

**COMBATING TERRORISM, INSURGENCY, KIDNAPPING AND VIOLENT
ATTACKS IN NIGERIA:
AN INTELLIGENCE-LED, INTERAGENCY, AND COMMUNITY-CENTRED
FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCE**

Barrister Adebayo Akinade, dfisn

Deputy President & Chief Executive,

Institute of Security Nigeria

Email: bayoakinade77@gmail.com / bayoakinade@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract

Nigeria's security crisis in 2026 spans terrorism in the Northeast, banditry in the Northwest, and escalating kidnapping and violent attacks in the North-Central and Southwest. Recent incidents in Kebbi, Oyo, Ogun, Kwara, and Kogi states confirm the geographic spread and adaptive tactics of criminal and insurgent networks.

This paper analyzes the Tangaram Village attack in Kebbi and cross-references it with recent abductions and violent incidents in Oyo, Ogun, Kwara, and Kogi. It draws on the author's body of work from [2007-2025](#), including *Communal Conflict and Violence: Response, Resolution and Prevention 2009*, *Contemporary Security Issues on Governance and Statecraft 2018*, *Security Operations, Crime Prevention and Good Governance: Patterns and Trends 2007*, *National Security, Social Coercion and Sustainable Development 2008*, *Security Culture, Diplomacy and Communication Skills in International Relations 2008*, *Managing Strategic Security in Statecraft, Public Affairs and Foreign Relations 2019*, and others.

The paper proposes a National Resilience Security Framework integrating intelligence fusion, secure communication, technology deployment, legal reform, and structured community participation to combat terrorism, insurgency, kidnapping, and violent attacks across Nigeria.

Keywords: Terrorism, Insurgency, Kidnapping, Communal Conflict, Intelligence Fusion, Community Policing, National Security

Word Count: 10,500

1. Introduction

Nigeria's security environment is characterized by layered, networked threats that exploit governance gaps, economic distress, and porous borders. While the Northeast remains the focus of counter-insurgency operations, the Northwest and North-Central face banditry and mass abduction. The Southwest has recorded a rise in kidnapping, highway attacks, and cross-border criminality.

This paper treats the 26th May 2026 Tangaram Village attack in Kebbi as a case study and situates it within a national pattern of violence affecting Oyo, Ogun, Kwara, and Kogi. Drawing on principles of conflict resolution, strategic security management, and intelligence-led governance from the author's published works, it argues for a unified National Resilience Security Framework.

2. Recent Incidents and National Pattern

2.1 Kebbi State – Tangaram Village, Danko/Wasagu LGA

On 26th May 2026, armed bandits attacked Tangaram Village at 1:00am, abducting 13 adult males. The attackers used forest corridors linking Kebbi, Zamfara, and Niger states for entry and escape. Kebbi Police confirmed joint rescue operations are ongoing.

2.2 Ogun State – Cross-Border Kidnapping and Anxiety

In May 2026, anxiety spread in Ogun over fears of cross-border attacks. Police operations along the Ijebu-Ode/Ibadan axis led to the neutralization of two suspects and arrest of a kingpin after a kidnapping incident.

2.3 Oyo State – School and Community Attacks

Oyo has recorded attacks on schools and communities. The NBA urged regulation of influx of people and Okada riders to reduce vulnerability.

2.4 Kwara State – Night Vigil Suspensions and Abductions

Kwara's Ekiti LGA ordered suspension of night vigils following attacks, indicating heightened risk to religious gatherings and rural communities.

2.5 Kogi State – Abduction of Medical Worker and Wife

Gunmen abducted a medical worker and his wife, with bandits demanding ransom to be delivered in person by a traditional ruler.

Pattern: These incidents reflect a shift from localized rural banditry to a national network of kidnapping-for-ransom and violent attacks targeting highways, schools, religious gatherings, and professionals. Forest corridors and motorcycles remain key enablers.

3. Problem Statement

Nigeria's response remains fragmented and reactive due to:

1. **Intelligence Silos:** Poor fusion between NPF, DSS, NSCDC, Army, and state-level actors.
2. **Communication Gaps:** Weak secure communication and poor documentation undermine coordination and prosecution.
3. **Conflict Mismanagement:** Inadequate mechanisms for early warning, mediation, and resolution of communal tensions.
4. **Technology Deficit:** Limited deployment of drones, sensors, and data analytics in rural and semi-urban areas.
5. **Legal Ambiguity:** Unclear status and oversight of vigilante and community security groups.

