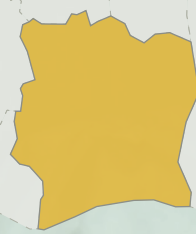


Nigeria

The Wayamo Foundation and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung retrace the key events in the search for accountability for international crimes committed in Nigeria during the Boko Haram insurgency, taking place mainly in the north-eastern states of Nigeria.



2002



Boko Haram founded

Boko Haram founded as a Nigeria-centric grassroots Islamist extremist organisation. It's Official Arabic name, Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, means "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad".

Boko Haram Founder
Mohammed Yusuf © Wikimedia

2009



Abubakar Shekau takes over leadership of Boko Haram

Following the death of its founder Mohammed Yusuf in 2009, his deputy Abubakar Shekau takes over and Boko Haram evolves into a militant movement of transnational proportions with factions allegedly affiliated with ISIS and al-Qaeda. Boko Haram launches military operations targeting military, police and civilian targets.

Abubakar Shekau in undated Boko Haram video
© Wikimedia

18 NOV. 2010



ICC preliminary examination

The ICC Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) opens a preliminary examination into the situation in Nigeria after receiving communications of alleged atrocity crimes.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court from 2004-2012 © ICC-CPI

MAY/JUNE 2011



Domestic legal framework for terrorism offences established

The Nigerian National Assembly passes the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Bill in May 2011 establishing a framework to try terrorism offences in Nigeria. President Goodluck Jonathan signs the bill into law the following month.

Nigeria's National Assembly in Abuja
© Kobusa16, Wikimedia, CC BY-SA 4.0

JUNE 2011

Military Task Force sent to the north-east

President Jonathan sends a Special Military Joint Task Force (SMJTF) comprising military, police, immigration and intelligence personnel to the north-east of Nigeria to address the security threat posed by Boko Haram.

DEC. 2011



State of emergency declared in selected federal states

President Jonathan declares a state of emergency in selected local government areas in Borno, Plateau, Yobe and Niger states.

JOINT TASK FORCE LIBERIA
© The U.S. National Archives

21 FEBRUARY 2013

Terrorism law amended

Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) (Amendment) Act 2013 becomes law to deal with loopholes identified in the 2011 law.

24 APR. 2013



Amnesty committee established

President Jonathan inaugurates the Committee on Dialogue and Peaceful Resolution of Security Challenges in the North, mandated to develop a framework for the granting of amnesties for Boko Haram members.

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President of Nigeria
© Remy Steinegger, swiss-image.ch, CC BY-SA 2.0

MAY 2013

Second State of Emergency

A second state of emergency is declared, this time for the three States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. This declaration leads to a surge of security forces in these states and the deployment of special forces.

14-15 APR. 2014



Chibok girls abducted by Boko Haram

The abduction, one of many by Boko Haram militants, brought the conflict to international prominence and sparked one of the biggest global social media campaigns, with tweeters using the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls. According to Amnesty International more than 100 girls remain missing as of April 2021.

Michelle Obama on 7 May 2014
© @FLOTUS Twitter. Public Domain

MAY 2015



President Muhammadu Buhari elected as President of Nigeria replacing Goodluck Jonathan

Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria
© Bayo Omoboriowo CC BY-SA 4.0

8 MARCH 2017

Special Board of Inquiry established to investigate alleged violations of human rights by the Nigerian Armed Forces

The Chief of Army Staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces convenes the Special Board of Inquiry (SBI) with the mandate to investigate alleged violations of human rights by the Nigerian Armed Forces. The inquiry finds no evidence of arbitrary arrests or extra judicial executions of detainees in any of the documents reviewed.

APRIL 2017

PIP established to examine alleged acts of human rights and humanitarian law violations by military personnel

Acting President Yemi Osinbajo sets up the Presidential Investigation Panel (PIP), a judicial commission to look into alleged acts of human rights and humanitarian law violations by military personnel. The PIP's seven members submit the final report in February 2018, which has not been made public.

OCTOBER 2017

First round of trials against Boko Haram suspects held

The Nigerian government holds the first criminal trials against Boko Haram suspects. The trials are criticised for failure to observe fair trial and due process rules.

FEBRUARY 2018

Second round of trials against Boko Haram suspects held at Wawa Cantonment Kainji, Niger State

FEBRUARY 2018

Military violations report

The Presidential Investigation Panel (PIP) of seven members submits its final report in February 2018. However, the report has not been made public.

9-10 JULY 2018

Third round of trial held held at Wawa Cantonment Kainji, Niger State



11 DEC. 2020

ICC Prosecutor concludes preliminary examination Process

The ICC prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, concludes the preliminary examination of the situation in Nigeria and announces that the statutory criteria for opening an investigation by the ICC have been met.

Permanent Premises of the International Criminal Court in the Hague
© Rick Bajornas, UN Photo, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

JUNE 2021



Audio tape from ISWAP leader confirms Shekau's death at the hands of Islamic State

ISWAP leader Abu Musab Al-Barnawi alleges Shekau's death in Sambisa forest came in response to orders from the new leader of Islamic State, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi.

Islamic State flag
© Wikimedia

OCT. 2021



Nigerian military confirms Shekau's death

Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff General Lucky Irabor confirms Shekau's death.

General Lucky Eruonye Onyenuche Irabor, Chief of Defence Staff
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