

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, ABUJA

Security/Travel Advisory of Sep 2018

1. The High Commission of India wishes to point out that in the recent past, some parts of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja have witnessed **an increase in criminal activities**.
2. Protests by Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) members in Abuja in Apr 18 led to a heavy traffic gridlock along Central Business District which caused inconvenience to the public. In some cases, the protesters also clashed with the police. Kidnapping cases have risen in Nigeria, and are currently witnessing a spike in the North, including the Kaduna- Abuja road. Recently unidentified gunmen shot and killed 07 policemen stationed at a Police Post at the junction of Galadimawa Roundabout in Abuja. Criminal activities do pose a threat and criminals are known to use violence. The Federal Government has since increased police and military presence along the vulnerable areas of the highway as well as in areas prone to violence.
3. Boko Haram has carried out sporadic attacks against both hard and soft targets in the North East and the Nigerian Armed Forces have stepped up their operations against the terrorist group. States of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, are primarily affected.
4. The intensifying pressure and competition for arable land in the country along with a population boom has led to the current Farmer-Herdsmen crisis. While foreigners are not targeted by this inter community violence, but there may be a risk of being at a wrong-place/wrong-time specially in the affected states. States of Benue, Taraba and Plateau have been majorly affected in the recent months.
5. **Road Travel** Most roads particularly outside major cities like Abuja and Lagos are not illuminated; road conditions deteriorate outside major urban areas. Driving is thus a safety concern. Travel should be planned during daylight hours only, particularly outside major cities. Driving at night is strongly discouraged, due to increased likelihood of accident and crime. Taxis are generally unreliable and unsafe and should be avoided. Hired cars by the company are a preferred way of travel.
6. The Police/Military do establish checkpoints on highways and roads especially at night and travellers should always slow down and follow directions of the uniformed personnel at these checkpoints.
7. **Railways** A rail link between Abuja and Kaduna exists and the Nigerian Railway Corporation runs four scheduled services daily. The railways are a popular way for travel between both the cities.
8. **Air Travel** Several private companies operate domestic flights. Regional flights are routinely delayed, and little information on the flight status is available either online or at airports. International flights are operated by several international airlines and the frequency and choice of these flights is more from Lagos than Abuja. Nigeria Customs Service has recently issued a Security Alert through the media and implemented intensified screening of all passengers and luggage into and out of Nigeria. This action follows reports alleging a terrorist plot to place explosives on commercial airlines. **Yellow fever is mandatory when entering Nigeria.**

- If you're working or travelling in areas where there is a Boko Haram presence, especially in the North East of Nigeria, you should be aware of the threat of terrorist kidnap.
- Do follow your employer's security advice, make sure your accommodation is secure and review your security measures regularly.
- The local laws and practices should be respected at all times.

DON'T's

- Do not rely on unknown persons or strangers.
- In case of a crisis do not venture out and remain inside your house or campus till the situation has improved.
- Do not travel alone, especially at night.
- If unsure, then do not share your travel details with strangers.
- Avoid large crowds and public demonstrations as they can turn violent unexpectedly and at short notice.
- Avoid going to crowded local market places.
- Avoid ostentatious display of wealth.
- Do not get into arguments with the locals, better to walk away from a developing dangerous situation.

Nigeria being a friendly country, should be reflected in our behaviour