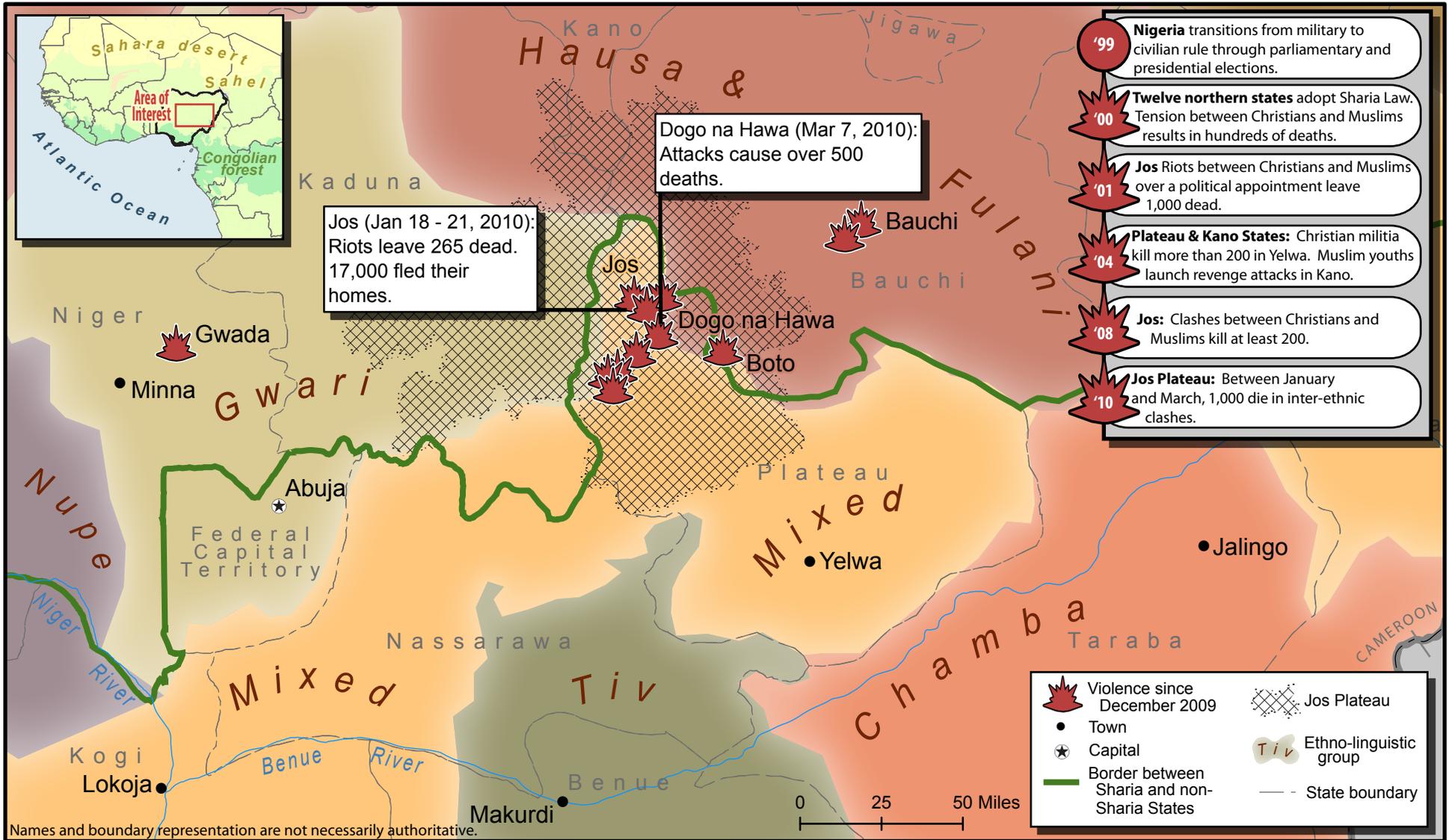


# Nigeria: The Fault Line of Ethno-religious Violence



The middle belt of Nigeria is the juncture of many ethnic groups and encompasses the dividing line between the primarily Muslim north and the largely Christian south. Since the adoption of civilian rule in 1999, ethno-religious violence has resulted in more than 13,000 deaths in the area. Violence flared most recently in early 2010.

