



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Nigeria- Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 22 November 2017

Information on the current threat of Boko Haram

In November 2017 *BBC News* states:

“At least 50 people have been killed in a suicide bombing in the eastern Nigerian state of Adamawa...No-one has said they were behind the bombing but the Islamist militants Boko Haram typically target crowded places in northern Nigeria. Some 20,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram's eight-year insurgency...Boko Haram militants have recently stepped up suicide bombings in Nigeria's north-east after the military recaptured territories previously controlled by the group” (BBC News (21 November 2017) *Nigeria suicide bombing kills 50 in Adamawa state*).

The *Daily Post* in November 2017 notes that:

“Amnesty International (AI) has revealed that no fewer than 375 civilians have been killed between January and November 2017 in various attacks carried out by members of the Boko Haram sect” (Daily Post (22 November 2017) *Boko Haram has killed 375 civilians in 2017 – Amnesty International*).

Voice of America in November 2017 points out that:

“The militant group has killed more than 20,000 people during its eight-year insurgency against the government in a bid to create a strict Islamic state in the majority Muslim north. The government has repeatedly assured Nigerians the insurgency is drawing to a close, only to see new attacks” (Voice of America (21 November 2017) *Suicide Bomber Kills At Least 50 in Nigeria*).

A report published by the *Guardian* in November 2017 notes:

“Pushed back from some of its former strongholds, Boko Haram's main tactic is now bombing...The Nigerian military has repeatedly claimed to have won the war against Boko Haram and to have killed its most prominent leader, Abubakar Shekau. But President Muhammadu Buhari's claim late last year that the extremist group had been “crushed” has proven to be premature. Boko Haram has been blamed for more than 20,000 deaths during its nearly decade-old insurgency, which has spilled over into neighbouring countries and displaced millions of people, creating a vast humanitarian crisis...In recent months, Boko Haram activity has been concentrated on the far north of Adamawa state, around Madagali, which is near the border with Borno state. This month, at least two civilians were killed when dozens of Boko Haram fighters tried to storm the town of Gulak but were repelled by soldiers. There have been repeated suicide bombings in the area, which is near to the Sambisa forest area of Borno, where the militants had a base. Boko Haram fighters are also said to be hiding in the Mandara mountains, to the east of Adamawa state, which forms the border with neighbouring Cameroon” (Guardian (21 November 2017) *Nigeria mosque attack: suicide bomber kills dozens*).

Reuters in November 2017 states:

“The government and military have said numerous times since 2015 that Boko Haram’s eight-year insurgency is almost defeated but the group continues to attack civilian and military targets” (Reuters (21 November 2017) *Suicide bomber kills 50 in Nigeria in deadliest attack this year*).

This document also points out that:

“Boko Haram has waged an insurgency in northeastern Nigeria since 2009 in its attempt to create an Islamic state in the region. It has killed more than 20,000 and forced around 2 million people to flee their homes. The group split in 2016 and the faction under Shekau is based in the Sambisa forest on the border with Cameroon and Chad and mainly targets civilians with suicide bombers. The other faction is based in the Lake Chad region and led by Abu Musab al-Barnawi. It mainly attacks military forces after quietly building up its strength over the past year. Most attacks focus on Borno state, the birthplace of the insurgency. The group held land around the size of Belgium in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states until early 2015 but was forced out by Nigeria’s army and troops from neighbouring countries” (ibid).

A report published in November 2017 by the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project* notes that:

“Though Boko Haram was largely dislodged from their base of operations in Sambisa Forest in late 2016, the group continues to carry out small-scale suicide bombings against predominately civilian targets in rural villages and displacement camps of Borno State” (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (10 November 2017) *Conflict Trends* (No. 63): *Real-Time Analysis of African Political Violence, November 2017 [Nigeria excerpt]*).

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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