



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF BOKO HARAM IN NORTHEASTERN NIGERIA



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Abstract

Undoubtedly, terrorism poses the greatest danger to world peace and stability today. The prevalence of terrorism has been steadily rising since the start of this millennium. Undoubtedly, both Nigeria and Africa have seen the globalization of terrorism. The Boko Haram insurgency has emerged in Nigeria in particular as a result of the problem. Since its inception, the sectarian insurgency has caused tremendous damage in the nation, particularly by "using bombs and firearms with grisly, lethal" results. This study aimed to examine the historical development of Boko Haram activities in the North-eastern Nigeria while considering its causes and effect on the Nation. This is a review article that is mostly based on research works such as theses, dissertations, research journals, newspapers, and magazines. Hence, an ex-post-facto research design was adopted in study. The findings of the study demonstrated that the Boko Haram insurgency was caused by radical religious convictions,

unemployment, and illiteracy amongst other factors. The study further recommended that the government should focus on ways for engaging the massive number of idle youths who are easily tempted by terrorists. Also, to combat misconceptions about terrorism and western education, the government should mobilize apparatus at the municipal, traditional, and youth levels.

Keywords: Boko Haram, History, North East, Nigeria, Insurgency, Violence

Introduction

Terrorism is a worldwide problem that threatens national and international security. Terrorist attacks take on diverse aspects across the world. It is spreading like wildfire around the world, with Africa being one of the most impacted, owing in part to other developmental issues that intensify the consequences of terrorism (Ogaba 2013). Terrorism in Nigeria is a severe danger to national security since it has pushed millions of inhabitants to evacuate their cities and towns, threatening their right to life and other fundamental rights. For international policy watchers and ordinary Nigerians, this looks to be Nigeria's most difficult period. As a result of a series of terrorist incidents, Nigeria has become unacceptably popular among the world's countries. Nigerians are suffering severely as a result of terrorism, which has escalated in the country. Its origins may be traced in long-standing Nigerian problems like as poverty, corruption, religious fanaticism, and ethnic and religious politics. The

population of Nigeria has continued to fall as a result of terrorist attacks, which have also impeded corporate activities.

Boko Haram's growth has now become Nigerians' most pressing concern. This gang has conducted out many bombs that have killed millions of innocent Nigerians and destroyed private and public buildings worth billions of naira. It is also important to note that these gangs have been involved in the kidnapping of schoolgirls. This is the consequence of their attempts to persuade citizens of Nigeria's northeastern geopolitical zone to embrace their viewpoint on Nigerian Islamic law and western education. Despite being innovative and unfamiliar in this context, it seems to have taken Nigeria off guard. Many individuals find it wholly un-African.

But surprisingly, what was a bully at the start of 2009 has grown and assumed a massive magnitude, threateningly and furiously ripping the country apart. It has caused us great harm. It causes hunger as a result. Numerous sufferings have been brought about by it and released onto the public. We are split as a result of the faltering economy, and tensions between adherents of the Christian and Islamic religions are rising (Chioma, 2014). Boko Haram's actions have hampered socioeconomic processes, increased crime, and destroyed the lives and property of Nigerian residents. This is quite clear in the northern section of

the nation, especially in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State. The citizens of that area (Northern Nigeria) find it challenging to run their legitimate businesses in light of the current situation. Additionally, it scares away foreign investors from the country. Students have been compelled to abandon their places of education, particularly after the kidnapping of more than 100 schoolgirls in Chibok, Borno State. The plan's lofty objective of acting as a uniting strategy is dealt a fatal blow by the very fact that Boko Haram exists. Nigeria's stability is seriously threatened by the Boko Haram rebellion, which elevates the fundamentalist organization to the status of a large potential terrorist threat that primarily impacts Nigeria's economical operations.

