



## **Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 7 July 2013**

### **Information on an attack by Boko Haram in Yobe in the first half of July 2013 and resulting casualties**

The *United Nations News Service* in July 2013 notes:

“According to media reports, Islamic militants belonging to the Boko Haram group attacked a boarding school in the north-eastern state of Yobe before dawn on Saturday, killing 29 students and one teacher” (United Nations News Service (8 July 2013) *Deadly school attack in north-east Nigeria draws UN condemnation*).

In July 2013 *The Guardian* points out that:

“Just after dawn on 6 July, a school dormitory was doused in petrol and set alight in north-eastern Yobe. Those trying to flee the flames were shot. The attack left 46 dead, mostly students” (The Guardian (14 July 2013) *Boko Haram leader calls for more schools attacks after dorm killings*).

In July 2013 an article issued by the *Agence France Presse* states:

“Gunmen believed to be Boko Haram Islamists attacked a secondary school in Nigeria's restive northeast on Saturday, killing 42 people, many of whom were students, a medical worker and residents said Saturday. But a military spokesman said 20 students and one teacher were killed in the dawn attack at Yobe state” (Agence France Presse (6 July 2013) *Gunmen kill 42 in school attack in Nigeria*).

*BBC News* in July 2013 points out that:

“At least 29 pupils and a teacher have been killed in a pre-dawn attack by suspected Islamists on a school in northeastern Nigeria, reports say. Eyewitnesses said some of the victims were burned alive in the attack, in Mamudo town, Yobe state. Dozens of schools have been burned in attacks by Islamists since 2010. Yobe is one of three states where President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency in May, sending thousands of troops to the area” (BBC News (6 July 2013) *'Dozens dead' in school attack in Nigeria's Yobe state*).

A report issued in July 2013 by *Agence France Presse* notes:

“Nigeria's northeastern Yobe state on Sunday ordered the closure of all secondary schools after a massacre that saw suspected Islamist extremists kill 42 people in a gun and bomb attack on a boarding school. Yobe state governor Ibrahim Gaidam has ‘directed that all secondary schools in the state be closed down from Monday 8th July 2013 until a new academic session begins in September,’ a government statement said. The attack early

Saturday in the Mamudo district saw assailants -- believed to be Boko Haram Islamists -- round up students and staff in a dormitory before throwing explosives inside and opening fire, said Haliru Aliyu of Potiskum General Hospital, quoting witnesses who escaped. It was the third school attack in the region in recent weeks, including two in Yobe" (Agence France Presse (7 July 2013) *Nigerian state orders schools to close after massacre*).

In July 2013 *This Day* states:

"Armed Islamic militants have killed 29 students and an English teacher in an attack on a boarding school in Yobe State in northeastern Nigeria. Survivors being treated for burns and gunshot wounds said some students were burned alive in the attack, which allegedly took place early Saturday and which is believed to have been carried out by the radical Boko Haram Islamic group. Gunmen stormed the premises of Government Secondary School in the town of Mamudo in Yobe State at around 3am, setting fire to parts of the complex. Dozens of children from the 1,200-student school escaped into the bush and have not been seen since, reports Sky News" (This Day (6 July 2013) *Boko Haram Militants Kill 29 Students, Teacher in Yobe School Attack*).

*Amnesty International* in July 2013 notes:

"The Nigerian government must act to prevent attacks on schools to protect children's lives and their right to education said Amnesty International after 30 people were reportedly killed in an attack on a boarding school by an armed Islamist group on Saturday. Secondary schools have been ordered to close across Nigeria's north-eastern state of Yobe following the pre-dawn attack on Government Secondary School in Mamudo, near Potiskum, in which 29 students and one teacher were killed and buildings set alight...It is not yet known who is responsible for the attack although the group Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for several attacks on schools in the past...According to information received by Amnesty International, dozens of children who fled to the bush after Saturday's attack are still unaccounted for " (Amnesty International (8 July 2013) *Nigeria: Authorities must protect schools from deadly attacks*).

In July 2013 *IRIN News* states:

"The Yobe State authorities in northeastern Nigeria have closed all schools following the 6 July Boko Haram (BH) attack on a secondary school in Mamudo which killed 41 students and a teacher. "The closure is to allow the state government in collaboration with the Joint Security Task Force and community leaders to evaluate and evolve better and additional strategies that would ensure the safety and security of students and their teachers," said a 7 July statement from the governor's spokesman, Abdullahi Bego. Schools in Yobe State were due to close for holidays in August. The 6 July raid was thought to be a reprisal attack following a 4 July military raid on a BH camp, according to security sources, medics and local residents. Mamudo is 5km from Potiskum, the commercial capital of Yobe State, some 100km from the state capital Damaturu" (IRIN News (8 July 2013) *School closures in northeastern Nigeria after killings*).

## 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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