EMERGING PATTERNS OF ARMED VIOLENCE AND THE DYNAMICS OF INSECURITY IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA.

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Armed Violence, Insecurity, Banditry, Human Security, Rural Development

Abstract

Research Problem: *Armed violence in Nigeria has increasingly extended beyond established conflict-affected areas, yet there remains limited systematic empirical evidence on the recent patterns and consequences of armed violence in Kwara State, a setting historically regarded as relatively stable. This study addresses this gap by documenting and analysing major incidents of armed violence recorded in the state between 2025 and 2026.*
Methods/Theory: *The study adopted a qualitative research design and employed inductive thematic analysis of secondary data comprising 14 media reports, 3 Government documents and 21 scholarly publications. Human Security Theory and Routine Activity Theory provided the*

analytical framework for examining the situational vulnerabilities associated with attacks and their consequences for affected individuals and communities.

Results: *Six major incidents were documented across Kaiama, Patigi, Ifelodun, and Ekiti Local Government Areas, with three incidents recorded in each year. However, documented deaths increased substantially from 23 in 2025 to 101 in 2026, representing a 339.1% increase. The attacks involved killings, abductions, and assaults on rural communities, religious gatherings, markets, and security facilities. Four of the six incidents involved abductions, while the February 2026 attack on Woro and Nuku communities in Kaiama accounted for 75 deaths and substantially influenced the increase in lethality. The findings therefore indicate an emerging and increasingly lethal pattern of armed violence rather than an increase in the frequency of documented major incidents. Rural exposure, limited security presence, and target vulnerability were central to the observed pattern, while the consequences extended to livelihoods, education, economic activity, and community stability.*

Conclusion: *The study concludes that the emerging pattern of armed violence in Kwara State is characterised less by an increase in the frequency of documented major incidents than by greater lethality, recurring abductions, diverse target selection, and significant consequences for human security and community wellbeing. The findings further demonstrate that vulnerabilities associated with rural isolation and limited security presence create opportunities for armed attacks, while the effects extend beyond immediate casualties to broader social and developmental conditions.*

Key Contribution to Knowledge: *The study contributes to the literature by providing a systematic incident-level analysis of the spatial, temporal, and target patterns of armed violence in Kwara State during 2025–2026. It extends existing scholarship on Nigeria's banditry and kidnapping beyond the more extensively studied North-East and North-West by providing localized empirical evidence from a North-Central context. The study also demonstrates the analytical value of combining Routine Activity Theory and Human Security Theory to explain both the situational conditions that facilitate armed violence and its multidimensional consequences for affected communities.*

Recommendation: *The study recommends strengthening security coverage and rapid-response capacity in vulnerable rural communities, improving intelligence-sharing and early-warning mechanisms among security agencies and local communities, and adopting integrated security and development interventions that strengthen rural livelihoods, education, infrastructure, and community resilience.*

INTRODUCTION

Armed violence has become an increasingly complex security challenge in Nigeria, with banditry, kidnapping, and organised armed attacks extending beyond isolated criminal incidents to pose significant threats to civilian safety, livelihoods, community stability, and development. Existing scholarship attributes the persistence of violent insecurity to a combination of institutional weaknesses, inadequate security provision, ineffective intelligence systems, weak accountability, and inconsistent policy responses (Berebon, 2025; Singh, 2025).

These perspectives suggest that the problem extends beyond the immediate activities of armed groups to encompass the capacity of state institutions to prevent violence, protect vulnerable populations, and respond effectively to emerging threats. At the same time, the changing organisation of banditry and kidnapping has enabled armed groups to conduct killings, abductions, and incursions into communities with increasingly disruptive consequences for social and economic life (Adesina & Kehinde, 2026; Ogbuke & Usman, 2025). Armed violence should therefore be understood not merely as a law-enforcement problem, but as a broader security and human-development concern.

The consequences of this violence further demonstrate its multidimensional character. Beyond deaths and physical destruction, recurrent armed attacks can disrupt livelihoods, weaken local economic activity, undermine social relations, generate fear, and reduce public confidence in institutions responsible for civilian protection (Ubale et al., 2026; Koren & Bukari, 2026). Socio-economic vulnerabilities, including poverty, unemployment, inequality, and political exclusion, may further reinforce conditions under which insecurity persists (Odaudu, 2026). The existing literature therefore provides important explanations of the institutional, organisational, structural, and human consequences of armed violence in Nigeria. Nevertheless, an important limitation remains in the geographical and empirical distribution of this scholarship.

Much of the established literature on Nigeria's armed insecurity has concentrated on the North-East and North-West, particularly conflict environments such as Borno, Zamfara, and Kaduna, where insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping have become persistent features of the security landscape. This body of scholarship has generated valuable knowledge about the organisation of armed groups, the structural drivers of violence, institutional weaknesses, and the consequences of prolonged insecurity. However, explanations developed primarily from entrenched conflict environments may not adequately account for the dynamics through which armed violence emerges in locations that have historically experienced comparatively lower levels of sustained insecurity. Emerging security environments may differ in the frequency, spatial concentration, targets, forms, and intensity of attacks, as well as in the extent to which communities and state institutions have adapted to persistent violence.

This distinction is particularly important in the case of Kwara State. Although the state has historically been regarded as comparatively stable within Nigeria's wider security environment, recent incidents have raised concerns about changing patterns of insecurity, particularly in rural areas. Documented attacks involving killings, abductions, armed raids, and assaults on communities and other vulnerable locations have occurred in parts of Kaiama, Patigi, Ifelodun, and Ekiti Local Government Areas. These developments suggest that armed violence in Kwara warrants examination as a potentially evolving security phenomenon rather than being treated simply as a collection of isolated criminal incidents. The emergence of such incidents raises important questions concerning their recurrence, geographical distribution, forms, targets, lethality, and implications for the security and wellbeing of affected rural populations.

Despite the growing concern surrounding these developments, systematic empirical knowledge of the recent dynamics of armed violence in Kwara State remains limited. Existing Nigerian scholarship provides substantial explanations of insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping in established conflict zones, but comparatively less attention has been devoted to documenting how armed

violence is emerging and developing within Kwara. In particular, insufficient evidence exists on the spatial and temporal distribution of recent attacks, the recurring forms and targets of violence, changes in their severity, and their implications for rural livelihoods, education, economic activity, social relations, and broader human security. The gap is therefore both geographical and empirical; geographically, Kwara remains less represented in the literature than established conflict-affected states; empirically, there is limited systematic incident-level evidence through which the recent evolution of violence within the state can be assessed.

