

Preliminary Fact Sheets: **Nigeria Killings & Abductions** **(10/2021- 9/2022)**

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Nigeria killings and abductions

1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

FACT SHEETS (COMPLETE REPORT TO FOLLOW)

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Some additional violence data is still being verified at the time of issuing this fact sheet; hence this is a preliminary version. A more comprehensive report is scheduled for February 2023. The final report will contain updated (and final) figures for the reporting period as well as additional analysis and a brief introduction to the methodology.

Contents

Preliminary Key Findings	2
FACT SHEET 1: All registered killings in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022	3
FACT SHEET 2: Religious killings in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022	4
FACT SHEET 3: All registered abductions in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022	5
FACT SHEET 4: Religious abductions in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022	6

Preliminary Key Findings

Reporting period: 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

- **Summary data on killings in Nigeria's geopolitical zones and states**

The data on killings confirms the key findings of the previous report¹. In the reporting period the data indicate there is reason to believe that in Nigeria (especially in the northern states) jihadist-related actors are targeting Christians.

- FACT SHEET 1: The data shows that Christians were disproportionately affected by killings in the context of attacks by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen and 'bandits'. The total number of Christians killed in the reporting period was 4,877. The total number of Muslims killed in the same period was 2,262.
- FACT SHEET 2: The total number of Christians killed for their faith was 4,877 compared to 2,262 Muslims, thus indicating that 2.2 times as many Christians were killed as Muslims. However, when the Christian/Muslim population levels of each region is factored in, the number of Christians killed is proportionally 14,854 which is **6.6 times more than the number of Muslims killed** in the context of jihadism-related violence. That is 3 times more than when the religious demographics are excluded.

- **Summary data on abductions in Nigeria's geopolitical zones and states**

In the reporting period the data on abductions confirms the impression that in Nigeria (especially in the northern states) jihadist-related actors are targeting Christians.

- FACT SHEET 3: The data shows that Christians were disproportionately affected by abductions in the context of attacks by Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen and 'bandits': The total number of Christians abducted in the reporting period was 4,634 compared to 2,691 Muslims.
- FACT SHEET 4: The total number of Christians abducted for their faith was 4,634 compared to 2,691 Muslims. This indicates that 1.7 times as many Christians were abducted as Muslims. When the Christian/Muslim population levels of each region is factored in, the number of Christians abducted is proportionally 15,805 which is **5.9 times more than the number of Muslims killed** in the context of jihadism-related violence. That is 3.5 times more than when the religious demographics are excluded.

¹ Observatory of Religious Freedom in Africa, *Nigeria: Killings and abductions in the period 1 October 2019 – 30 September 2021*, July 2022

FACT SHEET 1: All registered killings in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022

All registered killings Nigeria Oct 2021 - Sept 2022								
Geopolitical zone	State	Total killed	Christians	Muslims	ATR	Unknown	Security Forces	Terror Groups
	Jigawa	30	6	11		1	3	9
	Kaduna	1,657	863	278	2	22	33	459
	Kano	46	18	22				6
	Katsina	628	71	182		31	28	316
	Kebbi	530	182	106	21		142	79
	Sokoto	532	123	189		51	1	168
	Zamfara	1,575	233	669		25	57	591
North West Total		4,998	1,496	1,457	23	130	264	1,628
	Abuja FCT	49	16	23		4	3	3
	Benue	551	495		1		10	45
	Kogi	121	73	17	2	1	12	16
	Kwara	38	15	4				19
	Nasarawa	94	73	16			3	2
	Niger	2,013	549	357	2	5	158	942
	Plateau	561	304	47			8	202
North Central Total		3,427	1,525	464	5	10	194	1,229
	Adamawa	145	99	8			11	27
	Bauchi	44	18	23	1			2
	Borno	2,878	184	192		12	230	2,260
	Gombe	37	28	6		1	1	1
	Taraba	684	519	42	3	24	28	68
	Yobe	85	18	7			11	49
North East Total		3,873	866	278	4	37	281	2,407
	Abia	51	27	8			4	12
	Anambra	297	135	9			48	105
	Ebonyi	139	103				16	20
	Enugu	127	94	1			30	2
	Imo	213	135	3			41	34
South East Total		827	494	21			139	173
	Akwa Ibom	40	35	2			1	2
	Bayelsa	40	22	1			4	13
	Cross River	91	65	-		2	5	19
	Delta	134	57	3			5	69
	Edo	80	31				5	44
	Rivers	51	26		3		9	13
South South Total		436	236	6	3	2	29	160
	Ekiti	9	5				3	1
	Lagos	97	41	10	1	8	4	33
	Ogun	87	36	12	4	5	8	22
	Ondo	115	101	1		8	1	4
	Osun	59	39	9		1	2	8
	Oyo	57	38	4			5	10
South West Total		424	260	36	5	22	23	78
Grand Total		13,985	4,877	2,262	40	201	930	5,675

The numbers for “Terror Groups” killed are very likely a mixture of real insurgents killed and civilians killed who were understood to be insurgents or related to them, or even worse, just killed in retaliation for comrades killed. A recent [report by Reuters](#) suggests this scenario (Reuters, 12 December 2022). The Observatory researchers did not divide up the category of members of “Terror Groups” killed according to religious affiliation because they were not considered to be ‘religiously persecuted’ but ‘religious persecutors’.

