

## Summary

The inauguration of President-elect Bola Tinubu on May 29 could spark protests and possibly riots across Nigeria, especially near political offices and government facilities. Furthermore, after a slight drop in cases of kidnappings in February, cases are returning to levels in line with the long-term trend. Foreign nationals are often not explicitly targeted, but due to the economic motivation behind the abductions, perceived wealth is a reason to be targeted.

### Recent events and developments

On May 16, 2023, a U.S. mission convoy with police escort was attacked in Anambra State by suspected Biafran separatists, killing at least four. Three people were kidnapped, two of whom were confirmed by the U.S. embassy to be rescued three days later. Additionally, election-related protests are still common, as exemplified by peaceful Labour Party (LP) protests near the Presidential Election Tribunal on May 20. Both the LP and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who represent 53% of voters, rejected the results of the February 25 presidential elections, signalling public discontent. Furthermore, kidnappings of Nigerians have returned after a slight drop in cases in February 2023, with 21 cases. March and April 2023 showed a gradual increase with respectively 32 and 36 reported cases. Recently, on May 3, 2023, a Turkish national was abducted outside of his home in Kubwa, Abuja. Abductions in Nigeria are chiefly economically motivated. Most events occur in remote villages and on roads leading into big cities, although cities such as Lagos and Abuja can also experience abductions.

### Impact assessment

The swearing-in of President-elect Bola Tinubu on May 29 is expected to impact the security situation in Nigeria, as protests are likely throughout the nation. While subversive acts to disrupt the transfer of power have been outlawed by the Department of State Services (DSS), the LP of Peter Obi has announced that it does not accept the results of the elections and has shared videos of protests, signalling its support. Protests can turn violent with little notice or due to retributive actions by security forces. Offices of the electoral commission (INEC), political party offices, and government buildings could be targeted. Especially in the big cities, disruptions to travel are likely near possible protest locations. Additionally, while main targets of abductions and violent attacks are not foreign nationals, the economic motivation behind most attacks means that those who are perceived to be wealthy, such as Westerners, can become targets. Given the trend of the recent years, it is not expected that cases of abductions as well as other crimes will decrease without an improvement in economic conditions.

### Advice from Forth Global

- Make sure contingency and security plans are updated to the current security circumstances and adequately distributed to employees on the ground. This includes the decision-making process on relocation, evacuation and hibernation.
- Make sure all employees travelling to Nigeria undertake a three-day HEAT training prior to deployment.
- Avoid travel by road when traveling between cities. If impossible to do so, plan journeys ahead with adequate security detail, check the state of roads and allow for extra time to reach your destination.
- Monitor local news and liaise with local contacts to be informed of relevant developments.
- Advise staff to avoid all kinds of political rallies, INEC facilities, and party infrastructure.

### Customized advice

Please contact us for specific advice:

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