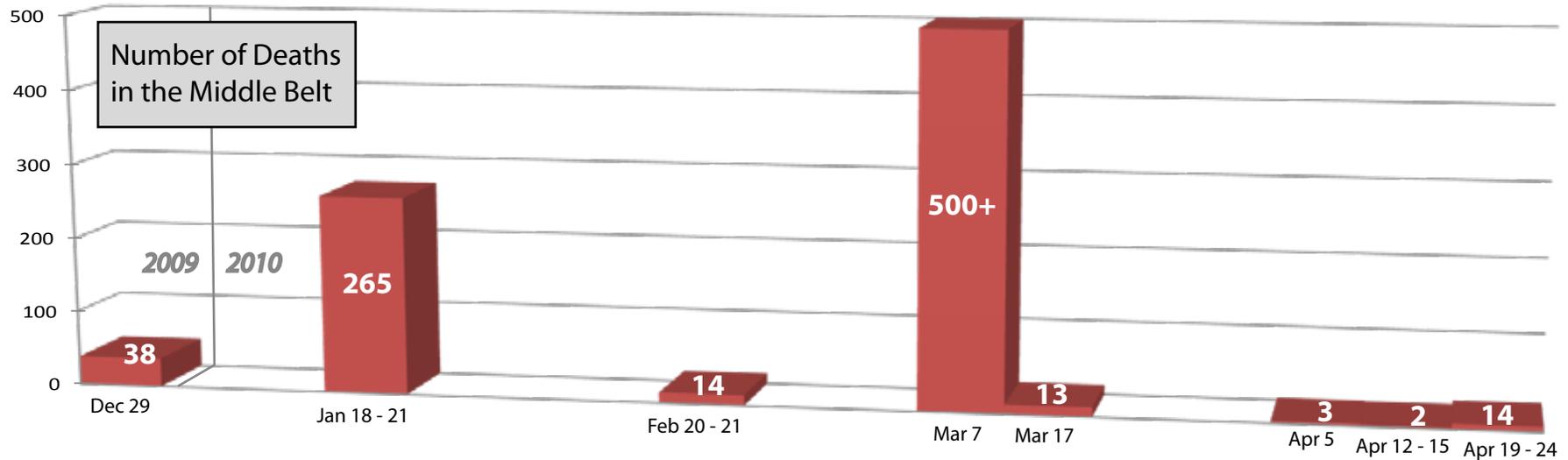
Differences in livelihood, ethnicity and political affiliation drive conflict between Christians and Muslims.

In rural areas, violence erupts between pastoral Muslims and Christian farmers over land use. In urban areas like Jos, elections and political appointments often trigger violence between ethnic groups.

In January 2010, clashes destroyed homes and places of worship, and displaced in total 20,000 people. Increasing sectarian tensions, poverty, poor police and justice systems, the high number of unemployed youth, and planned 2011 presidential elections create the risk of continued violence in the future.



# Nigeria: The Fault Line of Ethno-religious Violence



## MIDDLE BELT VIOLENCE

DATE	REPORTED EVENT
December 29, 2009	Members of Kala Kato, a Muslim sect, trigger fighting by preaching publicly in Bauchi.
January 18 - 21, 2010	Major riots in Jos spread to neighboring villages, especially Fulani communities. The riots began when a Muslim tried to rebuild his home in a Christian community. As many as 20,000 people on the Jos Plateau flee their homes. The city is put under a 24 hour curfew.
February 20 - 21, 2010	Tension flares on a Bauchi street located between a Pentecostal church and a mosque. In two days of rioting, youths burn mosques and churches, 4,500 flee their homes, and 100 are hospitalized.
March 7, 2010	Attacks on the Christian Berom community in Dogo na Hawa kill at least 500. These attacks may be retaliation for the January riots.
March 17, 2010	An attack on a Christian village near Jos kills 13.
April 5, 2010	During a rally in Jos by the Christian Association of Nigeria, members of the group fight with a Muslim mob.
April 12 - 15, 2010	A group of Muslims in Gwada disrupt a Christian procession. Two churches and one mosque are burned, many people are injured but no deaths. In Boto, a village on the border of Plateau and Bauchi states, police find the burnt bodies of a Pentecostal preacher and his wife.
April 19-24, 2010	In a village outside Jos, aid workers discover the bodies of two elderly people with machete wounds, thought to be Berom Christians. At another location outside Jos, the military uncovers seven bodies, thought to be Fulani herdsmen. In the city, the death of a Muslim man causes a riot, killing four more.

