Executive Summary
Kenya Political & Security Report

Summary

- The number of violent attacks increased by 2% during the reporting period, with over 20 suspected criminals killed in robbery incidents. A total of 14 civilians were killed in violent crime offences recorded over the past two weeks, with another 10 becoming victim of terrorist attacks in Lamu County. Additionally, 15 security personnel were killed during the reporting period, nine in two separate terrorist attacks in Lamu County and six in a bandit attack in Laikipia.

- Politically-motivated violence also continued throughout the past two weeks and is expected to continue into the short to medium term, as the campaigning period enters its final weeks. The National Police Service identified 20 counties, the majority of which experienced a number of violent incidents during the April/May intra-party primaries, that are particularly prone to election-related violence. International observers, including Human Rights Watch, also warned of the potential for violent incidents both during and following the election. Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police said, following redeployments of senior officials, that enhanced security measures have been implemented to ensure a peaceful and free election.

- The threat of terrorist attacks in Nairobi as well as Kenya’s coastal and northeastern regions remains high. Three high profile attacks, including an offensive targeting a police station and the abduction of the Public Works Principal Secretary, were recorded in Lamu County over the reporting period resulting in the death of three police officers and nine civilians. Following a resurgence of terrorist activity in Lamu, the Kenya Defence Forces intensified both air and ground operations in Boni Forest.

- In other developments, seven people were killed along the Meru-Isiolo border in clashes between Borana and Meru pastoralists. Inter-communal tensions in the area remain heightened, with additional police personnel deployed to the county border.
**Nairobi: 02 July 2017**
Two groups supporting two ODM party candidates for the position of member of the county assembly clashed in Mathare.

**Laikipia: 12 July 2017**
Bandits ambushed officers from the police’s Anti Stock Theft Unit at Matiku area in Laikipia West, killing six and injuring another four. Five G3 rifles, 1 AK47 and a pistol were stolen.

**Lamu: 05 July 2017**
At least 150 suspected Al Shabab militants armed with RPGs and other small firearms attacked Pandanguo’s Police Post in Lamu. Three police officers and two assailants were killed.

**Meru: 08 —10 July 2017**
Seven people were killed along the Meru-Isiolo border in clashes between Borana and Meru pastoralists.

**Lamu: 08 July 2017**
Suspected Al Shabab militants attacked and killed nine people in Jima and Poromoko villages, Lamu County. The attackers targeted “non-Muslim” victims.

**Lamu: 13 July 2017**
Suspected Al Shabab militants hijacked a vehicle with six occupants, including the Public Works Principal Secretary (PS), at Milihoi. Kenya Defence Forces and officers rescued the PS. Five fatalities reported.

**Mombasa: 14 July 2017**
Seven unidentified individuals armed with machetes and crude weapons vandalised Nyali MP Hezron Awiti’s billboard at Buxton.
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National Politics

Electoral commission makes final preparations for the August general election

With less than three weeks left to the 8 August general election, the Independent and Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is making final preparations to ensure a free and fair election. As per relevant laws, the IEBC has created an integrated electronic electoral system to monitor voter registration and verification as well as the publishing of results. The IEBC said the system benefits from an additional feature known as the candidate registration and management system (CRMS) which is designed to increase transparency in voter identification and verification processes. All 362,858 positions across the country’s voting centers have also been filled, with materials stored in regional warehouses. The locations of all voting and counting centers have also been issued in gazettes. The total number of registered voters in the country is reportedly 19,611,423, with the IEBC expected to display copies of the register at local voting centers a week before the election. IEBC officials have also been deployed to Kisumu, Karbarnet and Thika to investigate incidents of election interference by the presidential campaign.

In spite of the IEBC’s progress in preparing for the general election, a major hurdle remains as the High Court on 7 July cancelled the presidential election ballot paper printing contract awarded to the Dubai-based Al Ghurair on the basis that there was insufficient public participation in the tendering process. The High Court made the ruling over a petition filed by the National Super Alliance Coalition that alleged senior members of the Jubilee Party had a vested interest in the Dubai company winning the contract. The High Court’s ruling, however, did not affect the ballot paper printing contracts for other posts. The IEBC has in turn appealed the ruling, seeking clarity regarding the High Court’s guidelines on public participation and arguing that holding another tender will delay the election. The Court of Appeal is expected to rule over the matter on 20 July.

COMMENT: If the Court of Appeal upholds the High Court’s ruling, the IEBC will be under significant pressure to find another supplier for the presidential election ballot papers. While the IEBC’s lawyers submitted to the Court of Appeal that the commission will require over a month to conduct a new tender, it is likely that the IEBC will be directed to find a new contractor who will execute the order without delays in the current election schedule.

