

Tag Archives: Lake Chad Basin

IS Announces New Boko Haram Leader

Posted on [August 18, 2016](#) in [Boko Haram](#)

The so-called Islamic State (IS) militant group has announced that its West African affiliate, Nigerian-based Boko Haram, has a new leader.

Abu Musab al-Barnawi, who was previously a spokesman for the Nigerian-based militant group, has been featured in the latest issue of an IS magazine, which makes no reference to Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram's leader since 2009. However just a day later after the announcement, Shekau maintained that he is still the leader of Boko Haram, rejecting a successor who was announced just hours earlier by the so-called Islamic State (IS) group and effectively exposing the biggest rift yet amongst Nigeria's deadly Islamic insurgents. An audio speech purporting to be from Shekau criticized al-Barnawi and said that IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi did not respond to several letters from Shekau explaining that al-Barnawi is "an infidel" preaching "false creeds." Shekau called the announcement "a coup," adding "today I woke up to see one who is an infidel whom they want me to follow. No I won't... We cannot subject ourselves to people who are in ignorance of all holy books and teachings." He also highlighted ideological differences with al-Barnawi, who promised in an interview that was published on Wednesday in IS newspaper al-Nabaa to end attacks on mosques and markets frequented by Muslims. Such attacks have been a hallmark of Boko Haram under Shekau, who has led the group since 2009. Shekau's declaration could effectively pave the way for a break from IS and Boko Haram's possible return to the influence of al-Qaeda. It could also cause insurgent rivals to turn their guns on each other.

Boko Haram, which is fighting to overthrow the Nigerian government, has lost most of the territory it controlled 18 months ago, effectively forcing the militant group to change its tactics and to launch hit-and-run attacks in northeastern Nigeria, as well as in neighbouring countries in the Lake Chad Basin, including Chad and Cameroon. Its seven-year insurgency has left 20,000 people dead, mainly in the northeast of Nigeria, and has displaced thousands more. Shekau took over as the group's leader after its founder, Muhammad Yusuf, died in Nigerian police custody in July 2009. Under his leadership, Boko Haram became more radical – carrying out more brutal attacks and killings. It swore allegiance to IS in March 2015. In numerous videos, Shekau taunted the Nigerian authorities, and celebrated the group's violent attacks, including the April 2014 abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls from the village of Chibok in northeastern Nigeria. Nigeria's army has claimed on several occasions to have killed him.

Tagged as: [Boko Haram](#), [Cameroon](#), [Chad](#), [Chibok](#), [Iraq](#), [IS](#), [ISIL](#), [ISIS](#), [Islamic State Group](#), [Lake Chad Basin](#), [Nigeria](#), [Syria](#), [West Africa](#)

BLOG CATEGORIES

[2014 FIFA World Cup – Security Update](#)

[2016 Summer Olympics – Security Update](#)

[2016 UEFA Euro Cup – Security Update](#)

[Abu Sayyaf](#)

[Afghanistan](#)

[Africa](#)

[al-Qaeda](#)

[Algeria](#)

[Argentina](#)

[Asia](#)

[Australia](#)

[Bahrain](#)

[Balkans](#)

[Bangladesh](#)

[Belgium](#)

[Benin](#)

[Boko Haram](#)

[Brazil](#)

[Brexite](#)

[Britian](#)

[Burkina Faso](#)

[Burundi](#)

[Cameroon](#)

[Canada](#)

[Central Africa Republic](#)

[Chad](#)

[Chilcot Report](#)

[China](#)

[Cuba](#)

[Cyber](#)

Nigeria Opens Summit on Combatting Boko Haram

Posted on [May 18, 2016](#) in [Boko Haram](#), [Nigeria](#)

On 14 May, regional and western powers gathered in Nigeria to attend talks on quelling the threat from Boko Haram.

