counts in the year, following October (72 attacks), September (64), and August (71). This downward trend contrasts sharply with the mid-year peak observed in May (140 attacks) and the elevated levels recorded between April and July, suggesting a relative reduction in the overall frequency of violent incidents toward the end of the year. However, despite the lower number of attacks, the security situation in November remains highly concerning due to the severity and impact of incidents, particularly the surge in mass abductions recorded during the same period. The data indicate that while attacks were fewer in number, they were often more coordinated and high-impact, resulting in significant human consequences. This pattern underscores a shift from widespread, frequent violence to fewer but more consequential attacks, reinforcing the need for sustained vigilance, intelligence-led security operations, and continuous monitoring under the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC framework.

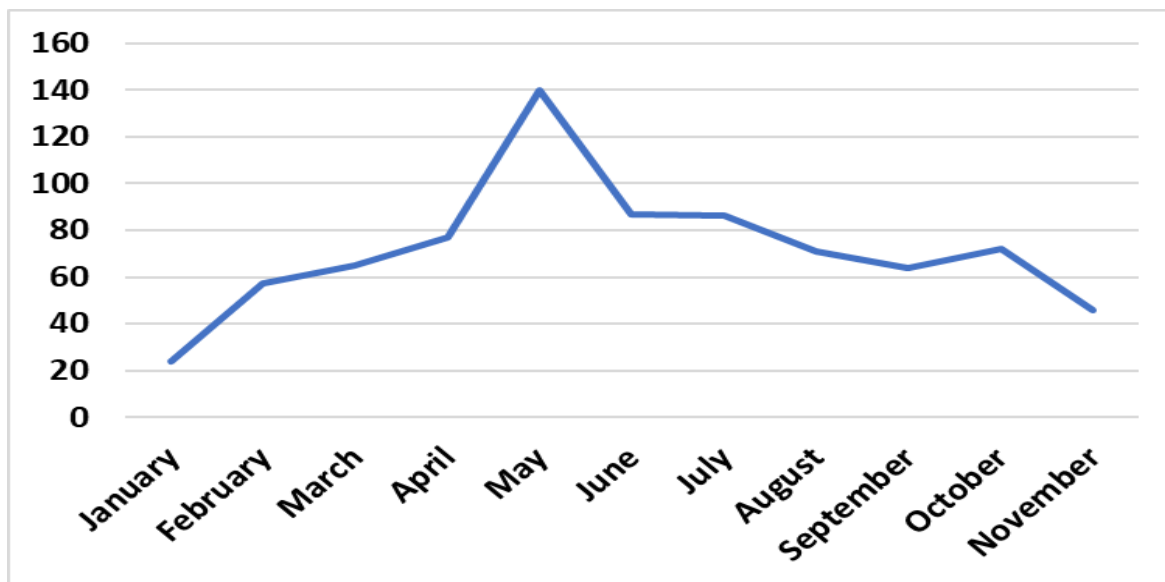
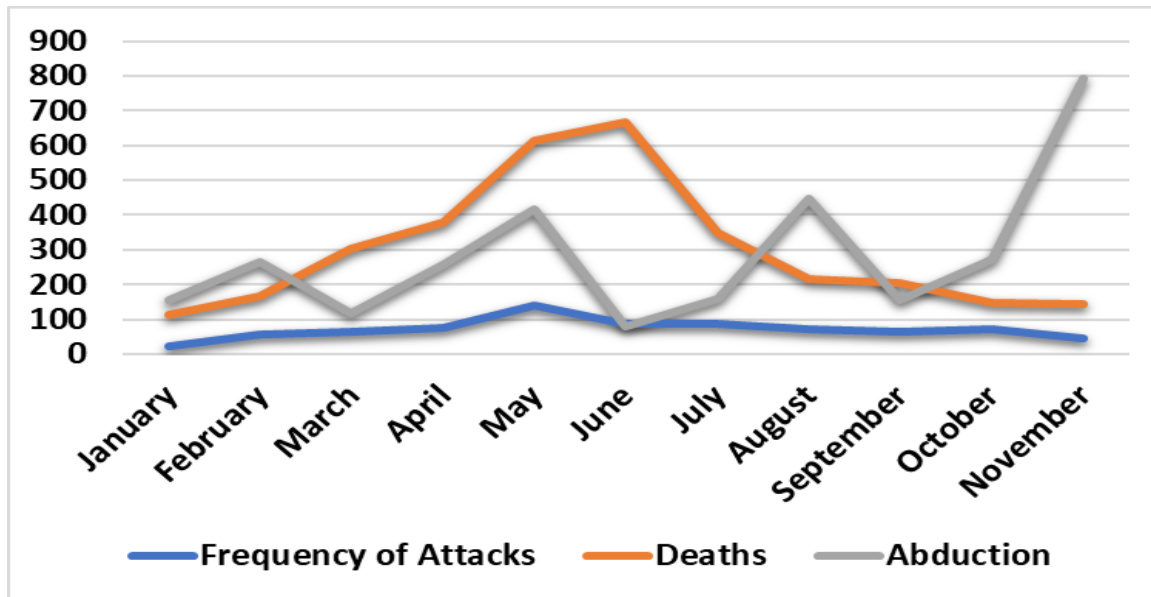


Figure 5: Frequency of Attacks across Months (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)

An eleven-month review of insecurity indicators reveals a complex and non-linear relationship between the frequency of attacks, resulting deaths, and abductions. Periods with a high number of attacks did not always correspond with the highest casualty figures, indicating variations in the nature, scale, and intent of violent incidents across the year. For instance, May recorded the highest attack frequency (140 incidents) alongside elevated deaths (615) and abductions (415), reflecting a phase of widespread and highly lethal violence. Similarly, June, despite a reduced number of attacks (87), recorded the highest death toll (667), suggesting fewer but more deadly incidents, likely involving large-scale or targeted assaults. In contrast, the latter part of the year demonstrates a clear shift in the pattern of violence. While attack frequency declined steadily from August (71) to November (46), deaths also reduced to 142, yet abductions escalated sharply, peaking at 793 in November, the highest figure recorded during the eleven-month period. This inverse relationship between attack frequency and abduction numbers in November indicates a strategic transition by armed groups from frequent armed confrontations to mass kidnapping operations, which require fewer attacks but produce a significantly higher human impact.

Overall, the data underscore that attack frequency alone is not a sufficient indicator of insecurity severity. High-impact outcomes particularly deaths and abductions are increasingly being driven by fewer, more targeted, and more organized attacks, especially toward the end of the year. The November 2025 data highlight this evolving threat landscape, emphasizing the need for intelligence-driven, preventive security strategies and a refined analytical approach within the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC monitoring framework that prioritizes both incident volume and human impact.



