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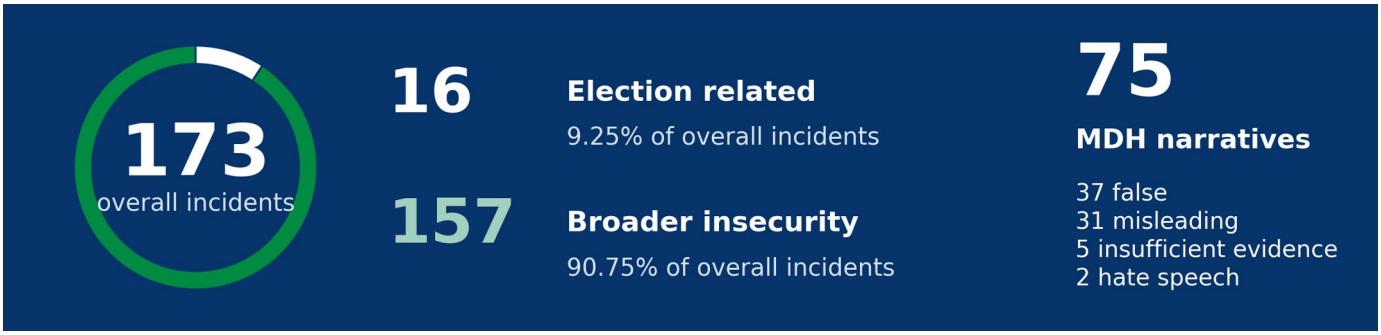
Nigeria Election Security Tracker

October 2026

Reporting period 1–31 October 2026

General Overview

Overall security incidents recorded, combining election-related incidents and broader insecurity, fell by 22.07%, from 222 in September to 173 in October. Reported deaths rose by 61.62%, from 396 to 640. October also recorded 75 misinformation, disinformation and hate speech (MDH) narratives.



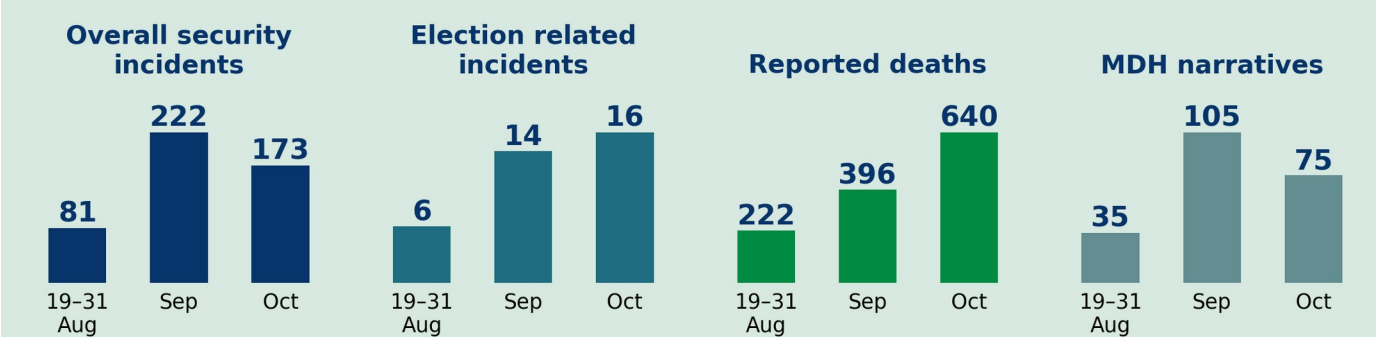
Broader insecurity accounted for the decline in incidents, falling from 208 to 157. It caused 638 of the 640 reported deaths, and the North East accounted for 409 deaths. Attacks on communities, farms and roads exposed residents to killing, abduction and displacement. These pressures can also disrupt election work and keep residents from taking part in electoral activities.

Election-related incidents increased from 14 to 16. Campaign gatherings, convoys and property were attacked, while supporters were prevented from gathering for a political march. Two people died in NDC campaign attacks in Enugu and Ebonyi.

