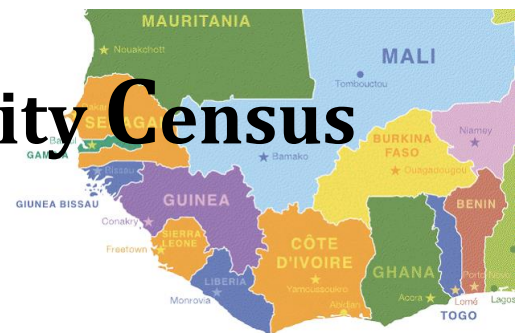


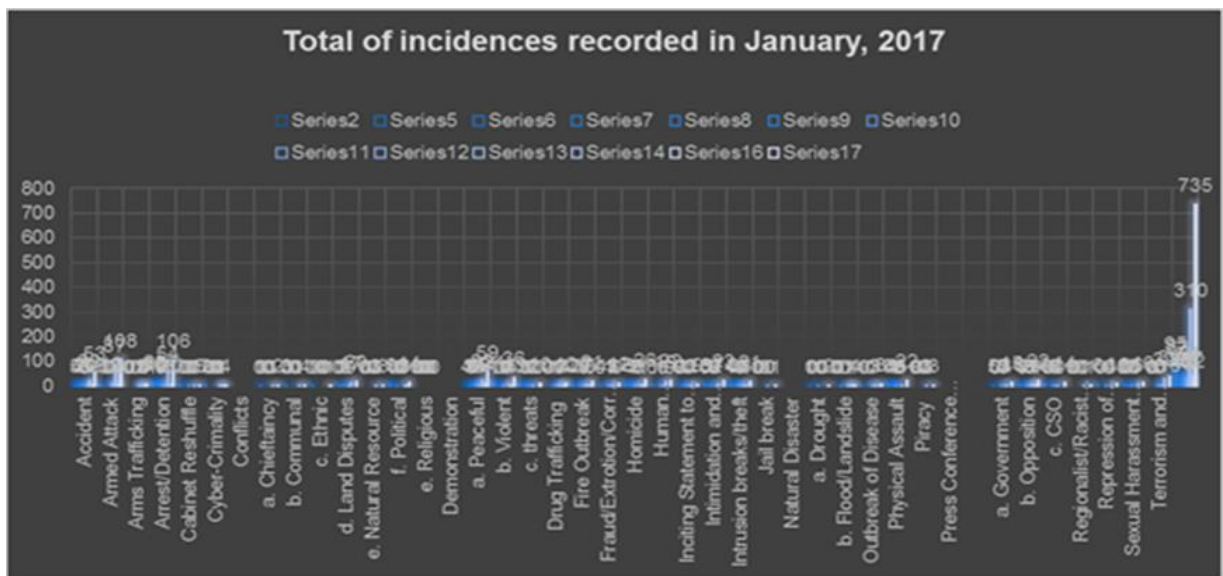


Peace and Security Census

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The Peace and Security Census is the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding(WANEP)'s highlights of the major human security threats recorded in West Africa in a particular month via a graphical lens based on data from its National Early Warning Systems (NEWS). The incidences captured in this report are those considered by WANEP as major threats with implications for human security in the region and as such, does not capture a comprehensive computation of all incidences that occurred in each country. The principle of proportionality is applied in this brief; hence the threats in each country have relative impact on the population size.

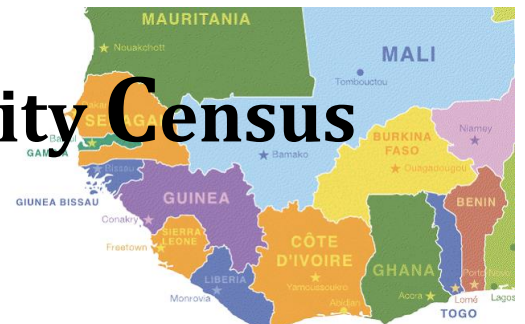


In the month under review, a total of **735** incidences were recorded in West Africa after the monitoring of **36** indicators relating to human security threats across the region. The incidences were captured by the WANEP-National Early Warning System (NEWS) established in the **15** member States of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS). This January census highlights six (**6**) main incidences as



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follows: Armed Attacks, Arrest/detention, Accidents, Peaceful demonstrations, Violent extremism and Violent demonstrations.