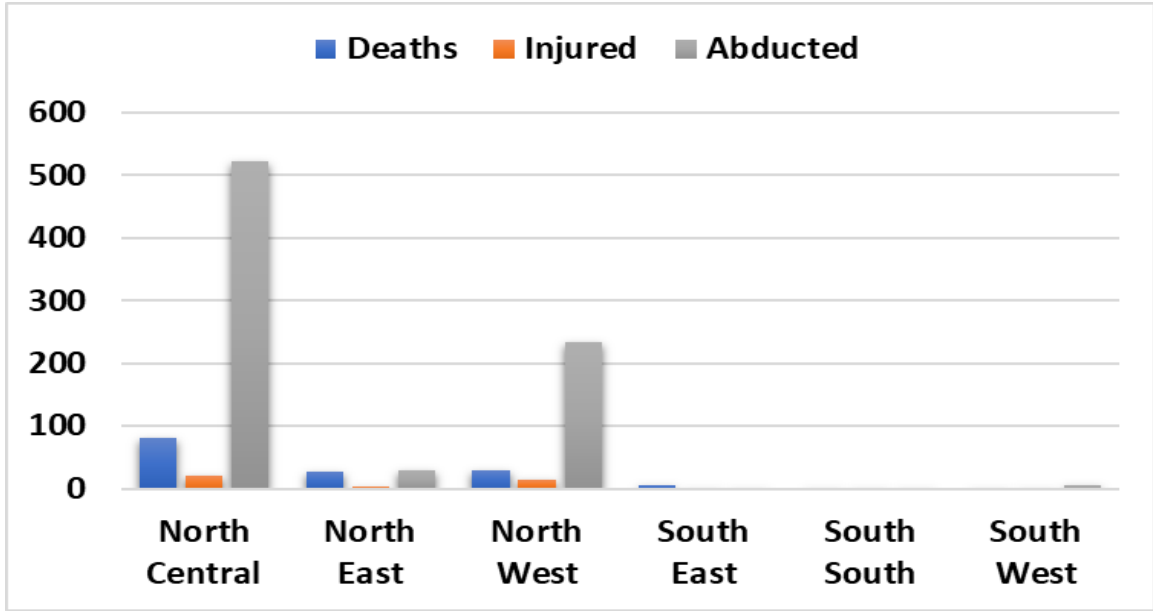
### Interplay between Frequency of Attacks, Deaths and Abductions across Months

(Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)

#### Geopolitical Analysis:

The regional distribution of atrocities in November 2025 demonstrates a highly uneven security landscape, with incidents and their human impact concentrated predominantly in the northern regions of Nigeria (November Excel dataset). The North Central zone emerged as the most affected region, recording 81 deaths, 20 injuries, and 523 abductions. This zone accounted for the majority of abduction cases nationwide, underscoring the intensity of banditry, mass kidnappings, and violent attacks on rural communities and major transit corridors within the region. The North West recorded 29 deaths, 15 injuries, and 233 abductions, reflecting persistent bandit-related violence and organized kidnapping operations, while the North East reported 27 deaths, 3 injuries, and 29 abductions, indicating continued but relatively contained insurgency-related activities. In contrast, the southern regions recorded significantly lower levels of atrocities. The South East reported 5 deaths with no injuries or abductions, while the South South and South West zones recorded no deaths or injuries, with only isolated abduction incidents (2 and 6 cases respectively).

Overall, the November regional analysis highlights a clear north–south disparity in insecurity, with the burden of deaths and abductions overwhelmingly concentrated in the North Central, North West, and North East zones. The dominance of abductions in the North Central and North West regions, in particular, reinforces the urgent need for region-specific, intelligence-led security interventions, enhanced inter-state coordination, and strengthened community protection mechanisms, as emphasized in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.



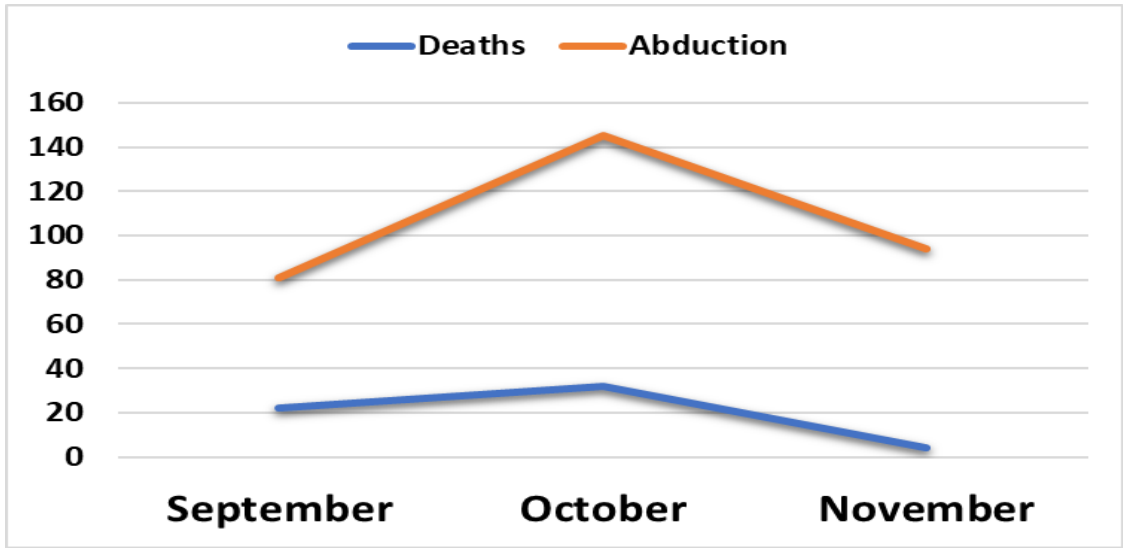
**Figure 7: Regional Record of Atrocities in November, 2025 (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)**

**Fatalities in North West:**

An assessment of insecurity data for the North West region in November 2025 shows a moderate but persistent level of fatal violence, alongside significant abduction activity across several states. Sokoto State recorded the highest number of fatalities in the region with 12 deaths, coupled with 5 injured persons, underscoring the continued impact of armed banditry and violent attacks on communities within affected local government areas.

Other states in the region recorded lower but notable fatality figures. Zamfara, Kaduna, Kebbi, and Katsina States each recorded 4 deaths, reflecting ongoing but dispersed incidents of violence. Zamfara and Katsina’s fatalities occurred in the context of intense kidnapping activity, particularly in Zamfara, which also recorded the highest number of abductions in the region (94 cases). Kano State reported 1 death and 2 injuries, suggesting sporadic but impactful incidents, while Jigawa State recorded no deaths, injuries, or abductions, indicating relative stability during the reporting period.

Overall, the North West fatality profile for November highlights a pattern of widespread but generally low-intensity lethal incidents, with deaths distributed across multiple states rather than concentrated in a single hotspot. This trend, combined with high abduction figures in states such as Zamfara and Sokoto, points to a security environment where kidnapping remains the dominant threat, while lethal violence persists at a sustained level. These findings reinforce the need for targeted, state-specific security responses under the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report framework.



**Figure 8: 3-Months Atrocity Trend in Zamfara**

A review of insecurity indicators in Zamfara State between September and November 2025 reveals a marked shift in the pattern of atrocities, particularly between lethal violence and

abduction-related incidents. In September, the state recorded 22 deaths and 81 abductions, reflecting a period of high-intensity violence characterized by frequent fatal attacks alongside significant kidnapping activity. This trend worsened in October, when fatalities increased to 32 deaths, while abductions also rose to 145 cases, indicating an escalation in both the severity and scale of insecurity during the month. By November, however, the pattern changed significantly. Fatalities dropped sharply to 4 deaths, representing a substantial reduction in lethal incidents, while abductions declined from October but remained high at 94 cases. This divergence suggests a strategic shift by armed groups away from lethal attacks toward kidnapping operations, which continue to pose a major threat to civilian safety despite the reduction in deaths.

