

A background image showing the lower legs and feet of several individuals in dark uniforms with yellow side stripes and yellow socks, wearing black tactical boots. They are standing on a paved surface.

SHERIFF DEPUTIES

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# MONTHLY SECURITY REPORT

March 2020

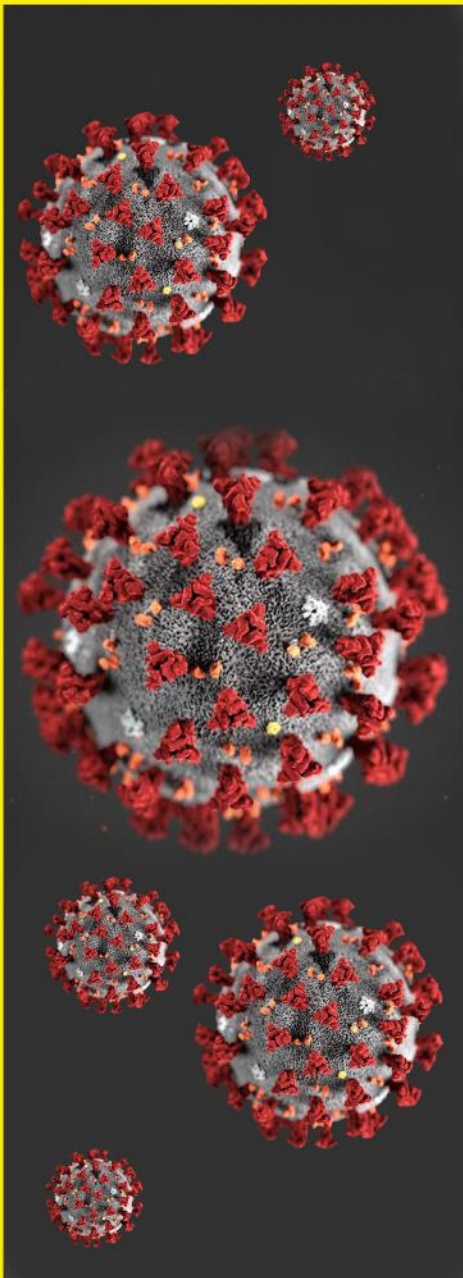
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Sheriff Deputies is a grade A licensed Private security company with broad interests and clientele base cutting across all industries. Security is a dynamic sphere, more so in Nigeria which has recently been riddled with ever worsening insecurity across the nation. We hereby highlight some developments which have impact on security of public and private interests in the country.



# 1. COVID-19 RESPONSE

The nouvelle corona virus COVID-19 has wrecked immense havoc in the month of March, evolving to become the greatest challenge that civilization has encountered in close to a century. Every inhabited continent is affected with almost every country reporting cases for less than hundred to tens of thousands in some countries. The current number of infected cases worldwide is close to 640,000 with over 30,000 deaths with 202 territories and countries reporting cases.

This gives a case fatality rate of 5% for the disease in the general population. However, it has been observed that in the elderly, those with multiple comorbidities and immunocompromised the infection is more severe and fatal.

Most notable about the infection is its virulence and the successful spread of the disease across continents, which was facilitated by the ease of worldwide travel that technology and globalization have made possible.

The global reaction has been dominated by media feeding the public with developments on a constant basis. Although the index cases were reported in China, Europe is currently the hardest hit with daily new infections in the thousands and close to 1000 deaths daily reported in Spain and Italy. The response has been;

- Travel bans between countries and within cities and countries, with many iconic cities like Venice, Milan, Madrid, Paris, London, New York and most recently Lagos, on lockdown
- International flights have been halted in most affected countries, with policies of self-isolation or compulsory quarantine for returning citizens
- ALL social gatherings, concerts, football leagues, religious meetings etc have been banned temporarily until the situation improves
- Many countries have declared a state of emergency enabling them to utilize their military in enforcing compliance to government directives for work to be done from home

In Nigeria as the rate of spread as documented by the Nigeria Center for Disease Control-NCDC has been relatively slow in comparison to other countries. However, many experts have attributed this to insufficient numbers of tests being carried out. As at 12:30 pm 1st April, there are 151 confirmed cases 9 discharged 2 deaths For a breakdown of cases by states in real time- <http://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng> Currently; Lagos- 82 FCT- 28 Osun- 14 Oyo- 8 Ogun- 4 Edo- 4 Kaduna- 3 Enugu- 2 Bauchi- 2 Ekiti- 2 Rivers-1 Benue- 1

The numbers keep on increasing daily.

