


DNA NOTE

NOM	Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'Awati Wal Jihad (Boko Haram)	
NATIONALITY	Nigeria	
FOUNDATION	2002	
CURRENT LEADER	Abu Musab al-Barnawi	

Ideology

The name « Boko Haram » basically means the rejection of western-style education. It is a Sunni radical Islamic terrorist organization that is against the influence of the western world in Nigeria. The group formerly did not seek to counter the government, but currently wants to establish a caliphate.

Brief history

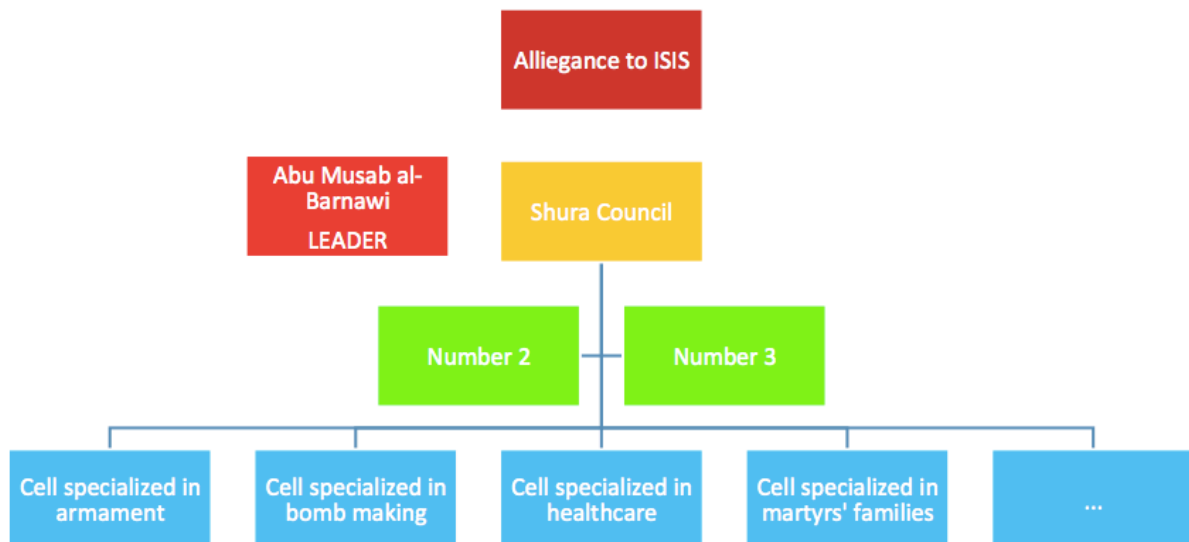
Muhammad Yusuf created Boko Haram in 2002. He was killed in 2009 while in prison, which led to an escalation of violence.

In March 2015, the group swore allegiance to ISIS, hence the flag. ISIS replaced Abubakar Shekau, then leader, with one of their own: Abu Musab al-Barnawi.

Apparently, Shekau saw this as a coup d'état, and Boko Haram seems to have suffered internal tensions. Now under the authority of ISIS, the group helps the terrorist organization in its fights, for instance in Libya.

Boko Haram has recently suffered from several defeats, which reduced its territory and population.

Organization



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Use of violence

Boko Haram is extremely violent. The group mainly targets populations. For example, it raids small towns, destroys and loots, burns entire schools, shoots in the middle of crowds and proceeds to kidnappings on a daily basis.

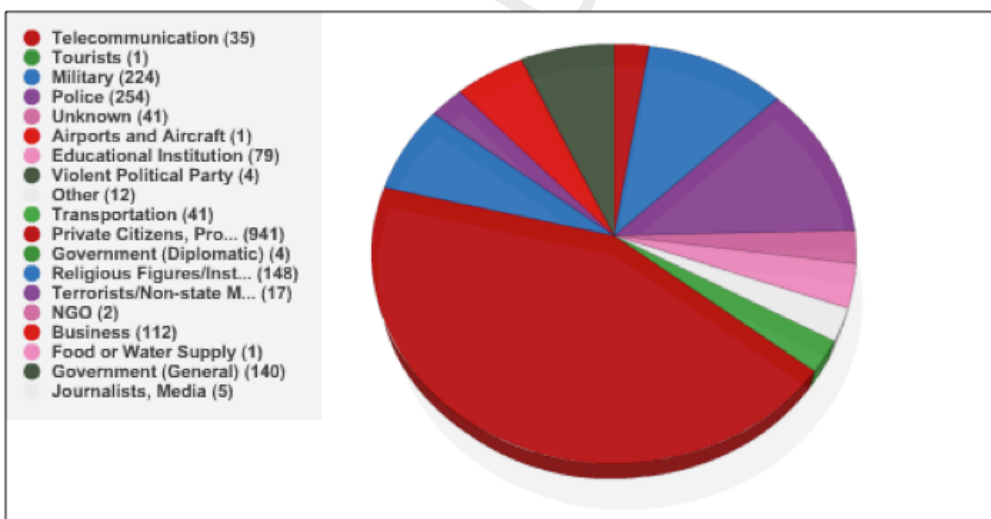
In March 2012, the group destroyed 12 schools, stopping the studies of more than 10,000 students. In the night of April 14-15, they kidnapped more than 300 girls in a school in Chibok, and many remain captives to this day. Its bloodiest attack certainly occurred in Baga and Doron Baga, where the group targeted the population and burnt thousands of buildings.

The numbers are uncertain, but Amnesty International believes that more than 2,000 people died in 4 days. Regular armed forces are also often targeted.

On Election Day in 2015, Boko Haram killed 41 people to prevent the population from voting.



Approximate Boko Haram influence area.



Main Boko Haram targets per type

(source : Global Terrorism Database)

SOURCES

Boko Haram reportedly has complex organizational structure. Sahara Reporters. 2012.
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Walker, Andrew. *What Is Boko Haram ?* United States Institute of Peace. 2012.
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<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?chart=overtime&search=boko%20haram&count=100>