Speaking to reporters shortly after meeting with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja, French President Francois Hollande stated that “impressive” gains has been made against the Islamists by greater cooperation, warning however that “this terrorist group nevertheless remains a threat.” The Nigerian leader has invited leaders from Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, whose troops will make up a new regional force against Boko Haram, which has been pushed to northeastern Nigeria’s borders around Lake Chad. The 8,500-member force, which has African Union (AU) backing and which is based in Chad’s capital, N’Djamena under a Nigerian general, was supposed to have deployed July 2015. Plugging gaps and improving coordination between the armies that are currently operating largely independently is seen as vital in the remote region where borders are known to be porous. Saturday’s summit, which comes two years after a first such high-level gathering in Paris, also comes as Nigeria’s military pushes deep into Boko Haram’s Sambisa Forest stronghold after recapturing swathes of territory. While President Buhari has vowed to defeat Boko Haram before the end of his first year in office later this month, and the army portraying the Islamists as being in disarray, there have been warnings against any premature declaration of victory. Deputy US Secretary of State Anthony Blinking disclosed in Washington, which is flying surveillance drones over northeastern Nigeria from a base in northern Cameroon, that he did not see Boko Haram as defeated. However he conceded that “they have been degraded,” adding that the US was “extremely vigilant” about the connections, amidst reports of Boko Haram rebels fighting in lawless Libya and the group’s ties to al-Qaeda affiliates in the wider Sahel region. Speaking to reporters on Friday, he disclosed that “this is against something we are looking at very, very carefully because we want to cut it off.” British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond has also warned about Boko Haram’s ties to the so-called Islamic State (IS) group, stating that progress was being made against the group with help from London, Paris and Washington. He added in his statement that “...we must maintain the momentum to win the war, and build the right conditions for post-conflict stability in the region.” With Boko Haram now on the back foot, attention has increasingly started to turn towards the plight of those that have been displaced by the ongoing insurgency. Two million Nigerians have been internally displaced and are now living in host communities or camps. The government of Borno State, which has been the worst-hit by the violence, has stated that the displaced face a “food crisis” and US \$5.9 billion was needed to rebuild shattered infrastructure. United States Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, who visited northeastern Nigeria and northern Cameroon last month, has indicated that 9.2 million people in the wider region were affected by the conflict.

The final communiqué disclosed that a “global approach” was required, comprising of hard and soft power in order to end the threat. Britain’s Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond characterized the fight against extremist ideology as “a generational struggle against an evil that will destroy us if we do not destroy it.” He further told the gathering that “we must sustain this fight until evil is defeated and good prevails,” and called for countries affected to win the “hearts and minds of those terrorized by Boko Haram.” US Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken also disclosed that respect for human rights was essential, after repeated accusations of military abuses against civilians and Bok Haram suspects. He further warned that not addressing the drivers of extremism – poverty, deprivation, lack of opportunity and education, would create “Bok Haram 2.0” even if the group were defeated militarily.

Tagged as: [African Union](#), [al-Qaeda](#), [AU](#), [Boko Haram](#), [Britain](#), [Cameroon](#), [Chad](#), [IS](#), [ISIL](#), [ISIS](#), [Islamic State](#), [Lake Chad Basin](#), [N’Djamena](#), [Niger](#), [Nigeria](#), [UN](#), [United Nations](#), [United States](#), [US](#), [Washington](#), [West Africa](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Djibouti](#)

[Ebola](#)

[Ecuador](#)

[Egypt](#)

[El Salvador](#)

[Ethiopia](#)

[Europe](#)

[European Union](#)

[Finland](#)

[France](#)

[Germany](#)

[Ghana](#)

[Greece](#)

[Guatemala](#)

[Guinea](#)

[Guinea-Bissau](#)

[Honduras](#)

[India](#)

[Indonesia](#)

[Iran](#)

[Iran-Israel](#)

[Iraq](#)

[IS](#)

[ISIS](#)

[Islamic State](#)

[Israel](#)

[Italy](#)

[Ivory Coast](#)

[Japan](#)

[Jordan](#)

[Kenya](#)

[Kosovo](#)

[Kuwait](#)

[Latin America](#)

[Lebanon](#)

[Lebanon-Syria](#)

[Liberia](#)

[Libya](#)

[Macedonia](#)

US Increases Cooperation With Nigeria in Fight Against Boko Haram

Posted on [May 10, 2016](#) in [Nigeria](#)

US officials have disclosed that the United States administration is seeking to approve a sale of as many as twelve A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft to Nigeria to aid in its battle against Boko Haram, in a vote of confidence in President Muhammadu Buhari's drive to reform the country's corruption-tainted military.

