

SHERIFF DEPUTIES

# MAY 2022

## SECURITY REPORT

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**The security situation in  
Nigeria remains precarious  
with many challenges across  
all the geopolitical zones of  
the nation.**

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# Some Notable security Incidences of the month

## Escalating Violence in Southeast.

The 5 states (Anambra, Abia, Imo, Enugu, Ebonyi) of SE continue to experience mounting insecurity. Sit at home order on Mondays continues causing businesses to struggle. Most of the violence is currently centered in Anambra and Imo.

An Anambra lawmaker was kidnapped and beheaded, a Nigerian northern pregnant woman - Hadira, with her 4 children were also murdered by armed men, several attacks on civil and government infrastructure, and brazen ultimatum (letters asking for ransom or arms at the risk of being attacked) on 9 LGAs in Anambra etc, necessitated curfew order within the state.

On the other hand Security agencies in May, ramped up their operations in the SE with many forest hideouts and camps coming under their attack and dozens of fighters neutralised with weapons, firearms and charms recovered.

The security situation remains tense at best in the southeast, maximum personal and general security measures at all times is advised.

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# Mob Violence and Lynching over Blasphemy in Sokoto

The information channels were aflush with images and alerts about an attack by an irate mob of muslim northern youth on one Miss Deborah Samuel, a 19yr old 200L student of Shehu Shagari School of Education, Sokoto on 12th of May over allegations of blasphemy. She was lynched to death by the mob.

Subsequent investigation and detention of suspects met with fierce resistance and violent protesters in Sokoto requesting that all detainees connected to the case be released.

It behoves the government and security agencies to ensure that the fundamental rights of freedom of expression by all citizens be defended and protected, investigations to determine her killers and presenting them to relevant authorities for prosecution is the only way to ensure justice for Deborah.

Religious debate remains a sensitive subject in Nigeria despite religious freedoms being enshrined in the constitution. We recommend curbs on religious leaders who form and encourage the religious faithfuls to carry out such acts of violence. Meanwhile it is only pertinent to avoid public debates on religious matters especially in the predominantly islamic northern regions.





# Mob Violence and Lynching of a Bike Passenger in Lekki, Lagos State.



Meanwhile in Lagos, there was uproar on social media over the information that one Mr David imoh a 28yr old sound engineer was killed on the 12th of May by an irate mob of bike riders and their associates, (alleged to mostly be from the northern states) when an argument over payment for the bike ride escalated.

There was no apparent logic to their actions (which is quite common in cases of mob justice) but the public response was unanimous “the menace of undocumented bike riders of northern extraction in Lagos state must stop”. Many took to social media to report similar personal incidents of violence threatened and carried out by these riders.

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The state government under pressure to act due to the social media backlash, mandated that commercial bike riders commonly know as okada be banned in 9 of the states 21 LGAs effective June 1st.

The order has been effectively implemented by the Lagos state Taskforce, however public perceptions are mixed.

What solutions are proposed to replace the key role these okadas have in gridlocked Lagos?

What happens in the other 18 LGA's?

Will this ban not be soon forgotten like previous bans before it?

How does this solve the issue of uncontrolled, undocumented internal migration by displaced persons of northern extraction?

It is important to note that the ban does not affect personal motorbikes and dispatch riders. The road to peace is paved with trampled pride and unresponded insults, it is our advice to thread with caution and avoid unnecessary altercations with these riders whenever possible..

## Series of “Gas” explosions in the Kano

On 17th of May 2022, the popular Sabon Gari suburb of Kano metropolis was rocked by an explosion of uncertain origin in the morning around 0800hrs.

The explosion occurred in a building that partially housed a primary school along with a couple of other businesses. At least one person was immediately confirmed dead and many others injured, the school was affected. Videos that emerged were of children covered in dust from the explosion and passersby moving around, confused and afraid.

Initial reports were of a gas explosion from a cooking cylinder in a kitchen on the ground floor of the building.

However further investigation by the Police in collaboration with the DSS confirmed a few days later that the explosion was likely from a PBIED (Person Borne Improvised Explosive Device).


The final casualty count is 9 fatalities and 27 people injured. Speculation is that sleeper cells of BH and ISWAP have been activated to carry out this attack and that more attacks may follow.

An IED making factory was raided with arrests made and bombs and bomb making materials confiscated.