The federal government and governors of affected states are taking drastic and stringent measures to ensure a resounding victory in the battle against the spread of the infection in Nigeria. Some of those measures include

All learning institutions; nursery, primary, secondary and tertiary institutions (private and public), have been instructed to cease all activities and send students and staff home in this interim period

A stay at home directive for all individuals for a period of 2 weeks with a few exemptions, namely the downstream oil sector, telecommunications, banking services (banks are closed but retain skeleton crews to ensure smooth running of online banking portals), healthcare services, food sales and processing enterprises and the private security industry.

A ban on intercity travel by land or air in certain states, namely Ogun, Lagos, FCT and Rivers

Limitations on all gatherings where individuals number more than 20. Guidelines on intra-city transport limiting vehicles to less than 75% capacity

Mobilization of relevant security agencies to impose the no movement order

Mobilization of funds to erect isolation centers, procure personal protective equipment PPEs, emergency measures to provide food relief to areas most affected.

## Recommendations

- Personal hygiene must be intensified, washing of hands, use of hand sanitizers, social distancing and eliminating physical contact through handshakes, hugs, kisses etc
- Full compliance with government directive on no movement, this will minimize the disease spread. Only working together with the authorities can the crises be overcome. Non-compliance may attract unwanted penalties and disciplinary action.
- Information is key, stay informed but more importantly remain highly critical of information that gets to you through social media. Subscribe to only verifiable information from reliable sources eg @NCDC, @LSMOH, @Fmohnigeria, @NGRPresident on twitter.

# SECURITY AND COVID-19

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As with every industry the crises response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has immensely impacted on the security situation across the world. Where there was insecurity due to violence, death from disease is now an added complication. Where there was relative peace and security, the lockdown of entire cities and countries has created a vacuum for criminal elements to operate, leading to upsurge in incidents of break-ins, burglary, vandalization, arson etc.

Existing insecurity due to insurgency, crime etc in previously identified areas has grave implications in these trying times, as movement of health workers and medical supplies is hampered. Years of conflict have destroyed healthcare systems in these regions rendering them even more vulnerable at a time like this.

In Nigeria, the military have continued their aggressive campaign against the insurgency in the north-east and continue to battle bandits in the middle belt and northern regions of the country. So far, all cases of the COVID-19 infection that have been identified and quarantined are from cities and mostly individuals with recent travel history to/from other more severely affected countries and their contacts. Leading experts to believe that we have so far prevented the community spread of the disease. Since skirmishes with law enforcement agencies have remained mostly confined to the rural areas of these regions, there has been only minimal impact on the course of the conflict. The added risk it would pose is being taken seriously and the military is taking preventive measures.

A more worrisome security challenge is the security of the premises of business organizations, office complexes, factories, residences etc during the period of this compulsory lockdown meant to halt the spread of the disease. The relative emptiness of these premises will present easy opportunities for theft. The ease of movement of private security personnel is also likely to be negatively impacted as most means of transport are also grounded, thus making it difficult for those who do not live in immediate proximity of their locations to report for work.

The banking Industry has also been hugely impacted as most banks across the federation are either already closed to the public or about to do so, and most bank staff have been instructed to work from home. "Money makes the world go round" and banks have promised to maintain all online payment channels. This poses its particular challenge too. Incidents of cybercrime are on the rise and expected to get worse. Some fraudulent approaches used by these unscrupulous individuals are;

- Utilizing the crisis period to send malware via unverified links usually sent in messages on social media.
- Soliciting for funds in the name of donations to the emergency effort
- Fraudulent phone calls from individuals claiming to be bank officers, they will almost always be seeking for details of your acct or card.
- Fraudulent requests for confidential bank details in order to process government relief funds to your account

## Recommendations

- Before leaving your work premises for the 2 week period, make sure all doors, windows and burglary proofing are all firmly shut and locked.
- Arrangements for security personnel to remain on the premises should be made to ensure that the properties are not devoid of security presence, this make require 1 week shift plans.
- Regular patrols by supervising teams of all security contractors to ensure their clients' premises are adequately protected
- A high index of suspicion must be observed on social media, avoid clicking random links to avoid downloading malware to your devices
- Always remember no representative of your bank will ever call you to request for confidential details.
- Before making any donations always do your due diligence and investigate to ensure you are not releasing your money to fraudsters.



