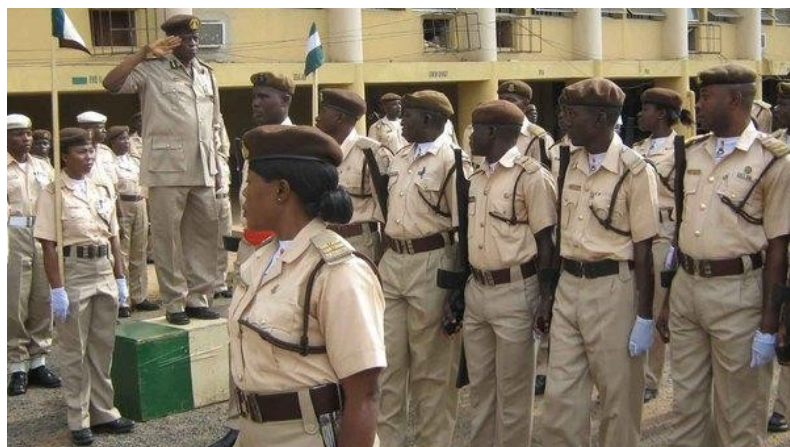


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## Visa scam: Immigration arrests 2 suspects

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BY OUR REPORTER ON OCTOBER 1, 2015

NATIONAL

...Retrieves Diplomatic Passports from over 200 Nigerians  
...As Boko Haram kills 3 officers in Borno

From **Romanus Ugwu**, Abuja

**NIGERIA** Immigration Services (NIS), revealed yesterday that the service has arrested and handed over to the relevant authority, two persons in Kano State, who issued Lebanese ISIS chief, Ahmed Al Assir, visa to visit Nigeria .

The newly appointed Controllor General of NIS, CG Martin Kure Abeshi, who made the disclosure at a media briefing in Abuja yesterday, also revealed that no fewer than 200 Nigerians had returned the diplomatic passports in their possession, threatening to publish the names of the defaulters very soon.

Speaking further, CG Abeshi also lamented the continued killing of his men and officers involved in the fight against Boko Haram insurgents in Borno State.

Updating Nigerians on the controversy surrounding the visa issued to the Lebanese ISIS chief, CG Abeshi, said: "I want to say that the immigration service, from the records available, did not issue that visa. It might be officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry because they also issue visas on our behalf. So, the Ministry stands a better chance to answer that question but I can categorically say that none of my officers issued that visa.

"However, let me put it on record that when it happened, when we were told that Ahmed Al Assir was

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authorities. In all considerations, such feat should be a plus to the NIS," he noted.

The Immigration boss further said: "I want to use this media briefing to reemphasise that the collection of

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diplomatic passports from government officials that are no longer in the service is still ongoing.

"I want to note that the response has been very tremendous and the number of diplomatic passports so far collected are well over 200 since the directive was given. Even as I speak now, some just returned theirs today. We are getting them on daily basis.

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