



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 1 & Monday 4 September 2017**

### **Information on Kaduna State including: armed conflict;**

A report issued by *SBM Intelligence* notes in February 2017 that:

“Kaduna State is currently enmeshed in a humanitarian crisis. The southern part of the state has become the epicentre of deadly violence, most of it inflicted by herdsmen on farming communities” ((SBM Intelligence (February 2017) *Southern Kaduna, A Critical Look*, p.3).

A report released in June 2017 by *IRIN News* states that:

“Nigeria's Middle Belt straddles the divide between the largely Muslim north and a majority Christian south. It is an ethnically and religiously diverse zone, plagued by conflict over farmland, grazing areas, and stock routes. In southern Kaduna these clashes have pitted the traditionally pastoralist Fulani against farmers who see themselves as "indigenous" to the area” (IRIN News (13 June 2017) *The deadly conflict tearing Nigeria apart (and it's not Boko Haram)*).

A report published in June 2017 by the *European Asylum Support Office* notes that:

“The North West region shows lower levels of violence than neighbouring states in the North East, although there have also been violent attacks by Boko Haram in Kano and Kaduna since 2012. The armed violence in the latter state has taken several forms. Like in the North Central zone, the ‘indigene’ and ‘settler’ issue...has resulted in violence focusing on land issues and access to economic and political resources...Southern Kaduna has been especially affected and has become ‘the epicentre of deadly violence’, according to an analysis by intelligence firm SBM Intel” (European Asylum Support Office (June 2017) *Nigeria Country Focus*, p.24).

*This Day* in August 2017 states:

“The Kaduna State government Wednesday warned against the massive circulation of gory pictures of dead bodies and those injured in the recent violence that erupted in Kajuru Local Government Area of the state and inciting people to revenge. About 40 people were killed in July 19, following a communal clash between the Adara ethnic group and Fulanis in the area” (This Day (23 August 2017) *Kajuru Killings: Kaduna Cautions against Reprisal*).

### **Attacks by Boko Haram against Christians;**

*CNN* in May 2017 states:

“Boko Haram militants mainly inhabit areas in the northern states of Nigeria, specifically Yobe, Kano, Bauchi, Borno and Kaduna” (CNN (9 May 2017) *Boko Haram Fast Facts*).

*Vanguard* in June 2017 states:

“A sting operation by DSS [Department of State Services] in Kano [northwestern Nigeria] Sunday [25 June] led to the arrest of a top Boko Haram commander and 20 other suspects. Director, Kano local office of DSS, Alhassan Muhammad told reporters that the 48-hour operation neutralised what would have been a bloody Eid Fitr in Kano's recent history. Alhassan disclosed that the combat operations jointly carried out by the police and his men led to the arrest of the unit commander of Boko Haram who was in charge of Kano, Kaduna and Sokoto” (Vanguard (26 June 2017) *Nigerian forces arrest Boko Haram commander and 20 others*).

A report issued in July 2017 by the *International Crisis Group* states that:

“President Buhari's December 2016 declaration that the army had conquered Boko Haram's last stronghold raised hopes the conflict was ending. But, seven months on, the insurgency remains very much alive. Fighters continue to attack civilians and military targets with new ferocity. June's casualty rate – more than 80 – topped those for earlier months of the year. In April, there were indications that Boko Haram was establishing new forest camps in Borno and Taraba states, and setting up new cells in Kaduna, Kogi and Niger states” (International Crisis Group (20 August 2017) *Watch List 2017 - Second Update [Nigeria: Growing Insecurity on Multiple Fronts]*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

### **Attacks by Fulani herdsmen against Christians; &**

In August 2017 the *United States Department of State* issued a report reviewing events of the previous year which includes stating that:

“In October media reported gunmen believed to be Fulani herdsmen killed 40 people in Godogodo, Kaduna State. In retaliation, media reported Christians stopped two buses traveling from Plateau State to Kaduna State, removed the Fulani herdsmen passengers, and killed 14 of them, burning the bodies” (United States Department of State (15 August 2017) *2016 Report on International Religious Freedom: Nigeria*).

