



# THE TRUTH

Understanding the Drivers of Violence in Nigeria



## Terrorism Affects All Nigerians

Terroristic violence in Nigeria is brutal, intentional, and it affects people across ethnic and religious lines. While Christians and Muslims alike are killed by terrorist groups and criminal syndicates, violent actors who intentionally target civilians sometimes exploit religious identity to inflame tensions and destabilize communities. In some regions, Christians face concentrated, identity-linked violence, which the government of Nigeria openly acknowledges and is acting to stop.

Given that the victims of terrorists in Nigeria are both Muslims and Christians, terrorism in Nigeria is primarily a security threat rather than a religious policy issue. Even still, the government is not denying the reality of Christian suffering. Some communities, primarily Christian, face concentrated, identity-linked violence in specific geographies, such as the North Central states.