According to the officials, Washington is also dedicating more intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets to the campaign against the Islamist militants in the region and plans to provide additional training to Nigerian infantry forces. The possible sale, which the officials indicated was favoured within the US administration but which is still subject to review by Congress, effectively underscores the deepening US involvement in helping governments in northern and western Africa combat extremist groups. US Navy Vice Admiral Micahel Franken, a deputy commander of the Pentagon's Africa Command, told a Washington forum last week that there are now 6,200 US troops, most of them Special Operations Forces, who are operating from 26 locations across the African continent.

The widening US military cooperation is apolitical victory for Nigerian President Buhari, who took office in May last year on a pledge to crack down on the rampant corruption that has undermined the armed forces in Africa's most populous country. According to one US official, "the Buhari administration I think has really reenergized the bilateral relationship in a fundamental way." The previous Nigerian government under former president Goodluck Jonathan had scorned the United States for blocking arms sales partly because of human rights concerns. It had also criticized Washington for failing to speed the sharing of intelligence. The souring relations hit a low at the end of 2014 when US military training of Nigerian forces was abruptly halted. This however is changing under Buhari's administration, whose crackdown on corruption has led to a raft of charges against top national security officials in the previous government. Many of the funds alleged to have been misused and siphoned off by corrupt Nigerian officials under Jonathan's government were earmarked for the fight against Boko Haram, which has killed thousands in northeastern Nigeria and neighboring countries over the last seven years and which pledged loyalty to the so-called Islamic State (IS) group last year. The accused officials include Nigeria's former chief of defense staff, who last month pleaded not guilty to using money allocated for Nigeria's air force to purchase a mansion and a commercial plot of land and to build a shopping centre. A second US official has disclosed that "Buhari made clear from the get-go that his number one priority was reforming the military to defeat Boko Haram...And he sees us as part of that solution." However officials have noted that serious human rights abuses committed by security forces, which include police, increased in 2015, according to the US State Department's annual human rights reports.

The US Congress has not yet been formally notified of the possible US approval of the sale of Embraer's A29 Super Tucano turboprop aircraft to Nigeria. The Tucanos can be used for training, surveillance or attack and can be armed with two wing-mounted machine guns and can carry up to 1,550 kg (3,417 pounds) of weapons. One production line for the Super Tucano is located in Florida, where it is built with US firm Sierra Nevada Corp. According to one of the US officials, the aircraft that would be sold to Nigeria come with a "very basic armed configuration." The sale of the aircraft could offer Nigeria a more maneuverable aircraft that can stay aloft for extended periods to target Boko Haram formations. While officials have not disclosed the cost of the planes to be sold to Nigeria, a contract for twenty similar aircraft, which was sold to Afghanistan, was valued at about US \$428 million at the time that it was announced in 2013.

African armies routed Boko Haram from much of its self-proclaimed caliphate in northeastern Nigeria last year. However its fighters have since regrouped and have intensified their attacks in the Lake Chad Basin region, threatening regional security despite the creation of a 9,000-strong African multinational force to counter it. One US official has indicated that the US military expects to train a second Nigerian infantry battalion once the current group completes its training later this year. While US officials have not specified what type of additional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets would be provided to bolster the regional fight against Boko Haram, they have acknowledged that they have a tough task combating the group, which is sending women and children strapped with explosives to blow up civilian targets, such as bus stops and market places.

