

## **SITUATION REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF BOKO HARAM IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAIDUGURI NORTHEASTERN NIGERIA: BORNO, YOBE AND ADAMAWA STATES.**

Boko Haram: the Congregation of the people of Tradition for Proselytism and Jihad better known by its Hausa name *Boko Haram* - it is an Islamic jihadist and takfiri militant and terrorist organization based in the northeast of Nigeria. Founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 the organization seeks to establish a “pure” Islamic state ruled by sharia law, putting a stop to what it deems “Westernization.” The group is known for attacking Christian and government structures, abducting and kidnapping; it has also assassinated members of the Islamic establishment who are opposed to their doctrine.

The Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri covers the whole of **Yobe** and **Borno** states and **the northern part of Adamawa State**, the largest Catholic diocese in Nigeria.

**2006 Danish Cartoon Crises:** The attack was well calculated that out of the FIFTY TWO (52) Churches inside Maiduguri City only two were left untouched.

Boko Haram as a terrorist group emerged in 2009 causing a lot of destruction in all the communities in the three northeastern states. In the last few months we have seen the intensification and aggressive devastation of the Boko Haram activities in Northern, Central and Southern part of the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri. The brutality and callousness with which people are killed can only be compared to that of the ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Many of our people are being forced out of their ancestral homes, villages and towns. Up on till now, thousands are living in caves on the mountains; the few who were able to escape are being absorbed by friends and relatives in Maiduguri and Yola. Thousands have managed to escape into the Cameroons and are living under very difficult conditions of lack of food, shelter and medication.

A good number of our youth are forcefully conscripted, while the aged, women and children are converted to Islam. A lot of Nigerians are trapped and are practicing strict sharia in communities like: Bama, Gwoza, Madagali up on till Mubi. For the terrorists they have

declared all to be Islamic Caliphate. Thanks to the joint military force of Niger, Chad and Cameroon, some of these towns have been recaptured.

### **Estimate Figure of Destruction:**

**No of persons killed:** over 5,000 Catholic Faithful have been killed.

**Displaced persons:** over 100,000 Catholic faithful are displaced, scattered all over Nigeria but majorly in Maiduguri and Yola. Most schools in the East can't commence regular activities

not only because of the terrorists, but also because such school premises now serve as refugee camps.

**Displaced Priests:** out of the 46 priests currently working in the diocese twenty six are displaced. A good number are still hanging in Yola diocese, which is also under great threat.

**Displaced Catechists:** over two hundred Catechists are displaced.

**Displaced Nuns:** over thirty Nuns are displaced.

**Deserted convents:** out of the five convents four have been deserted: Potiskum, Shuwa, Bazza and Mubi

**Local Govt. \ Communities sacked and occupied by Boko Haram:** In Borno State: Mongonu, Gomboru Ngalla and Bama. In Adamawa state: Madagali, Michika, Mubi. Other towns include: Pulka, Gwoza, Mataka, Gulak, Kaya, Shuwa, Bazza, Yaffa, Betso, Mishara, Vimtim, Muchalla, Kala'a etc. These are Christian communities with a good number of Catholic churches deserted and destroyed. The joint force has succeeded in recapturing some of these towns. But there is still much to be done, the whole communities are reduced to a heap of ruins.

**Churches destroyed:** over three hundred and fifty churches and rectories have been razed down, a good number were destroyed more than once.

**Deserted Parish Churches\ Chaplaincies:** Out of the forty parish centers \ chaplaincies, twenty two are presently deserted and occupied by the terrorists.

**Affected Schools:** the diocese has over forty primary and secondary schools, over thirty have been

Deserted including the Minor Seminary of St. Joseph's in Shuwa and St.

Stephen's boys' college Duhu and Our Lady of Good Counsel Madanya- Mubi, all

in Adamawa State.

# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAIDUGURI SUMMARY OF DAMAGES

No. of persons killed	Lay faithful as IDPs	No. widows	No. orphans	Displaced priests/Catechists	Displaced Nuns	Affected mission clinics/Hospital	Affected Mission schools	Affected Rectories	Affected Parish churches/ chaplaincies	Out Station churches.
5,000	100,000.00  WITH MASSIVE DESTRUCTION ON THEIR ENTIRE MEANS OF LIVLYHOOD.	7,000	10,000	Priests-26 Catechists 250	30	6	30	17	22	350

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