

2013-11-07

## Fråga-svar

**Nigeria. Hur ser situationen ut för kristna konvertiter i södra Nigeria med tanke på oroligheterna i norr och Boko Harams aktiviteter?**

### Fråga:

1. Hur ser muslimer i Nigeria på de som konverterar?
2. Hur ser Boko Haram på de som konverterar?
3. Finns det problem för de som konverterar från islam till kristendom?
4. Om det finns problem för konvertiter finns dessa problem även i det kristna söder?

### Svar:

Sammanställning av information från olika källor

#### 1. Kristna och muslimska konvertiter i Nigeria

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) (2012):

...in Nigeria religious freedom is protected... intermarriage "is often the occasion and motivation for religious conversion...attitudes toward interreligious conversion "differ markedly among the different Nigerian ethno-religious groups"

---

The Hausa-Fulani and related groups located in the north of Nigeria rely on the "Arab world" for "religious, socio-cultural and political inspirations." This means that they may see themselves as "the bastion of opposition against the spread of Christianity and Western culture in Nigeria." Since the leaders of the Hausa-Fulani community view with "grave concern" the "increasing Western influence" among their people, conversion from Islam to Christianity by their members is also regarded as a "treasonable act." Those who convert are "ostracized"...

---

...there is nothing like a "forceful" conversion of non-Muslims to Islam because Islam does not advocate "compulsion" in religious beliefs...

---

The senior research fellow said that dominant Christian Igbo community in the East "display[s] intolerance towards conversion to Islam."... "He also indicated that while conversion from Christianity to Islam is encouraged by the Hausa-Fulani, new Christian converts find it difficult to integrate fully into the community. Some traditional Muslims may regard new converts from Christianity to Islam with "suppressed disdain"; ... The senior research fellow expressed the opinion that, based on their interpretation of the Quran, "most traditional Muslims" perceive new converts from Christianity as "unreliable members" of the Muslim community. Corroborating information or information pertaining to other Christian communities in Nigeria could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

---

Both Christianity and Islam have influence among the Yoruba.

Home Office (2013):

Northern Muslims are highly sensitive to claims of Christian conversions from Islam. In fact, they are likely rare. Some of the North's growing Christian population is the result of Igbo and Yoruba migrating into the region in search of economic opportunity. Conversions to Christianity do take place among minority tribes living in

rural areas in the North that formerly were animist. (s. 107)

---

The north is dominated by the Hausa-Fulani and Kanuri ethnic groups and is predominantly Muslim. Significant Christian communities have resided and intermarried with Muslims in the north for more than 50 years. (s. 107)

## **2. Boko Harams syn på kristna konvertiter**

Home Office (2013):

Boko Haram is highly diffuse. It has an important Islamic revival dimension, but also has political and criminal elements. Little is known about its leader, Abubakar Shekau, including his age, where he was born, or if he can speak English. The movement has issued no formal manifesto. Nevertheless, its various factions do share a common agenda of imposing and rigorously enforcing Islamic law in northern Nigeria; some even want to impose it throughout the country in areas where Christians are the majority. The group is bitterly hostile to the Christian-led secular government in the capital of Abuja, which it accuses of exploiting the poor. Its methods are violent and deadly, ranging from targeted killings to mass deaths resulting from car". (s. 34, kap. 7.14)

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) (2012):

Boko Haram has morphed. Its original incarnation had its roots in a northern millenarian tradition, a response to the corruption and injustice of both the Nigerian state and the Islamic establishment. After the death of Yusuf, a young cleric who had attracted a significant following, power transferred to the more radical Abubakar Shekau, and they announced a common cause with the global jihadist movement.

## **3. Problem för kristna konvertiter**

Home Office (2013):

Boko Haram's attacks—centered in the north— ...the group has forced Christian men to convert to Islam on pain of death and has assassinated Muslim clerics and

traditional leaders in the north for allegedly speaking out against its tactics or for cooperating with authorities to identify group members. (kap.7.18, s. 36)

U.S Department of State (2013):

Early in the year, a Muslim woman in a northeast state reportedly received death threats after she converted to Christianity. Anonymous harassers whom she suspected were Boko Haram members told her to convert back to Islam. When she refused, unknown gunmen shot and killed members of her immediate family in her home.” (sektion 3)

---

In some communities, Muslims or Christians who converted to another religion reportedly faced ostracism by adherents of their former religion. (sektion 3)

Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) (2013):

There were unconfirmed reports of Christians forced to convert to Islam, particularly by members of Boko Haram. (kap. Background information)

Reuters: *Insight- Boko Haram, taking to hills, seize slave "brides"* (2013):

In a new development, Boko Haram is abducting Christian women whom it converts to Islam on pain of death and then forces into "marriage" with fighters.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (2013):

Northern and Central Nigerian states have seen an upsurge of violence in recent weeks.

#### **4 Kristna i Södra Nigeria**

Home Office (2013):

In the largely Christian southern areas of Nigeria, women have been attacked (sic) for wearing trousers and the 'Indecent Dressing' Bill was sponsored by a Christian woman senator...Stoning is the prescribed punishment

[for zina] for both married men and women in each of the twelve states' Shari'a Penal Codes.' (s. 77 kap. 11.16)

U.S Department of State (2013):

In the southeastern states, where the Igbo ethnic group is dominant, Catholics, Anglicans, and Methodists constitute the majority, although many Igbos combine traditional practices with Christianity. In the Niger Delta region, where the Ogoni and Ijaw ethnic groups predominate, Christians form the majority while an estimated 1 percent of the population is Muslim. Pentecostal groups are growing rapidly in the Middle Belt and southern regions. Ahmadi Muslims maintain a small presence in the cities of Lagos and Abuja.

Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) (2012):

In July 30, 2009, Boko Haram founder Muhammad Yusuf was killed while in custody of Nigerian security forces in Maiduguri, Borno State, in northeastern Nigeria.[1] On August 9, Boko Haram's new leader announced in a written statement that Yusuf's ideas would "live on forever" and that Boko Haram would begin a series of bombings in the "evil cities" of Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu and Port Harcourt, all in southern Nigeria. He stated that Boko Haram's "Islamic revolution" was not limited to the northern states and that the southern states, "especially the Yoruba, Igbo and Ijaw infidels," would become Boko Haram's immediate target.

---

As this article will detail, there is still only speculation about Boko Haram's ability to strike southern Nigeria. There is, however, growing certainty about Boko Haram's infiltration of North-Central zone's Kogi State, which could serve as a "staging point" for operations deeper into southern Nigeria.

---

As long as the Muslim ethnic groups of southern Nigeria, especially the Yorubas, continue to deny Boko Haram a foothold in the southern zones, Boko Haram's attempts to strike the south will likely remain isolated, infrequent and ineffectual. Nonetheless, just as Boko Haram struck the UN Headquarters in Abuja on August 26, 2011, in a suicide vehicle bombing after having never targeted an international institution before, Boko Haram could

succeed in carrying out a powerful attack in Lagos or another major city in the south. This would add credibility to the alarmist predictions that already exist about Boko Haram's capabilities in the south. Unless the attack originates from Kogi State, where Boko Haram has demonstrated that it has bases and weapons caches, and from where it is capable of carrying out a series of attacks, any single operation in the south would likely be an anomaly rather than part of a sustained offensive.

United Press International (UPI) (2013):

Nigeria is faced with the prospect of a religious civil war after southern militants threatened to unleash a "crusade" against northern Islamists who were behind a recent attack in which 185 people were killed.

---

But if the southern Christian militants, of whom there are around 25,000, do mobilize against the northern Islamists, Nigeria faces a potentially dangerous widening of the current conflict at a critical period in the country's history.

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) (2012):

"It is no longer a single group," according to political analyst Hussaini Abdu. "My feeling is that there are different tendencies. There is the traditional one, that Yusuf and now Shekau leads, but there are also emerging groups capitalizing on the insecurity in the country."

Reuters (2013):

Boko Haram wants to impose sharia law in a country mixed roughly equally between Christians and Muslims. It has become the biggest security threat in Africa's top oil exporter.

The Guardian (2013):

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend), the umbrella body of armed groups in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta, said it would launch a new terror campaign "in defence of Christianity".

The bombings of mosques, hajj camps, Islamic institutions, large congregations in Islamic events and assassinations of clerics that propagate doctrines of hate will form the core mission of this crusade," the Mend spokesman Jomo Gbomo said in an emailed statement.

The group appears to be responding to the ongoing attacks against churches and Christian populations in northern Nigeria, which some estimate have killed more than 1,000 people, including Christians and Muslims, in recent years.

The threat of a new round of violence, which Mend said would be codenamed Operation Barbarossa, comes a week after the Christian group claimed responsibility for the ambush of a boat in Bayelsa state, southern Nigeria, in which 13 police officers were killed.

---

Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationsökningar gjorda under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

## Källförteckning

Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD), *ecoi.net featured topic on Nigeria: Boko Haram*, 2013-04-29, [http://www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/246396/356477\\_en.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/246396/356477_en.html) (Hämtad 2013-11-19)

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, *Nigeria: upsurge of violence in Northern and Central States*, 2013-09-05, <http://dynamic.csw.org.uk/article.asp?t=press&id=1533&search=> (Hämtad 2013-11-07)

Combating Terrorism Center (CTC), *The Strategic Limitations of Boko Haram in Southern Nigeria*, 2012-08-23, <http://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/the-strategic-limitations-of-boko-haram-in-southern-nigeria> (Hämtad 2013-11-07)

Home Office, *Country of origin information (COI) report*, 2013-06-14, (Lifos 30545)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), *Nigeria: Treatment of Christians who convert to Islam; treatment of Muslims who convert to Christianity; information on state protection for mistreated religious converts [NGA104211.E]*, 2012-11-08, [http://www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/232043/340623\\_en.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/232043/340623_en.html) (Hämtad 2013-11-27)

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), *Analysis: Carrot or stick? - Nigerians divided over Boko Haram*, 2012-07-16, <http://www.irinnews.org/report/95874/analysis-carrot-or-stick-nigerians-divided-over-boko-haram> (Hämtad 2013-11-07)

Reuters, *Nigerian president seeks state of emergency extension*, 2013-11-06, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/06/nigeria-violence-idUSL5N0IR3G520131106> (Hämtad 2013-11-07)

Reuters, *INSIGHT- Boko Haram, taking to hills, seize slave "brides"*, 2013-11-18, <http://www.trust.org/item/20131117092554-68m4x/?source=hptop> (Hämtad 2013-11-20)

The Guardian, *Niger Delta militants threaten retaliation over Islamist attacks*, 2013-04-16, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/apr/16/nigerian-christian-retaliation-islamist-attacks> (Hämtad 2013-11-11)

United Press International (UPI), *Nigeria Christians threaten religious war*, 2013-04-23, [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/Special/2013/04/23/Nigeria-](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2013/04/23/Nigeria-)

[Christians-threaten-religious-war/UPI-73101366742735/](#) (Hämtad 2013-11-07)

U.S. Department of State, *2012 International Religious Freedom Report. Nigeria*, 2013-05-20, (Lifos 30557)