MDH narratives fell by 28.57%, from 105 to 75. Of October's 75 narratives, 37 were false, 31 were misleading and two involved religious threats and hostility. Evidence was insufficient to confirm or disprove the remaining five claims. False campaign claims and misleading security information continued to circulate. Voters also encountered fabricated electoral notices alongside genuine problems in the preliminary voter list, making reliable information an important part of election security.

Presidential and National Assembly campaigns began on 19 August, followed by governorship and state assembly campaigns on 9 September. The first period covers the 13 days from 19 to 31 August. September and October each cover a full month.

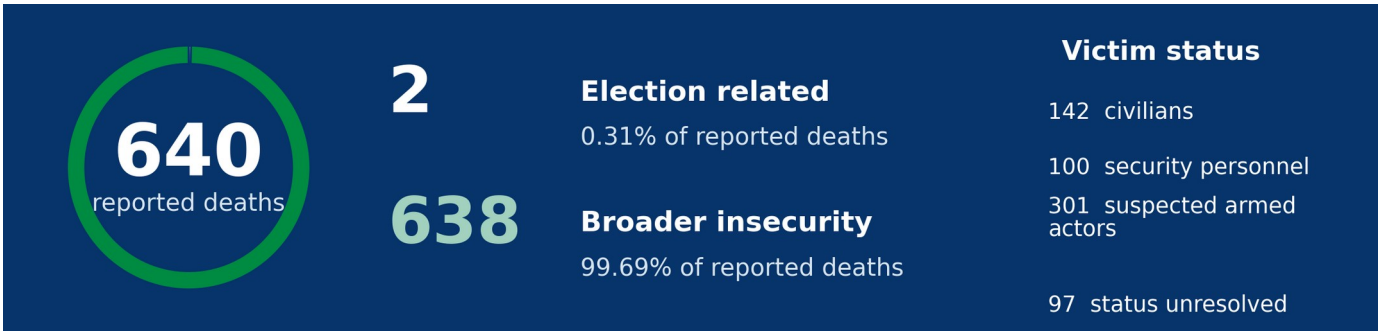
National Trends Since Campaigns Began



Period	All incidents	Election related	Broader insecurity	Reported deaths	MDH narratives
19–31 August	81	6	75	222	35
September	222	14	208	396	105
October	173	16	157	640	75

Overall recorded security incidents fell from 222 in September to 173 in October, a 22.07% decline. Broader insecurity fell from 208 to 157 incidents, a 24.52% decline. Election-related incidents increased from 14 to 16, a 14.29% rise.

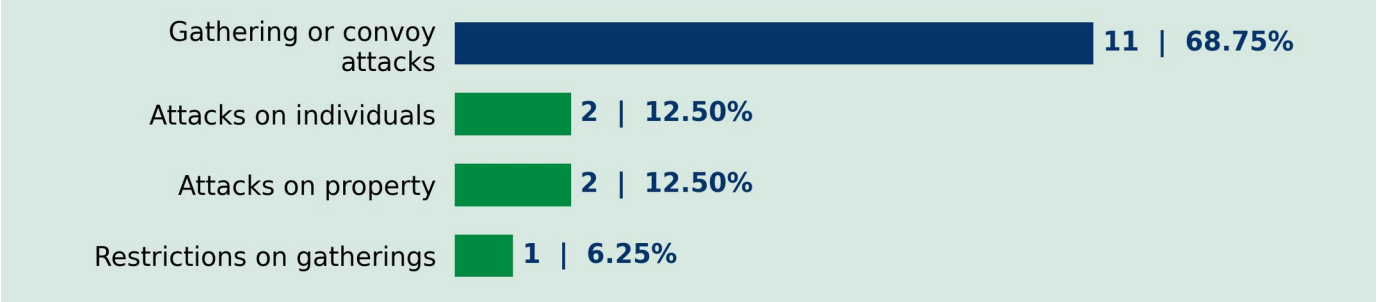
October fatalities



Reported deaths rose by 61.62%, from 396 in September to 640 in October. The average number of reported deaths per incident rose from 1.78 to 3.70. Broader insecurity caused 638 of October's 640 reported deaths. The Binnari attack alone killed 62 people and displaced thousands. The two election-related deaths occurred in campaign attacks in Enugu and Ebonyi.