The research problem arising from this gap is not simply that armed attacks are occurring in Kwara State. Rather, it is the limited empirical understanding of whether the recent incidents constitute isolated events or reflect an emerging pattern of armed violence, how that pattern is distributed across affected locations, and what it means for the human security and stability of rural communities. Without such systematic evidence, it remains difficult to establish the changing character of insecurity within the state or to determine whether security responses should continue to be primarily reactive or increasingly oriented towards prevention, early warning, and community resilience. A context-specific examination is therefore necessary because security dynamics observed in established conflict zones cannot automatically be assumed to operate in the same manner within an emerging security environment such as Kwara.

Against this background, this study examines the emerging patterns of armed violence and the dynamics of insecurity in Kwara State through a systematic analysis of documented incidents between 2025 and 2026. Specifically, it examines the nature and recurring forms of armed violence, their spatial and temporal distribution, their principal targets, and their implications for human security, community safety, and social stability. Focusing on an emerging rather than an established conflict environment, the study contributes localized empirical evidence to the broader literature on armed violence in Nigeria. It further provides an incident-level basis for understanding how patterns of violence are developing within Kwara State and how their consequences extend beyond immediate casualties to affect rural livelihoods, community wellbeing, and the prospects for sustainable peace.

The broad objective of this study is to examine the patterns and dynamics of armed violence and their implications for insecurity in Kwara State. Specifically, the study seeks to:

i. Identify and document major incidents of armed violence in Kwara State between 2025 and 2026.

ii. Analyse the recurring patterns and forms of armed violence in Kwara State.

iii. Examine the spatial and temporal distribution of armed violence across affected communities in Kwara State.

iv. Assess the implications of armed violence on human security, community safety, and social stability in Kwara State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Existing scholarship increasingly explains armed violence in Nigeria as a product of interacting institutional and structural conditions rather than solely the activities of criminal or insurgent groups. Berebon (2025) associates persistent insecurity with weaknesses in institutional capacity and the inability of security institutions to respond effectively to evolving threats, while Singh (2025) emphasises deficiencies in intelligence, accountability, and policy implementation. Although both identify weaknesses in state capacity, Berebon adopts a broader governance

perspective, whereas Singh focuses more specifically on operational and policy failures within the security architecture. These perspectives collectively suggest that inadequate state protection can create conditions in which communities remain exposed to violence. However, an institutional explanation alone does not adequately account for the socio-economic vulnerabilities that shape exposure and resilience.

Odaudu (2026), in contrast, emphasises poverty, unemployment, inequality, and political exclusion as structural conditions associated with insecurity. This perspective extends the institutional explanation by drawing attention to the social and economic environment within which violence develops and affects communities. The two approaches are therefore complementary: institutional scholarship explains weaknesses in the capacity to prevent and respond to violence, while the structural perspective highlights vulnerabilities that may increase exposure and constrain recovery. However, much of this literature examines insecurity at broad national or regional levels, leaving less evidence on how such conditions are manifested within emerging security environments. For the present study, this distinction provides a basis for examining not only the occurrence of armed violence in Kwara State but also its implications for livelihoods, education, economic activity, and community stability.

The literature also demonstrates that contemporary armed violence has become increasingly varied in its organisation and consequences. Adesina and Kehinde (2026) argue that banditry has evolved beyond relatively localised criminal activity into more organised networks capable of killings, abductions, and attacks on vulnerable communities. Ogbuke and Usman (2025), however, focus more strongly on the consequences of kidnapping, particularly its effects on local economies, social stability, and psychological wellbeing. The difference is significant: the former explains the changing capacity and activities of armed actors, while the latter highlights what those activities produce within affected communities. Together, they indicate that armed violence should be examined both in terms of the organisation of attacks and their wider community consequences.

This broader understanding is reinforced by Ubale et al. (2026) and Koren and Bukari (2026), who show that insecurity can weaken public confidence in state institutions, particularly where responses are perceived as inadequate or delayed. Their institutional focus complements Ogbuke and Usman's (2025) community-level emphasis and Odaudu's (2026) attention to structural vulnerability. Taken together, the literature indicates that armed violence extends beyond immediate physical harm to affect livelihoods, economic activity, social stability, psychological wellbeing, and perceptions of state effectiveness. The present study builds on this insight by examining these consequences alongside the forms, targets, recurrence, and spatial distribution of documented attacks in Kwara State.

Despite these contributions, the geographical concentration of existing scholarship presents an important limitation. Much of the empirical literature on Nigeria's armed insecurity is derived from the North-East, particularly in relation to Boko Haram, and the North-West, where banditry and kidnapping have become persistent security concerns. These studies provide valuable explanations of the causes, organisation, persistence, and consequences of violence. However, the conditions of established conflict environments, characterised by prolonged violence, recurring attacks, established networks, and community adaptation, may differ from those of states where armed

violence is comparatively recent or geographically dispersed.

Kwara State is significant in this regard. Although comparatively stable within Nigeria's broader security landscape, recent documented killings, abductions, armed raids, and attacks in Kaiama, Patigi, Ifelodun, and Ekiti Local Government Areas suggest a changing security environment. The issue is therefore not simply that Kwara has received limited scholarly attention; rather, there is insufficient systematic evidence on the nature and development of recent armed violence in the state. In particular, limited empirical attention has been given to how such violence is distributed spatially and temporally, the targets and forms it assumes, its lethality, and its consequences for rural populations. The present study consequently examines Kwara on its own empirical terms rather than assuming that patterns identified in established conflict zones necessarily apply to the state.

The reviewed literature establishes four closely related insights. First, weaknesses in security capacity, intelligence, accountability, and policy implementation can constrain the state's ability to prevent and respond to armed violence (Berebon, 2025; Singh, 2025). Second, poverty, unemployment, inequality, and political exclusion may increase vulnerability and weaken community resilience (Odaudu, 2026). Third, armed violence increasingly involves organised killings, abductions, and attacks on vulnerable communities, with consequences extending into economic and social life (Adesina & Kehinde, 2026; Ogbuke & Usman, 2025). Fourth, persistent insecurity can undermine public confidence in state institutions and extend beyond immediate victims to wider community life (Koren & Bukari, 2026; Ubale et al., 2026). These perspectives are complementary, but none adequately explains the dynamics of an emerging security environment such as Kwara State.

While the extant literature extensively examines armed violence in Nigeria, it predominantly focuses on the North-East and North-West, where insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping are established features of insecurity. Comparatively limited empirical research has systematically examined the recent escalation of armed violence in North-Central states such as Kwara State. More specifically, there is insufficient incident-level evidence concerning the forms, recurrence, spatial and temporal distribution, target selection, lethality, and community consequences of recent violence in Kwara. It also remains unresolved whether patterns observed in established conflict zones adequately explain an emerging security environment in the state.

