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Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Boko Haram (BH)

Aka Nigerian Taliban; Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awati Wal Jihad; Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad; People Committed to the Prophet's Teachings for Propagation and Jihad; Sunni Group for Preaching and Jihad.

Description: Boko Haram (BH) was designated as an FTO on November 14, 2013. The Nigeria-based group is responsible for numerous attacks in the northern and northeastern regions of the country as well as in the Lake Chad Basin in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger that have killed thousands of people since 2009.

In 2015, BH pledged allegiance to ISIS in an audiotape message. ISIS accepted the pledge, and BH began calling itself ISIS-West Africa (ISIS-WA). In 2016, ISIS announced that Abu Musab al-Barnawi was to replace Abubakar Shekau as the new leader of the group. Infighting then led BH to split. Shekau maintained a group of followers and affiliates concentrated primarily in the Sambisa Forest; this faction became known as BH, while al-Barnawi's group separated and was designated as ISIS-WA. On May 19, 2021, Shekau was reportedly killed during a clash with ISIS-WA.

Activities: BH crosses porous Lake Chad-region borders to target civilians and military personnel in northeast Nigeria, the Far North Region of Cameroon, and parts of Chad and Niger. The group continued to evade pressure from Lake Chad country forces, including through the regional Multinational Joint Task Force.

In 2014, BH kidnapped 276 female students from a secondary school in Chibok, Borno State. Since then, BH has continued to abduct women

and girls, some of whom are subjected to domestic servitude, other forms of forced labor, and sexual servitude, including through forced marriages to its members. Others have been ordered to carry out suicide attacks on civilians.

In 2020, suspected BH fighters attacked trucks carrying passengers along a military checkpoint in Nigeria, attacked villages in northeast Nigeria and killed hundreds of people, and claimed responsibility for the abduction of more than 330 students from an all-boys school in Nigeria's northern Katsina State. In 2021, suspected BH fighters launched rocket-propelled grenades into densely populated areas from the outskirts of Maiduguri, Nigeria, killing at least 10 people; and hundreds of BH fighters attacked a military post in southern Niger, killing at least 16 soldiers.

In January, BH claimed responsibility for an attack on a village in northeast Nigeria and reportedly abducted 17 girls. In May, BH fighters reportedly killed at least 50 people around the town of Rann in Nigeria's Borno State. In November, BH attacked an army position in western Chad, killing at least 10 Chadian soldiers.

Strength: BH is estimated to have several thousand fighters.

Location/Area of Operation: Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria.

Funding and External Aid: BH largely self-finances through criminal activities such as looting, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, and bank robberies.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101621 Chapter

30 November 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

Cameroon

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Cameroon](#)
(Periodical Report, English)

en

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Chad

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Chad](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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Niger

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Niger](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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Nigeria

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - Nigeria](#) (Periodical Report, English)

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ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Boko Haram (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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