Tagged as: [Boko Haram](#), [Cameroon](#), [Chad](#), [Goodluck Jonathan](#), [IS](#), [ISIL](#), [ISIS](#), [Lake Chad Basin](#), [Muhammadu Buhari](#), [Nigeria](#), [United States](#), [US](#)

[Malaysia](#)
[Mali](#)
[Mauritania](#)
[MENA](#)
[Mexico](#)
[Migration](#)
[Moldova](#)
[Morocco](#)
[Mozambique](#)
[Myanmar](#)
[Nepal](#)
[Nicaragua](#)
[Niger](#)
[Nigeria](#)
[North Korea](#)
[Northern Ireland](#)
[Oman](#)
[Pakistan](#)
[Palestine](#)
[Panama](#)
[Philippines](#)
[Piracy](#)
[Poland](#)
[Press Releases](#)
[Qatar](#)
[Refugees](#)
[Region Specific Guidance](#)
[Republic of Congo](#)
[Russia](#)
[Rwanda](#)
[Sahel Region](#)
[Saudi Arabia](#)
[Senegal](#)
[Sierra Leone](#)
[Sinai Peninsula](#)
[Somalia](#)
[South Africa](#)
[South Korea](#)
[South Sudan](#)
[Spain](#)
[Sri Lanka](#)

Boko Haram Suicide Bombings Increased in 2015

Posted on [May 2, 2016](#) in [Uncategorized](#)

According to a new report that was published on Wednesday, suspected Boko Haram suicide bombings caused a massive increase in the number of civilian deaths and injured in Nigeria in 2015.

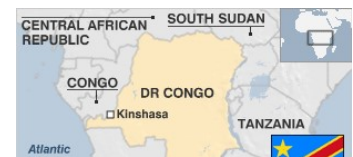
Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) has reported that the number of fatalities and injuries increased 190 percent last year from the previous year while the use of human suicide bombers rose 167 percent during the same period. AOAV reported in "Unacceptable Harm – Monitoring Explosive Violence in 2015" that of the 3,048 deaths recorded in 84 incidents in Nigeria in 2015, 2,920 were civilian casualties, or 96 percent of the total, noting that this made Nigeria the fourth worst-hit country in the world for deaths and injuries from conflict in 2015, behind Syria, Yemen and Iraq, with Afghanistan in fifth. The London-based non-profit group has stated that the increase was part of a global trend that had seen a rise in civilian casualties from "explosive weapons" for the fourth consecutive year. "Explosive weapons" include artillery shells, landmines, air strikes, improvised explosive devices, car bombs and suicide attacks. While Boko Haram only rarely claims responsibility for attacks, there is no other group in the country known to employ suicide bombers as a tactic. The report disclosed that assuming the Islamists were behind the attacks, "then it would make them the most prolific user of suicide bombings recorded by the AOAV in 2015." Over the past year, Boko Haram has increasingly used suicide bombings in its insurgency, which began in 2009. In particular young women and girls have become a favoured method of inflicting maximum civilian casualties in northeastern Nigeria as well as in neighboring states in the Lake Chad region. AOAV has reported that 923 civilians were killed or injured in neighboring Cameroon and Chad in eighteen incidents that were reported in 2015. Boko Haram's use of guerrilla-style tactics has long made it difficult to combat, even though President Muhammadu Buhari maintains that the group has been "technically" defeated. On 26 April, the military warned the public in a statement that "fleeing remnant terrorists have laid landmines on stretches of farmland." The statement further disclosed that "these latest tactics of the terrorists is a grand design to cause fear and panic among the farmers as well as the local populace." It noted that efforts are currently underway to "neutralize" the mines. It also advised people to be wary of "strange or suspicious objects" in the soil. The latest warning risks complicating further the return of many of the over 2.6 million people displaced by the violence, amidst concern about food shortages and post-conflict reconstruction costs.

According to the AOAV report, a total of 43,786 deaths and injuries were reported worldwide in 2015 as a result of the use of explosive weapons – up two percent from 2014. Civilian deaths accounted for 33,307 or 76 percent of deaths. Over the past five years, AOAV has recorded a total of 188,331 deaths and injuries across the world.