The present study addresses this gap by systematically analysing documented incidents of armed violence in Kwara State between 2025 and 2026. It brings together the institutional, socio-economic, organisational, and human-security dimensions identified in previous scholarship to provide a localised empirical analysis of a comparatively understudied North-Central context. Specifically, it examines the forms and recurrence of armed violence, its spatial and temporal distribution, the targets affected, and its implications for human security, community safety, livelihoods, and social stability. The study thereby provides empirical evidence for assessing whether recent incidents in Kwara constitute isolated occurrences or an emerging pattern of insecurity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Design and Data Sources

This study adopted a qualitative research design based entirely on secondary data to examine the emerging patterns of armed violence in Kwara State between 2025 and 2026. Media reports and Government

documents constituted the primary empirical data, while scholarly publications were used to provide conceptual and contextual support for interpreting the findings. The approach was considered appropriate because the study focused on identifying patterns, forms, locations, targets, casualties, abductions, and broader implications of documented incidents of armed violence.

Source Selection Criteria

Sources were purposively selected based on their relevance to the study objectives. Media reports and Government documents were included if they: (a) were published between January 2025 and December 2026; (b) reported an incident of armed violence, banditry, kidnapping, or a related attack in Kwara State; (c) originated from an established media organisation; and (d) contained verifiable information on the date, location, nature of the incident, casualties, abductions, affected communities, or security response. Sources consisting solely of general commentary, unverified social media reports, or opinion-based accounts without specific incident information were excluded. Scholarly publications were selected where they provided relevant conceptual, theoretical, or contextual perspectives on armed violence, banditry, kidnapping, insecurity, or human security.

Thematic Analysis

The study employed inductive thematic analysis, meaning that the initial codes and themes were derived from the content of the selected reports rather than imposed in advance from the theoretical framework. The analysis followed a simple sequential process. First, the selected reports were read carefully to identify information relevant to the research questions. Second, relevant statements were assigned descriptive codes. Third, similar codes were grouped into broader categories. Finally, recurring categories were compared across the reports to develop the major themes. For example, a news report describing the killing of residents, abduction of community members, and destruction of property was coded as "civilian deaths," "abduction," and "property destruction." These codes were subsequently grouped under the broader category "forms of attack." Similarly, references to disruption of farming and education were coded as "agricultural disruption" and "educational disruption," and grouped under "community consequences." The themes were therefore developed through the progression from reported information, initial codes, categories and broader themes. Human Security Theory and Routine Activity Theory were applied subsequently to interpret the themes generated from the data. Thus, the coding process was data-driven, while the theories provided an interpretive framework for explaining the identified patterns and their implications.

Source Categorisation

The secondary materials were organised into two main categories. Media reports and Government documents constituted the empirical dataset used to document specific incidents, while scholarly publications provided conceptual and contextual support for interpreting the findings.

Table 1: Summary of Secondary Data Sources

Source Type	Specific Sources	Number Used	Purpose of Inclusion
Media Reports	AllAfrica, TheCable, Premium Times, Punch, Nigerian Tribune, PM News, The Sun, Sahara Reporters, Channels TV, TVC News, and VON	14	To document incidents, locations, forms of attack, casualties, abductions, affected communities, and reported security responses.
Scholarly/Academic Sources	Peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and book chapters on armed violence, banditry, kidnapping, insecurity, and human security	21	To provide conceptual and contextual perspectives for interpreting the empirical evidence.
Government Documents	Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, State House, Kwara State Government	3	To provide authoritative evidence on government and security-sector responses, military deployments, security operations, institutional interventions, policy measures, and official assessments of insecurity in Kwara State.

Triangulation and Credibility

Cross-source triangulation was used to improve the credibility and consistency of the incident-level data. Where the same incident was reported by more than one media source, the accounts were compared with respect to the date, location, nature of the attack, casualties, abductions, affected communities, and reported security response. Where accounts were consistent, the information was treated as corroborated. Where discrepancies occurred, particularly in casualty or abduction figures, the different accounts were compared and the figure supported by the majority of sources or the most detailed account was prioritised. Unresolved discrepancies were acknowledged rather than treated as established facts. Scholarly publications were also consulted to situate the documented incidents within the wider literature on armed violence and insecurity.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study is anchored on Human Security Theory (HST) and Routine Activity Theory (RAT). Rather than adopting the two theories as descriptive frameworks, the study uses them to examine two interconnected dimensions of armed violence in Kwara State: the situational conditions that create opportunities for attacks and the consequences of those attacks for individuals and communities. This combination is particularly useful because HST and RAT illuminate different but complementary aspects of the phenomenon. While HST enables the study to assess the multidimensional effects of armed violence on human wellbeing, RAT provides a situational explanation of how the convergence of motivated offenders, vulnerable targets, and inadequate guardianship creates opportunities for attacks. The combination therefore allows the study to move beyond simply documenting incidents towards explaining both why particular communities become vulnerable and

what violence means for the people and communities affected.

Human Security Theory gained prominence through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report of 1994, particularly through the work associated with Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen. It shifted the focus of security from the protection of the state to the protection of individuals, emphasising freedom from fear, want, and threats to human dignity. The framework recognises that security extends beyond military protection to include personal, economic, community, and other dimensions of human wellbeing. This conceptualisation challenges traditional security approaches that prioritise state sovereignty and territorial protection over individual welfare. In this study, Human Security Theory is not employed merely to establish that armed violence has consequences for civilians. Rather, it provides the analytical basis for examining how the documented incidents affected the security and wellbeing of individuals and communities in Kwara State. The analysis therefore treats deaths, abductions, displacement, fear, disruption of livelihoods, destruction of property, educational disruption, and disturbances to community life as manifestations of human insecurity. This enables the study to assess armed violence as more than a physical security problem by examining how attacks undermine the social, economic, and developmental conditions necessary for community wellbeing.

A major criticism of Human Security Theory is its broad scope, which can make the concept difficult to define consistently and operationalise empirically. Its inclusiveness has consequently been viewed as analytically unwieldy. However, this limitation is particularly instructive for the present study. The consequences documented in Kwara State extend beyond immediate casualties to include livelihood disruption, educational setbacks, economic decline, and social fragmentation. The broad scope of Human Security Theory therefore enables the study to capture these interconnected consequences rather than reducing the assessment of insecurity to deaths and physical attacks alone. By examining specific and locally documented consequences, the study gives empirical meaning to the broader human security perspective within an emerging context of armed violence.

Routine Activity Theory, developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson (1979), explains criminal events through the convergence of three elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian. Unlike approaches that primarily seek to explain the background motivations of offenders, Routine Activity Theory directs attention to the immediate circumstances and opportunities through which criminal events occur. Its situational orientation makes it particularly relevant to analysing why certain locations and populations become more exposed to attack. In the present study, Routine Activity Theory is operationalised by examining the location of attacks, the vulnerability and accessibility of targets, the activities of armed groups, and the presence or absence of security protection. The analysis therefore considers whether documented attacks occurred in isolated rural communities, exposed public spaces, vulnerable gatherings, or locations characterised by limited security presence. These characteristics are examined in relation to the three elements of Routine Activity Theory to identify the situational conditions that facilitated particular attacks. For example, an attack on a remote rural community with limited or no effective security presence can be interpreted as a convergence between a motivated armed group, a suitable and accessible target, and the absence of a capable guardian. The theory consequently provides a specific analytical basis for explaining why

particular communities and locations became vulnerable to attack during the study period.

