

Millions vote in Nigeria elections hit by Islamist attacks and technology issues

[Residents of the town of Miringa](#) say Boko Haram militants torched people's homes early Saturday and then shot them as they tried to escape. Twenty-five reportedly died.

Abubakar Shekau, warned in a video message last month: "This election will not be held even if we are dead. Even if we are not alive, Allah will not allow you to do it."

But many voters in Boko Haram's heartland defied the threat. Volunteers swept voters with handheld metal detectors in Maiduguri as a precaution after a string of suicide attacks in recent weeks. At a school in Yola, Abbas Mohammed, a university lecturer, cast his vote in one of the centres set up especially for the 1.5 million people displaced by the violence. "If we don't vote, it will be as if Boko Haram has battered us twice," he said.