Attacks by the loosely structured Islamist organization Boko Haram against Nigeria's police and military, rival clergy, politicians, educational institutions, places of worship, and civilians have intensified since 2009. Some analysts claim that the group is an armed rebellion against oppressive security forces, dishonest government officials, and widening regional economic inequities in a country that already desperately needs development (Akintunde, 2014). After over 10 years of warfare, the Nigerian government is still lacking a clear strategy for dismantling the gang. The terrorist organization preys on the disillusioned Muslims of the north who are fed up with corruption and have little work opportunities in Nigeria, a varied country divided

into two religious factions apart from traditional religion. Nigerians in the southern part of the nation, where only approximately half of the country's total Muslim population resides, are mostly Christians who are natives of the northern region of the country, which is dominated by Muslims. The movement was against everything seen to be western. As a result of utilizing the broad fury in the north, Boko Haram's operations grew (Bartolta 2011).

In response to the threat presented by Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, the national government has enacted counterterrorism measures. Among other things, these measures include acts, executive orders, and policy papers. There are several, including the National Terrorist Strategy (NACTEST), the National Terrorist Task Force with Cameroon, Niger, and Chad, the grant of amnesty to terrorists, the formation of the 7th Division of the Nigerian Army, the relocation of the military command center to Maiduguri, and others (Akinbi 2015). There is little question that Nigeria is facing major security difficulties given the recent spike in terrorist strikes throughout different regions of the country. Nigeria, a secular state, has been negatively impacted by Boko Haram's actions. Actually, a religious conflict that might threaten the country's continuous cohabitation is about to break out in Nigeria. This study will attempt to investigate the historical evolution of Boko Haram's actions in northeastern Nigeria in order to address the essential question.

Historical Development Of Boko Haram And Terrorist Violence In Nigeria

The foundation for armed rebellion (and ultimately terrorism) against the Nigerian state was laid when Ijaw nationalist Isaac Adaka Boro began a violent campaign for greater Niger Delta autonomy, resource management, and self-determination for the region's population (Agbiboa 2013). The Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF), an armed organization made up of members of different Ijaw ethnic groupings, was founded and is now led by Isaac Boro. He did this in opposition to what he saw as the marginalization and exploitation of his people and their economic interests by the Nigerian government. He and his 150 recruits stormed a police station on February 23, 1966, plundered the armory, kidnapped some policemen, including the station's commanding officer, set oil pipelines on fire, engaged the police in a shootout, and declared the Niger Delta an independent republic. Later, the revolt was put down, but not Boro and his allies. Boro was found guilty of treason and given a jail term (Okafor 2011).

However, the federal government led by General Yakubu Gowon granted him amnesty on the brink of the Nigerian civil war in May 1967. He enlisted in the Nigerian army, was promoted to major, and served the federal government; nevertheless, he was killed while doing his official duties in 1968 at Ogu in River State.

Many years later, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), an organization that advocated for the rights of the Ogoni people, was founded by Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa and his fellow Ogoni residents. They pushed for increased independence, an equitable cut of the oil industry's earnings, and the restoration of environmental damage done to their territories (Agbiboa 2013).

He was successful in drawing attention to their cause on a worldwide scale through nonviolent, nonviolent techniques, but in 1995, the Abacha military government murdered him for a crime they claimed he had committed. According to Human Rights Watch, Saro-death Wiwa's in November 1995 "may be regarded to have marked a turning point in the politics of the Niger Delta" (Douglas et al 2004). After Ken Saro-unnecessary Wiwa was killed, ethnic militias began to form and spread as a reaction to what they saw as the Abacha regime's authoritarian and arrogant leadership style between 1993 and 1998. Additionally, Nigerians went through the harshest economic hardship and political persecution in the country's history during that period (Douglas et al 2004).

Today, with the Boko Haram faction in the lead as the primary terrorist organization wreaking havoc across Nigeria, However, there have been a number of similar uprisings in Northern Nigeria prior to the creation of the terrorist organization Boko Haram. Just that the terror

assaults carried out under the influence of Boko Haram become more violent, complex, and religious. Mohammed Marwa, who was widely viewed as a danger to the peace and stability of the nation, created the group known as Maitatsine in the 1970s and 1980s. The riots he instigated in the country resulted in thousands of deaths, which is why analysts think Boko Haram is a continuation of the Maitatsine riots. (Johnson, 2011).