Routine Activity Theory has, however, been criticised for giving insufficient attention to structural factors such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, and political instability. Its emphasis on immediate situational conditions may therefore overlook the wider social and economic forces that shape both offender motivation and community vulnerability. This limitation is acknowledged in the present study. Routine Activity Theory is consequently not used as a complete explanation of the causes of armed violence in Kwara State. Instead, its value lies in its ability to identify the immediate operational conditions under which particular attacks occurred. The specific and localised nature of the 2025–2026 data makes it possible to relate individual incidents to observable weaknesses in security presence, target vulnerability, accessibility, and guardianship.

The distinctive analytical contribution of this study lies in the complementary application of Human Security Theory and Routine Activity Theory rather than their separate use. The two theories address different stages of the same security process. Routine Activity Theory is used to explain the conditions that make an attack possible, whereas Human Security Theory is used to explain the human consequences that follow when the attack occurs. In this sense, Routine Activity Theory addresses the question of "Why here and under what conditions", while Human Security Theory addresses "What does the violence mean for the people and communities affected" The combination is important because neither theory, when used alone, adequately captures the full dynamics of the Kwara context. Routine Activity Theory provides precise, operationalisable criteria for examining attack patterns through target vulnerability, location, accessibility, and security presence, but its situational focus provides limited explanation of the wider consequences of violence. Conversely, Human Security Theory captures deaths, abductions, displacement, fear, livelihood disruption, educational disruption, and other dimensions of human insecurity, but its broad scope does not by itself explain why particular communities become exposed to attack. Combining the two therefore allows the study to connect the conditions of vulnerability with the consequences of violence, producing a more comprehensive interpretation than either theoretical perspective could provide independently.

This synthesis is particularly appropriate for Kwara State because the documented incidents occurred largely within rural and vulnerable communities characterised by limited security presence and other forms of marginalisation. The framework therefore does not assume that patterns established in major conflict zones automatically explain the Kwara experience. Instead, Routine Activity Theory is used to examine the localised and situational features of the documented attacks, while Human Security Theory is used to assess their broader implications for human wellbeing and community stability. The combination consequently enables the study to examine armed violence simultaneously as an opportunity structure for armed actors and a source of multidimensional human insecurity.

Accordingly, in the analysis that follows, Routine Activity Theory guides the interpretation of target selection, location, accessibility, and security presence, while Human Security Theory guides the interpretation of deaths, abductions, displacement, fear, livelihood disruption, educational disruption, and community consequences. The theories are thus used as analytical tools rather than as competing explanations. Their combined application enables the study to explain both the situational dynamics through which armed

violence emerges in particular locations and the wider human security consequences experienced by affected populations in Kwara State.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Concept of Armed Violence

According to Lund et al. (2025), violence involves the intentional use of physical force or power against oneself, another person, or a community that results in or has a high likelihood of causing injury, death, psychological harm, or deprivation. When such violence is carried out with weapons such as firearms, machetes, or explosives, it constitutes armed violence. Olaitan & Tade (2026) emphasizes that armed violence manifests in different forms, including banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, insurgency, communal clashes, and organized criminal attacks. In many developing societies, armed violence has evolved beyond isolated criminal acts into organized and coordinated forms of insecurity that threaten both state stability and civilian survival. Its persistence is often linked to weak governance, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, socio-economic inequalities, and poor security management.

Within the Nigerian context, armed violence has become increasingly complex, taking forms such as terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, and violent attacks on rural communities. These forms of violence have significantly disrupted economic activities, weakened public confidence in security institutions, and heightened fear among citizens. In this study, armed violence is conceptualized as organized acts of aggression involving the use of weapons to attack, abduct, kill, or terrorize individuals and communities, thereby undermining peace, security, and social stability in Kwara State.

Concept of Insecurity

According to Hulse et al. (2025), insecurity refers to a condition of uncertainty, fear, vulnerability, and exposure to threats that endanger human lives, property, and societal stability. It represents the absence of safety and protection, where individuals and communities are unable to live free from fear of violence, attack, or harm. In broader terms, insecurity reflects the inability of the state to guarantee the safety of its citizens and maintain public order. Akindoyin & Obafemi (2025) argued that insecurity extends beyond physical threats to include social, economic, and political dimensions. It encompasses situations where people experience threats to their livelihoods, freedom, dignity, and wellbeing. Insecurity often manifests through violent crimes, armed attacks, displacement, and social instability, all of which weaken human security and disrupt development processes.

In Nigeria, insecurity has become a multidimensional phenomenon characterized by insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, communal conflicts, and violent extremism. These security threats have contributed to widespread fear, displacement, loss of lives, and the disruption of socio-economic activities across different parts of the country. In the context of this study, insecurity is understood as the persistent condition of fear, violence, and instability created by armed attacks, which threaten human security, social order, and sustainable peace in Kwara State.

Factors Driving Armed Violence and Insecurity in Nigeria

One of the major drivers of insecurity in Nigeria is weak governance and institutional fragility. Limited state capacity to maintain law and order, enforce justice, and protect citizens has created conditions in which armed groups can operate and expand. Delayed security responses and ineffective policy implementation have further undermined

public confidence in state institutions. The prolonged Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State illustrates how inadequate state presence and weak institutional responses can facilitate the expansion of violent groups. Similarly, recurrent bandit attacks in Zamfara State have revealed persistent deficiencies in local and state security structures. These cases demonstrate that where governance institutions lack the capacity to respond effectively to security threats, insecurity is likely to become more persistent and difficult to contain (Okafor et al., 2026; Papale & Castelli, 2025).

Poverty and unemployment, particularly among young people, remain important structural drivers of armed violence in Nigeria. Persistent economic hardship and limited employment opportunities can increase the vulnerability of young people to recruitment into criminal and armed networks. In areas where legitimate livelihoods are scarce, banditry, kidnapping, and armed robbery may become alternative sources of income. The prevalence of unemployed youths within some bandit networks in North-Western Nigeria illustrates how economic deprivation can facilitate participation in violent activities. Although poverty does not inevitably produce violence, it can create socioeconomic conditions that make engagement in criminality more appealing (Esamagu & Adeyinka, 2025).