Overall, the three-month trend demonstrates that while lethal violence in Zamfara reduced considerably by November, the state remains highly vulnerable to abduction-driven insecurity. The persistence of mass kidnappings, even amid declining fatalities, underscores the need for sustained, intelligence-led security interventions, enhanced rural surveillance, and community-based protection measures, as emphasized in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.

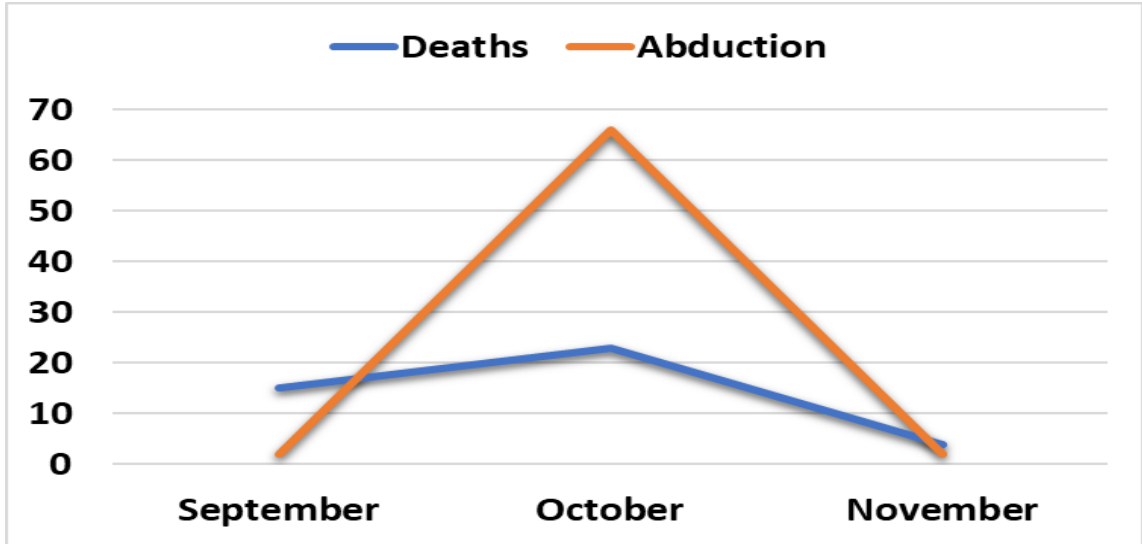


Figure 9: 3-Months Atrocity Trend in Kaduna

An analysis of insecurity trends in Kaduna State between September and November 2025 reveals significant fluctuations in both fatalities and abduction incidents. In September, the state recorded 15 deaths and 2 abductions, indicating a period marked primarily by lethal attacks with minimal kidnapping activity. This pattern intensified in October, when fatalities rose to 23 deaths, accompanied by a sharp increase in abductions to 66 cases, reflecting a temporary escalation in both the severity and breadth of insecurity.

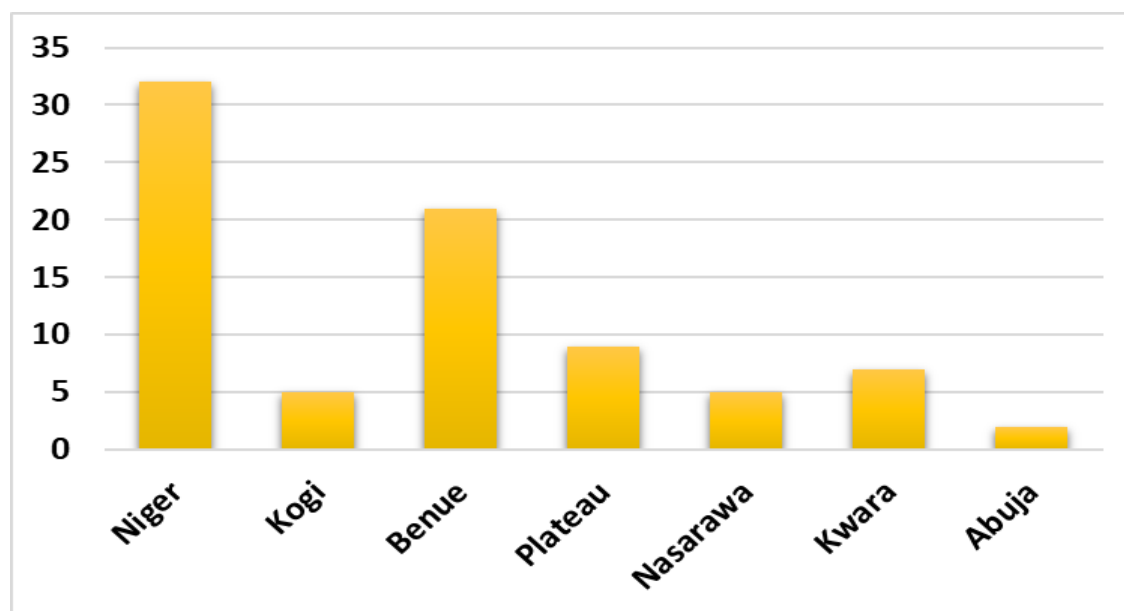
In November, the situation showed a notable improvement, with fatalities declining sharply to 4 deaths and abductions dropping back to 2 cases. This reduction suggests a de-escalation of violent activity and a possible disruption of criminal operations during the reporting period. Overall, the three-month trend indicates that while Kaduna experienced a spike in violence and kidnapping in October, November marked a return to relatively lower levels of insecurity. Nonetheless, the October surge underscores Kaduna's continued vulnerability to sudden escalations, reinforcing the need for sustained preventive security measures and intelligence-led interventions, as highlighted in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.

### **North Central**

The North Central region of Nigeria suffered a severe outbreak of lethal violence in November 2025, recording 81 confirmed fatalities. This crisis was driven by entrenched insecurities, with Niger State as the epicenter, accounting for 32 deaths amid a catastrophic wave of mass abductions. The high fatality count is intrinsically linked to the tactics of armed bandits and communal militias, who used overwhelming lethal force to facilitate kidnappings and terrorize rural communities, as evidenced by the concurrent abduction of 457 individuals across the region.

