



AFRICA/NIGERIA - Caritas after the attack in Abuja: perhaps foreign countries want to dismember Nigeria?

Abuja (Agenzia Fides) - At least 19 people have died and 80 injured. This is the provisional toll regarding the bombing which took place yesterday, May 1st, at the station in Nyanya, in the capital of Nigeria, Abuja. The explosion happened about fifty metres from the attack committed on 14 April that caused the death of 75 people (see Fides 14/04/2014).

Even this act of terrorism is attributed to the Boko Haram Islamist sect, which continues to detain more than 100 schoolgirls who were abducted in mid-April in a high school in Chibok in Borno State, in the north. According to the Nigerian press, some girls were brought to Cameroon and Chad, where they were sold in marriage in exchange for the payment of a sum of money.

The violence of Boko Haram is creating heated controversy in Nigeria, to the point that various political forces accuse each other of exploiting or even supporting the activities of the terrorist group. An attitude that has been strongly criticized in a statement sent to Fides Agency by Caritas Nigeria. "The Federal Government should not resort to a policy of distraction, as its agents trade accusations and counter accusations", says the document. Caritas calls on the Government to look more into root causes of the renewed insurgency noting that it is not sufficient to think that Boko Haram is only sponsored by politicians who are desperate to take over power. "The level of sophistication and the assemblage of weaponry and logistics support suggest a well funded and technically sound operation beyond the capacity of local entities". The Nigerian government - continues the statement - should also look into the speculation that some foreign nations are not happy with the potentials of Nigeria and are intent on dismembering this country using the forthcoming elections in 2015". (L.M.) (Agenzia Fides 02/05/2014)