# Maritime report

The maritime industry has also been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the seaports are still open and functional, receiving vessels from around the world although traffic is reduced. The waters off the coast of Nigeria, is Exclusive Economic Zone and the Bight of Bonny which is a vast area, have remained plagued by piracy. A number of significant incidents occurred during the period under review;

- On 05/03/2020 Chemical tanker Minerva Virgo (IMO 9307827 MMSI 240730000) was boarded by pirates off the coast of Benin. The vessel was boarded about 40 nm off Cotonou, while on a voyage between the Netherlands and Lagos, Nigeria. The 'Minerva Virgo', has a crew of 22, 6 of whom are Greek nationals and reportedly safe and in good health. Unconfirmed reports said the captain ordered the entire crew to go to the so-called panic room when armed men attacked the ship. All of the crew locked themselves in except for one Filipino worker, who was abducted by the pirates.

- A second attack, potentially conducted by the same pirate action group, was carried out the same day at a position about 75 nm to the east on the coastal side of Lagos. The Hong Kong-flagged general cargo vessel Huanghai Glory (IMO 9458432 MMSI 477914300) came under attack at about 1830 hours, Praesidium boarding, and the Ship Security Alarm System SSAS was activated. Tianjin Xinhai Intl. Ship Management which manages the vessel reported: "The ship was drifting after the attack, not responding to contact requests. The ship started moving at around 1300 UTC, March 6, after about an hour and went adrift again. As of 1500 UTC, March 6, the ship was still adrift or moving at slow speed, Nigerian Navy patrol boat NNS SPARROW approached – in nearly 24 hours after the alert, in the vicinity of Lagos with 23 crew reportedly all Chinese are on board and escorted safely to harbor. The NNS sparrow is reportedly owned and equipped by Ocean Marine Solutions Limited OMSL a private maritime security firm, but operated in conjunction with the Nigerian Navy to secure their clients.

- On a more positive note, on 03/03/2020, determined to rid the waters of criminal activities, the Federal Government has received two Special Mission Vessels (SMV) in Lagos.

The reception at the Naval Dockyard, Victoria Island, was organised by the Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), under the Deep Blue Project.

The vessel, DB Lagos and DB Abuja, which arrived the country recently are equipped with sophisticated intelligence gathering capability for timely detection and response to illegal activities in the maritime domain.

## Recommendations

- All Vessels destined for ports off the waters of the bight of bonny and Benin must maintain high situational awareness and be ever ready to implement standard operating procedures in time of attack of raising alarm through their SSAS and securing all crew members in a secure panic room.
- The services of private maritime security contractors should be engaged to ensure rapid response in case of attack.
- Government of the countries within this zone especially Nigeria show greater commitment to battling piracy by deploying more naval logistics
- Public Private Partnership PPP model and foreign investment be sought to increase patrol and surveillance capabilities in the coastal waters.



# NATIONAL SECURITY

Insecurity remains a serious concern to the government and the populace alike even as violence and conflict continue to play out in different regions of the country. We will be highlighting some reports;