The data reveals a concerning geographic spread of violence beyond traditional flashpoints. While Niger and Benue states experienced the highest casualties, the occurrence of fatalities in

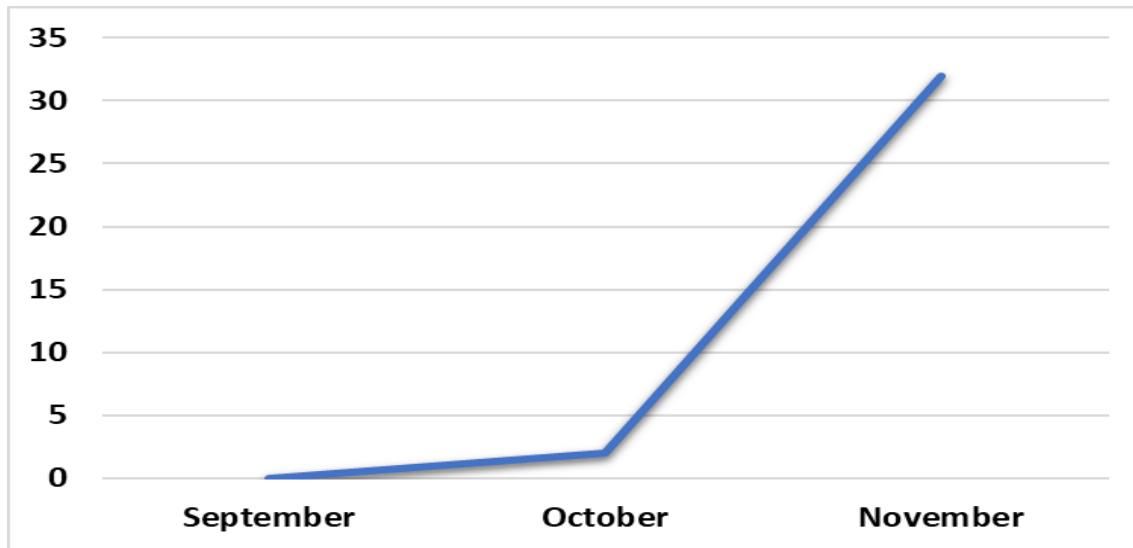
Kwara State and on the outskirts of the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) indicates an expanding threat corridor. The November toll underscores a brutal synergy between mass abduction operations and communal conflicts, marking the North Central region as a primary and worsening zone of insecurity.



**Figure 10: Deaths across North Central States**

The violence was heavily concentrated, with **Niger State accounting for 32 deaths** due to intensified armed banditry, and **Benue State suffering 21 fatalities** from persistent communal conflicts. Together, these two states represented approximately 65% of the region's total lethal casualties.

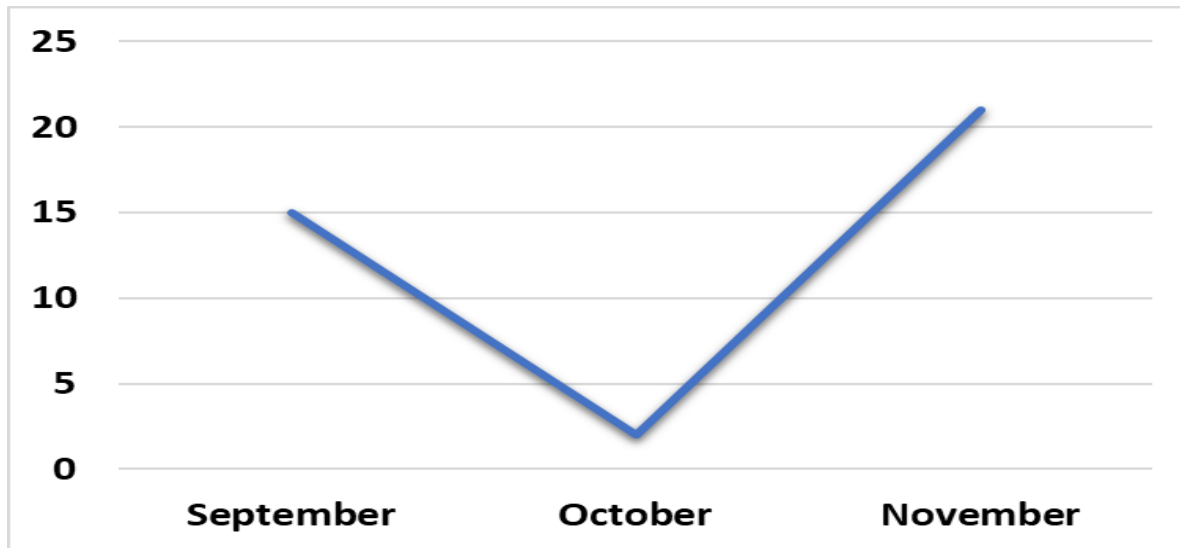
The distribution of remaining deaths across Plateau (9), Kwara (7), Kogi (5), Nasarawa (5), and the outskirts of Abuja (2) illustrates the diffuse and entrenched nature of the threat. This pattern confirms that lethal violence in the region is driven by multiple, overlapping crises—including bandit raids, farmer-herder clashes, and kidnap-related killings—which collectively sustain a high level of instability and risk to civilian populations.



**Figure 11: Death Trends in Niger between August and October, 2025**

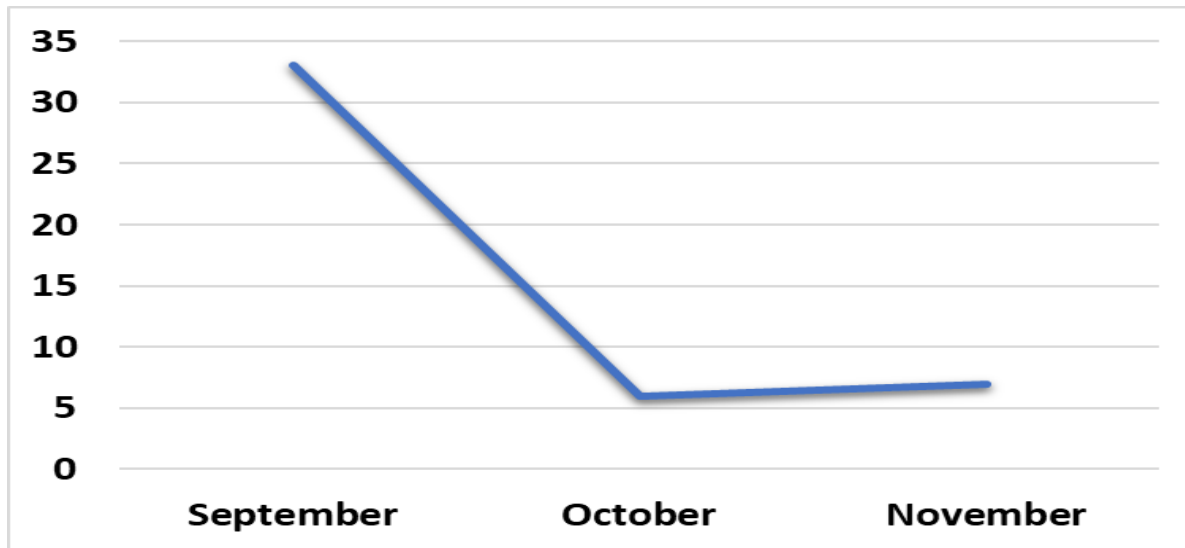
An assessment of fatality trends in Niger State between September and November 2025 reveals a sharp and alarming escalation in lethal violence over the three-month period. In September, no deaths were recorded, suggesting a temporary lull or relative containment of fatal incidents. This changed slightly in October, when 2 deaths were reported, indicating the re-emergence of lethal attacks at a low level. By November, however, the situation deteriorated significantly, with 32 deaths recorded, representing a dramatic spike in fatalities within a single month. This sudden increase points to intensified armed attacks and violent incidents, likely linked to escalating banditry, assaults on rural communities, and insecurity along key transport corridors in the state. The November figure positions Niger State as the deadliest hotspot in the North Central region during the reporting period.