Election Related Incidents

Campaign gatherings and convoys were attacked in 11 of October's 16 election-related incidents. Two incidents involved assaults on individuals, two targeted property and one restricted a political gathering.



Parties affected

Target	Cases	Share of 16
APC	4	25.00%
ADC	4	25.00%
NDC	3	18.75%
PDP	2	12.50%
AAC	1	6.25%
APGA	1	6.25%
Accord	1	6.25%

Two of the campaign attacks were fatal. Ifeanyi Nwolie died from a gunshot wound sustained during the NDC campaign launch in Enugu on 10 October. In Ebonyi, gunmen attacked Rollins Offia-Nwali's convoy on 22 October, killing one person, injuring three and burning his vehicle. The candidate escaped.

Supporters also faced attacks while travelling to meetings. At Malumfashi, vehicles carrying APC supporters were damaged and a female motorist was injured. Gunmen disrupted PDP consultations at two locations in Calabar. ADC convoys were attacked in Igueben and Kogi.

At Obosi, thugs stormed an ADC candidate's meeting and damaged his campaign vehicle. In Sokoto, officers evacuated Mannir Daniya after an attack left two officers injured. A pro-Tinubu rally was reportedly disrupted in Jimeta. An APGA candidate's vehicle was attacked in Taraba, while Accord supporters were injured and vehicles damaged during a procession in Ibadan. The two incidents directed at campaign property damaged Isa Pantami's office in Gombe and burned a supporter's parked vehicle and campaign posters in Yankara.

Individuals were also attacked. Omoyele Sowore was injured in Ado-Ekiti, although the cause and alleged sponsors remained disputed. In Kaduna, a female APC supporter was reportedly beaten after criticising the reception given to the president and governor.

Security officers prevented supporters from gathering for the Obi–Kwankwaso march in Abuja. This was the month's one recorded restriction on an electoral gathering. It limited political participation alongside the risks posed by attacks on people, meetings, convoys and property.

Broader Insecurity

Broader insecurity accounted for 157 incidents and 638 reported deaths. Armed groups attacked settlements, farms and transport routes. Communal fighting, cult and gang violence and violence by security personnel added to the toll. At Binnari in Taraba, an attack killed 62 people and displaced more than 5,000 residents. Homes and shops were burned, leaving families without shelter or their usual sources of income.



Attacks on people made up the largest part of broader insecurity, with 75 incidents. Armed clashes followed with 24, while kidnapping and abduction accounted for 19. The remaining incidents involved explosions and airstrikes, cult and gang violence, communal violence, protests and restrictions on public gatherings and attacks on property.

Attacks on people caused 269 reported deaths. In Plateau, the violence reached farming and mining communities. Police confirmed six deaths in Gero, while four people were killed in Sabon Angwa despite a curfew.

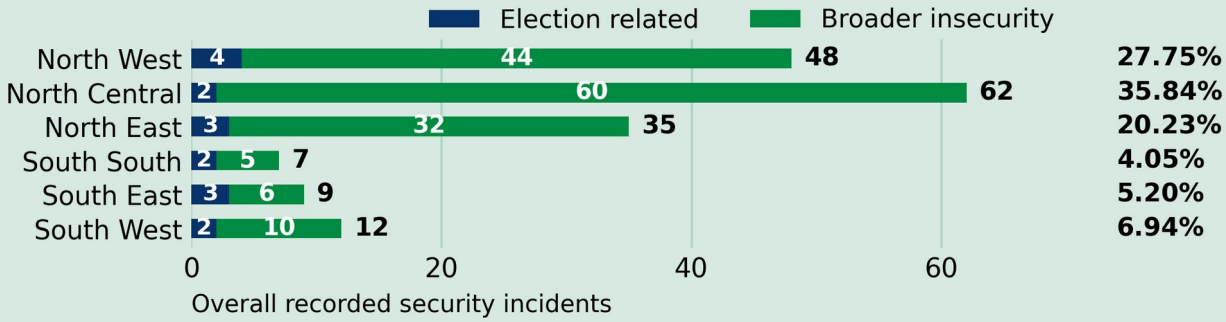
Armed clashes caused 144 reported deaths, and explosions and airstrikes caused 135. The military also reported 48 fighters and one soldier killed in operations at Bitta and Buni Yadi. Abduction caused further harm without always producing an immediate death toll. In Katsina, farmers were reportedly seized while harvesting, taking people away from their families and interrupting work on their farms. No dated October case of conflict-related sexual violence was established.

