



Nigeria – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 19 November 2012

Information on the bombing of Christian churches in Kaduna in June 2012

An Amnesty International report, in a section titled “Attacks On Churches” (section 3.3), states:

“On 17 June 2012, Boko Haram bombed three church services in Kaduna, killing at least 21 people. Revenge attacks between Christians and Muslims resulted in the deaths of at least 70 more.” (Amnesty International (1 November 2012) *Nigeria: Trapped in the cycle of violence*, p.14)

See also Human Rights Watch report which, in a section titled “Attacks on Christians”, states:

“On three successive Sundays in June 2012, for example, suicide bombers detonated explosives at church services in Bauchi, Bauchi State; Jos, Plateau State; and Zaria and Kaduna, Kaduna State—all locations of past episodes of inter-communal violence. The June 17 attacks on two churches in Zaria and two churches in Kaduna killed at least 21 people and set off several days of reprisal and counter-reprisal killings between Christians and Muslims, resulting in some 80 more deaths. Similarly, the Christmas Eve 2010 bomb blasts in Christian neighborhoods in Jos sparked a month of sectarian bloodletting that claimed around 200 Muslim and Christian lives.” (Human Rights Watch (October 2012) *Spiraling Violence: Boko Haram Attacks and Security Force Abuses in Nigeria*, p.51)

A report from the Nigerian newspaper Daily Times states:

“Three churches were attacked this morning by suicide bombers in Kaduna. One went off at the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA) church, Wusasa and another at the Christ the King Cathedral Catholic church at No. 80, Yoruba Street, Sabon Gari, Zaria, just behind the Army Depot, Zaria where all Nigerian soldiers receive their basic training. The third church, Shalom Church at Trikania close to Abuja Fly over and Textile Labour house, was hit by multiple explosions around 10:17am.” (Daily Times (17 June 2012) *Bombings and reprisals in Kaduna*)

A CNN report states:

“A militant Islamist group claimed responsibility Monday for bombings the day before that the Nigerian Red Cross said left 50 people dead at three Christian churches in Nigeria. Boko Haram said the attacks Sunday in the Nigerian cities of Zaria and Kaduna were retaliation on Christians for destroying mosques and, according to the group, turning others into ‘beer parlour and prostitution joints.’ ‘Let them know that now it’s the time for revenge God willing,’ the group said in a statement. ‘From now on, they either follow the

right religion or there will be no peace for them.' Government and Red Cross figures on the death toll in Sunday's attacks differed. However, the bombings at two churches and a third in Kaduna left at least 50 people dead and 131 wounded according to the Red Cross." (CNN (18 June 2012) *Boko Haram claims responsibility for Nigeria church bombings*)

An Associated Press report states:

"The radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram on Monday claimed responsibility for Sunday's suicide attacks at two churches in the city of Zaria and another in the city of Kaduna that left 21 people dead, according to an initial count. The reprisals highlight festering religious tensions in Nigeria, a nation of more than 160 million people. The attacks occurred in the religious flashpoint state of Kaduna that sits at the border between the country's predominantly Muslim north and its mainly Christian south. A history of attacks and counterattacks between the two communities means that authorities are often cautious about releasing death figures. Officials initially said 21 people were killed in Sunday morning's blasts. But the Nigerian Red Cross said late Sunday that the death toll had jumped to 50, to include reprisal killings. Officials refused to give a breakdown clarifying who died in the initial blasts and who was killed in reprisals." (Associated Press (18 June 2012) *Nigeria: Reprisal killings follow church attacks*)

A Voice of America News report states:

"The suicide bombings in the cities of Zaria and Kaduna killed at least 21 people. Christian youths later took the streets in Kaduna, setting fire to mosques and shops and attacking cars. The updated death toll came Monday from emergency officials speaking on condition of anonymity. The Islamist militant group known as Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the attacks on the churches." (Voice of America News (18 June 2012) *Death Toll Rises to 50 In Nigeria Violence*)

An Agence France Presse report states:

"Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamists on Monday claimed suicide attacks at three churches that sparked reprisals by Christian mobs who rampaged and burned mosques, with at least 52 people dead. The church attacks, an almost weekly occurrence in Nigeria in recent months, left at least 16 dead and triggered a wave of fierce revenge attacks that killed more than twice as many. Officials on Sunday had imposed a state-wide 24 hour curfew in Kaduna state, where the attacks occurred, as rescuers combed deserted streets for bodies and searched for those wounded by rioters who vowed to avenge the church blasts. The mobs had moved through the streets in the northern city of Kaduna on Sunday with machetes and clubs while also torching at least three mosques, petrol stations and vehicles. A number of the victims' bodies were burnt." (Agence France Presse (18 June 2012) *Boko Haram claims church attacks as Nigeria toll hits 52*)