COMMENT ENDS
The National Police Service identified 20 counties as prone to politically-motivated violence in the upcoming August general election. The counties include Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Narok, Kisii, Homa Bay, Isiolo, Turkana, Bungoma, Kiambu, Kilifi, Migori, Baringo, West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet and Meru.

In Nairobi County, most informal settlements and sections of the Central Business District are assessed as potential violence hotspots. These include Landhies Road, Umoja, Kariobangi, Ziware, Dandora, Kayole, Kiambiu, Githogoro, Kibera, Mathare, Mukuru slums, Dagoretti, Ruaraka, Kawangware, Buruburu, Globe Cinema, Kangemi, Ngara, Marurui and Korogocho. According to Nairobi Police's Commander, Japheth Koome, the threat level in the designated areas is marginally higher compared to other areas of Nairobi.
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Unrest, including murder and armed clashes linked primarily to gang activity, has been reported in the run up to elections held over the past year in a number of the areas identified as potential violence hotspots in the upcoming general election. Leaflets warning residents to evacuate have also been found in some of the designated areas. Potential violence hotspots include the Nairobi suburb of Dandora and Likoni, Mombasa.

**COMMENT:** Given that the 2017 general election has caused significant tension between rival political parties and candidates at both the county and national level, violence is assessed as more likely to occur particularly in the aftermath of the election. The list of counties identified as potential violence hotspots is also likely to be expanded. Additionally, the majority of Nairobi County’s informal settlements are densely populated, with any disputed election results at either the county or national level likely to result in violence with little prior warning, therefore, having the potential to overwhelm police forces deployed in the area. **COMMENT**

**ENDS**

**Stakeholders raise concerns over potential post-election violence**

A number of stakeholders, including the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), observers from the European Union Election Observation Mission, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and Human Rights Watch, warned of possible violence during the 8 August general election. The NCIC identified ethnic and political polarisation and an increased use of inflammatory rhetoric, characterised by inter and intra-ethnic profiling by politicians and their supporters, as indicators of potential election-related violence. NPS also raised its concern over potential post-election violent incidents, stating it has taken steps to address such occurrences. Human Rights Watch urged the police to immediately investigate claims of threats and intimidation in Naivasha, Nakuru County. Naivasha was among the areas that suffered the most in the aftermath of the 2007-2008 election, during which ethnic rivalries encouraged by politicians resulted in the death of 1,100 people. According to the electoral agency, Likoni, Mombasa, is likely to experience high levels of politically-
motivated violence during the upcoming election. An agency official, Julius Karimi, referred to the area as a “violence hotspot,” as reports of threats by local gangs targeting residents continue. In spite of the raised concerns, President Uhuru Kenyatta assured the European Union’s Election Observation Mission that the country is prepared for the election.

**Police prepares to thwart post-election violence**

Additional security measures have been implemented by the police in an attempt to thwart potential post-election violence. The Inspector General of Police, Joseph Boinnet, stressed that sufficient security measures have been put in place to ensure a free and peaceful election. Boinnet added that the police is working with both state and other organizations to ensure a stable security environment during the election. Meanwhile, the IG redeployed 24 senior police officers in an attempt to bolster security during the upcoming election. The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) also announced it is monitoring online platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter, in order to address instances of hate speech and inflammatory rhetoric. The police was also warned not to post any crime scene photos on social media. The IG ordered police personnel not to disclose any information to the media without prior authorization, raising his concern over sensitive information that has been posted on the Internet, therefore, jeopardizing the operational security of the force.

**Military intensifies operations in Boni Forest following a series of terrorist attacks**

The Kenya Defence Force has intensified both ground and air operations in the Boni Forest, Lamu County, following a series of Al Shabab attacks in the area. Additional operations are part of the so called “Linda Boni” crackdown on militancy in the region that was launched in September 2015. On 9 July, the Kenya Red Cross evacuated all people that are not residents in Juma following an Al Shabab attack in the area that saw farms being raided in an attempt to identify males that do not adhere to Islam. Schools in the area have also been shut down over fear of attacks. In the aftermath of a series of attacks targeting predominantly security personnel and assets, the National Police Service announced a three-month dusk-to-dawn curfew (1830hrs – 0630hrs) starting on 9 July in parts of Lamu, Garissa, and Tana River. Additionally, the ATPU police disclosed the identity of six Kenyan nationals believed to be members of Al Shabab. The suspects were allegedly involved in recruiting youth from Kenya, with one of them reportedly having held a key position in al Shabab’s Jaysh Ayman wing in Marsabit and having taken part in the June 2014 Mpeketoni attacks. One suspect has since been arrested.