Protests and restrictions on public gatherings also formed part of broader insecurity. In Kano, members of an anti-government movement said police blocked their meeting venue. The police commissioner acknowledged asking them to postpone the meeting and cited security concerns, while denying political motivation.

Abduction and repeated attacks also threaten election preparation. Election officials and party agents may avoid unsafe communities, while people who have fled their homes may be unable to check the voter register or reach their polling centres. Residents who remain face similar barriers when the roads linking their communities are unsafe. These risks can reduce participation even where an attack has no stated electoral motive.

Insecurity Across the Six Zones

The North West and North Central recorded 110 incidents, or 63.58% of overall recorded incidents. Broader insecurity accounted for 104 of those incidents. The North East recorded 35 incidents but suffered the highest death toll, with 409 deaths from community attacks, insurgent violence and military operations.



North West. Broader insecurity accounted for 44 of the zone's 48 incidents. At Kaura Namoda, an attack killed seven local security members and residents were reportedly taken into captivity. In Katsina and Kaduna, abductions also reached farms and homes.

North Central. Broader insecurity accounted for 60 of the zone's 62 incidents. Attacks on communities in Plateau and Benue killed residents and disrupted farming. Violence continued in parts of Plateau even while a curfew restricted movement.

North East. Broader insecurity accounted for 32 of the zone's 35 incidents. The Binnari attack killed 62 people and displaced thousands. Insurgent attacks and military operations caused further deaths. The zone recorded 409 of the country's 640 reported deaths.

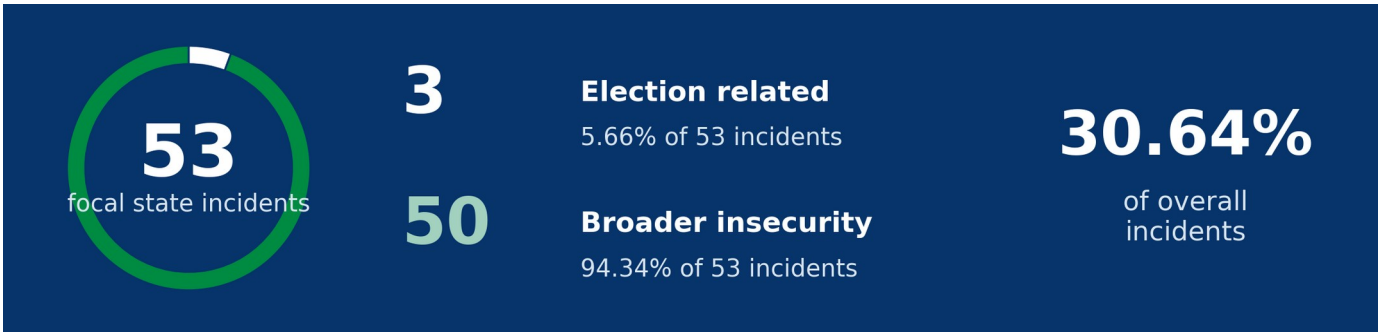
South South. Five of the zone's seven incidents involved broader insecurity. In Rivers, seven bodies were recovered after a confrontation at Kula over an oil spill. The incident linked a local dispute over environmental damage to deaths in the community.

South East. Six of the zone's nine incidents involved broader insecurity. They included an attack on an Aba police station and a fatal police shooting in Enugu. Police facilities and civilians were among the targets of the month's violence.

South West. Broader insecurity accounted for 10 of the zone's 12 incidents. They included gang reprisals and attacks on farms and police facilities. Cult and gang violence and rural attacks added to the pressures on public safety.

