



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 29 & Friday 30 January 2015**

### **Information on state/police protection available to victims of Boko Haram**

In January 2015 *IRIN News* notes:

“Boko Haram declared a caliphate in captured territory in August last year, including 10 major towns in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. In Borno, Boko Haram holds 13 out of 27 Local Government Areas (LGAs), and two LGAs in both Adamawa and Yobe, although the situation is extremely fluid. The military’s response has often been either silence or bluster” (*IRIN News* (13 January 2015) *Boko Haram and Nigeria's future - five key questions answered*).

*Freedom House* in January 2015 points out that:

“Following the release of satellite images documenting the massive destruction and loss of over 2,000 lives resulting from a Boko Haram attack in north-east Nigeria since early January, Freedom House released the following statement: “The images released today are incontrovertible evidence that the human rights situation in northern Nigeria is only getting worse,” said Vukasin Petrovic, regional director for Africa. “The Nigerian government needs to take more active steps to protect its citizens and end this ongoing crisis.” “ (*Freedom House* (15 January 2015) *Stronger Nigerian Action Needed against Boko Haram*).

In January 2015 a report released by the *European Interagency Security Forum* notes that:

“Soldiers flee alongside civilians when attacks take place. The Nigerian army, stricken by corruption, does not provide its soldiers adequate equipment to fight against Boko Haram, who has a larger amount of weapons and ammunition” (*European Interagency Security Forum* (21 January 2015) *Difficulties of delivering aid in Northeast Nigeria: Boko Haram, vigilantes and other challenges*).

In January 2015 a paper produced by the *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project* states:

“The Nigerian military has had the most success in tackling Boko Haram when it has secured large urban areas such as the Borno capital, Maiduguri (although, sporadic bombings there, and in nearby capitals such as Kano, point to limitations even in these areas). The campaign to oust Boko Haram from Maiduguri and its surrounds pushed militants into rural areas, which are far more difficult to secure, leaving isolated populations extremely vulnerable to attack”(Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (21 January 2015) *Conflict Trends* (No. 33): *Real-Time Analysis of African Political Violence, January 2015 [Nigeria excerpt]*).

Commenting on Boko Haram *BBC News* in January 2015 notes:

“It first sends hundreds of foot-soldiers into a town or village. Often overwhelmed due to inadequate supplies, the Nigerian army flees, paving the way for elite militant fighters to

enter and conquer the territory” (BBC News (26 January 2015) *Boko Haram crisis: How have Nigeria's militants become so strong?*).

In January 2015 a document issued by *Amnesty International* states:

“New evidence shows that the Nigerian military were repeatedly warned of impending Boko Haram attacks on Baga and Monguno which claimed hundreds of lives, and failed to take adequate action to protect civilians, said Amnesty International” (Amnesty International (28 January 2015) *Nigeria: Nigerian authorities were warned of Boko Haram attacks on Baga and Monguno*).

This report also points out that:

“Since 2009, Boko Haram has deliberately targeted civilians through raids, abductions and bomb attacks with attacks increasing in frequency and severity. The effects on the civilian population have been devastating with thousands killed, hundreds abducted and hundreds of thousands forced to leave their homes. Amnesty International has raised concerns on a number of occasions that security forces are not doing enough to protect civilians from human rights abuses committed by Boko Haram. There have been very few effective investigations and prosecutions of Boko Haram members for crimes under international law” (ibid).

In January 2015 *Amnesty International* notes:

“The Nigerian government declared a state of emergency in May 2013 in three states: Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. It has launched several military operations against Boko Haram. The state of emergency was extended twice and the President requested another extension in November 2014, which is yet to be approved by the National Assembly. However, Boko Haram shows no signs of weakening...” (Amnesty International (29 January 2015) *Boko Haram at a glance*).

## 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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