

Nigeria turns 50 amid deep social divisions

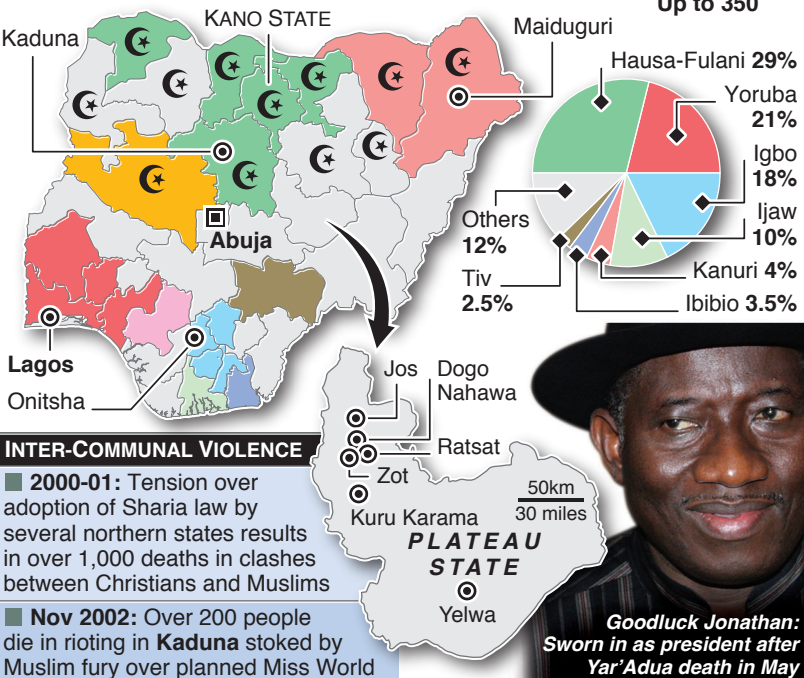
Inter-communal violence in Nigeria has killed around 13,500 people since the end of military rule in 1999. It resurfaced in a major way earlier this year when political uncertainty in the period before President Umaru Yar'Adua's death left the authorities too distracted to deal effectively with it

ETHNIC GROUPS

Igbo	Ibibio	Nupe
Hausa-Fulani	Ijaw	Tiv
Yoruba	Kanuri	Edo
		Under Sharia law

Population:
152.3 million

Ethnic groups:
Up to 350



Goodluck Jonathan:
Sworn in as president after Yar'Adua death in May

INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

2000-01: Tension over adoption of Sharia law by several northern states results in over 1,000 deaths in clashes between Christians and Muslims

Nov 2002: Over 200 people die in rioting in **Kaduna** stoked by Muslim fury over planned Miss World beauty pageant in **Abuja**

May 2004: More than 700 people, mostly Muslim Fulanis, killed by Christian Tarok militia in **Yelwa**. Revenge attacks in **Kano State** kill 30

Feb 2006: Over 100 killed in rioting in **Maiduguri** and **Onitsha** sparked by Muslim protests against Danish cartoons of **Prophet Muhammad**

Nov 2008: Clashes following disputed local election trigger two days of rioting which kill 700 in **Jos**

Jul 2009: Hundreds die in northeast after **Boko Haram** Islamist movement launches violent campaign in bid to impose Sharia law on entire country

Jan 2010: Clashes over rebuilding of Muslim home destroyed in 2008 riots kill up to 400 Muslims in **Jos** and **Kuru Karama**

Mar: Up to 500 Christians killed when Hausa and Fulani Muslims attack **Dogo Nahawa**, **Zot** and **Ratsat** in retaliation for January violence