Overall, the trend reflects a rapid transition from relative calm to acute violence, underscoring the volatility of the security situation in Niger State. The sharp rise in deaths in November highlights the urgent need for robust, intelligence-driven security interventions, improved early-warning mechanisms, and strengthened community protection strategies, as emphasized in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.



**Figure 12: Death Trends in Benue between September-November, 2025**

The fatality trend in Benue State from September to November 2025 reflects a volatile and persistently high-threat environment, characteristic of its entrenched communal conflicts. While a significant decline from 15 deaths in September to just 2 in October suggested a fragile respite, this trend was sharply reversed in November, with fatalities surging to 21. This resurgence underscores that periods of calm are temporary and that the underlying drivers of violence—including farmer-herder tensions and militia reprisals—remain unresolved and capable of rapid, deadly escalation. The cyclical fluctuation in fatalities, culminating in 38 deaths over the three-month period, demonstrates that Benue's security landscape is highly reactive and prone to sudden deterioration. The November toll confirms that any lull in violence is not indicative of sustained peace but rather a tactical pause, with the potential for conflict to reignite forcefully. This pattern necessitates continuous monitoring and proactive engagement to address the root causes of instability.



**Figure 13: Death Trends in Kwara between September-November, 2025**

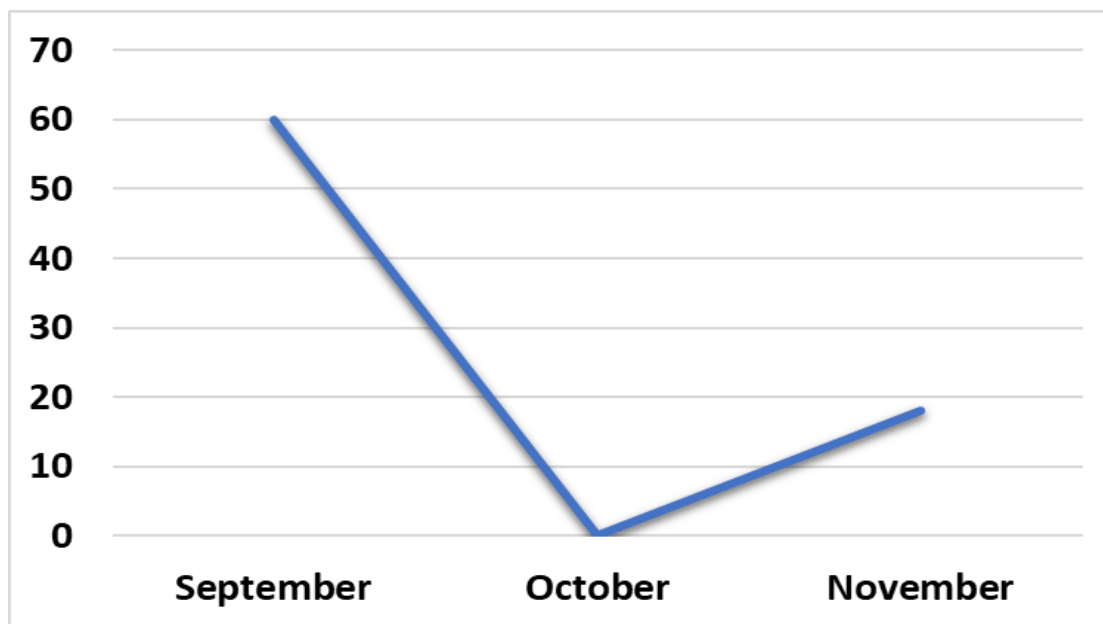
Kwara State's security trajectory from September to November 2025 demonstrates a critical shift from acute crisis to entrenched, chronic instability. The state experienced a severe security breach in September, with fatalities spiking to 33, indicative of a major coordinated attack or series of large-scale raids. This was followed by a sharp decline to 6 deaths in October and a stabilization at 7 in November, reflecting successful short-term containment of the immediate crisis. However, the persistence of single-digit monthly fatalities in October and November underscores that the underlying threat has not been eliminated. This plateau of violence suggests the entrenchment of residual criminal activity, sporadic clashes, or spillover effects from neighboring conflict zones. The trend highlights that while Kwara managed to avert a continued catastrophe, it remains in a sustained state of lower-intensity insecurity, preventing a return to durable stability.

### **North East**

An assessment of insecurity data for the North East region in November 2025 indicates a relatively lower level of fatal violence compared to other regions, though persistent insecurity remains evident in key states (November Excel dataset). Borno State recorded the highest number of fatalities in the region with 18 deaths, alongside 1 injured person and 27 abductions,

reflecting the continued impact of insurgency-related activities and sporadic armed attacks despite ongoing security operations. Bauchi State recorded 6 deaths and 2 injuries, indicating isolated but deadly incidents, while Taraba State reported 3 deaths, suggesting low-intensity fatal violence during the month. In contrast, Adamawa, Gombe, and Yobe States recorded no fatalities, injuries, or abductions, pointing to relative stability or the absence of reported fatal incidents within the reporting period.

Overall, the fatality profile of the North East in November highlights a concentration of lethal incidents in Borno State, with limited spillover into neighboring states. While the overall death toll in the region remains moderate, the persistence of fatalities in Borno underscores the enduring threat posed by insurgent and armed groups, reinforcing the need for sustained counterinsurgency efforts, localized security responses, and continuous monitoring under the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report framework.



**Figure 14: Death Trends in Borno between September-November , 2025**

Borno State's fatality trends from September to November 2025 illustrate the volatile and adaptive nature of the ongoing asymmetric conflict. The period began with a severe escalation

in September, recording 60 fatalities indicative of large-scale militant attacks or major confrontations. This was followed by an unprecedented but anomalous lull in October with zero recorded deaths, likely resulting from a tactical pause, militant regrouping, or a disruptive security operation, rather than a sustainable peace.