A report from the Lagos-based newspaper Vanguard states:

"Acting Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, said that only 16 persons were killed in the attacks. Vanguard gathered that the first attack was at a Children Sunday School at ECWA Church, Wusasa, Zaria, which left the

sunday school teacher, and 10 children dead. Four children playing outside the church were among the first victims of the blasts at the church. A witness said that five men ran up to the church and hurled home-made bombs through its open door. They were allegedly chased down and reportedly beaten to death. Police could not confirm this.” (Vanguard (18 June 2012) *48 killed in Kaduna, Zaria church attacks*)

This report also states:

“At Christ the King Catholic Cathedral, Zaria, also attacked by a suicide bomber, 11 worshipers were killed, narrated a member of the church, who escaped through the window. Malachy Achu, a dentist, a member of the church, said those injured in the blast could not be less than 40. In Kaduna, Shalom Church International, Trikania, Kaduna was hit by another suicide bomber, leaving about five worshippers dead and scores injured.” (ibid)

A Christian Solidarity Worldwide report states:

“Also in Zaria, two suicide bombers in separate cars targeted Christ the King Catholic Church as the congregation was leaving Mass, killing an estimated 16 people and wounding several others.” (Christian Solidarity Worldwide (18 June 2016) *Nigeria: curfew in Kaduna following bombings of three churches*)

A report from the Lagos-based newspaper This Day states:

“Yesterday's incident was the third week in a row when churches have been bombed in the North. Two weeks ago, a suicide bomber hit the Winners' Chapel Church in Yelwa, Bauchi, killing no fewer than 12 persons and injuring about 30. Two Sundays ago, three churches were bombed in Plateau and Borno States, in which about 10 persons were killed and scores injured. In Zaria, the Christ the King Catholic Church, located at Sabon-Gari and the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) located in Wusasa, were bombed around 9 am, while in Kaduna, the bombers attacked Sharon Pentecostal Church located in the Trikania area of the metropolis. A fourth attempt to bomb another church in the capital city failed as the bomb was said to have gone off before the suicide bomber got to the Holy Family Church, Barnawa, Kano Road, Kaduna.” (This Day (18 June 2012) *Scores Killed in Kaduna, Zaria Bombings, Reprisals*)

A report from the Abuja-based newspaper Leadership states:

“According to survivors of yesterday's simultaneous bombings in three different churches in Kaduna and Zaria that killed over 22 people including a soldier and the attendant reprisal attacks in Kaduna that led to the death of 50, all church activities ended as soon as the explosions took place. The incident also led to a situation where about 75 were injured. About 50 vehicles and motorcycles were also damaged during the incident.” (Leadership (18 June 2012) *72 Killed in Kaduna, Zaria Bombings, Reprisal Attacks*)

This report mentions the arrest of suspects as follows:

“The head of the Catholic Church in Zaria, Bishop George Jonathan Dodo, who condemned the attacked while speaking with LEADERSHIP, said: 'The church was attacked by a suicide bomber while service was ongoing. We

have a number of casualties, and mostly children. Other people were also arrested with explosives and handed over to the security agencies by the youth.' "(ibid)

A Wall Street Journal article states:

"Police arrested one of the bombers who survived." (Wall Street Journal (18 June 2012) *World News: Bombings Target Churches In Nigeria*)

A Reuters report states:

"Kaduna Police commissioner Mohammed Abubakar told journalists later on Tuesday calm had been restored and nine suspects arrested. (Reuters (19 June 2012) *Gunfire, blasts as religions clash in north Nigeria*)

A Xinhua General News Service report on the arrest of persons allegedly involved in reprisal attacks states:

"At least 147 persons have been arrested by the police in central north Nigeria's Kaduna State for alleged involvement in reprisal attacks across the state. State Police Commissioner Jinjiri Abubakar told reporters late on Wednesday that the suspects were being investigated for possible prosecution. The suspects were arrested in connection with reprisal attacks that followed bomb attacks on churches in Kaduna and Zaria on June 17. The police chief told reporters that law enforcement agencies were working to maintain law and order in the state." (Xinhua General News Service (28 June 2012) *Nigerian police arrests 147 persons for reprisal attacks in northern state*)

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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