**Terrorist activity**

The terrorism threat along the Kenya-Somalia border remained high, with suspected Al Shabab militants intensifying their attacks against security forces and civilians. Three high profile attacks were conducted by the militants in Lamu County, including the kidnapping of Public Works Principal Secretary (PS) Miriam El Maawy. The total number of fatalities in the three incidents reached 20, 10 civilians, eight police officers and two assailants.

![Terrorist attacks in Kenya (January—June 2017)](image)

*All reported attacks occurred in counties bordering Somalia*
Al Shabab attacked Pandanguo’s Police Post in Lamu killing three police officers

At around 0500hrs on 5 July, at least 150 suspected Al Shabab militants armed with RPGs and other small firearms attacked Pandanguo’s Police Post in Lamu. The militants attended a morning prayer at a nearby mosque following which they broke into Pandanguo clinic, stealing medical supplies. The assailants then attacked the police post, located 500m from the clinic. Gunfire was exchanged between the militants and the officers guarding the station, who then escaped as they were being overpowered. Three police officers and two attackers were killed. The assailants gained access to the station and stole rifles and food supplies as well as a landcruiser. The militants also set fire to the station and destroyed a communication mast in its vicinity.

Nine killed in Al Shabab attack in Jima and Poromoko, Lamu

At around 2300hrs on 8 July, suspected Al Shabab militants attacked residents in Jima and Poromoko villages, Lamu County, killing nine people. The attack was conducted approximately 2km from Pandanguo where Al Shabab militants raided a police post on 5 July. The assailants, armed with machetes, reportedly targeted individuals not adhering to Islam, claiming they were fighting to protect their land. The incident resembled a 2014 attack in Mpeketoni (approx. 50km southeast of Pandanguo) during which over 60 civilians were killed.

Senior government official among six kidnapped by Al Shabab militants at Milihoi, Lamu

At around 1500hrs on 13 July, suspected Al Shabab militants hijacked a vehicle with six occupants, including Public Works Principal Secretary (PS) Miriam El Maawy, at Milihoi, Lamu. According to eyewitnesses, the assailants numbered at least 30. The militants drove to Boni Forest, where later during the day, Kenya Defence Forces and officers from the General Service unit rescued the PS. Security sources indicated that five police officers were killed by the militants during the attack. The PS vehicle was also burnt. Another two vehicles that were previously hijacked were recovered. In a separate incident in the area, militants kidnapped a lorry driver, also taking him to Boni Forest and releasing him after a couple of hours.

**COMMENT:** The kidnapping of PS Mariam El Maawy reaffirms the role of Boni Forest as an Al Shabab stronghold despite a military crackdown on militancy in the forest that was launched in 2015. The forest stretches from Garissa County to Lamu and Somalia. Air operations have been difficult to conduct due to the terrain. Meanwhile ground troops have been attacked by militants on a number of occasions. Attacks have included the use of land mines, small arms fire and roadside IEDs. Locals have also been accused of harbouring militants and keeping information regarding Al Shabab movements. **COMMENT ENDS**
Criminal activity

Increase in Nairobi’s crime rate

Criminal activity in Nairobi increased by 3% during the reporting period. Robberies constituted two thirds of all violent attacks. The majority of robbery incidents occurred in low and middle income areas, with mobile money transfer businesses, shops and pedestrians the most frequently targeted. A total of 19 suspects were killed in a number of failed robberies throughout the city, with 15 shot and killed by the police and four by mobs. An inter-gang clash was also reported at Mlango Kubwa area, Mathare slums, with one assailant killed and another two shot and killed by the police.

COMMENT: Nairobi’s crime rate is likely to increase further into the short term, as criminals may take advantage of insufficient police resources. Police personnel are likely to be redeployed to areas assessed as prone to politically-motivated violence and to patrols escorting election-related material to voting centers across the country. Violent incidents are also likely to occur during campaign events in various parts of the city, amid growing tensions across the country. Additionally, the re-emergence of gang activity particularly in the eastern parts of Nairobi remains a significant security concern. COMMENT ENDS

Seven killed in inter-tribal clashes along the Meri-Isiolo border

Seven people were killed along the Meru-Isiolo border in clashes between Borana and Meru pastoralists. Three were hacked to death in Tigania East on 08 Jul and another four were killed in a retaliatory attack at Kinanduba village, Igembe Central, on 10 July. According to the Kenya Red Cross, two youths were shot and killed by suspected Borana bandits while transporting milk along the Maua-Garbatulla road. The Meru tribe then retaliated by attacking to businessmen at Kiutine market, resulting in the death of one. Members of the Borana tribe then set fire to six villages at Ithika, Mpeketoni, Kinanduba, Kathucine, Ntuki and Malaene, therefore, displacing at least 700 people. Additional police personnel has been deployed along the border to thwart further attacks.