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) has further intensified the lethality and operational capacity of armed groups in Nigeria. Their widespread availability has enabled criminal and communal groups to conduct more organised and destructive attacks. In Benue and Plateau States, for example, the circulation of firearms has increased the severity of communal conflicts, while bandit groups in Kaduna and Katsina States have employed assault rifles during attacks on communities and major transportation routes. The increasing availability of these weapons has therefore contributed to the transformation of localised criminal and communal violence into more organised and heavily armed confrontations (Garba & Rabiu, 2026).

Nigeria's porous borders constitute a significant structural factor in the persistence of insecurity, particularly because they facilitate the movement of armed groups, illicit weapons, and other forms of organised criminal activity across national boundaries. Nigeria's borders with Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, especially around the Lake Chad and Sahel regions, present considerable challenges for effective border surveillance and control. The cross-border mobility of Boko Haram-affiliated elements within the Lake Chad Basin illustrates how militant groups can exploit territorial boundaries and gaps in border security. Similarly, the illicit flow of arms from the wider Sahel region has contributed to the increasing capacity of criminal groups involved in banditry and other forms of armed violence in North-Central Nigeria. The transnational nature of these movements therefore complicates domestic security efforts and limits the ability of authorities to contain violence within national territory (Nyelade, 2025).

Deficiencies in intelligence gathering, information sharing, and inter-agency coordination have further constrained preventive security responses. The recurrence of attacks despite prior warnings points to gaps between intelligence acquisition and effective operational action. The 2022 Abuja–Kaduna train attack, for instance, raised concerns about the adequacy of intelligence utilisation and preventive measures preceding the incident. Persistent kidnappings along major highways similarly indicate limitations in surveillance, threat detection, and rapid intervention (Bolarin et al., 2026; Akoji et al., 2026). In my assessment, these shortcomings reflect a

predominantly reactive security framework, in which intervention frequently follows the occurrence of violence rather than anticipating and preventing emerging threats.

Rural marginalisation has emerged as an important factor in the persistence of armed violence in Nigeria. Many remote communities have limited access to security personnel, basic infrastructure, and effective government services, leaving them particularly exposed to criminal activities. This vulnerability is evident in parts of Kwara State, where communities across Kaiama, Patigi, Ifelodun, and Ekiti Local Government Areas have experienced recurrent attacks by bandits and kidnappers (Toheeb, 2026; Suleiman & Balna, 2025). The limited state presence in these areas has consequently created conditions that violent actors can exploit with relative ease.

The drivers of armed violence in Nigeria are not isolated; rather, they interact in ways that reinforce one another. Weak governance can deepen socioeconomic deprivation, porous borders facilitate the movement of weapons and criminal networks, inadequate intelligence constrains preventive intervention, while the marginalisation of rural communities provides vulnerable spaces for armed groups to operate. From my perspective, addressing this complex security challenge requires a comprehensive strategy that extends beyond military responses to encompass governance reform, economic inclusion, improved intelligence capacity, and sustained rural development. Unless these underlying conditions are addressed alongside immediate security threats, armed violence may remain resilient and continue to extend into areas that were previously considered relatively secure.

Impact of Insecurity on Rural Development in Kwara State

Agricultural disruption is one of the major ways insecurity affects rural development in Kwara State. Many rural households depend on farming for their income and food, but repeated attacks have forced some farmers to leave their farms because of the fear of abduction and death. This study argues that the interruption of farming has serious consequences for rural livelihoods, food production, and household income. In Kaiama Local Government Area, the attacks on Woro and Nuku communities in 2026 disrupted farming as residents fled to neighbouring settlements. The attacks on Mari and Dina communities in Patigi in April 2026 also displaced farming households during the planting season, making it difficult for them to cultivate their farms as usual. Such incidents show how insecurity can deprive rural communities of their main source of livelihood and increase the risk of food shortages and economic hardship (Abdulhakeem, 2026).

Another major consequence is population displacement and the gradual depopulation of rural communities. Repeated attacks have forced residents to abandon their ancestral homes in search of safety, disrupting established settlement patterns and reducing the availability of labour needed for local economic activities. This study argues that displacement is not merely a humanitarian problem; it also represents a setback to rural development because communities lose people who contribute to farming, trade, and other productive activities. The killings and kidnappings reported in Oke-Ode, Ifelodun Local Government Area, in September 2025 forced many families to relocate, with some moving to Ilorin and other urban centres. Such movements can weaken the economic base of rural communities while increasing pressure on housing, infrastructure, and social services in the towns and cities receiving displaced residents (Oluseye & Layi, 2025; Dare et al., 2026).

Insecurity has also contributed to economic decline in rural communities. Local markets

are central to the livelihoods of many rural residents, but violence can disrupt trading activities and restrict the movement of people and goods. The August 2025 attack on Babanla market in Ifelodun Local Government Area illustrates this problem, as the incident interrupted commercial activities and left residents facing financial losses and fear (Ayorinde, 2026). This study posits that continued disruption of local markets reduces household income and weakens the ability of rural communities to recover from economic shocks. When people are unable to farm, trade, or move their goods safely, economic activity becomes difficult to maintain and livelihoods gradually deteriorate.

The educational sector has also been affected by insecurity. Communities experiencing armed violence often face school closures, poor attendance, and rising dropout rates. Parents may hesitate to send their children to school because of fears of abduction or further attacks, while teachers can be unwilling to accept postings in areas considered unsafe. This study argues that the consequences for education are particularly serious because prolonged disruption can affect children's learning and future opportunities long after the immediate threat has passed. In response to rising security concerns in some border communities, the Kwara State Government reportedly ordered the temporary closure of schools in affected rural areas as a precaution to protect students and teachers (Daniel, 2025).

Furthermore, insecurity weakens rural infrastructure and institutional presence. Roads, worship centres, community halls, and local administrative structures often become vulnerable or inaccessible during violent crises. The attack on Christ Apostolic Church in Eruku, Ekiti Local Government Area, in November 2025 demonstrates how even social and spiritual infrastructures are no longer insulated from violence (Sahara Reporters, 2025). This study contends that attacks on such spaces symbolise more than physical destruction; they reflect the gradual erosion of institutional trust and communal confidence. Where rural institutions are weakened, governance itself becomes less effective.

Insecurity creates serious health challenges and psychological distress. In addition to physical injuries and loss of life, survivors of violent attacks may experience prolonged anxiety, fear, and emotional trauma. This study maintains that these psychological effects receive less attention than the immediate physical consequences, despite their implications for the well-being and productivity of affected communities. In many rural parts of Kwara State, access to healthcare is also disrupted during periods of violence as movement becomes restricted and health facilities may be understaffed or difficult to reach. These conditions place additional pressure on communities that already have limited access to essential services.

