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USDOS – US Department of State (Author)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - ISIS-West Africa (ISIS-WA)

Aka Islamic State West Africa Province; ISISWAP; Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-West Africa; ISIL-WA; Islamic State of Iraq and Syria West Africa Province; ISIS West Africa Province; ISIS West Africa; ISIS-WA.

Description: ISIS-West Africa (ISIS-WA) was designated as an FTO on February 28, 2018. In 2015 a faction of Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS in an audiotape message. ISIS accepted the group's pledge, and the group began calling itself ISIS-West Africa. In 2016, ISIS announced that Abu Musab al-Barnawi was to become the new leader of ISIS-WA.

Activities: Since 2016, ISIS-WA has been responsible for numerous attacks in Nigeria and the Lake Chad region, including ones against Nigerian and Chadian military and security personnel. ISIS-WA has also attacked humanitarian aid workers, local officials, critical infrastructure, and other civilians including executing 11 reported Christians in 2019. ISIS-WA claimed the executions were revenge for the killing of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

In February, ISIS-WA claimed responsibility for several attacks in northeast Nigeria that killed or wounded at least 30 Nigerian soldiers. In May, ISIS-WA killed 30 civilians in northeast Nigeria in response to military air strikes that killed several ISIS-WA commanders. In July, ISIS-WA claimed responsibility for an attack on the Kuje prison in Nigeria that killed at least one guard and freed more than 800 inmates. In the same month, ISIS-WA fighters ambushed the convoy of a local official in northeast Nigeria, killing four persons. In October, ISIS-WA fighters attacked an army base in central Nigeria but were repelled.

Strength: ISIS-WA is estimated to have between 4,000 and 5,000 active fighters.

Location/Area of Operation: Nigeria and the greater Lake Chad region.

Funding and External Aid: ISIS-WA receives funding from local sources, taxes, the capture of military supplies, and kidnapping-for-ransom payments.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101627 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

[ID 2101547](#)

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Chad

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

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

en

[ID 2101549](#)

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Nigeria

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

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

en

[ID 2101586](#)

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Sudan

Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

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

en

[ID 2101605](#)

Document ID 2101627 Chapter

15 June 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

Chad

Annual report on trafficking in persons (covering April 2022 to March 2023)

[2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Chad](#) (Periodical Report, English)

en

[ID 2093613](#)

ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the ISIS-West Africa (ISIS-WA) (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

Countries:

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Sudan

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Austrian Red Cross
Austrian Centre for
Country of Origin and
Asylum Research and
Documentation
(ACCORD)

Wiedner Hauptstraße
32, 1041 Wien
T +43 1 589 00 583
F +43 1 589 00 589
info@ecoi.net

Contact
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F.A.Q.
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