



Nigeria – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 22 December 2014

Any information on an attack by the Muslim/Boko Haram on Christians in Bauchi State at the end of July, 2009

A report from Al Jazeera refers to fighting involving members of Boko Haram in Bauchi in July 2009 as follows:

“At least 42 people have been killed and dozens of others injured after clashes erupted between police and members of a Muslim group in Nigeria, a hospital source said. The clashes began after a failed dawn attack on Sunday on a police station in Dutsen Tenshin, a neighbourhood of the city of Bauchi, capital of the state of the same name. At least 70 Nigerians armed with guns and hand grenades attacked the police station in Bauchi, but they later retreated after heavy fighting with security forces, officials said. Awwal Isa, a nurse at Bauchi Specialist Hospital, told the AFP news agency that a total of 42 bodies had been brought to the hospital and that at least one of the dead was a soldier. However, Emmanuel Ojukwu, a police spokesman, could not confirm the death toll, saying only that the number of dead was in the dozens. Ojukwu said the police had arrested at least 100 fighters after the clashes.” (Al Jazeera (26 July 2009) *Nigeria clashes kill dozens*)

The 2009 US Department of State report on terrorism in Nigeria states:

“Subsequently, on July 26, around 70 Islamic militants from a group calling itself ‘Boko Haram’, and which some refer to as the ‘Nigerian Taliban’, attacked an Izala mosque and police station in the Dutsen Tanshi section of Bauchi town with firearms and hand grenades. The attacks resulted in at least 55 deaths and up to 200 arrests. The following day, Boko Haram carried out near-simultaneous attacks against police headquarters in Maiduguri, Borno State, and police stations in Potsikum, Yobe State; and Wudil, Kano State; provoking police and military sweeps in several states thought to harbor Boko Haram members and sympathizers.” (US Department of State (5 August 2010) *2009 Country Reports on Terrorism – Nigeria*)

An article published by Africa Spectrum states:

“The Boko Haram riots lasted from 25 July to 30 July 2009 and spread across the four states of Bauchi, Kano, Yobe and Borno, the latter of which saw the most extensive rioting perhaps because it was the leader of the movement’s base. The immediate cause of the riot was the sacking of the sect’s hideout at the Dutsen Tanshi area of Bauchi on 26 July 2009 by a joint security team, during which nine of its members were arrested and materials for making bombs and other weapons confiscated. This led to reprisal attacks two hours later by the sect members on police formations in Bauchi and eventually in the other three states. The riot was eventually quelled after the capture and killing – supposedly in police custody – of its leader, Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf,

and a fierce battle with his followers, some of whom were arrested. It is estimated that over 700 people, mostly sect members, were killed, and public buildings like police stations, prisons, government offices, schools and churches were destroyed” (Africa Spectrum (2010) *The Boko Haram Uprising and Islamic Revivalism in Nigeria*, p.98)

A BBC News report states:

“At least 39 people have died in clashes between security forces and a radical Islamist group in the north-eastern Nigerian city of Bauchi, officials say. The clashes occurred after dozens of men armed with guns and explosives attacked a police station. They were repelled and security forces responded by attacking a settlement on the edge of the city, reports said. Authorities said the militants belonged to Boko Haram, a group that wants Sharia law imposed across Nigeria. Islamic law has been in effect in the state of Bauchi since 2001. The city of Bauchi has been placed under curfew following Sunday's clashes and the Nigerian military are controlling roads leading into the area, the BBC Caroline Duffield reports from Nigeria.” (BBC News (26 July 2009) *Dozens killed in Nigeria clashes*)

An article from The Times states:

“Fighting erupted on Sunday when 70 members of an extremist Islamic sect, known as the Nigerian Taliban for its admiration of the toppled fundamentalist regime in Afghanistan, launched an armed assault on a police station in the northeastern city of Bauchi. Attacks then spread to three other northern states, including Borno.” (The Times (31 July 2009) *600 feared dead as army attacks Islamist sect in mosque siege*)

A New York Times article states:

“Scores have been killed in clashes between the police and members of a fundamentalist Islamic sect in towns across northern Nigeria, a predominantly Muslim region that for years has had regular and often bloody outbreaks of sectarian unrest. An obscure group opposed to Western education appears to be at the root of the current troubles. The Nigerian police accused it of attacks on police stations in at least two states on Sunday and Monday. In one state, Bauchi, at least 39 militants were killed on Sunday, a local police spokesman said.” (New York Times (28 July 2009) *Scores Die as Fighters Battle Nigerian Police*)

An article from The Guardian states:

“Boko Haram, which models itself on the Taliban but has no known link, reportedly began its string of attacks in the north-eastern city of Bauchi on Sunday after some of its members were arrested. Around 70 militants armed with guns and grenades targeted a police station but were driven back by officers and soldiers who then raided neighbourhoods, resulting in at least 55 deaths and up to 200 arrests. The Bauchi state governor imposed a night-time curfew as a result.” (The Guardian (28 July 2009) *150 dead in Nigeria after anti-education 'Taliban' offensive to impose sharia law*)

An article from The Economist states:

“The fighting started on July 26th in Bauchi state after the police arrested several suspected leaders of an Islamist sect called Boko Haram, a local Hausa term that means ‘education is prohibited’. In particular, the group is against Western education and influence. It wants to impose a pure Muslim caliphate on Nigeria. In retaliation for the arrest of their leaders, militants went on the rampage in several northern states, attacking the police with anything that came to hand, from machetes to bows and poison arrows. The police fought back, killing, so they claimed, 39 militants in Bauchi. Fierce fighting took place in Maiduguri, capital of Borno state, where the sect has its headquarters. On July 28th the army was called in to shell the compound where the sect's leader, Muhammad Yusuf, has been based. As well as killing scores of Boko Haram fighters, the police arrested hundreds of suspected members of the group.” (The Economist (1 August 2009) *A taste of the Taliban: Islamist attacks in Nigeria*)

A Wall Street Journal article states:

“More than 800 people were killed last week during fighting between an Islamic fundamentalist group calling itself Boko Haram, and Nigerian security forces. The clashes spread across several northern states. A Red Cross worker in the northern city of Maiduguri, where most of the fighting occurred, said that 780 bodies had been collected in the past few days, and that at least 3,600 Maiduguri residents had been displaced. Officials in Bauchi, where the violence began, had earlier confirmed more than 50 deaths. Rights groups say many civilians were among those killed, though exact figures remain unknown. Police say most of the dead were militants.” (Wall Street Journal (4 August 2009) *Nigeria Violence Sparks New Concerns: As Death Toll Passes 800, Questions Raised About Whether Group, Boko Haram, Poses Broader Threat*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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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