

FACT SHEET NIGERIA – KILLINGS

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Observatory of Religious Freedom in Africa

The Observatory of Religious Freedom in Africa (ORFA) is a research, training and advocacy platform, with the mission to promote religious freedom in Africa. Its actual focus is on Western and Middle Africa.

The data presented is the result of a two-year project of data gathering on violence carried out jointly by two Nigerian NGO's and one international NGO. The first phase of the project was from 1 October 2019 till 30 September 2020. The second phase from 1 October 2020 till 30 September 2021.

Summary Fact Sheet about killings in Nigeria per State (second phase: 1 Oct. 2020 till 30 Sept. 2021)

People killed in the context of jihadist violence were distinguished according to religious background: Christians, Muslims and African Traditional Religionists (ATRs)

Region	State	Total killed	Christians	Muslims	ATRs	Unknown Religious identity	Killed: Soldiers, police, immigration officers, etc.	Killed: Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen, 'bandits'	Killed but not in the context of Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits'
	Jigawa	4		1			3		
	Kaduna	1.178	997	57		7	69	45	3
	Kano	12	4	1			4	3	
	Katsina	265	109	118	11	22		5	
	Kebbi	558	368	113	13	17	24	23	
	Sokoto	274	28	112			68	60	6
	Zamfara	747	46	372		57	56	215	1
North West Total		3.038	1.552	774	24	171	216	297	4
	Benue	1.072	955				14	14	89
	FCT (Abuja)	21	18	1			2		
	Kogi	33	5	1		9	6	11	1
	Kwara	10		8					2
	Nasarawa	57	36	12			9		
	Niger	797	290	182		123	70	129	3
	Plateau	483	420	46			2	13	2
North Central Total		2.473	1.724	250		132	103	167	97
	Adamawa	40	37					3	
	Bauchi	6		5			1		
	Borno	858	100	140		122	140	356	
	Gombe	21	20						1
	Taraba	124	111	8		1	2		2
	Yobe	49	1	1		10		37	
North East Total		1.098	269	154		133	143	396	3
	Abia	14	1				12		1
	Anambra	130	72	19			27		12
	Ebonyi	355	305				8	2	40
	Enugu	55	34				14		7
	Imo	1.093	267	29		10	89	6	692
South East Total		1.637	678	48		4	150	8	749
	Akwa Ibom	10					9		1
	Bayelsa	4	1				1		2
	Cross River	26					6		20
	Delta	30	3			2	13	8	4
	Edo	12	8						4
	Rivers	33	9				19		5
South South Total		125	22			8	48	8	39
	Ekiti	3	2					1	
	Lagos	9	2						7
	Ogun	35	20	1		1	4	7	2
	Ondo	11	6				2		3
	Osun	14	1	1			5		7
	Oyo	39	27	2		1	7		2
South West Total		111	58	4		2	18	8	21
Grand Total		8.482	4.303	1.230	24	450	678	884	913

Comparison of numbers of people killed in the first and second phase; per region (geopolitical zone)

Region	Total killed		Christians		Muslims		ATRs		Unknown Religious identity		Killed: Soldiers, police, immigration officers, etc.		Killed: Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen, 'bandits'		Killed but not in the context of Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits'	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
North West Total	3.038	2.217	1.552	1.449	774	517	24		171	49	216	39	297	150	4	13
North Central Total	2.473	986	1.724	858	250	61			132	35	103	3	167	3	97	26
North East Total	1.098	2.374	269	1.191	154	425			133	315	143	247	396	101	3	95
South East Total	1.637	43	678	2	48				4		150	2	8		749	39
South South Total	125	170	22	75					8	1	48	12	8	30	39	52
South West Total	111	82	58	38	4	2			2	4	18	7	8	13	21	18
Grand Total	8.482	5.872	4.303	3.613	1.230	1.005	24		450	404	678	310	884	297	913	243

Comparison of total number of people killed per phase after proportional distribution of Unknown Religious Identity over Christians, Muslims and ATRs killed by jihadist violence

Reporting period	Total killed	Christians	Muslims	ATRs	Killed: Soldiers, police, immigration officers, etc.	Killed: Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen, 'bandits'	Killed but not in the context of Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen or 'bandits'
Grand Total Oct. 2020 - Sept. 2021	8.482	4.650	1.330	27	678	884	913
Grand Total Oct. 2019 - Sept. 2020	5.872	3.910	1.087	25	310	297	243
Increase	2.610	740	243	2	368	587	670

Key results:

- Many more Christians than Muslims were killed by jihadist violence (2021: 77.9% vs 21.6%; 2020: 77.4% vs 22.1%). The remainder of those killed by jihadist violence were African Traditional Religionists (ATRs) where the level remained static (2021: 0.5%; 2020: 0.5%). These percentages do not include security personnel or jihadists killed, nor people killed in a context other than jihadist violence.
- The majority of Muslims were killed by jihadists (Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed Fulani herdsmen, 'bandits'); not by Christians.
- The numbers given are just the 'tip of the iceberg'. Incidents involving killings often represent a whole gamut of violence and suffering: communities raided and/or permanently occupied; women and girls raped and/or abducted; fields destroyed and/or occupied; people robbed from their properties and livelihoods; people driven from their homelands into dire situations of internal displacement.