4. Theoretical and Operational Framework

4.1 Conflict Resolution and Prevention

Communal Conflict and Violence: Response, Resolution and Prevention_ 2009 outlines early warning, dialogue, and mediation as tools to prevent escalation. This is critical in Kwara, Kogi, and Oyo where communal and farmer-herder tensions overlap with criminality.

4.2 Strategic Security and Statecraft

Contemporary Security Issues on Governance and Statecraft 2018 and Managing Strategic Security in Statecraft, Public Affairs and Foreign Relations 2019 argue that security is a function of governance quality, strategic communication, and foreign relations. Weak governance creates space for non-state actors.

4.3 Intelligence-Led Policing and Crime Prevention

Security Operations, Crime Prevention and Good Governance: Patterns and Trends 2007 and Security and Criminal Intelligence For Law Enforcement 2021 establish that predictive, data-driven policing reduces crime and terrorism risk.

4.4 National Security and Sustainable Development

National Security, Social Coercion and Sustainable Development: Panacea to Conflict, Violence and Xenophobia 2008 links human security, economic inclusion, and conflict prevention.

4.5 Security Communication and Documentation

Communications in Security and Law Enforcement Operations 2025 and Communication Skills in Security Documentation in Law Enforcement 2025 emphasize secure, standardized communication and documentation as force multipliers.

4.6 Security Culture and Diplomacy

Security Culture, Diplomacy and Communication Skills in International Relations 2008 stresses the role of cross-border cooperation and diplomatic engagement in countering transnational crime.

5. Comparative Analysis of State Responses

State/Region	Threat	Response	Gaps
--------------	--------	----------	------

Northwest: Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina	Banditry, mass abduction	Military ops, police tactical teams,	No standing fusion centre, poor HUMINT
---	--------------------------	--------------------------------------	--

North-Central: Kogi, Kwara, Niger	Kidnapping, terrorism hybrid, communal clashes	Joint patrols, vigilante groups	Fragmented command, weak intel sharing
--	--	---------------------------------	--

Southwest: Oyo, Ogun	Highway kidnapping, cross-border attacks,	Police anti-kidnap units, community policing,	Limited tech, poor border coordination
-------------------------------	---	---	--

Northeast: Borno, Yobe Boko Haram/ISWAP insurgency, Theatre Command fusion centre, Model for fusion but limited to NE

6. Strategies for Combating Terrorism, Insurgency, Kidnapping and Violent Attacks

6.1 National Intelligence Fusion Centre

Establish a National Resilience Intelligence Fusion Centre under ONSA with nodes in Birnin Kebbi, Minna, Ilorin, Ibadan, and Lokoja. Integrate NPF, NSCDC, DSS, Army, NFIU, and vetted community representatives. Mandate: 6-hour intelligence cycle for high-risk LGAs.

6.2 Conflict Early Warning and Resolution Mechanisms

Adapt the framework in *_Communal Conflict and Violence_ 2009* to create LGA-level peace committees with traditional rulers, religious leaders, and youth representatives for early mediation.

6.3 Secure Communication and Documentation System

Deploy encrypted communication platforms across agencies. Adopt standardized incident and intelligence reporting templates from *_Communication Skills in Security Documentation in Law Enforcement_ 2025*.

6.4 Technology Deployment

- Drones and aerostats for forest and highway surveillance
- ANPR and GPS tracking on inter-state routes
- Mobile forensic labs for rapid evidence processing
- AI-assisted predictive analytics for hotspot mapping

6.5 Undercover and Financial Disruption

Authorize undercover operations against kidnapping and terrorism networks with judicial oversight. Use NFIU data to freeze ransom payments and prosecute facilitators under the Money Laundering Act and Proceeds of Crime Act 2022.

6.6 Community Security Architecture

Vet, train, and legalize community watch groups under the Police Act 2020. Integrate traditional rulers as early warning nodes. Launch public awareness campaigns on reporting protocols and ransom refusal.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Federal Government: Policy, funding, joint command authority, legal reform, cross-border diplomacy.

Security Agencies: Intelligence-led deployment, interagency drills, human rights compliance.

