

Table 1 Some Boko Haram attacks

Date	State	Town(s)	Targets attacked	Comments
5101 26 July 2009	Bauchi	Bauchi	Dutsen Tanshi police station	They destroyed the police station; over 40 sect members were killed and over 200 arrested 275T
5109 26-27 July 2009	Borno	Maiduguri, Lamisula, and Gamboru	State police headquarters, Police Mobile College barracks, maximum security prison, National Directorate of Employment, Makera police station and several churches	A sergeant, a prison warden and five police officers on training at the college were killed, more than 30 vehicles and a number of churches and mosques burnt, and the inmates of the prison freed 490T
5111 28 July 2009	Yobe	Damaturu and Potiskum	Police area command, Federal Road Safety Commission office, Calvary Baptist Church and National Population Commission	Three policemen and a fire service staff member were killed while seven policemen sustained serious injuries; they also freed suspects in police custody 29T
28 July 2009	Kano	Wudil	Wudil police station	The sect injured the divisional police officer and a mobile policeman while three members of the sect were killed 3T

Source: Author's compilation.

President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua mandated all the national security agencies to contain the crisis, directing that 'security be beefed up in all neighbouring states and security personnel placed on full alert to ensure that the attacks by misguided elements do not spread elsewhere'.²⁴ However, the unrest spread to the Borno, Kano, and Yobe states (see figure 1) within a few hours of the presidential directive being announced.

In Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State, the fundamentalists attacked police stations in the early hours of 27 July, forcing the state government to impose a curfew to prevent the crisis from escalating and spilling over to neighbouring states. In Potiskum town members of the sect attacked and destroyed several public properties, including the police area command centre (see table 1 for a summary of attacks by the sect).

In Kano State, Boko Haram members attacked Wudil police station, injuring five policemen, including CSP Sagir Idris, a divisional police officer. They stole some rifles, including two AK47s. The police killed three of the fundamentalists and arrested 33 others, including some Chadians who could speak neither English nor Hausa.²⁵ This gave credence to the suspicion that the sect's members are foreign nationals from neighbouring Chad and Niger.