The effects of insecurity show that the problem extends beyond law enforcement and public safety. The disruption of agriculture, displacement, loss of income, interruptions to education, damage to infrastructure, and weakening of community institutions can gradually reduce the capacity of rural communities to develop and recover. I contend that addressing insecurity in Kwara State should therefore be treated as both a security and development concern. Efforts to restore peace must go beyond containing immediate threats and also address the conditions that allow rural livelihoods, essential services, and community life to deteriorate. This is important for achieving lasting stability and creating the conditions for sustainable rural development.

Government Responses to Banditry and Armed Violence in Kwara State

The growing incidence of banditry and armed violence in Kwara State has prompted both the state and federal governments to strengthen measures for the protection of communities. Although the state has long been considered relatively peaceful, recent attacks suggest that parts of Kwara are now experiencing forms of criminal violence similar to those reported in other parts of North-Central Nigeria. At the state level, the Kwara State Government, in collaboration with the Federal Government, trained and deployed about 3,300 forest guards to improve security and tackle criminal activities in the state's forest areas (Abdulrazaq, 2025; Akeweje, 2025). The government has also involved traditional rulers and community leaders in its response to insecurity. Their knowledge of local communities and relationships with residents make them important sources of information for security agencies. Following the attacks in Ifelodun and Kaiama in 2025, the state authorities met with district heads, community leaders, and vigilante representatives to improve the exchange of information and strengthen local responses. Regular meetings between government officials, security agencies, and community representatives have also encouraged residents to report suspicious activities and security concerns (Manasseh, 2025; Biola, 2025). These efforts show that the involvement of local communities is important in identifying threats and responding to insecurity, particularly in rural areas where formal security personnel may be limited.

At the federal level, the response has largely involved the deployment and expansion of military capacity in areas facing security threats. Following the February 2026 attacks on Woro and Nuku communities in Kaiama Local Government Area, in which at least 75 people were reportedly killed, Army personnel under Operation Savannah Shield were deployed to the area to strengthen security and respond to further threats (Ayooluwa, 2026; Bayo, 2026). The Federal Government has also approved a new Nigerian Army battalion in Omu-Aran to improve the speed of military response in the area. In addition, the establishment of the 9 Division Headquarters in Ilorin has expanded the Army's command structure and presence in Kwara State and the wider region (Samuel, 2026; Temitope, 2026). The military response has been complemented by joint operations involving the Nigerian Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, and intelligence agencies. These operations have focused on locating criminal groups, preventing kidnappings, and protecting communities and major transport routes. Particular attention has been given to border areas linking Kwara State with Niger State, where coordinated patrols have been used to monitor the movement of criminal groups and reduce the risk of further attacks (Tribune, 2025).

Despite these measures, several difficulties continue to affect the response to banditry in Kwara State. Poor coordination among security agencies, delays in responding to threats, gaps in intelligence, and the difficult terrain in some rural areas can limit the effectiveness of operations. In my assessment, the continued attacks in parts of rural Kwara suggest that increased security presence has not yet produced a lasting decline in violence. The government's response has combined military intervention with measures involving local security actors and community leaders. While these efforts are necessary, , this study contends that the use of force alone cannot provide a lasting solution. There is also a need to improve intelligence gathering, strengthen cooperation among security agencies, support rural livelihoods, and involve communities more closely in efforts to maintain peace. Unless these wider issues are addressed,

government interventions may continue to deal with individual incidents without making substantial progress in reducing the conditions that allow banditry to persist.

FINDINGS

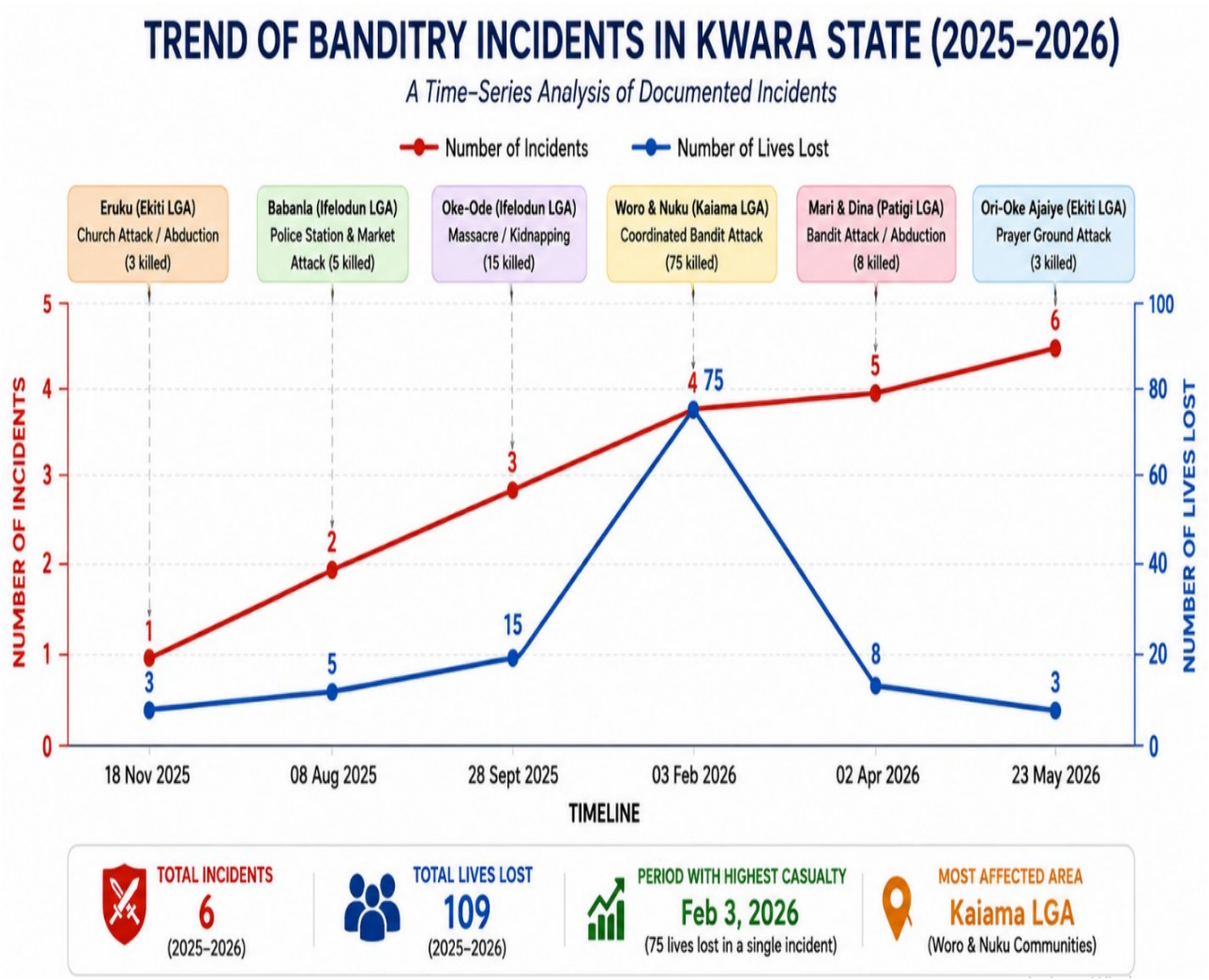


Fig 1. Trend of Armed Violence in Kwara State.

