



## **Nigeria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 February 2009**

### **Current treatment by Muslims of Christian in Jos, Nigeria.**

A *Human Rights Watch* report on the violence which occurred in Jos in November 2007 states:

“The violence in Jos, the capital of Plateau State in central Nigeria, began early on the morning of November 28, 2008, following a disputed local election in which supporters of the opposition All Nigeria Peoples Party accused the governing People's Democratic Party of rigging the election results. Over the next three days, clashes between rival Muslims and Christians, some of whom on both sides were armed with firearms and machetes, left several hundred people dead, according to local sources in Jos. There was also widespread destruction in the town as mobs burned down homes, mosques, and churches. Thousands of residents have been forced to flee their homes.” (Human Rights Watch (1 December 2008) *Nigeria: Prevent Further Bloodshed in Jos*)

A *Guardian (UK)* article states:

“Nigerians are still trying to come to terms with an ethno-religious riot that occurred in the city of Jos at the end of November. Hundreds of people were killed in the riot, the latest of a series that periodically break out in the north of the country. The exact number of those killed is not known, but pictures showing many bodies piled on top of each other in a mosque in the city have horrified those who have seen them. Other bodies – mainly those of dead Christians – have been deposited in the three hospitals of Jos.” (Guardian (UK) (6 December 2008) *Tragedy in Jos Duodu, Cameroon*)

A document published by *Christian Solidarity Worldwide* states:

“While a final Christian death toll has yet to be determined, Engineer Salifu informed CSW that so far more than 16 churches are known to have been burnt down and at least four pastors are confirmed to have been killed, including a pastor from the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) who was shot dead in the suburb of Congo-Russia, and another from the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA), killed in the Rikkos area. “From all indications, the final death toll will not be less than 100”.” (Christian Solidarity Worldwide (1 December 2008) *Jos, Nigeria – ‘Inaccurate reporting’ causes resentment among Christian community*)

In a section titled “Preventing future clashes” a *BBC News* report states:

“Two months on, tensions are still high and many of those chased from their homes do not feel safe to return. ‘They want us evicted, so that the Hausa person will dominate here,’ said Nanreh Dauda, a Christian whose house was first burnt in 2001, and then again in the latest riots. She feels that Jos is now more segregated than ever. ‘If you are Christian, you have to be where Christians are and if you’re a Muslim, you have to be where Muslims are, and that is not civilisation.’ For now an uneasy peace prevails but there are very different views on how to prevent further violence.” (BBC News (29 January 2009) *Ethnic fires still smoulder in Nigeria* Walker, Rob)

An article recently published by the Nigerian newspaper *The Guardian* states:

“Quite unlike the accustomed way the streets of Jos, the capital of Plateau State, throb with life, they were deserted yesterday by the residents who were gripped by the fear of a fresh outbreak of violence. Parents who refused to come out from their homes equally did not send their wards to school, thereby making schools in the Jos metropolis empty. The fear was triggered by a letter purportedly written ‘on behalf of Al-Qaeda Network of Islamic Revolution of Nigeria in conjunction with Jasawa Association in Plateau State’ to destabilize the fragile peace in Jos. But the Moslem community in Plateau State and Moslem Ummah in Jos North have dissociated themselves from the document, saying it was not only deliberate and malicious falsehood, but an attempt by some state government aides to further cause unrest in the community for their selfish ends.” (Guardian, The (Nigeria) (14 February 2009) *Jos Residents Desert Streets Over Fear Of Violence* Abdulsalami, Isa)

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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