



## **Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 4 February 2019**

### **Information on the current situation/threat of Boko Haram**

A compilation of COI sources issued in November 2018 by the *European Asylum Support Office* includes stating that:

“...sources state that ‘Boko Haram, in fact, remains an important source of insecurity and instability in the Lake Chad Basin’...and find the ‘belief that Boko Haram is no longer a potent force may be misplaced and claims of its defeat are grossly exaggerated’...Alex Thurston considers the government’s statements ‘premature’; the researcher finds that although the group does not control the same amounts of territory as in the late 2014 early 2015 period, Shekau and al-Barnawi fighters are still active, and the latter have conducted a number of attacks to military targets...”(European Asylum Support Office (November 2018) *Nigeria – Targeting of individuals*, p.24).

A publication produced by the *United States Institute of Peace* in December 2018 notes that:

“The ongoing eleven-year Boko Haram insurgency is one of the most violent, destructive, and debilitating of the nation’s internal security challenges since independence” (United States Institute of Peace (19 December 2018) *Civilian-Led Governance and Security in Nigeria After Boko Haram*, p.3).

A document issued in January 2019 by *Human Rights Watch* reviewing events of the preceding year points out that:

“Despite notable military advances, and apparently premature proclamations of Boko Haram’s defeat by government forces, the group remained a threat to security in the northeast region” (Human Rights Watch (17 January 2019) *World Report 2019: Nigeria*, p.1).

In January 2019 the *UNHCR* notes in a report the:

“...worsening Boko Haram insurgency in the Lake Chad Basin region...A recent upsurge in violence in north-east Nigeria has driven more than 80,000 civilians to seek refuge in already crowded camps or in towns in Borno State, where they are surviving in tough living conditions” (UNHCR (29 January 2019) *As Boko Haram violence surges, UNHCR seeks US\$135 million to aid displaced*).

A report published by the *International Peace Institute* in January 2019 points out that:

“Despite recent claims by the Nigerian government that Boko Haram has been defeated, violence continues...Reports have highlighted the challenges the Nigerian military is facing in its battle against Boko Haram, and the situation remains unpredictable...” (International Peace Institute (31 January 2019) *Providing Healthcare in Armed Conflict: The Case of Nigeria*, p.5).

A report issued in February 2019 by *Amnesty International* notes that:

“At least 60 people were killed following the 28 January devastating Boko Haram attack on Rann, a border town in Borno state, northeast Nigeria, Amnesty International has confirmed” (Amnesty International (1 February 2019) *Nigeria: Deadliest Boko Haram attack on Rann leaves at least 60 people murdered*).

In February 2019 *Reuters* states that:

“A surge in attacks in the northeast by Boko Haram and its now more powerful offshoot Islamic State West Africa Province is throwing preparations for the presidential election into disarray” (Reuters (1 February 2019) *After Nigerian army abandoned town, Boko Haram slaughtered at least 60*).

## References

Amnesty International (1 February 2019) *Nigeria: Deadliest Boko Haram attack on Rann leaves at least 60 people murdered*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/02/nigeria-deadliest-boko-haram-attack-on-rann-leaves-at-least-60-people-murdered/>

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European Asylum Support Office (November 2018) *Nigeria – Targeting of individuals*  
[https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2018\\_EASO\\_COI\\_Nigeria\\_TargetingIndividuals.pdf](https://coi.easo.europa.eu/administration/easo/PLib/2018_EASO_COI_Nigeria_TargetingIndividuals.pdf)

Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Monday 4 February 2019

Human Rights Watch (17 January 2019) *World Report 2019: Nigeria*

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/nigeria#>

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International Peace Institute (31 January 2019) *Providing Healthcare in Armed Conflict: The Case of Nigeria*

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IPI-E-RPT-Providing-HealthcareNigeria.pdf>

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<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-security-insurgency/after-nigerian-army-abandoned-town-boko-haram-slaughtered-at-least-60-idUSKCN1PQ551>

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[https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/sr\\_437\\_civilian\\_led\\_governance\\_and\\_security\\_in\\_nigeria\\_0.pdf](https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/sr_437_civilian_led_governance_and_security_in_nigeria_0.pdf)

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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.

### **Sources Consulted**

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Electronic Immigration Network  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
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Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
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International Crisis Group  
IRIN News  
Lexis Nexis  
Minority Rights Group International  
Online Newspapers  
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library  
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Reliefweb  
Reuters  
United Kingdom Home Office  
United States Department of State  
UNHCR Refworld