ARMED VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN KWARA STATE (2025–2026)

Location	Year	Nature of Armed Violence	Number of Lives Lost	Brief Description	Sources
Eruku, Ekiti LGA, Kwara State	2025	Armed Attack / Abduction	3	Armed assailants invaded Christ Apostolic Church (CAC) Oke Isegun during worship, killing three worshippers and abducting the pastor alongside several congregants.	ARISE NEWS
Ifelodun LGA, Kwara State (Babanla)	2025	Armed Attack on Police Station and Market	5	Hundreds of armed bandits on motorcycles invaded Babanla, attacking the police station and market, killing five persons including a police officer.	Premium Times
Oke-Ode town, Ifelodun LGA, Kwara State	2025	Massacre / Kidnapping	15	Armed bandits launched a deadly assault on the agrarian town, killing hunters, vigilantes, traders, and community defenders while abducting several residents.	PUNCH
Woro and Nuku communities, Kaiama LGA, Kwara State	2026	Coordinated Bandit Attack	75	Armed bandits attacked Woro and Nuku communities, resulting in mass casualties, displacement, and the takeover of the affected communities by soldiers and forest guards.	BBC NEWS
Mari and Dina communities, Patigi LGA, Kwara State	2026	Bandit Attack / Abduction	8	Suspected bandits attacked Mari and Dina communities, killing five residents and three soldiers while abducting women and children.	Premium Times
Ori-Oke Ajaiye prayer ground, Ekiti LGA, Kwara State	2026	Armed Invasion / Abduction	3	Armed bandits invaded Ori-Oke Ajaiye prayer ground during a vigil, killing three worshippers, abducting fifteen others, and setting the Emir's palace ablaze.	CHANNELS TELEVISION

Fig 1. Documented Incidents of Armed Violence in Kwara State (2025–2026)

Figure 1 presents the temporal distribution of documented major incidents of armed violence in Kwara State between 2025 and 2026. The figure illustrates both the frequency of attacks and the associated casualty figures across the two-year period. As shown, the number of documented major incidents remained unchanged, with three incidents recorded in each year. However, the human cost of these incidents increased substantially. Recorded deaths rose from 23 in 2025 to 101 in 2026, representing a 339.1% increase. This sharp rise was largely influenced by the February 2026 attack on Woro and Nuku communities in Kaiama Local Government Area, which alone accounted for 75 deaths, representing 60.5% of all deaths recorded during the study period. The evidence therefore points to an increase in the lethality of documented attacks rather than their frequency. The average number of deaths per incident rose from approximately 7.7 in 2025 to 33.7 in 2026, further illustrating the growing severity of violence during the study period.

Figure 2 provides a detailed breakdown of the six major incidents documented during the study period, including their locations, dates, nature of attacks, casualties, and reported sources. The incidents were documented across four Local Government Areas: Kaiama, Patigi, Ekiti, and Ifelodun. The figure reveals that attacks involved different targets, including rural communities, religious gatherings, markets, and security facilities. This diversity of targets demonstrates the expanding scope of armed violence beyond isolated rural attacks to include spaces of worship, commerce, and state authority.

The November 2025 attack on the Christ Apostolic Church in Eruku, Ekiti Local Government Area, resulted in three deaths and the abduction of the pastor and other worshippers. Similarly, the May 2026 attack on the Ori-Oke Ajaiye prayer ground resulted in three deaths and fifteen abductions. These incidents demonstrate the exposure of religious gatherings to armed violence during the study period, indicating that places of worship have become vulnerable targets.

Figure 2 also records attacks involving economic and security facilities. The August 2025 attack in Babanla, Ifelodun Local Government Area, targeted a police station and market and resulted in five deaths, including a police officer. The September 2025 attack in Oke-Ode resulted in fifteen deaths involving hunters, vigilantes, traders, and a traditional leader. These incidents indicate that armed groups have targeted both state security apparatus and commercial spaces, disrupting economic activity and undermining public confidence in security institutions.

The February 2026 attack on Woro and Nuku communities in Kaiama was considerably more lethal than other documented incidents, with 75 deaths recorded. This single incident accounted for 60.5% of all deaths recorded during the study period and significantly influenced the overall increase in casualties between 2025 and 2026. The scale of this attack suggests a capacity for mass violence that extends beyond the patterns observed in other documented incidents.

Abduction was another recurring feature of the documented incidents. The April 2026 attack on Mari and Dina communities in Patigi resulted in eight deaths and the abduction of women and children. Abductions were also reported in the Eruku church attack and the Ori-Oke Ajaiye prayer ground attack. While some reports did not provide exact numbers of abducted persons, the repeated combination of killings and abductions indicates that the documented attacks involved multiple forms of harm. Of the six incidents documented, four involved abductions alongside killings, representing 66.7% of all documented incidents. This suggests that kidnapping has become a consistent feature of armed violence in the state.

Figures 1 and 2 reveal several important patterns in armed violence in Kwara State during the study period. First, the frequency of major incidents remained stable, but their lethality increased dramatically, with deaths rising by 339.1%. Second, attacks were concentrated in four Local Government Areas, with Kaiama experiencing the most severe incident, accounting for 60.5% of all deaths. Third, the targets of attacks varied widely, encompassing rural communities, religious gatherings, markets, and security facilities. Fourth, abductions were a consistent feature of the violence, occurring in 66.7% of documented incidents. Fifth, the documented incidents affected civilian populations, religious institutions, economic activities, and security personnel, demonstrating the varied forms and consequences of armed violence in Kwara State. These patterns provide the empirical foundation for the discussion that follows, where the findings are interpreted through the lenses of Human Security Theory and Routine Activity Theory.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings indicate that the principal change during the study period was not the frequency of documented major incidents but their lethality. Three major incidents were recorded in 2025 and three in 2026, while documented deaths rose from 23 to 101. This distinction is important because it prevents the evidence from being overstated as a simple rise in the number of attacks. Instead, the pattern suggests that a relatively stable number of documented incidents produced substantially greater human costs, largely

because of the February 2026 Woro and Nuku attack in Kaiama.

Routine Activity Theory helps explain why the documented violence was concentrated in vulnerable rural settings and exposed public spaces. The attacks on Woro and Nuku, Mari and Dina, Oke-Ode, Babanla, Eruku, and Ori-Oke Ajaiye brought motivated armed actors into contact with suitable targets in locations where effective guardianship was limited or could be overwhelmed. The Kaiama incident is particularly illustrative: a remote rural setting, vulnerable civilian communities, and insufficient immediate protection created conditions in which an organised armed group could inflict mass casualties. This application supports the situational value of Routine Activity Theory without treating it as a complete explanation of the wider causes of armed violence.