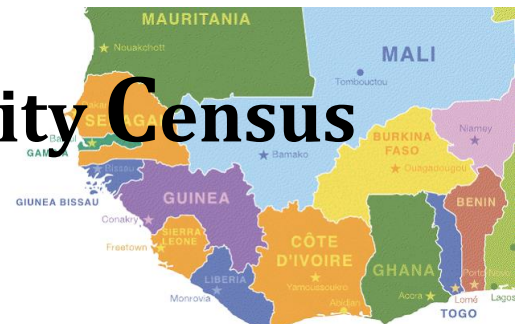


- ❖ **Armed Attack:** A total number of **108** armed attacks were documented across the region. Most of these armed attacks resulted in fatalities and injuries. Factors contributing to these incidences include the proliferation of small arms and light weapons(SALW), growing trend of criminality and insecurity in some of the countries in the region and attacks emanating from herders and farmers conflict. Highway robberies on commercial and private vehicles has also become a source of concern in the region. Out of the total number of documented armed attacks, Nigeria recorded **87** incidences. Mali had **10** incidences while Cote d'Ivoire recorded **5 incidences**.
- ❖ **Arrest/Detention:** Law enforcement agencies (police, gendarmes etc.) have proven commitment to ensure that citizens and their properties are well protected from criminal networks across the region. During the period under review, about **106** major arrests/detentions were registered across the region. In this vein, Ghana recorded the highest number of arrests and detention with **20** incidences. The number of arrests in Ghana may be connected to the post-



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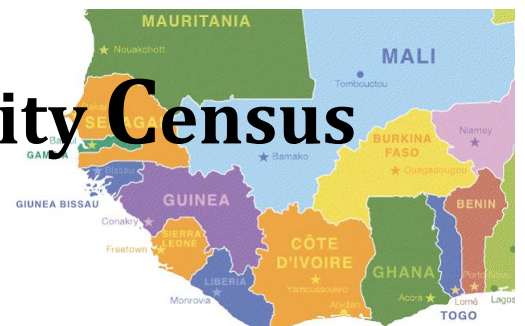
election violence and crimes committed across the regions. Nigeria and The Gambia recorded **15** and **10** incidences respectively.

- ❖ **Peaceful Demonstration:** The growing democratic credence that West Africa is labelled with, is being manifested by its citizens' commitment to peaceful elections, rule of law and peaceful demonstrations. However, it is also important to state that although the resort to peaceful demonstrations instead of violence is a positive sign, there is always the possibility of escalation if the concerns underlying these peaceful protests are not addressed. In the month of January, a total of **59** peaceful demonstrations were recorded across West Africa. Nigeria recorded **22** incidences while Guinea, Senegal and Togo had **6** incidences each.
- ❖ **Accident: Transport accidents** have become one of the causes of fatalities across the West African region. Last month, a total of **53** accidents (road and ferry) were recorded. The defective nature of some of the commercial vehicles transporting passengers, deplorable state of roads and over-speeding by drivers have been identified as causes of these accidents. Nigeria topped the list with **22** cases of accidents followed by Guinea with **7** cases. Cote d'Ivoire and Niger also recorded **5** cases each.
- ❖ **Violent Extremism:** A total of **39** cases of violent extremist acts were recorded across the region. Attacks perpetrated by extremist groups including AQMI, Boko Haram, Al-Mourabitoun and MUJAO continue to destabilize the region and undermine social developments of affected countries. From the **39** cases recorded in the region, Nigeria experienced **32** incidences while Mali and Niger recorded **3** cases each.
- ❖ **Violent Demonstration:** A total of **21** violent demonstrations were documented across West Africa. Demands for improved living and working conditions, political reforms among others were at the forefront of these demonstrations. In the month under review, Cote d'Ivoire recorded the

