

Niger: January 2019 Chronology of Violent Incidents Related to Al-Qaeda affiliates Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM), Boko Haram, Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), and Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS)

> February 13, 2019 By Rida Lyammouri

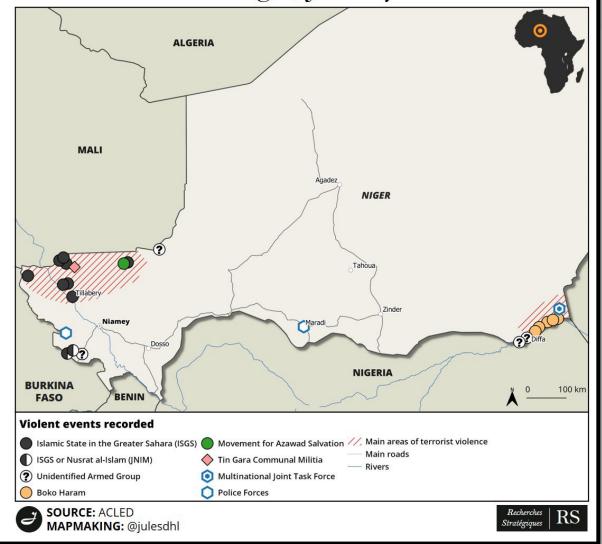
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NIGER: JANUARY 2019 SITREP

- January 2019 witnessed same trends and increased in the number of violent incidents by VEOs and as a result of inter-communal tensions. Although not officially claimed, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) and Jama't Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) are strongly suspected to be responsible for the attacks against Nigerien security forces in Tillabéri Region, and to be behind acts of robberies seeking resources. Same could be said about Boko Haram and Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) in Diffa Region where number of incursions and robberies against local shops were recorded.
- Highly likely these violent trends to continue and to expand to other parts of the country, notably on the borders with Mali, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria.

Violent events in Niger, January 2019





JAN 2019 Chronology of Violent Incidents by JNIM, ISGS, and Armed Bandits

<u>01 JAN 19</u>: Unidentified gunmen attacked and robbed two truck drivers near Makalondi, Tillabéri Region. Drivers stripped of their cash, cellphones, physically abused, and vehicles set on fire (see images).





<u>03 JAN 19</u>: Suspected JNIM or ISGS militants attacked a National Guard position in Boni, Tillabéri Region. Security forces repelled the attack while 1 soldier killed and 1 injured.

<u>04 JAN 19</u>: Kisal NGO reported that MSA killed a Fulani civilian identified as Ibrahim Naddé Dango near Aguinekou-Dogague, north of Darey, Tillabéri Region. They also reported seized his and other herder's livestock.

<u>06 JAN 19</u>: Suspected members of ISGS militants attacked the village of Walagounto, Tillabéri Region. 1 civilian killed under unclear circumstances.

<u>07 JAN 19</u>: Security forces conducted a raid on Bossey Bangou village, Tillabéri Region. The raid was a result of information about gunmen presence in the area.

<u>07 JAN 19</u>: Custom officer fired at and killed fuel smuggler between Kontoume and Chantala villages, Maradi Region.

07 JAN 19: According to Cluster Protection Niger five civilians taken then executed by suspected members of ISGS militants near Inagagay, 25 west of In-Ates, Tillabéri Region.

<u>07 JAN 19</u>: Kisal NGO reported multiple livestock robberies by MSA militiamen from Fulani community families in multiple locations, including Sounkaya, Ezza, and Loukouma villages, Tillabéri Region.



JAN 2019 Chronology of Violent Incidents by JNIM, ISGS, and Armed Bandits

- 10 JAN 19: According to Cluster Protection Niger, suspected (my own assumption here) members of ISGS militants entered the village of Kontantchi, 13km East of Bani Bangou, Tillabéri Region looking for a local merchant, and threatened his family before leaving.
- 11 JAN 19: Two non-state armed groups clashed in what appeared inter-communal violence in Tin Gara, Tillabéri Region. At least 5 people killed (Source: Facebook).
- <u>11 JAN 19</u>: Suspected members of Boko Haram or ISWAP militants entered N'Gouba village, Diffa Region and ransacked local shops.
- <u>11 JAN 19</u>: Four unidentified gunmen kidnapped civilian from Mattawalliri village, Diffa Region south of Chetimari under unclear circumstances.
- 12 JAN 19: Suspected members of ISGS militant group attacked a vehicle belonging to state vaccination services between Ouanzerbe and Teguey, Tillabéri Region. Agents left unharmed while the vehicle set on fire. (Source: Facebook)
- <u>12 JAN 19</u>: Nigerien Army armored vehicle and pickup truck struck two IEDs planted by JNIM or ISGS near Boni on the borders with Burkina Faso, Torodi Commune, Tillabéri Region. 4 Nigerien killed and 9 injured.
- 14 JAN 19: Reportedly, violent clashes occurred between local farmers and herdsmen near Chetimari, Diffa Region under unclear circumstances.
- 23 JAN 19: Reportedly herders attacked the village of Loumbouram, near Chertimari, Diffa Region.
- <u>23 JAN 19</u>: Suspected Boko Haram or ISWAP militants kidnapped an elderly man of N'Garoua village, Diffa Region. Hostage managed to escape and arrive safely to Diffa. (Source: <u>Jeunesse Diffa</u>)



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25 JAN 19: Suspected ISGS militants carried an attack on the police station of Tilakeina, Tillabéri Region. 1 assailant, 1 policeman injured while unknown number of civilians also wounded.

26 JAN 19: Unidentified gunmen attacked and robbed travelers of two vehicles near Ekerfane, Tillabéri Region. Passengers were also assaulted. (Source: Facebook)

<u>28 JAN 19</u>: Suspected members of Boko Haram or ISWAP militants attacked Filin barka camp for internally displaced population, 12km of Bosso, Diffa Region. 4 people killed and others injured, while houses, vehicles, and loads of peppers destroyed.

<u>31 JAN 19</u>: Nigerien Army vehicle struck an IED near Titahoune, Tillabéri Region. 4 soldiers injured. While no group claimed responsibility, it's an area where ISGS known to operate.

31 JAN 19: Suspected Boko Haram or ISWAP militants attacked Kaare village, Diffa Region under unclear circumstances. 2 civilians killed and 1 injured.





Refugee Camp Tabarey – Barey, Tillabéri Region. Source: Sahel MeMo LLC