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**TOPIC:** The Rise of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria

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## **The Rise of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria; Recent Updates**

Boko Haram is a group of radical Islamist youths who worshiped Alhaji Muhammadu Ndimi Mosque in Maiduguri a decade ago. Boko Haram is still at large, committing terrorist attacks as late as July 2022. During this time, Boko Haram had displaced about 2.2 million people in the Northeast, the vast majority in Borno State<sup>1</sup>. The conflict also displaced over 280,000 refugees from the Northeast into three neighboring countries: Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. However, with the help of the Nigerian military, with the assistance of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, the power of Boko Haram was restrained. Nonetheless, as recently as 2018, more than one hundred students were kidnapped by a faction of Boko Haram known as Islamic State West Africa. They were released a little more than a month later. However, the most recent attack occurred in 2021, when clashes escalated between Boko Haram (JAS) Jamaatu Ahli is-Sunnah lid-Dawati wal-Jihad and its splinter faction<sup>2</sup>, ISWAP<sup>3</sup> Lake Chad. They fought in a rivalry over supremacy and control of territory in northeast Nigeria and around Lake Chad. Currently, Boko Haram faction remains active around Lake Chad, in far northeastern Borno State. Boko Haram is still active in many different places and it is imperative that we address how to cut off this group's territory from expanding furthermore. Boko Haram operates out of Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno state in northeast Nigeria bordered by Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. The group's membership is elusive. Boko Haram is still causing attacks throughout

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<sup>1</sup> "Borno State." *Wikipedia*, 30 June 2022, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borno\_State.

<sup>2</sup> "JAMA'ATU AHLIS-SUNNA LIDDA'AWATI WAL-JIHAD (BOKO HARAM) | United Nations Security Council." *Un.org*, 2020, www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1267/aq\_sanctions\_list/summaries/entity/jama%27atu-ahlis-sunna-lidda%27awati-wal-jihad-%28boko.

<sup>3</sup> "Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) Archives." *The Defense Post*, www.thedefensepost.com/tag/islamic-state-west-africa-province/. Accessed 24 Nov. 2022.

Northeast Nigeria, being responsible for multiple attacks since the 2000s, and it doesn't seem like they will stop any time soon.

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