



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 17 April 2019
Information on incidents involving Boko Haram in Maiduguri during 2016

In January 2017 *Human Rights Watch* issued a report reviewing events of 2016 including stating that:

“Apart from Maiduguri, Borno state capital, which has been largely free from attacks, many parts of the state remain unsafe and inaccessible” (Human Rights Watch (12 January 2017) *World Report 2017 – Nigeria*, p.2).

In February 2017 the *International Crisis Group* points out in a report that:

“By late 2013, Maiduguri was largely purged of Boko Haram cells, and there have been few subsequent attacks in the city, other than suicide operations, often against refugee camps on its periphery” (International Crisis Group (23 February 2017) *Watchmen of Lake Chad: Vigilante Groups Fighting Boko Haram*, p.6).

A paper published in December 2016 by *SBM Intelligence* includes a listing of Boko Haram attacks during 2016 (SBM Intelligence (6 December 2016) *The resurgence of Boko Haram*, pp.8-11).

A report published in December 2016 by *BBC News* states that:

“Two girls said to be aged seven or eight have been used to bomb a market in north-east Nigeria, killing at least one other person and wounding 18. Police in the town of Maiduguri, Borno state, say the attack happened when the market was crowded with shoppers. The girls detonated their explosives minutes apart, witnesses said. Both were killed. No group has said it was behind the bombings but Boko Haram militants have carried out similar attacks” (BBC News (12 December 2016) *Nigeria Maiduguri: Two 'young girls' used as human bombs*).

Voice of America in November 2016

“Suicide bombers staged a series of attacks Friday in northeastern Nigeria, killing four of themselves and two civilian defense fighters, police said. In the early morning, police challenged two women and a man running toward a checkpoint opposite the Federal High Court in Maiduguri, said Victor Isuku, a police spokesman for the northeastern state of Borno. One woman set off her device, killing herself and the male accomplice, he said; while the other woman survived and was being questioned. Authorities also say two other suicide bombers blew themselves up at a bus and taxi station on the outskirts of the city, killing themselves and the two civilian fighters. This marked the fifth attack in three weeks on the city that is the birthplace of Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremist group, Boko Haram” (Voice of America (18 November 2016) *Nigeria Suicide Bombings Kill 6*).

In October 2016 *BBC News* states that:

“Two suicide bombers on motorised rickshaws have killed at least seven people in Maiduguri in the north-east of Nigeria, officials say” (BBC News (29 October 2016) *Nigeria 'rickshaw bombs' leave seven dead in Maiduguri*).

A report issued in May 2016 by the *Agence France-Presse* notes that:

“At least two people were killed in an explosion outside government offices in the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri on Thursday... The Boko Haram Islamist group was founded in Maiduguri in 2002 and the city has been repeatedly attacked since the insurgency turned violent in 2009. But a relative calm has returned to the city in recent months as a military counter-insurgency makes apparent gains against rebel strongholds across the northeast. The last successful attack in Maiduguri was a double suicide bombing by two women at a mosque in Molai, on the outskirts of the city, in March in which 22 people were killed and 35 injured” (Agence France-Presse (12 May 2016) *Blast in Maiduguri, NE Nigeria, kills two: hospital, residents*).

BBC News in March 2016

“Two female suicide bombers have attacked a mosque in the north-eastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, killing 22 worshippers, the army says. The first bomber struck inside the mosque, while the second blew herself up outside as survivors tried to flee, eye witnesses told the BBC. Eighteen other people were wounded in the attack, the army added. Maiduguri is the birthplace of Islamist group Boko Haram's insurgency which has killed 20,000 people since 2009” (BBC News (16 March 2016) *Nigeria mosque hit by Maiduguri suicide bombers*).

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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