



NEWS SITUATION TRACKING – NIGERIA

FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBINGS

Vol. 1



Location: Borno State, North-East, Nigeria.

Issue: The Increasing Use of Female Suicide Bombers in Northern Nigeria

Date: August 2017

COMMUNITY PROFILING	CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS	INCIDENT PROFILING
<p>Population: Borno State has a population of 4171104 people including 2163358 males and 2007746 females (2006 population census/ population-gov.ng).</p> <p>Basic Demography and Geography of Hotspots: The state occupies the greater part of Lake Chad Basin and is bordered by three countries; Republic of Niger, Chad and Cameroun and also borders Nigerian states of Adamawa to the South, Gombe to the West and Yobe to the North-West. The total area's size of Borno is estimated to 57 799 km² ranked 3rd in terms of Landmass of the 36 States of Nigeria.</p> <p>Borno State is the most affected by the Boko Haram insurgency and this has hampered the socio-economic development of the State. Incidents of raids, shoot-out and suicide bombing are rampant in the State.</p> <p>LGA: It comprises of 27</p>	<p>Direct Actors: Female suicide bombers, Boko Haram group</p> <p>Affected Persons: Residents of the community, Traders, Commuters.</p> <p>Interested Actors: Federal Government of Nigeria, Borno State government, Nigerian Air force, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Army, Nigerian Police Force, Traditional Rulers, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jamaatu Nasril Islam(JNI), Neighbouring countries (Chad, Niger, Cameroun), ECOWAS.</p>	<p>Nigeria recorded its first case of female suicide bombing on June 8, 2014. This involved a middle-aged woman, who detonated an explosive device (IED) strapped to her body at a Military barracks in Gombe State, killing herself and one Military personnel. Since that period, the frequency of suicide missions carried out mainly by women and young teenage girls on soft targets has heightened, with intense suspicions and debates among Nigerians on the 'tradition of wearing hijab' by Muslim women and girls, as IEDs were often concealed under hijabs.</p> <p>On the 15th August 2017, three suicide bombers (2 females and a male) reportedly detonated IEDs strapped to their bodies killing themselves and 20 others with 82 persons injured in separate suicide bomb attacks at a mini motor park/market and in an area near an IDP camp at Mandurari village, Konduga LGA of Borno State respectively. Following the increasing threat of suicide bomb attacks, community members continue to flee their homes, taking refuge at other communities for safety as well as in IDP camps, thus overwhelming the current humanitarian capacity at the camps in Borno State. Statistics generated from WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS) reveals that ninety-nine (99) young women and girls were involved in suicide bomb missions from 4th January to 15th August 2017 at different locations including the premises of a tertiary institution, security checkpoints, IDP camps, markets, mosques, motor parks and residential areas, mainly in Borno State with two incidents of suicide bomb explosions recorded in Adamawa State in January and June 2017 respectively. The statistics show that in January, at least 13 females died; 8 in February; 10 in March; 11 in April; 18 in May; 15 in June; 18 in July; and 6 females in August 2017. The statistics of deaths could be higher as some suicide bomb attacks might not have been reported. Nevertheless, while Boko Haram terrorist also made</p>

local government areas.

Ethnicity: The main ethnic groups in the State include; Kanuri, Hausa, Shuwa, Bura, Marghi and Fulani.

Significance of the State: It lies within the Lake Chad basin, a major transnational trading route, also characterised by cross-border crimes including human trafficking, arms/drug smuggling as well as transnational attacks.

Economy: Agriculture is the main occupation in the State with fishing activities significant around Lake Chad; Available minerals include: Diatomite (stabilising component for dynamite), Potassium/Sodium, Kaolin, Iron ore, Clay, Limestone and Uranium. Crude oil is also explored in the Chad Basin Area.

Politics: Nigeria's two major political parties; the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) dominate the political arena in the state.

Religion: The state has a blend of Muslims, Christians and Traditional Worshippers.

use of male suicide bombers, there were more females deployed in the months reviewed. In addition, an estimated thirty-five (35) males were also involved in suicide bomb missions from 8th January – 23rd August 2017. A recent similar incident in Mandurari village, Konduga LGA includes; the 26 July 2017 suicide bomb attack carried out by 3 female suicide bombers who detonated IED's strapped to their bodies, killing themselves while the fourth female suicide bomber removed the IED strapped to her body and fled the scene. Four (4) persons including an Official of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) were injured in the incident.

Following the sudden upsurge in suicide bomb missions in 2017, intelligence reports from the Nigerian Army indicated that intercepted female suicide bombers revealed they were donated to Boko Haram by their parents as contributions to the continuation of the Boko Haram insurgency against the Nigerian society. This has generated widespread condemnations and reactions amongst Nigerians and the International community, with renewed synergy amongst security agencies to checkmate the activities of the terrorist group. As part of the security counter-insurgency operations to further decimate the Boko Haram group, the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) deployed thermal imaging cameras aimed at detecting and thwarting suicide bomb missions in the northeast of Nigeria.

Chronology of suicide bomb attacks (female and male) by suspected Boko Haram group in Borno State in August 2017 includes; the 23rd August 2017 suicide bomb explosions by two male suicide bombers that killed 2 people with 11 others including 4 Police Officers injured at Muna Garage, Maiduguri LGA of Borno State; the 5th August 2017 suicide bomb explosions by three suicide bombers (2 female, one male) that also injured 2 Officials of the Civilian Joint Task Force at Simari area, Usmanti community in Mafa LGA; the 4th August 2017 suicide bomb explosions by two suicide bombers (male and female), who attempted to infiltrate the premises of Molai General Hospital, Maiduguri LGA; and the 3rd August 2017 suicide bomb explosion by a female, killing herself at a Military location in Molai General area, Maiduguri LGA.

OPPORTUNITIES/RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Northern Nigerian's culture of listening to radio is an opportunity the State government can consistently build on for a wide level security sensitization to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls to being used as suicide bombers by Boko Haram; the traditional means of communication (*town crier: "Sankira"; 'Masu-shela"*) should also be utilized in educating families on the ills of violent extremism.
- Adequate security operatives including women, trained in bomb detonation should be deployed for increased spontaneous search in the northeast region.
- The Federal and State government should invest in girl-child education and empowerment as educating the female child translates into development for the family and the larger society.
- The Federal and State government should work with CSO's and women groups in the northeast region in protecting women and girls from further abuse by Boko Haram. Women groups should also be provided training on early warning mechanisms to facilitate early response.