

# Boko Haram commander Abubakar Shekau

The U.S. government is offering a reward of up to \$7 million for information leading to the arrest of **Abubakar Shekau**, the shadowy leader of Nigeria's feared Boko Haram militant group



**Abubakar Shekau** pictured in 2012

**Born:** Shekau village in Nigeria's Yobe State. Estimates of his age range from 34 to 43

**Education:** Borno College of Legal and Islamic Studies. Shekau's alias, **Darul Tawheed**, implies he is specialist in Tawheed – Islamic concept of oneness of Allah

**Languages:** Fluent in Hausa, Fulani, Kanuri and Arabic

**"Boko Haram"**

بوكو حرام

**2002:** Boko Haram – name means "Western education is forbidden" – founded by **Mohammed Yusuf** to establish Islamic state in northern Nigeria by non-violent means

**2009:** Yusuf killed by Nigerian police. Shekau assumes leadership, vows to strike back against state

**Terror campaign:** Since Shekau's takeover, more than 4,000 people have been killed, nearly 500,000 displaced and hundreds of schools and government buildings destroyed

**2013:** Nigerian President **Goodluck Jonathan** declares state of emergency in three states. Military offensive proves ineffective against Boko Haram's guerrilla tactics

**May 2014:** Shekau gains global headlines with threat to sell more than 200 teenage girls abducted from town of Chibok. China, France, UK and U.S. offer help in hunt for girls



**May 5, Gamboru Ngala:** Up to 300 people killed in latest Boko Haram attack



 States with Sharia law

 State of emergency