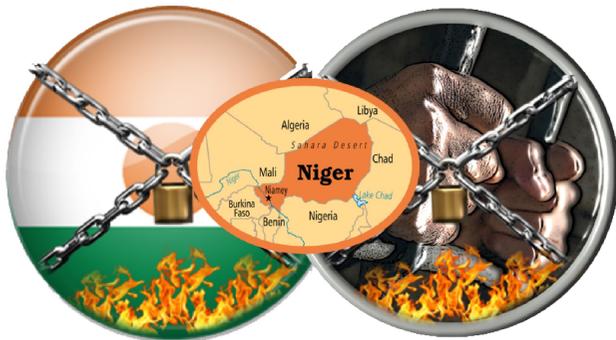




PRAY FOR PERSECUTED BROTHERS & SISTERS

Pray for the Persecuted Christians in NIGER

Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the Body also. (Hebrews 13:3)



Niger

Total Population: 24,206,644

Self-Proclaimed Christian Population: 0.3% – **Evangelical Witness: 0%**

Largest Religion: Muslim - 97%

Death Rate: 10.19/1000 per year: Just today: **676**

Over 10,000 Flee Ongoing Jihadist Attacks in Niger

05/18/2021 Niger (International Christian Concern) - the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) sent a report to Agence France-Presse (AFP) on Monday stating that over 10,000 people have fled west Niger over the past two days. According to local officials, the mass migration is due to increasing jihadist violence in the region.

According to the report, 11,000 civilians fled the Anzourou area and took

refuge in the town of Tillaberi from May 14 to 15.

"OCHA says the displaced come from the four of the 24 villages in the Anzourou area, part of the unstable Tillaberi department that stretches across 40,000 square miles) in Niger's west," wrote AFP, "Tillaberi is in the flashpoint "tri-border" region between Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, the site of frequent attacks by jihadist groups."

20 people have been murdered in these villages this month alone, and an additional 13 people were killed in March. Jihadists have had control over much of Northern Mali since a coup attempt in 2012, which has enabled them to recruit, train and equip fighters for nearly a decade. From there, fighters have crossed the borders into Niger and Burkina Faso, persecuting anyone who opposes their extremist agenda, especially Christian believers.

4/28/2021 Nigeria (International Christian Concern) – Boko Haram terrorists have increased their territory by raising their flags in Kaure, a town in Nigeria’s northern Niger State.

“I am confirming that we have Boko Haram elements in Niger State, around Kaure. They have taken over the territory... They have installed their flag,” said Niger State Governor Abubakar Bello in a video on Monday.

The governor added that the insurgents forcefully took many of the residents as their wives.

A source told the Anadolu Agency on Tuesday that military personnel have yet to be deployed to take back the town.

The event is the latest of several terrorist attacks that have occurred in the region since the weekend:

“On Saturday, Boko Haram entered the northeast Geidam town... Security sources said dozens of the terrorists are still in the town as of Tuesday morning.” Reported Olarewaju of the Anadolu Agency, adding:

“As the military battled to push back the terrorists on Sunday evening, its base at Minok, a community along the northeast Borno highway came under the terrorists attack. Military authorities said late Monday an army officer and five soldiers were killed in the attack.”

The Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram has killed tens of thousands of Christians in Nigeria and displaced millions in an attempt to discard western influence and impose strict Islamic Sharia law. They target those who do not share their radical interpretation of Islam, often attacking villages and forcefully converting Christians, other religious minorities, and the many Muslims who they feel do not appropriately adhere to the teachings of Muhammad. While the Nigerian military has repeatedly insisted that the group has been defeated, attacks are ongoing.

Please pray for peace in Niger and for the Lord to soften the hearts of militants. Please also pray for those who have been victims of terrorism, for the Lord to heal them and strengthen the church amidst persecution.