However no group came forth to publicly acknowledge responsibility for the attack.




# Recommendations



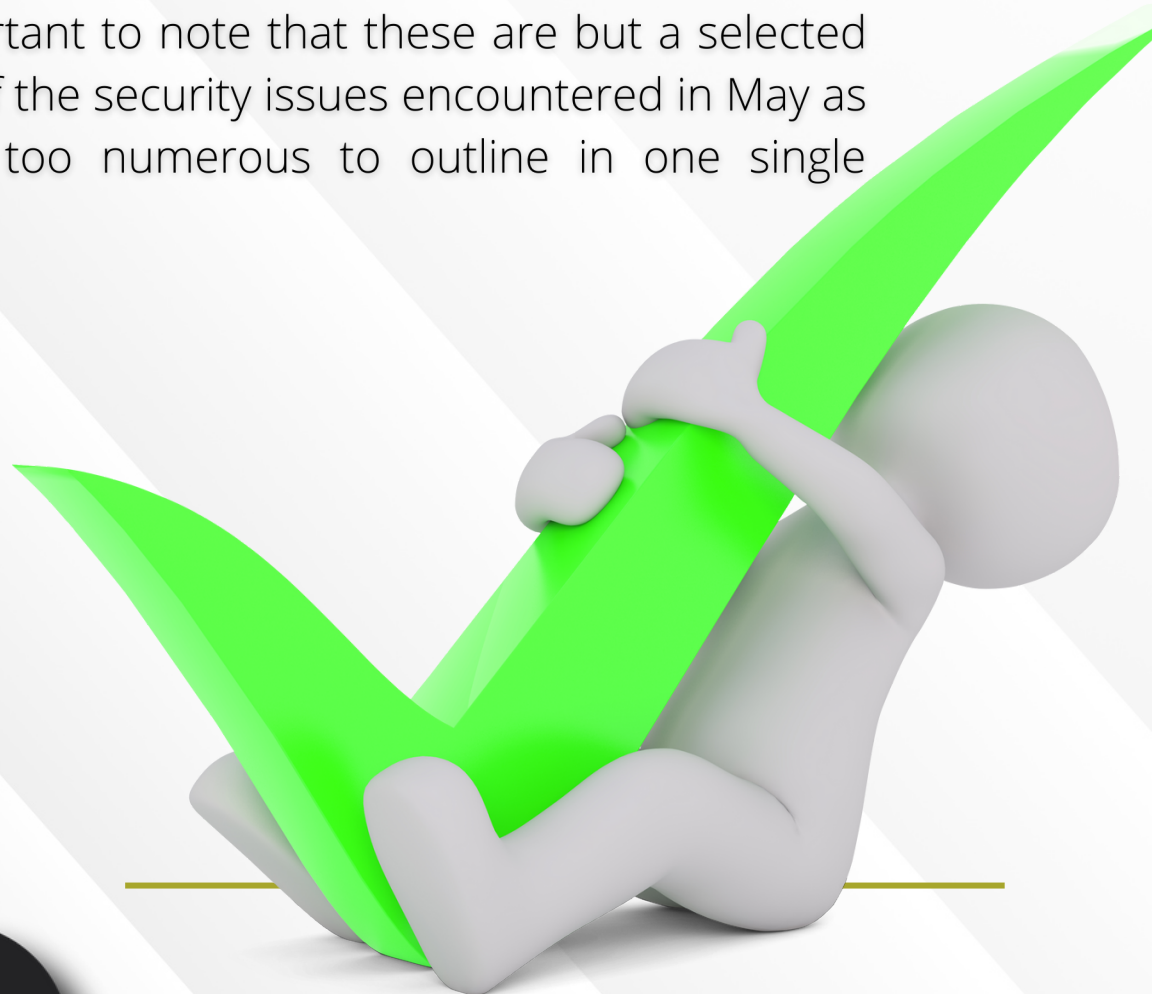
Security agencies step up their information gathering and investigations so that all such plans are thwarted before they can be implemented and any terror groups in the region disbanded before they can carry out their threats.



Situational awareness at all times is encouraged, any suspicious activity or persons should be immediately reported to the nearest security personnel.



It is important to note that these are but a selected handful of the security issues encountered in May as they are too numerous to outline in one single report.





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