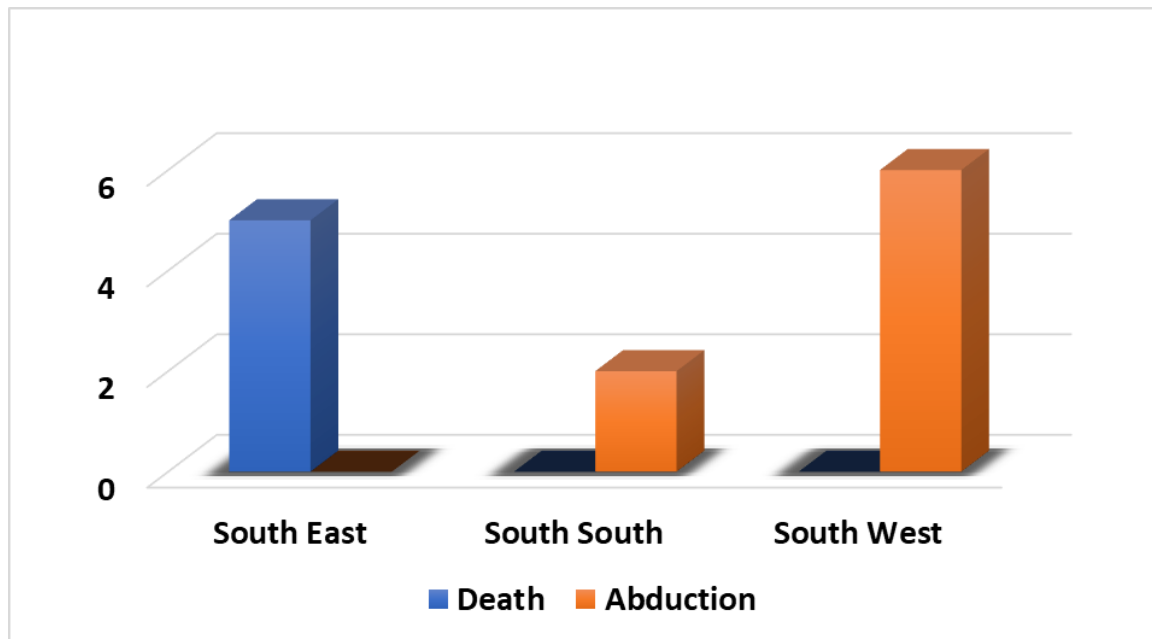
The conflict resurged in November with 18 fatalities, confirming the transient nature of the October reprieve. This resurgence, though lower in intensity than September, demonstrates the persistent and adaptive capacity of insurgent groups to recalibrate and re-engage. The overall trend underscores that the security environment in Borno remains highly unstable, characterized by cyclical phases of intense violence and tactical pauses, rather than a linear progression toward stability.

### **Southern Region:**

An analysis of insecurity data for the Southern region of Nigeria in November 2025 indicates a relatively low level of fatal violence compared to the northern regions, reflecting a more stable security environment during the reporting period. In the South East, a total of 5 deaths were recorded, with fatalities limited to Ebonyi State (2 deaths) and Anambra State (3 deaths). No injuries or abductions were reported across the remaining South East states, suggesting that incidents were isolated and localized, rather than widespread or coordinated.

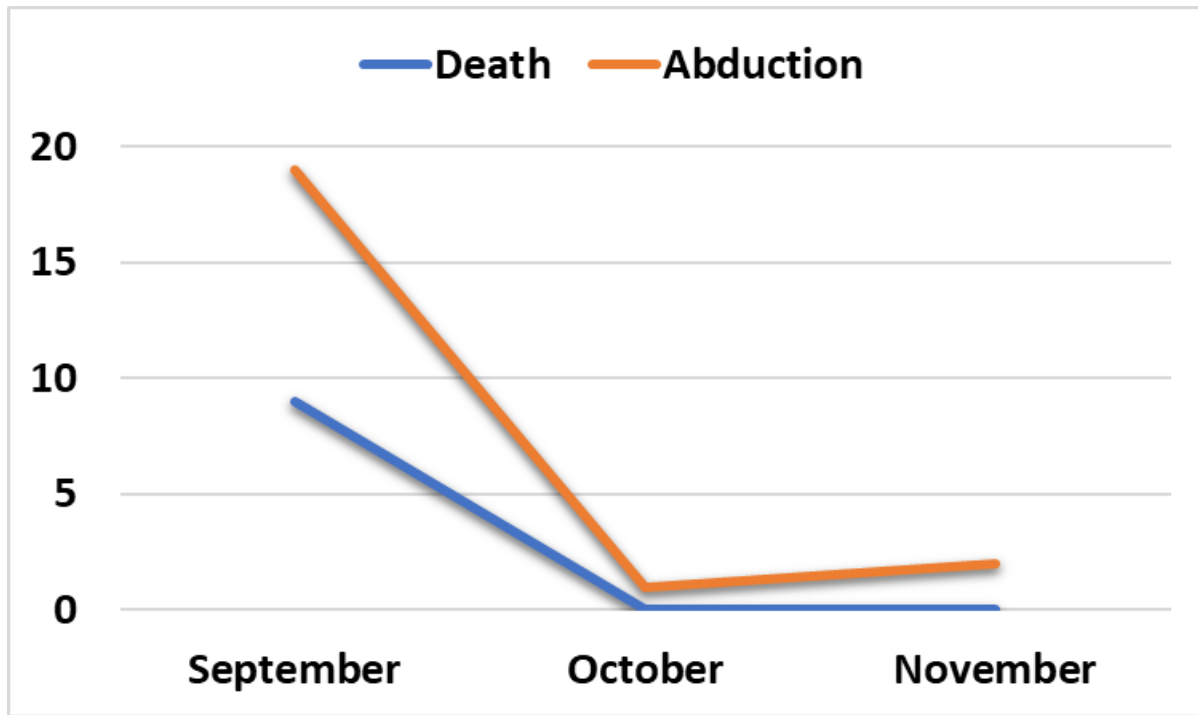
The South South and South West regions recorded no fatalities or injuries in November. However, isolated abduction incidents were reported, with 2 cases in Edo State (South South) and 6 cases in Ogun State (South West). Overall, the Southern region experienced minimal lethal violence, with incidents largely non-fatal and geographically limited. While this trend indicates relative stability, the occurrence of abductions highlights the need for continued

vigilance and preventive security measures to prevent escalation, in line with the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.



**Figure 15: Atrocities in Southern Region**

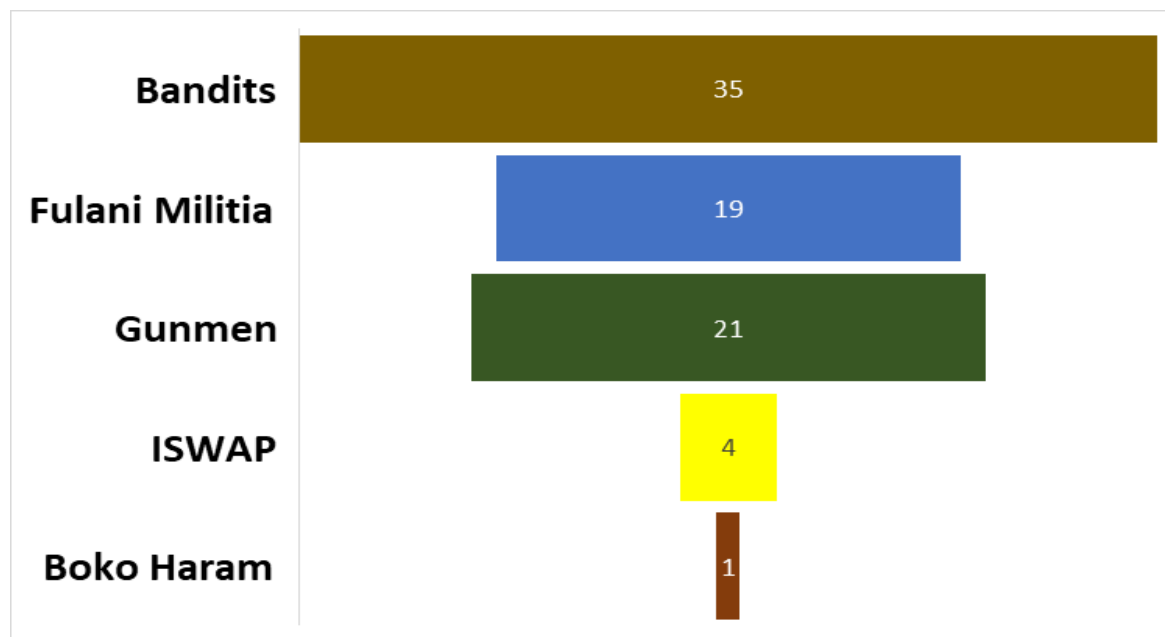
Fig 16 below reveals assessment of insecurity indicators in Edo State between September and November 2025 shows a marked decline in both fatalities and abductions, indicating an overall improvement in the state's security situation over the three-month period. In September, Edo recorded 9 deaths and 19 abductions, reflecting a period of relatively elevated insecurity. By October, fatalities dropped to zero, while abductions reduced sharply to 1 case, suggesting a significant containment of violent and criminal activities. This trend was sustained in November, with no recorded deaths and only 2 abductions, indicating continued stability and limited security incidents.