- March 1: Bandits killed fifty-one in Igabi, Kaduna. Sources said about 100 armed assailants stormed into the villages of Kerawa, Zareyawa and Minda in Kaduna state at dawn on Sunday, gunning down worshippers as they left a mosque for morning prayers before killing residents and burning and looting homes.
- March 1: Kidnappers abducted five students and one teacher in Mariga, Niger.
- March 3: Herdsmen killed four in Kwande, Benue.
- March 4: Three soldiers and nineteen Boko Haram militants were killed during an attack in Damboa, Borno.
- March 4: Herdsmen killed three and kidnapped seven in Aniocha North, Delta.
- March 4: The Nigerian Air Force killed "some" (estimated at ten) Boko Haram militants in Gwoza, Borno.
- March 4: Boko Haram killed six police officers and two civilians in Bursari, Yobe.
- March 4: Kidnappers abducted three local government councillors in Gummi, Zamfara.
- March 5: The Nigerian Air Force killed "some" (estimated at ten) Boko Haram militants in Gwoza, Borno.
- March 7: Boko Haram killed seven in Diffa, Niger.
- March 8: Bandits killed eight in Bungudu, Zamfara.
- March 8: The Nigerian Air Force killed "several" (estimated at ten) Boko Haram militants in Gwoza, Borno.
- March 9: Kidnappers abducted six and killed one in Shagari, Sokoto.
- March 9: Kidnappers abducted four students in Funtua, Katsina.
- March 10: Gunmen killed one and kidnapped four in Kaduna North, Kaduna.
- March 10: Sectarian violence led to nine deaths in Ohaukwu, Ebonyi.
- March 10: Customs officers killed nine in Ibadan, Oyo.
- March 11: Nigerian police killed six kidnappers in Faskari, Katsina.
- March 12: The Nigerian Air Force killed "scores" (estimated at forty) of Boko Haram militants in Gwoza, Borno.

- March 12: Nigerian and Chadian soldiers killed "some" (estimated at ten) Boko Haram commanders in Kukawa, Borno.
- March 13: Herdsmen killed seven in Guma, Benue.
- March 14: The Nigerian Air Force killed "some" (estimated at ten) Boko Haram militants in Kukawa, Borno.
- March 15: Six Nigerian soldiers and three Boko Haram militants were killed during a clash in Bama, Borno.
- March 17: The Nigerian Air Force killed seventeen bandits in Giwa, Kaduna.
- March 17: Bandits killed sixteen in Maru, Zamfara.
- March 18: The Nigerian Air Force killed "some" (estimated at ten) ISWAP leaders in Abadam, Borno.
- March 19: The Nigerian military killed twenty-four bandits in Jibia, Katsina.
- March 21: Kidnappers abducted fourteen in Anka, Zamfara.
- March 22: Suspected bandits killed twenty-nine security operatives in Shiroro, Niger State.
- March 22: Boko Haram killed ninety-two Chadian soldiers in Boma, Chad.
- March 23: Seventy Nigerian soldiers and one hundred fifty Boko Haram militants were killed during a clash in Askira-Uba, Borno.
- March 24: Kidnappers abducted twenty-three in Jos, Plateau.
- March 25: Nigerian troops killed "scores" (estimated at forty) of ISWA militants in Ngala, Borno.
- March 26: Sectarian violence led to fourteen deaths in Kajuru, Kaduna.
- March 27: Nigerian troops killed "several" (estimated at ten) of Boko Haram militants in Gwoza, Borno.

The incidents captured in this report are based on information gathered from assets on ground and may be independently verified. The report is not exhaustive as incidents with lower number of casualties have been left out.

The Insurgency in the Northeast, Kidnapping, Banditry, Community clashes remain the largest contributors to loss of lives, violence and security in the country with every region affected but the Northern regions being most severely affected.

## Recommendations

- Travel advisory must be sought as due diligence before taking a decision to travel to these aforementioned areas. Avoid travel to volatile areas.
- As an expatriate or blue collar staff, if travel to these areas is unavoidable, always seek for and ensure the services of armed security escort personnel.
- To avoid kidnappers, always maintain a low profile while in transit; no flashy jewelry, simple attire, simple phones etc.
- Increased support for the armed forces in terms of numbers and logistic capabilities to assist them in overcoming the insurgents
- Better border control to prevent free cross-border movements. The armies of neighboring countries Cameroon, Chad and Niger must intensify their efforts and collaboration with the Nigerian armed forces so that there are no safe havens for the insurgents

Sheriff Deputies Limited remains evermore dedicated to the task of adding value to the businesses of our broad array of clients, the economy and the country at large, through excellent service delivery and speedy response to all security challenges.

**We remain charged to deliver...**

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