FACT SHEET 2: Religious killings in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022

Religious killings Nigeria Oct 2021 - Sept 2022								
Geopolitical zone	State	Total Killed	Christians Killed	% Christians in the State	Muslims Killed	% Muslims in the State	Nominal value of Christians killed compared to Muslims killed based on the proportionality of their numbers in the State	Factor ref. Christians killed compared to Muslims killed based on the proportionality of their numbers in the State
North West	Jigawa	30	6	10	11	88	53	4,8
North West	Kaduna	1.657	863	35	278	50	1.233	4,4
North West	Kano	46	18	9	22	91	182	8,3
North West	Katsina	628	71	7	182	91	923	5,1
North West	Kebbi	530	182	10	106	88	1.602	15,1
North West	Sokoto	532	123	5	189	94	2.312	12,2
North West	Zamfara	1.575	233	5	669	94	4.380	6,5
North West Total		4.998	1.496		1.457		10.685	7
North Central	Abuja FCT	49	16	50	23	30	10	0,4
North Central	Benue	551	495	75	-	10	66	(only Chr. rel. killings reported)
North Central	Kogi	121	73	50	17	41	60	3,5
North Central	Kwara	38	15	45	4	50	17	4,2
North Central	Nasarawa	94	73	45	16	40	65	4,1
North Central	Niger	2.013	549	25	357	70	1.537	4,3
North Central	Plateau	561	304	60	47	17	86	1,8
North Central Total		3.427	1.525		464		1.840	4
North East	Adamawa	145	99	30	8	65	215	26,8
North East	Bauchi	44	18	15	23	80	96	4,2
North East	Borno	2.878	184	20	192	60	552	2,9
North East	Gombe	37	28	30	6	55	51	8,6
North East	Taraba	684	519	30	42	55	952	22,7
North East	Yobe	85	18	10	7	87	157	22,4
North East Total		3.873	866		278		2.022	7
South East	Abia	51	27	80	8	18	6	0,8
South East	Anambra	297	135	80	9	15	25	2,8
South East	Ebonyi	139	103	67	-	23	35	(only Chr. rel. killings reported)
South East	Enugu	127	94	75	1	15	19	18,8
South East	Imo	213	135	80	3	18	30	10,1
South East Total		827	494		21		116	6
South South	Akwa Ibom	40	35	75	2	20	9	4,7
South South	Bayelsa	40	22	75	1	20	6	5,9
South South	Cross River	91	65	72	-	18	16	(only Chr. rel. killings reported)
South South	Delta	134	57	76	3	18	14	4,5
South South	Edo	80	31	79	-	5	2	(only Chr. rel. killings reported)
South South	Rivers	51	26	60	-	19	8	(only Chr. rel. killings reported)
South South Total		436	236		6		55	9
South West	Ekiti	9	5	60	-	25	2	(only Chr. rel. killings reported)
South West	Lagos	97	41	83	10	12	6	0,6
South West	Ogun	87	36	60	12	29	17	1,5
South West	Ondo	115	101	55	1	30	55	55,1
South West	Osun	59	39	59	9	39	26	2,9
South West	Oyo	57	38	55	4	43	30	7,4
South West Total		424	260		36		136	4
Grand Total		13.985	4.877		2.262		11.659	7

(Please note: In contrast to USA/UK usage, this table uses European standard “,” for decimal points and “.” Instead of a comma to mark thousands.)

Most Muslims are killed by the same aggressors as Christians. There is no proof for Christians killing Muslims in the context of jihadist-related violence, at least not in substantial numbers.

FACT SHEET 3: All registered abductions in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022