State Governments: Logistics, livelihood programs, support for vetted vigilantes.

Traditional Rulers: Early warning, community mobilization, legitimacy.

Public: Reporting, cooperation, avoidance of ransom payment.

8. Legal and Policy Reform

1. **National Resilience Security Act:** Harmonize operations across states and define roles.

2. **Cross-State Operations Act:** Remove bureaucratic barriers to joint pursuit.
3. **Witness Protection Act:** Protect informants and victims.
4. **Community Policing Regulations:** Operationalize Police Act 2020 with clear SOPs.
5. **Conflict Management Act:** Institutionalize LGA-level peace and mediation committees.

9. Recommendations

Immediate 0-72 hours: Joint rescue operations, deploy mobile units to hotspots, activate hotlines.

Short-term 1-4 weeks: Establish state-level fusion cells, deploy drones, launch public campaigns.

Medium-term 1-6 months: Legalize vigilante integration, implement financial disruption, train officers on documentation and conflict mediation.

Long-term: AI-assisted predictive policing, blockchain for ransom tracking, biometric registration of community security actors.

10. Conclusion

The spread of kidnapping and violent attacks from Kebbi to Kogi, Oyo, and Ogun shows that Nigeria cannot afford a state-by-state response. A National Resilience Security Framework that integrates intelligence fusion, secure communication, conflict prevention, technology, legal reform, and community participation is required to shift from reactive crisis management to preventive resilience.

References

Akinade, A. (2007). Security Operations, Crime Prevention and Good Governance: Patterns and Trends. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

Akinade, A. (2008a). National Security, Social Coercion and Sustainable Development: Panacea to Conflict, Violence and Xenophobia. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

Akinade, A. (2008b). Security Culture, Diplomacy and Communication Skills in International Relations. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

Akinade, A. (2009). Communal Conflict and Violence: Response, Resolution and Prevention. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

Akinade, A. (2014). Security and Safety In Places of Worship. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

Akinade, A. (2015). Intelligence System: Principles and Practice. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

Akinade, A. (2017a). Public Policing and Private Protection For Maximum Security. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.

- Akinade, A. (2017b). *Managing Strategic Security and Crime Prevention Models*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2018a). *Contemporary Security Issues on Governance and Statecraft*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2018b). *Community Policing: Strategic Approaches In Crime Prevention*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2018c). *Fundamentals of Infrastructure Protection*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2019). *Managing Strategic Security in Statecraft, Public Affairs and Foreign Relations*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2019). *Agrosecurity, Bioterrorism and Environmental Protection*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2021). *Security and Criminal Intelligence For Law Enforcement*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2025a). *Communications in Security and Law Enforcement Operations*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Akinade, A. (2025b). *Communication Skills in Security Documentation in Law Enforcement*. Lagos: ISN Publications Series.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (1999). *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*. Abuja: Government Press.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2020). *Nigeria Police Act*. Abuja: Government Press.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2011). *Terrorism Prevention Act*. Abuja: Government Press.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2022). *Proceeds of Crime Act*. Abuja: Government Press.
- Kebbi State Police Command. (2026). *Press Statement on Tangaram Village Abduction*. Birnin Kebbi: NPF.
- Punch Newspaper. (2026, May 27). *Gunmen abduct 13 residents in Kebbi border community*.
- Punch Newspaper. (2026). *Insecurity: Anxiety spreads in Ogun amid fears of cross-border attacks*.
- Ratcliffe, J. (2008). *Intelligence-Led Policing*. Cullompton: Willan Publishing.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2022). Kidnapping for Ransom in West Africa. Vienna: UNODC.

Further Readings

Alemika, E. E. O., & Chukwuma, I. C. (2005). Criminal Victimization and Fear of Crime in Lagos Metropolis. Lagos: CLEEN Foundation.

INTERPOL. (2023). Combating Organized Crime in the Sahel. Lyon: INTERPOL.

Nigerian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies. (2021). Public Order Law and Practice in Nigeria. Lagos: NIALS Press.

About the Author

Barrister Adebayo Akinade, dfisn, is the Deputy President and Chief Executive of the Institute of Security Nigeria. His research and practice span conflict resolution, intelligence systems, community policing, agrosecurity, security communication, and counter-terrorism strategy in Nigeria.