Insecurity in the Four Focal States

Katsina, Kaduna, Plateau and Benue recorded 53 incidents, or 30.64% of overall recorded incidents. Broader insecurity accounted for 50 incidents. Three were election related: two in Katsina and one in Kaduna. Plateau recorded 24 incidents, followed by Katsina with 12, Benue with 10 and Kaduna with seven.



State	Election related	Broader insecurity	Total	National share
Katsina	2	10	12	6.94%
Kaduna	1	6	7	4.05%
Plateau	0	24	24	13.87%
Benue	0	10	10	5.78%
All four states	3	50	53	30.64%

Katsina. Broader insecurity accounted for 10 of the state's 12 incidents. Farmers were reportedly abducted while harvesting. The attacks exposed people to violence during work on which their households depended.

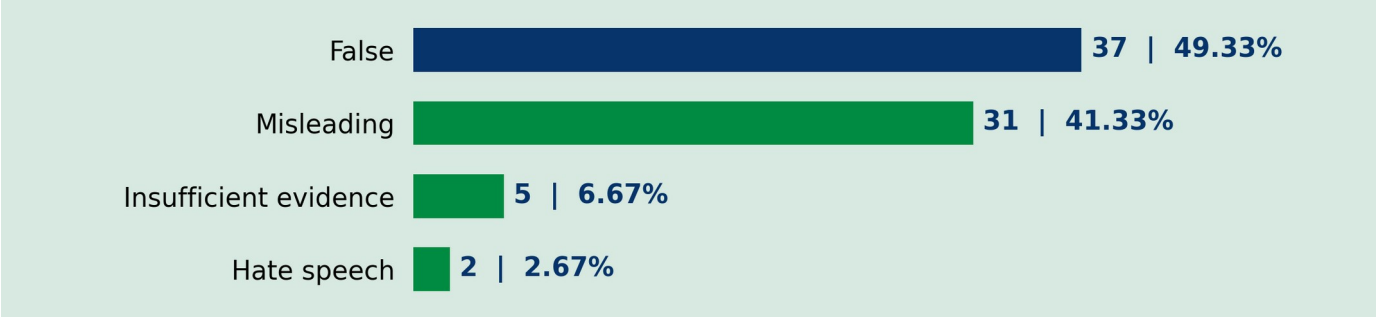
Kaduna. Six of the state's seven incidents involved broader insecurity. Members of the Zakka family were abducted at Alrahus Estate, while two farmers were seized in Assako I. The incidents affected both homes and farmland.

Plateau. All 24 incidents involved broader insecurity. Six people were killed in Gero, while four died in Sabon Angwa during a curfew. Repeated attacks affected settlements, farmers and miners.

Benue. All 10 incidents involved broader insecurity. Attacks in Logo and Ukum killed residents and local security personnel. Father John Otache was abducted on 13 October while returning from Otukpo. Police later reported recovering eight people seized on the same road.

Misinformation and Hate Speech

October recorded 75 MDH narratives, down 28.57% from 105 in September. Of these, 37 were false and 31 were misleading. Misleading material used genuine or partly true information in a way that changed its meaning. Five claims were marked “Insufficient evidence” because the available evidence could neither confirm nor disprove their central allegations. Two further narratives involved religious threats and hostility. False quotations and altered images targeted candidates, while recycled videos exaggerated political support. Other claims gave voters false registration information or accused INEC of taking sides. The record for 19–31 August contained 35 narratives.



AI-generated images falsely showed Atiku Abubakar and Aminu Tambuwal receiving Bello Turji into the ADC. Another set of fabricated billboard pictures appeared after an APC rally in Kaduna and falsely suggested that supporters had damaged campaign materials. A separate ransom video showed an abducted Muslim family pleading for release, but circulating captions presented it as Christians being forced to convert.