All registered abductions Nigeria Oct 2021 - Sept 2022								
Geopolitical zone	State	Total Abducted	Christians	Muslims	ATR	Unknown	Security Forces	Terror Groups
North West	Jigawa	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
North West	Kaduna	2.549	2.049	437	21	35	6	1
North West	Kano	12	4	8	-	-	-	-
North West	Katsina	395	134	198	-	56	7	-
North West	Kebbi	224	80	123	21	-	-	-
North West	Sokoto	339	115	216	-	8	-	-
North West	Zamfara	747	232	509	5	-	1	-
North West Total		4.268	2.615	1.491	47	99	15	1
North Central	Abuja FCT	123	51	34	1	23	14	-
North Central	Benue	17	17	-	-	-	-	-
North Central	Kogi	57	52	5	-	-	-	-
North Central	Kwara	24	14	10	-	-	-	-
North Central	Nasarawa	15	6	9	-	-	-	-
North Central	Niger	2.094	1.066	931	80	14	3	-
North Central	Plateau	166	134	32	-	-	-	-
North Central Total		2.496	1.340	1.021	81	37	17	-
North East	Adamawa	23	19	3	-	-	1	-
North East	Bauchi	5	1	4	-	-	-	-
North East	Borno	237	118	107	-	-	11	1
North East	Gombe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North East	Taraba	151	111	40	-	-	-	-
North East	Yobe	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
North East Total		420	253	154	-	-	12	1
South East	Abia	41	41	-	-	-	-	-
South East	Anambra	11	8	-	-	2	1	-
South East	Ebonyi	4	-	-	-	-	4	-
South East	Enugu	40	40	-	-	-	-	-
South East	Imo	42	39	-	-	2	1	-
South East Total		138	128	-	-	4	6	-
South South	Akwa Ibom	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
South South	Bayelsa	14	13	-	-	1	-	-
South South	Cross River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South South	Delta	24	24	-	-	-	-	-
South South	Edo	139	138	-	-	-	1	-
South South	Rivers	21	21	-	-	-	-	-
South South Total		200	198	-	-	1	1	-
South West	Ekiti	29	27	2	-	-	-	-
South West	Lagos	7	5	2	-	-	-	-
South West	Ogun	29	18	3	-	4	4	-
South West	Ondo	72	45	18	5	4	-	-
South West	Osun	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
South West	Oyo	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
South West Total		142	100	25	5	8	4	-
Grand Total		7.664	4.634	2.691	133	149	55	2

(Please note: In contrast to USA/UK usage, this table uses European standard “,” for decimal points and “.” Instead of a comma to mark thousands.)

FACT SHEET 4: Religious abductions in Nigeria Oct 2021 – Sept 2022

Religious abductions Nigeria Oct 2021 - Sept 2022								
Geopolitical zone	State	Total Abducted	Christians Abducted	% Christians in the State	Muslims Abducted	% Muslims in the State	Numerical value of Christians abducted compared to Muslims abducted based on the proportionality of their numbers in the State	Factor ref. Christians abducted compared to Muslims abducted based on the proportionality of their numbers in the State
North West	Jigawa	2	1	10	-	88	9	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
North West	Kaduna	2,549	2,049	35	437	50	2,927	6,7
North West	Kano	12	4	9	8	91	40	5,1
North West	Katsina	395	134	7	198	91	1,742	8,8
North West	Kebbi	224	80	10	123	88	704	5,7
North West	Sokoto	339	115	5	216	94	2,162	10,0
North West	Zamfara	747	232	5	509	94	4,362	8,6
North West Total		4,268	2,615		1,491		11,946	8
North Central	Abuja FCT	123	51	50	34	30	31	0,9
North Central	Benue	17	17	75	-	10	2	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
North Central	Kogi	57	52	50	5	41	43	8,5
North Central	Kwara	24	14	45	10	50	16	1,6
North Central	Nasarawa	15	6	45	9	40	5	0,6
North Central	Niger	2,094	1,066	25	931	70	2,985	3,2
North Central	Plateau	166	134	60	32	17	38	1,2
North Central Total		2,496	1,340		1,021		3,119	3
North East	Adamawa	23	19	30	3	65	41	13,7
North East	Bauchi	5	1	15	4	80	5	1,3
North East	Borno	237	118	20	107	60	354	3,3
North East	Gombe	-	-	30	-	55	-	(no Chr. Musl. rel. abductions reported)
North East	Taraba	151	111	30	40	55	204	5,1
North East	Yobe	4	4	10	-	87	35	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
North East Total		420	253		154		639	4
South East	Abia	41	41	80	-	18	9	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South East	Anambra	11	8	80	-	15	2	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South East	Ebonyi	4	-	67	-	23	-	(no Chr. Musl. rel. abductions reported)
South East	Enugu	40	40	75	-	15	8	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South East	Imo	42	39	80	-	18	9	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South East Total		138	128		-		28	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South South	Akwa Ibom	2	2	75	-	20	1	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South South	Bayelsa	14	13	75	-	20	3	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South South	Cross River	-	-	72	-	18	-	(no Chr. Musl. rel. abductions reported)
South South	Delta	24	24	76	-	18	6	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South South	Edo	139	138	79	-	5	9	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South South	Rivers	21	21	60	-	19	7	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South South Total		200	198		-		25	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South West	Ekiti	29	27	60	2	25	11	5,6
South West	Lagos	7	5	83	2	12	1	0,4
South West	Ogun	29	18	60	3	29	9	2,9
South West	Ondo	72	45	55	18	30	25	1,4
South West	Osun	3	3	59	-	39	2	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South West	Oyo	2	2	55	-	43	2	(only Chr. rel. abductions reported)
South West Total		142	100		25		49	2
Grand Total		7,664	4,634		2,691		11,805	6

(Please note: In contrast to USA/UK usage, this table uses European standard “,” for decimal points and “.” Instead of a comma to mark thousands.)

In the context of jihadist-related violence most Muslims are abducted by the same aggressors as Christians.