

Boko Haram



OVERVIEW

AS OF JUNE 2025

Boko Haram is a Sunni violent extremist group that seeks to establish a Salafi-Islamist state in Nigeria free from Western-style education and influence, which the group views as corrupting to Islamic values. Since its founding in 2002, Boko Haram has been affiliated at times with al-Qa'ida and ISIS, but it is currently unaffiliated with either group. Since 2021, Boko Haram has lost many of its fighters and some territory to its rival group, ISIS–West Africa, but it continues to conduct frequent attacks, particularly in the Lake Chad region.

Operating Area

Primarily northeast Nigeria; also conducts attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger

Members

Around 1,500

Tactics And Targets

Boko Haram uses small arms, indirect-fire weapons, and IEDs to attack civilians and regional security forces. The group conducts kidnappings, primarily targeting local residents, to obtain ransoms, medical services, and conscripts. Boko Haram last abducted a Westerner in 2014, and the group received a \$3.1 million ransom for the release of seven French hostages in 2013. It has also used kidnapping victims, including women and children, as suicide bombers.

Terrorist Group Designation

The US State Department designated Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization in November 2013.

KEY LEADERS



Bakura Doro

Current amir



Abubakar Shekau [DECEASED]

Former amir; led Boko Haram from 2009 to 2021



Boko Haram *(continued)*

KEY LEADERS *(continued)*



Ibrahim Bakoura

Leader of a Boko Haram faction in southeast Niger

NOTABLE ATTACKS

27 October 2024

Barkaram, Chad

Boko Haram attacks a Chadian military base on the Chad-Nigeria border, killing 40 soldiers.

7 March 2024

Kaduna State, Nigeria

Boko Haram kidnaps 280 students from a primary and secondary school in Kuriga.

23 March 2020

Bohoma, Chad

Boko Haram raids a Chadian military base, killing 98 soldiers.

14 April 2014

Borno State, Nigeria

Boko Haram abducts 276 female students from a school in Chibok, drawing global media attention.

26 August 2011

Abuja, Nigeria

Boko Haram bombs the local UN headquarters, killing at least 23 people and injuring up to 116.