A report published by *Christian Solidarity Worldwide* in February 2017 states:

“Heavily-armed Fulani herdsmen carried out raids on communities in Kaduna State, central Nigeria, on 19 and 20 February, destroying homes and claiming at least 21 lives. Hundreds of militia men reportedly descended on Bakin Kogi in the Kaninkon Chiefdom of Jema'a Local Government Area (LGA) in southern Kaduna State during the evening of 19 February, burning down houses, killing at least seven people and leaving scores more injured...Fulani herder attacks on non-Muslim communities in the central Nigerian states of Kaduna, Plateau, Bauchi, Taraba and Benue, which have been ongoing since 2010, spiralled in May 2015, with States experiencing intense cycles of violence. According to a report by analysts SB Morgen Intelligence (SBM), by mid-December 2016, a total of 1,425 people had died in attacks launched by herdsmen on these States. For over a year, southern Kaduna State has once again been the main focus of the herder campaign, with four of its eight LGAs suffering regular attacks. According to the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, by late December 2016, 808 people had died in attacks on 53 villages in the area. A statement issued in November 2016 by the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) denomination put the number of people displaced by violence since 2013 at over

20,000. Several villages in the area have reportedly been occupied by Fulani militia, their cattle and their families, including 16 in the Attakad Chiefdom” (Christian Solidarity Worldwide (21 February 2017) *At least 21 dead in Fulani raids in Kaduna State*).

In March 2017 a paper issued by *Conciliation Resources* includes stating:

“In Kaduna State ethno-religious violence stems in part from a history of discrimination by the state’s Muslim majority and the emirate in Zaria against Christians and ethnic minorities in southern Kaduna” (Conciliation Resources (March 2017) *From cooperation to contention; Political unsettlement and farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Nigeria*, p.15).

A report released in April 2017 by *Christian Solidarity Worldwide* notes that:

“At least 12 people were killed and many more injured when Fulani militiamen attacked Asso Village in the Jemaa local government area (LGA) of Kaduna State in central Nigeria on 15 April...Fulani herder militia attacks on non-Muslim communities in the central Nigerian states of Bauchi, Benue, Kaduna, Plateau and Taraba, which have been ongoing since 2010, spiralled in May 2015, with States experiencing intense cycles of violence. For over a year, southern Kaduna State has once again been the main focus of the militia campaign, with four of its eight LGAs suffering regular massacres that have claimed at least 800 lives. The Kaduna State Government eventually deployed troops and police to the area in December 2016 to address the violence; however, the killings have continued, with villagers also targeted as they tend their fields” (Christian Solidarity Worldwide (21 April 2017) *Campaign of violence continues in Southern Kaduna*).

*Agence France Presse* in July 2017 states:

“At least 33 people were killed in clashes between cattle herders and farmers in Nigeria's northern Kaduna state, a police chief told AFP Thursday. Two days of violence between herders and farmers erupted on Sunday in Kajuru village, 50 kilometres (30 miles) outside the city of Kaduna, said state police commissioner Agyole Abeh. "A total of 33 people were killed in the violence between Fulani herdsmen and farmers," said Abeh” (Agence France Presse (20 July 2017) *Clashes between herdsmen, farmers kill 33 in Nigeria*).

This document also states that:

“Southern Kaduna has seen a spate of deadly clashes between the predominantly Christian farmers and Muslim Fulani herders, a historically nomadic people who graze their cattle on the land. Originally, the clashes were over land and water rights disputes. But ethnicity and religion have been playing a larger role in the conflict after post-election violence in 2011 that saw hundreds of Muslims killed and forced to flee the area. Without a national strategy in place to address the conflict, tensions between herdsmen and farmers have not subsided, and tit-for-tat killings have become common” (ibid).

### **Information on an attack by Fulani herdsmen on 29 May 2015, in southern Kaduna**

No information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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