

THE ISLAMIC SECTS IN Nigeria



On April 13 and 14, 2018, adherents of the Tijjaniyya order, a Sunni Islamic sect, who were celebrating Maulud, locked down the Central Area of Abuja and surrounding districts. Many people, especially in Southern Nigeria, expressed surprise as they were unaware that there are different sects in Islam in Nigeria, led by powerful clerics. Many of these same people are however aware of powerful pastors in Christianity. Both religions, dominant in Nigeria, have powerful, and charismatic leaders, who rival one another to win converts. This infographic is meant to introduce some of the sects in Nigerian Islam to people south of the Niger.



The Tijjaniyya are headed by Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, who is an erudite scholar that can recite the Quran flawlessly from the beginning to the end. As a leader of the Tijjaniyyah Sufi Movement, they attach a lot of importance to culture and education, and emphasize the individual adhesion of the discipline (murid).

Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa'iqamatis Sunnah (JIBWIS), is led by Sheikh Bala Lau who started his career at the age of 19 as the PRO of the group. The Izala as JIBWIS is otherwise known, was established in Jos, and has been called a Salafist Organisation that "embraces a legalist and scripture centred understanding of Islam."



The Qadirriya Movement are headed by Sheikh Qaribullah Nasir Kabara who is a teacher, and an author, The Qadirriya is a Sufi order that focuses on repetitive chanting of the names of God (dhikr), meditation, and mysticism, along with the worship at graves and tombs of saints with its headquarters in Kano.

Nasrul-lahi-li Fathi Society of Nigeria (NASFAT) is often referred to as a Muslim Pentecostal group. It has over a million members, and is dominant in South-Western Nigeria. The New Chief Missioner, Alhaji Onike AbdulAzeez, joined 21 years ago.



Ansar-U-Deen was established for the purpose of the educational development of Muslims, and also as a body to enhance the moral and social development of the Muslim community in Lagos. Lateef Olufemi Okunnu SAN, who had his primary education at the Ansar-U-Deen School is the current leader of the group.

The Ahmadiyya Movement was introduced in Lagos in 1916 and became popular among young Muslim intellectuals. It is led by Dr. Aderenle Fashola



Darul Islam sometimes called Darul Salam, upholds doctrines that are not inline with the beliefs of the majority of Muslims in Nigeria. It is led by Amrul Bashir Abdullahi. Members of the group believe that human society, has been corrupted by indecencies and licentiousness. This corruption militates against the practice of Islam; hence, it is necessary to migrate to the "land of Islam," or "land of peace," where Islam will be devotedly practiced. Their compound was raided by the Nigerian Police in August 2009, and 600 sect members were questioned.

The Islamic Movement of Nigeria, IMN, was founded by Ibrahim Yaquob Al-Zakzaky while he was a student of Economics at the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. The group which adheres to Shia Islam (the other groups in Nigeria are Sunni), focuses on ensuring more stringent application of Islamic legal and administrative systems with the ultimate aim of creating an Islamic state in Nigeria.



The Kala Kato is a Quranic movement based in Niger and Nigeria that sprang up as a counter reaction to the Salafist influence of the Izala in Northern Nigeria. The movement was influenced by Muhammadu Marwa of Maitatsine fame, and based mainly in Minna, is currently headed by Mallam Isah Fari