COMMENT: The ongoing border dispute between the two counties remains a major security concern. Last year, the Ministry of Interior and Coordination formed a task force, which recommended that the border between the counties should be officially demarcated. Isiolo County’s government, however, appealed the demarcation process in court. The issue could also be put to the fore by local politicians in the run up to the election in turn aggravating extant tensions. COMMENT ENDS

Six police officers killed by suspected bandits in Laikipia

At around 1800hrs on 12 July, bandits ambushed police officers from the Anti Stock Theft Unit at Matuiku area in Laikipia West, killing six and injuring another four. Five G3 rifles, 1 AK47 and a pistol were reportedly stolen. The County’s commissioner, Onesmus Mwaniki, stated that the officers targeted by the bandits were based at Kamwenje patrol base. Laikipia has been hit by a wave of violence in recent months as armed cattle-herders searching for pasture and water have driven tens of thousands of cattle onto private farms and ranches. Over a dozen Kenyans have been killed.

Increase in election-related violence as campaigning intensifies

With less than one month left to the 8 August general election, politicians intensified their campaigns across the country in an attempt to sway the 19 million registered voters. Incidents of politically-motivated violence,
including arson, were reported during a number of campaign rallies, therefore, forcing politicians to cut rallies short. Despite assurances by the National Police Service that enhanced security measures have been implemented to ensure the peaceful conduct of rallies, violent incidents are likely to continue up to and possibly after the election. Clients are advised to avoid political rallies and protests, as violence can ensue with little prior warning, amid heightened tensions across the country. High degree of caution is advised throughout Kenya especially given the increasing threat posed by Al Shabab.

Further incidents recorded during the reporting period included:

- 15 July: Police launched an investigation into leaflets threatening specific community members to leave Dandora Phase II and IV before the 8 August general election.
- 14 July: At least seven unidentified individuals armed with machetes and crude weapons vandalised Nyali MP Hezron Awiti's billboard at Buxton. The suspects, travelling in a white Probox, tied a rope around the structure and pulled it down.
- 13 July: NASA's presidential candidate, Raila Odinga, had to end his campaign trip in Thika town after a group of local youths threw stones at his motorcade. Police fired teargas canisters to disperse the mob.
- 13 July: Police arrested Shinyalu’s Member of Parliament (MP), Silverse Anami, in Kakamega, for allegedly disrupting an event presided by the Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Sicily Kariuki.
- 12 July: A National Super Alliance rally in Kabarnet town, Baringo County, was disrupted by locals loyal to the Jubilee Party. The hostile reception forced the NASA leaders to leave the town, as the police were unable to control the crowd.
- 11 July: Two security guards were arrested in connection to brake-ins in a number of offices, including those of Governor Cornel and his Deputy. The thieves escaped with valuables including confidential documents.
- 6 July: Police arrested a suspected criminal in possession of leaflets with inflammatory content at the Likoni ferry crossing in Mombasa.
- 2 July: The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) office in Kajiado was set ablaze by unknown arsonists. Key party documents were destroyed.
- 2 July: Two groups supporting two ODM party candidates for the position of member of the county assembly clashed in Mathare, Nairobi. The clash ensued after a court order stating that a new primary election ought to be held. The assailants also engaged the police in running battles, throwing stones and lighting fires. Several people were injured.
Fig 01: Reported Security Incidents in Selected Towns Feb - Jul 2017

Fig 02: Reported Security Incidents by Region Feb - Jul 2017
Fig 03: Reported Security Incidents in Selected Towns by Type  Feb - Jul 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 May – 06 August 2017</td>
<td>Official political campaign period</td>
<td>Elevated threat of political violence, gang-related activities, petty crime and traffic disruptions in both urban and rural areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 – 02 August 2017</td>
<td>International Conference on Technology and Management at Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi</td>
<td>Increased security expected in central Nairobi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 Aug 2017</td>
<td>General Election (National)</td>
<td>Elevated threat of political violence, gang activities, petty crime and traffic disruption in both urban and rural areas.</td>
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