The Kwara pattern also shares features with scholarship on banditry and kidnapping elsewhere in Nigeria, particularly the use of killings, abductions, raids, and attacks on economically important spaces. Adesina and Kehinde (2026) describe the development of banditry beyond localised criminality into more organised networks, while Ogbuke and Usman (2025) emphasise the wider social and economic consequences of kidnapping. The Kwara evidence is consistent with these observations, but it also differs from entrenched North-Western conflict environments because the documented incidents remain more spatially dispersed and the dataset does not establish a sustained increase in incident frequency. The more defensible interpretation is therefore that Kwara is experiencing an emerging and increasingly lethal security challenge rather than a fully entrenched conflict pattern.

Human Security Theory clarifies why the significance of these attacks extends beyond casualty figures. The documented incidents affected farming, markets, schooling, religious life, mobility, and community confidence. Attacks on worship centres in Eruku and Ori-Oke Ajaiye demonstrate threats to personal and community security, while the Babanla market attack and violence in agrarian settlements show how insecurity can undermine economic and livelihood security. These findings reinforce the argument that armed violence should be assessed through its effects on everyday wellbeing rather than only through deaths and physical destruction.

The combination of the two theories therefore provides a stronger explanation than either framework alone. Routine Activity Theory identifies the immediate opportunity structure surrounding attacks target accessibility, location, and weaknesses in guardianship whereas Human Security Theory captures the consequences once violence occurs. At the same time, the findings caution against reducing the problem to situational opportunity. The structural vulnerabilities discussed in the literature, including weak governance, socio-economic deprivation, rural marginalisation, arms proliferation, and intelligence gaps, remain relevant to understanding why vulnerable environments persist.

The findings consequently support a preventive rather than predominantly reactive security orientation. Reinforcing rural security presence is important, but security deployment alone does not address intelligence failures, community-security linkages, or the developmental vulnerabilities that shape exposure to violence. The evidence therefore favours an integrated approach combining capable guardianship, intelligence-led prevention, inter-agency and community coordination, and measures that strengthen rural resilience.

The study is limited by its reliance on secondary sources, particularly media reports and government documents, and by the short 2025–2026 observation period. Media reports

may undercount incidents in remote communities or differ in casualty and abduction figures, while government documents may reflect the scope and information available to the reporting agencies. Although cross-source triangulation was used to reduce these limitations, the dataset should be interpreted as a record of documented major incidents rather than a complete census of all armed violence in Kwara State. The findings therefore establish patterns within the selected evidence but do not support claims about every incident occurring in the state.

CONCLUSION

This study examined documented incidents of armed violence in Kwara State between 2025 and 2026 using qualitative thematic analysis. Six major incidents were identified across Kaiama, Patigi, Ifelodun, and Ekiti Local Government Areas. Although three incidents were documented in each year, recorded deaths increased from 23 in 2025 to 101 in 2026, representing a 339.1% rise. The incidents involved killings, abductions, and attacks on rural communities, religious gatherings, markets, and security facilities, demonstrating the varied forms of armed violence documented during the period. Interpreted through Human Security Theory and Routine Activity Theory, the findings link vulnerabilities and gaps in protection with the consequences of violence for affected populations. This study contributes to the literature in several important ways. First, it provides the first systematic empirical analysis of armed violence in Kwara State during the 2025–2026 period, mapping the spatial and temporal distribution of attacks in a North-Central state that has received limited scholarly attention. Second, it documents incident-level patterns of killings, abductions, and target selection, revealing an emerging pattern characterised by varied targets, recurring abductions, and substantially increased lethality. Third, it applies Human Security Theory and Routine Activity Theory in combination to explain both the occurrence and consequences of violence in an emerging conflict context, demonstrating how the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardians creates opportunities for attacks, and how such attacks produce profound human security consequences for affected communities. Fourth, it demonstrates the multidimensional consequences of armed violence for rural development, including disruptions to farming, education, economic activity, and community relations. Providing a localized, empirically grounded North-Central perspective, the study extends the existing scholarship on Nigeria's banditry and kidnapping problem beyond the well-documented conflict zones of the North-East and North-West.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to address the growing challenge of armed violence and insecurity in Kwara State:

The concentration of documented attacks in remote agrarian settlements, particularly in Kaiama, Patigi, and Ifelodun, underscores the need for stronger security coverage through additional police outposts, military checkpoints, and rapid-response units. This finding directly supports the recommendation because the absence of capable guardians in Routine Activity Theory terms creates opportunities for armed groups to operate with relative impunity. Strengthening these structures would improve surveillance, shorten response times, and limit opportunities for further attacks.

The occurrence of coordinated attacks and repeated abductions highlights the need for closer collaboration among formal security agencies, vigilante groups, traditional rulers, and local residents. This finding supports the recommendation because the documented

incidents reveal that armed groups have exploited intelligence gaps and weak community-security linkages. Strengthening community-based intelligence and early-warning mechanisms would improve the timely identification of suspicious movements and emerging threats, particularly in vulnerable rural and border communities.

The documented attacks in rural communities point to the need for continued attention to areas that may provide mobility and concealment for armed groups, particularly around the Kainji axis and border areas linking Kwara with neighbouring states. This finding supports the recommendation because attacks were concentrated in locations where difficult terrain and proximity to state borders facilitated the movement and concealment of armed groups. Regular patrols, aerial surveillance, and coordinated operations across state boundaries should be used where intelligence identifies specific security risks.

The disruption of livelihoods, education, and community life documented in the study demonstrates that armed violence has consequences beyond immediate casualties. This finding supports the recommendation because the attacks disproportionately affected agrarian communities where poverty, unemployment, and limited state presence created conditions of vulnerability. Government should therefore strengthen rural development through improved infrastructure, youth employment, agricultural support, and educational opportunities. Such measures can strengthen community resilience and reduce the conditions that may increase vulnerability to criminal activity.

The severity of some of the documented attacks demonstrates the need to move beyond responses that occur only after violence has taken place. This finding supports the recommendation because the reactive nature of current security responses has not prevented the escalation of violence. The Kwara State and Federal Governments should strengthen regular security assessments, inter-agency coordination, information sharing, and preventive planning to identify emerging threats and improve preparedness before attacks escalate.

The deaths, abductions, and disruption of social and economic activities documented across the study area require appropriate support for affected households and communities. This finding supports the recommendation because Human Security Theory directs attention to the full range of consequences that structural vulnerabilities produce. Government and relevant institutions should provide assistance that facilitates the recovery of livelihoods, education, and essential community activities following serious security incidents.

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