People and institutions named in claims

Target explicitly implicated	Claims	Share of 75
Bola Tinubu	14	18.67%
Peter Obi	12	16.00%
APC	10	13.33%
Federal Government	7	9.33%
Atiku Abubakar	7	9.33%
INEC	4	5.33%

MDH pattern	Narratives	Share of 75
Economic policy	16	21.33%
Campaign support	15	20.00%
Security information	13	17.33%
Institutional neutrality	8	10.67%
Personal attacks	8	10.67%
Candidacy	7	9.33%
Identity framing	5	6.67%
Religious threats and hostility	2	2.67%
Electoral procedures	1	1.33%

Economic policy, campaign support and security information accounted for 44 of the 75 narratives. These claims could shape how people judged government performance, candidates' popularity and the safety of their communities.

Religious threats and hostility accounted for two narratives. On 26 October, a video circulated showing uniformed men chanting about shooting Christian worshippers in Enugu and Jos. The recording was genuine. A reaction then described Muslims collectively as terrorists. The threat and the collective blame that followed could deepen fear between religious communities and expose people to retaliation.

False voter information appeared alongside genuine administrative problems. A fake registration website and a fabricated candidate notice used INEC's identity to present misleading electoral information. INEC also acknowledged problems in the preliminary voter list. Voters therefore encountered false notices while questions remained about the accuracy of an official election record.

A false registration website can send a voter to an unauthorised service, while a fabricated candidate notice can create confusion about who is contesting. Claims that question an institution's neutrality can make its genuine announcements harder to trust. These information risks can affect participation alongside the physical barriers created by insecurity.

Responses to Insecurity and MDH

Actions taken

INEC's security plan, announced on 28 October, extended election-security coordination to local government areas and registration centres. The police also began a training programme targeting 10,000 officers, with the first phase covering 18 states and the FCT. It focuses on political neutrality and crowd management.

Police arrested 14 suspects after the Malumfashi convoy attack and 11 people following the attack on Sowore. Security agencies also carried out operations against armed groups at Bitta and Buni Yadi. Curfews were in force in parts of Plateau.

INEC publicly rejected the fake registration website and fabricated candidate notice. It also acknowledged problems in the preliminary voter list. Published fact-checks addressed manipulated campaign images, false security claims and religious threats.

Priorities for action

1 Protect political activities and travel

Police and state election security committees should protect campaign venues and the roads supporters use to reach and leave them. Protection should be available to every party, with prompt action on threats and respect for peaceful political gatherings.

2 Complete investigations and protect witnesses

State police commands should publish progress on investigations into campaign and community attacks, protect witnesses and injured people, and prosecute suspects where the evidence supports a charge.

3 Protect communities and support displaced voters

State governments and security agencies should protect communities and roads affected by repeated attacks and support displaced families. INEC state offices should agree arrangements that help displaced voters and residents of unsafe areas reach voter services and polling centres.

4 Investigate religious threats and prevent reprisals

Security agencies should investigate direct threats against worshippers and the people making them. Political and religious leaders should reject collective blame and discourage retaliation against communities.

5 Make electoral information easy to verify

INEC should publish dated registration and candidate notices, explain corrections to the voter list and respond promptly to fabricated material. Fact-checkers and media organisations should circulate verified information through the platforms carrying false claims.

Conclusion

Overall recorded security incidents fell from 222 in September to 173 in October as broader insecurity declined. Reported deaths rose from 396 to 640, with 638 linked to broader insecurity. The North East recorded the highest death toll.

Election-related incidents rose from 14 to 16 and caused two deaths. MDH narratives fell from 105 to 75, although false campaign claims, misleading security information and religious hostility continued to circulate. Displacement and unsafe roads can prevent voters from checking the register or reaching polling centres. False electoral notices can also leave voters without reliable information.

Methodology

CDD deployed four election security threat reporters in each of Benue, Plateau, Kaduna and Katsina. It also established community dialogue committees in these states, each comprising 15 senior community stakeholders. The committees report incidents and address issues raised by the Election Security Tracker in their communities. They resolve matters within their capacity and refer those requiring further action to the appropriate institutions.

CDD engaged two fact-checkers in each state to verify initial claims before reports enter its database. The CDD Fact Check Team, known as the Election War Room, provides further verification and oversight. Regional data managers cover the other states through media scanning, gathering verified reports of violence.

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