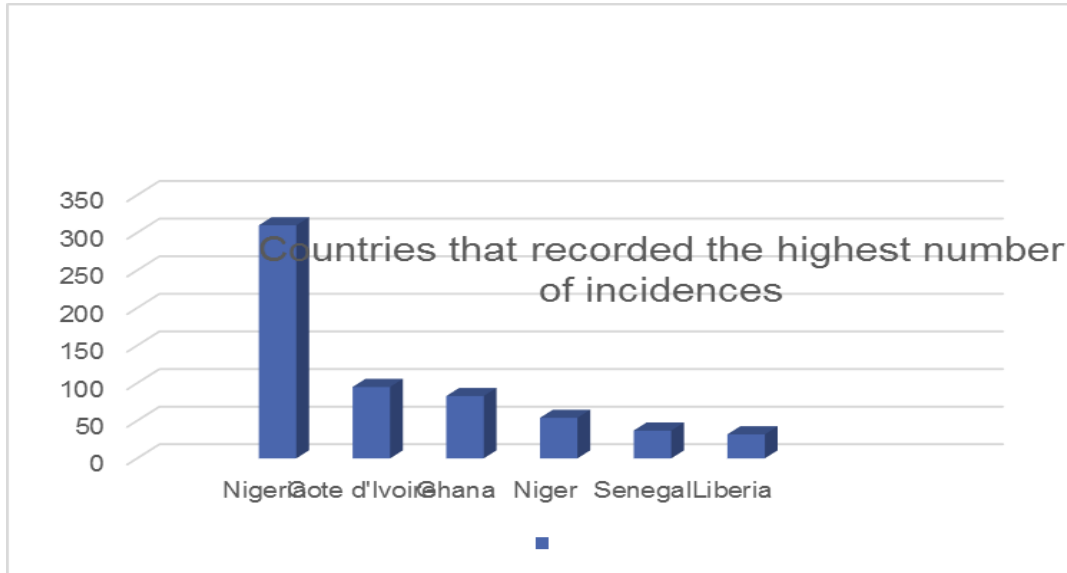


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highest number of violent demonstrations with **21** cases. Togo and Senegal also recorded some violent demonstrations scoring **5** and **4** respectively.



The graph above exemplifies countries with the highest number of incidences in the month of January. Nigeria recorded **310** incidences followed by Cote d'Ivoire with **95**. Ghana occupied the third position with **83** incidences, Niger **54**, Senegal and Liberia recorded **37** and **32** incidences respectively.

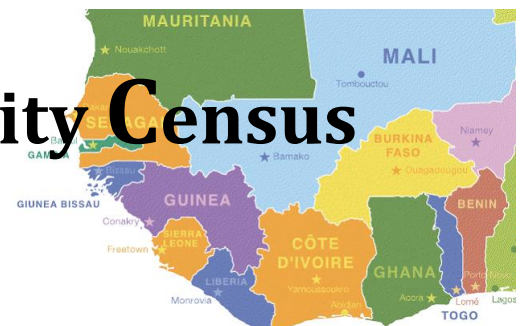
Conclusion:

The analysis generated from the January peace and security census, shows that there was an increase in armed attacks in the region for the month compared to December 2016. The reasons for this increase is due to the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) across the region. This has occasioned a trend in armed robberies and other sorts of criminalities across the region. Attacks perpetrated by highway robbers and those carried out in herder/farmer conflicts, resulted in fatalities, destruction of properties among others. Despite efforts deployed by security forces and governments in the region, analysis generating from this census portrays that much needs to be done in terms of protecting citizens and their properties. Improved effort to fight crimes and criminal networks in West Africa is crucial. In addition, ECOWAS and its member states should intensify the fight against the proliferation of



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small arms and light weapons. Also, states need to pay greater attention to highway security by improving the operations and resources of security agencies to tackle highway criminality and ensure respect for traffic regulations. A medium to long term concerted response by countries in the region to the burgeoning Herders/farmers conflicts is also key to peace and security in the region.