**Figure 16: Deaths & Abduction Trends in Edo State from September-November**

Within the national context, Edo’s experience contrasts sharply with trends observed in several northern states, particularly in the North Central and North West regions. For example, Niger State recorded 32 deaths and over 400 abductions in November alone, while states such as Zamfara, Sokoto, and Katsina continued to experience high levels of kidnapping despite fluctuating fatality figures. This comparison highlights a pronounced regional disparity in insecurity, with southern states like Edo witnessing declining and low-impact incidents, while parts of Northern Nigeria remain burdened by mass abductions and recurrent lethal attacks. Overall, the Edo trend underscores the effectiveness of relative containment in the South, while reinforcing the need for targeted, region-specific security strategies to address the persistent and more severe insecurity challenges in the North, as reflected in the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report.

**Actors:**



**Figure 17: Actors of Atrocities in November 2025 (Source: iNSDEC Casualty Tracker, 2025)**

An analysis of perpetrators involved in reported insecurity incidents in November 2025 indicates that non-state armed groups and criminal networks remained the primary drivers of violence nationwide (November Excel dataset). Bandit groups accounted for the highest number of incidents (35 cases), reaffirming their dominant role in violent attacks and mass abductions, particularly across the North Central and North West regions. Gunmen were responsible for 21 incidents, reflecting the prevalence of armed criminality and targeted attacks on civilians and communities, while Fulani militia were linked to 19 incidents, largely associated with communal clashes and rural violence.

Insurgent groups recorded comparatively fewer incidents during the month. ISWAP was responsible for 4 incidents, and Boko Haram for 1 incident, indicating a lower frequency of reported attacks compared to bandit and criminal activities, though their actions remain highly disruptive where they occur. Overall, the November actor profile highlights a security environment increasingly shaped by banditry and organized criminal violence rather than

insurgency alone, underscoring the need for actor-specific, intelligence-led security responses within the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC November Monthly Insecurity Report framework.

**Summary of Atrocities:**

<b>States</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Injured</b>	<b>Abducted</b>
<b>Anambra</b>	3		
<b>Bauchi</b>	6	2	2
<b>Benue</b>	21	10	12
<b>Borno</b>	18	1	27
<b>Ebonyi</b>	2		
<b>Kaduna</b>	4	6	2
<b>Kano</b>	1	2	41
<b>Katsina</b>	4		17
<b>Kebbi</b>	4	2	33
<b>Kogi</b>	5	1	22
<b>Kwara</b>	7	2	56
<b>Nasarawa</b>	5		1
<b>Niger</b>	32	5	424
<b>Plateau</b>	9	2	1
<b>Rivers</b>			
<b>Sokoto</b>	12	5	46
<b>Taraba</b>	3		
<b>Zamfara</b>	4		94
<b>Abuja</b>	2		7

### **Impact of Atrocities in October:**

The cumulative impact of atrocities recorded in November 2025 reflects a severely deteriorating security and humanitarian environment across Nigeria, with far-reaching social, economic, and psychological consequences. During the month, 142 deaths, 38 injuries, and 793 abductions were documented nationwide, indicating that while the frequency of attacks declined, the human impact intensified, particularly through mass kidnappings. The scale of abductions concentrated largely in the North Central and North West regions, with Niger State as the epicenter has significantly disrupted community life, forced population displacement, and eroded public confidence in safety along rural communities and major transport corridors.

The loss of life and physical injuries have placed additional pressure on already overstretched healthcare services, while the psychological trauma experienced by abducted victims, their families, and affected communities remains profound. Economically, the persistent threat of kidnapping and violence has undermined livelihoods, restricted agricultural activities, disrupted local markets, and increased the cost of transportation and commerce, particularly in high-risk states. Social cohesion has also been weakened, as repeated attacks deepen fear, reduce mobility, and strain relations between communities and security institutions.

At the national level, the November data underscore a shift in the nature of insecurity, from frequent armed confrontations to fewer but more organized and high-impact attacks, especially abductions carried out by bandit groups and criminal actors. This evolving threat landscape has significant implications for governance, development, and human security. Overall, the impact of November's atrocities reinforces the urgent need for coordinated, intelligence-driven security interventions, strengthened community protection mechanisms, enhanced victim support systems, and sustained monitoring under the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC Insecurity Tracking Framework, to mitigate further deterioration and restore public confidence.

## **Escalation of Violence and Regional Disparities:**

October 2025 revealed a stark and fractured security landscape across Nigeria, characterized by a critical escalation in criminal tactics and profound regional disparities. The most alarming development was the strategic shift by armed bandits towards mass abduction operations, with Niger State suffering a catastrophic 424 kidnappings in a single month, marking the North Central zone as the new epicenter of a large-scale kidnapping crisis. This escalation, alongside a lethal resurgence of communal violence in Benue State, underscores a volatile and adaptive threat environment focused on maximizing human captives and terrorizing rural communities.

The violence displayed severe regional inequality, creating what amounts to a "two-tier" nation in terms of security. While the North Central and North West zones endured industrial-scale banditry and kidnappings, and the North East faced persistent insurgent pressure, the southern regions experienced only sporadic, lower-intensity incidents. This disparity highlights the failure of a uniform national security strategy and indicates that pressure on armed groups may be displacing, rather than resolving, violence. The escalating crisis demands urgent, regionally tailored responses to address the specific drivers of conflict in each zone.

## **Impacts on Communities and Social Structures**

The recent wave of violence has inflicted deep and varied socio-economic wounds across Nigeria, with the most severe impacts concentrated in the North Central and North West zones. In these regions, the mass abduction of farmers and the paralysis of agrarian activity during the harvest season threaten immediate food insecurity and long-term livelihood collapse, eroding the local economic base. Simultaneously, the social fabric is fracturing under the strain of communal polarization and a catastrophic loss of trust in state institutions, as communities are forced to negotiate directly with criminal actors for the release of captives, further entrenching alternative, illegitimate authority.

The trauma and financial ruin at the individual level from ransom-driven debt to the loss of breadwinners are creating cycles of poverty that will persist for generations. These impacts threaten regional stability in distinct ways: the North risks descending into humanitarian emergencies and criminal enclaves; the South East and South South face economic stagnation and the normalization of localized violence; while the South West contends with the social and economic pressures of hosting internal refugees. This divergent but interconnected crisis underscores that insecurity is not only a security challenge but a foundational threat to Nigeria's economic resilience and social cohesion.