Tagged as: [AOAV](#), [Boko Haram](#), [Cameroon](#), [Chad](#), [Lake Chad Basin](#), [Nigeria](#), [West Africa](#)

[Sudan](#)
[Syria](#)
[Taliban](#)
[Tanzania](#)
[Tax Evasion](#)
[Terrorism](#)
[Thailand](#)
[Togo](#)
[Tunisia](#)
[Turkey](#)
[Uganda](#)
[Ukraine](#)
[Uncategorized](#)
[United Arab Emirates](#)
[United Kingdom](#)
[United Nations](#)
[United States](#)
[Venezuela](#)
[Vietnam](#)
[West Africa](#)
[Yemen](#)
[Zanzibar](#)

RECENT BLOG POSTS



Déjà vu as DRC President Kabila Clings to Power

Posted on [October 27, 2016](#)

During a speech in April 1990, then Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko promised his people an end to one-party rule ... [Read the rest](#)



Colombian Government and FARC Willing to Hear Plans to Change Peace Agreement

Posted on [October 26, 2016](#)

The Colombian government and Marxist FARC rebels have disclosed

Funding Falls Short for Task Force to Fight Boko Haram Militants

Posted on [February 9, 2016](#) in [Nigeria](#)

Last week, an African Union (AU) official reported that funding for a multinational force to combat Boko Haram's deadly Islamist insurgency in West and Central Africa remains well short of its target.

In comments made shortly after a meeting in Addis Ababa to discuss funding, the African Union's Peace and Security Council disclosed that so far, including Nigeria, Switzerland and France, have pledged about US \$250 million to fund the 8,700-strong regional force. According to Orlando Bama, communications officer for the African Union's Peace and Security Council, the US \$250 million includes both previous pledges and those made during Monday's conference. That effectively covers just over a third of the US \$700 million budget that was announced for the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) last year.

The task force, which is to be made up of regional African militaries, has yet to mobilize. Instead, national armies are tackling Boko Haram individually, however they often cannot follow the insurgency across the region's long, porous borders. Regional armies from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria mounted an offensive against the insurgents last year, which ousted them from many positions in northern Nigeria. The United States has also sent troops to supply intelligence and other assistance, however progress has been slow, with Boko Haram continuing to have the capabilities to launch deadly attacks both inside Nigeria, as well as in the Lake Chad Basin.

Monday's talks come after the militant group's latest attack, which killed at least 65 people in northeastern Nigeria on Saturday.

Tagged as: [Addis Ababa](#), [African Union](#), [AU](#), [Boko Haram](#), [Cameroon](#), [Central Africa](#), [Chad](#), [France](#), [Lake Chad Basin](#), [MNJTF](#), [Multi-National Joint Task Force](#), [Niger](#), [Nigeria](#), [Peace and security Council](#), [Switzerland](#), [United States](#), [US](#), [West Africa](#)

that they are willing to listen to proposals to alter their ... [Read the rest](#)



Colombia to Begin Peace Talks with ELN Rebels on 27 October

Posted on [October 25, 2016](#)

The Colombian government and the second-largest rebel group announced earlier this month that they will begin formal peace talks on ... [Read the rest](#)

[VISIT THE MS RISK BLOG](#)

CONTACT US

24 Hour Global Contact

+44 207 754 3555

SECURITY UPDATES

Maritime Security Review (3 – 9 October 2016)

In depth weekly Global Piracy Report
Covering the Week of 3 – 9 October 2016.

[Download PDF Report](#)

Maritime Security Review (26 September – 2 October 2016)

In depth weekly Global Piracy Report
Covering the Week of 26 September – 2 October 2016.

[Download PDF Report](#)

[SEE MORE UPDATES](#)

[Home](#)
[About MS Risk](#)
[Our Approach](#)
[Company Bio](#)

[Why Hire MS Risk?](#)
[Our Services](#)
[Consulting](#)
[Project Management](#)
[Crisis Response](#)
[Virtual Security Director](#)

[MS Risk Blog](#)
[Case Studies](#)
[Log In](#)

[Follow us on](#)
 [Twitter](#)



Ragnall House, South Suite
18 Peel Road, Douglas
IM1 4LZ, Isle of Man

T: +44 (0) 207 754 3555
info@msrisk.com