

Endnotes – The Lakurawa: North West Nigeria’s ‘Newest’ Threat

1. According to some sources, the term ‘Lakurawa’, means ‘recruiter’ in Hausa (see for example, Major Ben Aburime, (Rtd), [“Who are the Lakurawas?”](#) This Day, 19 November 2024) While MEAC has been unable to confirm this with local Hausa researchers in Nigeria, it is possible that this is a term originating from Hausa in Mali or be a Hausa-fied version of a term originating from a different language.
2. United Nations, Thirty-fifth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, [S/2025/71](#), United Nations, New York, 6 February 2025.
3. MEAC, Phone interview with a local leader, 5 March 2025.
4. Murtala Ahmed Rufa’I, “Importing Militant Jihadists Analysing the Response of Traditional Authorities to Muslim Youth Extremism in the Nigeria-Niger Border Areas of Sokoto State”, in *Traditional Authority and Security in Contemporary Nigeria*, David Ehrhardt, David Oladimeji Alao, and M. Sani Umar, eds. (London, Routledge, 2023).
5. Ibid. Although the initial and exact locations of their bases remain unclear and might have shifted over time, the group seems to have operated mostly in Sokoto State (including in Tangaza and Gudu LGA), with sightings in Zamfara State as well.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ben Ezeamalu, [‘Nigeria: Who are the Lakurawa terrorists making inroads in the North West?’](#), The Africa Report, 13 November 2024.
9. United Nations, Thirty-fifth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, [S/2025/71](#), United Nations, New York, 6 February 2025.
10. Ibid.
11. Chris Ewokor and Mansur Abubakar, [‘New Nigerian jihadist group declared terrorists’](#), BBC News Abuja, 24 January 2025.
12. Respondents always have the option to refuse to answer (i.e. skip) a survey question, which could happen for various reasons (e.g. lack of knowledge or not wanting to answer). In this report, unless explicitly mentioned, ‘refused to answer’ rates below 5 per cent are excluded from the calculation and analysis of summary statistics. All statistics reported are rounded to the nearest whole number. Disaggregations by percentage thus do not always add up to 100 per cent.
13. “Have you heard of an armed group called Lakurawa?”
14. “Has Lakurawa ever attacked your community or caused harm in other ways?”. Posed only to those who have heard the Lakurawa.
15. In Sokoto, where Lakurawa is most active, the group primarily operates in rural areas.
16. The Managing Exits from Armed Conflict project (MEAC), “Nigeria Survey (North West, January-February 2025)”, UNIDIR, Geneva.
17. The Managing Exits from Armed Conflict project (MEAC), “Nigeria Survey (North West, January-February 2025)”, UNIDIR, Geneva.
18. Murtala Ahmed Rufa’I, “Importing Militant Jihadists Analysing the Response of Traditional Authorities to Muslim Youth Extremism in the Nigeria-Niger Border Areas of Sokoto State”, in *Traditional Authority and Security in Contemporary Nigeria*, David Ehrhardt, David Oladimeji Alao, and M. Sani Umar, eds. (London, Routledge, 2023)
19. “Do you think Lakurawa provides protection from attacks by bandits”. Posed only to those who have heard of Lakurawa.
20. Shola Lawal, [‘Lakurawa, the new armed group wreaking havoc on the Nigeria-Niger border’](#), Aljazeera, 10 January 2025.
21. “As far as you know, has Lakurawa tried to recruit people in your community?”. Posed only to those who have heard of Lakurawa.
22. “As far as you know, has Lakurawa tried to recruit people in your community?”. Posed only to those who have heard of Lakurawa.
23. Johanna Kleffmann, Swetha Ramachandran, Noah Cohen, Siobhan O’Neil, Mohammed Bukar, Francesca Batault, Kato Van Broeckhoven, [“Banditry Violence in Nigeria’s North West: Insights from Affected Communities.”](#) Findings Report 36, UNIDIR, Geneva, 2024.