### **Policy Implications:**

Based on the scale and nature of the November 2025 atrocities which saw catastrophic violence in Niger State (32 deaths, 424 abductions) and significant lethal attacks in Benue (21 deaths), Sokoto (12 deaths), and Borno (18 deaths) the following policy implications are paramount. The data reveals a crisis concentrated in the North Central and North West regions, with a persistent, distinct threat in the North East, necessitating a multi-tiered, region-specific strategic response.

#### **1. Immediate Humanitarian & Protection Crisis Response:**

- **Establish Humanitarian Corridors & Safe Zones:** Given the scale of displacement and community terror in Niger, Zamfara (94 abductions), and Sokoto, an immediate, coordinated multi-agency (federal, state, NGOs) response is required to deliver aid, provide psycho-social support for trauma victims, and create protected spaces for vulnerable populations to prevent further abductions.
- **Emergency Fund for Victim Families:** Create a dedicated federal fund to provide financial support to the families of the 523 nationally abducted persons, particularly in Niger, Kwara (56 abductions), and Zamfara, to prevent total destitution from ransom payments and loss of livelihoods.

## 2. Regionalized Security Strategy Overhaul:

- **North Central/North West – Anti-Banditry Task Force (ABTF):** The nature of mass-casualty kidnappings in Niger and Kwara demands a dedicated, intelligence-driven joint task force with a mandate focused explicitly on preventing abductions, disrupting kidnapping logistics, and pursuing financial networks. This differs from a general counter-insurgency approach.
- **North East – Sustained Counter-Insurgency (CI) with Civilian Safeguards:** The continued lethal attacks in Borno require a sustained CI strategy, but with renewed emphasis on protecting civilians from both insurgent attacks and potential collateral damage during military operations.
- **Community-Based Early Warning Systems:** Fund and formally integrate vetted local vigilante groups in states like Plateau, Benue, and Kaduna into a regulated early-warning network to improve response times to imminent attacks, moving beyond a purely kinetic military approach.

## 3. Economic & Livelihood Interventions to Undercut Criminal Incentives:

- **Targeted Agricultural and MSME Support for High-Impact States:** Launch immediate cash-for-work and input subsidy programs in the most affected agrarian communities of Niger, Benue, and Zamfara to restore economic activity, provide licit income alternatives, and reduce the vulnerability that makes communities targets.
- **Financial Surveillance on Ransom Payments:** Enforce and strengthen existing laws against ransom payments through enhanced financial monitoring, while simultaneously providing the state-supported victim fund as a lawful alternative, aiming to drain the primary revenue stream of bandit groups in the North West and North Central.

#### **4. Governance & Justice to Restore the Social Contract:**

- **Special Prosecutorial Units for Kidnapping and Terrorism:** Establish fast-track courts and special prosecutors in Abuja and regional hubs to handle the backlog of cases for arrested perpetrators, particularly those linked to the mass atrocities in **Niger** and **Sokoto**. Visible justice is critical to restoring state legitimacy.
- **Transparency in Security Spending & Accountability:** Mandate public, monthly reporting on security allocations and operations in the top six violent states (Niger, Benue, Sokoto, Borno, Zamfara, Plateau). This is essential to rebuild public trust and ensure resources are effectively deployed.

#### **5. Long-Term Structural & Social Cohesion Policies:**

- **National Dialogue on Pastoralism & Land Use:** The violence in Benue and Plateau necessitates a credible, inclusive national dialogue to address the root causes of farmer-herder conflict, focusing on land use, grazing reserves, and livestock economy reform.
- **Education & Deradicalization Investment:** Prioritize the safe reopening and protecting of schools in the North West and North Central to break the cycle of marginalization. Expand deradicalization and disengagement programs in the North East to address the ideological drivers of the conflict.

Failure to implement a policy framework that recognizes the distinct nature of the crises in Niger State (mass kidnapping), Benue (communal conflict), and Borno (insurgency), and the severe regional disparities, will result in further entrenchment of violence, state fragility, and human suffering.

## **Policy Recommendations**

To stem the surge of violence and kidnappings across Nigeria, particularly in the North West, North Central, North East, and Southern regions, the following actionable recommendations are proposed:

1. **Strengthen Security and Intelligence:** Adopt UN-endorsed approaches for coordinated counterterrorism and anti-crime operations. Deploy rapid response units in hotspot areas, integrate intelligence-sharing platforms across states, and enhance surveillance using drones and early-warning systems. ECOWAS protocols on cross-border security should be applied to prevent interstate mobility of bandits and insurgents.
2. **Specialized Anti-Kidnapping Task Forces:** Following AU best practices, establish dedicated units to address mass abductions. Protect high-risk targets, including schools, highways, and vulnerable communities, while enforcing stringent anti-ransom policies. Encourage community reporting through secure hotlines and reward systems.
3. **Community-Based Policing and Vigilante Integration:** Support local vigilante structures by providing training, arms accountability, and integration with formal security forces. This strengthens local intelligence and rapid intervention capacity while reducing civilian-targeted attacks.
4. **Socioeconomic Resilience Programs:** Implement UN and AU recommendations for conflict-affected zones, including cash transfers, microfinance, and livelihood recovery programs. Prioritize agricultural support, market rehabilitation, and youth employment schemes to reduce recruitment into criminal and insurgent networks.
5. **Humanitarian Protection and Rehabilitation:** Ensure prompt support for victims of violence, including psychosocial services, trauma care, and reintegration programs for

abducted individuals. Establish safe corridors for displaced persons, consistent with UNHCR and ECOWAS humanitarian standards.

6. **Regional and Interagency Coordination:** Promote multi-state task forces for joint operations, sharing intelligence and resources. Standardize crisis response protocols across states to close jurisdictional gaps exploited by perpetrators.
7. **Long-Term Conflict Prevention:** Invest in education, governance reforms, and land dispute resolution mechanisms. Address structural drivers of violence, including poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, following AU peacebuilding guidelines.

These measures, if implemented collectively, will strengthen security, protect civilians, and foster long-term stability across Nigeria's most vulnerable regions.

### **Conclusion:**

The insecurity trends observed in November 2025 underscore a dangerous escalation in the human cost of violence, even as attack frequency declines. The dramatic surge in abductions, coupled with sustained fatalities, highlights a shift toward organized criminality and mass-casualty strategies that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly in northern Nigeria. This evolving pattern reflects both the adaptability of violent actors and persistent gaps in preventive security architecture. Regional disparities remain stark, with the North Central and North West bearing a disproportionate share of the national insecurity burden, while the Southern regions continue to experience relative stability. However, the presence of abductions across all regions signals that insecurity is national in scope, even if uneven in intensity. The dominance of bandit groups and criminal networks further indicates that Nigeria's insecurity challenge is no longer driven solely by ideological insurgency but increasingly by economically motivated violence.

In conclusion, the November 2025 findings emphasize the urgent need for coordinated, intelligence-led, and region-specific security interventions, alongside strengthened community

protection mechanisms and victim support systems. Without decisive action, the continued normalization of mass abductions and lethal violence risks entrenching insecurity as a structural threat to national development, social cohesion, and public trust. These insights form a critical evidence base for policy action under the PSJ-UK/iNSDEC Insecurity Monitoring and Policy Framework.