Boko Haram was created when the words "Boko" in Hausa and "Haram" in Arabic, both of which mean "Sin," were joined (Obina, 2011). Since Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'watiwal-Jihad is the English translation of the Arabic term for the group, its original name was the Group of AL-Sunna for Preaching and Jihad. Before becoming a Salafist Jihadist organisation in 2009, it was initially founded as an indigenous Salafist group. Mohammed Yusuf, who passed away in 2001, founded the group in the town of Maiduguri. Yusuf returned to his home state of Yobe in 2004, settling in the hamlet of Kanamma near the Niger border. As a result, the term "Boko Haram," which Maiduguri residents used to refer to the cult, was coined (AL Jazeera 2009).

Boko Haram promotes the interpretation that views participation in any political or social activity that Muslims are barred from doing as "Haram" or "forbidden," such as voting in elections, donning shirts and pants, or attending a secular school. Since the

British took over Nigeria in 1903, Muslim people have experienced substantial hostility to acquiring a western education. Many Muslim parents still oppose sending their children to publicly financed western schools, and the ruling class, which does not place a high priority on education, ignores the problem. This prompted Muslim cleric Mohammed Yusuf to form Boko Haram in Maiduguri as a result (AL Jazeera 2009). He constructed a building for his faith, which included a mosque and an Islamic school.

The group functioned without violence between 2002 and 2008. Based on security allegations, the Nigerian government started investigating the sect's activities in 2009. This was due to the fact that, in reaction to security reports, its members began arming themselves and gathering firearms, according to the Guardian Newspaper (2009). It was thought that the authorities had first ignored the sect claims prior to 2009. Since the 2011 bombing of the United Nations offices in Abuja, the cult has been classified as a terrorist group by the world community.

Mojee and Musilalu (2011) the false belief that Boko Haram is composed of anonymous members has made it more or less difficult for the government to implement a discussion approach. The research, however, argues that this is because there is no political intention or sincerity on the matter. The government is beginning to self-condemn if faceless individuals have

been operating in a nation since 2002 where security companies exist. Similarly, Soyombe (2012) describes the Nigerian government's lack of intelligence capacity as embarrassing. According to the Fund for Peace 2012 assessment, the situation may have had a role in Nigeria's ranking as the 14th-ranked country overall and one of the 10 failing nations in Africa (Tell, 2012).

Political and religious leaders in the north came to the conclusion that the insurgency had grown beyond its core religious constituency and now included criminals and enraged politicians in addition to Islamic terrorists. Among these North African persons and groups are the Sultan of Sokoto and Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, Governor of Niger State. Members of the organization include the Coalition of Muslim Clergymen in Nigeria (CMCN), the Islamic Circle of North America, and others. They have criticized the organization frequently and encouraged them to uphold peace (Jimmon 2001 & Oladgi and Agba 2011).

The Driving Forces Of Boko Haram Insurgency In Nigeria

The Boko Haram Menace in Nigeria, which has had a substantial influence on that country's socioeconomic operations, was primarily caused by political, religious, and ethnic reasons. The theological, political, and ethnic components of the Boko Haram Islamic sect are not clearly defined according to the group's operations. It is hard to tell whether the group is driven

by personal animosity or religious zealotry, despite the fact that it has been referred to be one of the Islamic terrorist organizations active around the world. The following elements have been identified as the main motivators behind the Book Haram group's behavior:

i. Religious Factor:

Despite being an Islamic terrorist organization, Boko Haram has a very extreme ideology. The organization views everyone who does not adhere strictly to its ideals as either a Christian or a Muslim—an infidel. It is difficult to determine with certainty if the members of this group are Muslims. They pray at a different mosque, wear different clothing, and engage in other behaviors, all of which deviate from the generally recognized Islamic doctrine. This study states that youngsters become more naïve and prone to recruiting when they are uninformed of religious teachings against violence, underscoring how significant religion is in encouraging individuals to join Boko Haram. Ignorance of religious instruction is a significant deterrent to the adoption of radical religious views in all states, especially among young people. Three dangerous trends in Nigeria's recent religious practice may help to explain why there is a lack of in-depth understanding of true religious teaching: the growth of sects in both Christianity and Islam, the rise of independent preachers in both religions, and the increasing reliance on preachers rather than the holy books themselves (Akinloye, 2014).

ii. Political Factor

The disagreement surrounding the 2011 election results, which led to over 800 deaths, had a role in the increase in Boko Haram-perpetrated violence. The majority of northern Nigerian Christians believe that Goodluck Jonathan's presidency is unjustified. They claim that since president Umar Musa Yar'adua passed away two years into his four-year term, he ignored a power-rational deal that would have kept a Muslim in government. The election irregularities and attempts to raise the president's term limit further strained relations between Jonathan and the north. The Boko Haram sect also wants political power in the nation, which would lead to the election of a northern or Muslim president (Soyinka 2012). Because they believe that the west corrupts government, they do not want a Christian or a Southerner to be president. The Boko Haram assaults, according to others, are an effort—possibly sponsored by northern elites—to make the country unruly and uncomfortable for the federal government and the broader population. Despite its affiliations to several religious, ethnic, and political organizations, the group is motivated by the widening socioeconomic gap between the affluent and the poor (and in tandem the urban and rural regions). Boko Haram was founded as a result of political corruption and social imbalance in the north (Adesoji 2014).

iii. Poverty Factor

Poverty is defined as the absence of basic requirements, which most typically include food, clothes, housing, healthcare, and education. Nigeria is a developing country, and one of its problems is poverty. Because endemic poverty is so prevalent in the north, the most current official figures show that the north-poverty west's rate is 77.7% and the north-is east's 76%, both of which are higher than the country's overall poverty rate of 67.1%. (Omemma, 2012). Boko Haram was established as a result of the socioeconomic injustice and governmental corruption in the north. The blossoming of the sects is a result of the current economic volatility in party politics and political power (Adesoji, 2010).

At first, it seemed as though Boko Haram's operating bases were situated in the most underdeveloped area of northern Nigeria. The simplest regions to recruit are those where individuals have been denied access to important economic sources of livelihood and the chance to attend education. Because of this, Boko Haram commanders are aware of the reality and, of course, are taking full advantage of it. It is identical to the circumstance that existed in the Niger Delta. The long and short of it is that we cannot eradicate the threats posed by Boko Haram or other comparable security threats while there is widespread poverty,

illiteracy, and unemployment (The Nation April 5, 2012).

iv. Illiteracy Factor

In addition, poverty both causes and feeds illiteracy. Because of this, the relationship between literacy rates and poverty is inversely correlated with the severity of poverty. If a young guy is uneducated and underprivileged, he becomes a blank slate for any kind of indoctrination (The Nation, 2011). Because the indoctrination provides a quasi-equivalent of a job, they are acting out the content they have been exposed to. Isn't this the kind of situation the Boko Haram issue offers? Due to the underdevelopment and lack of investment in the north, violence has become the major export. Extreme sects and poor educational institutions are closely associated. Undeveloped structural patterns are established by insufficient educational standards and are hard to break. According to Adesoji (2010), "in certain circumstances, the situation had become worse. Economic dependence on natural resources in developing nations contributes to underdevelopment in such areas

v. High Level of Unemployment

Persistent young unemployment is a major problem in Nigeria. Every year, many graduates arrive in places where there are few jobs available. Along Nigeria

Street, there are several young hawkers who would often display their ability and inventiveness. The kids have now become more interested in terrorism if a favorable environment and framework were present locally instead (Adepedgo, 2011). A group of young people from diverse backgrounds who are eager and able to work but are unable to find any form of job for which they are qualified and would be happy to accept it as their field of competence are referred to as "youth unemployment." Unemployment and joblessness result when there is a labor shortage relative to the labor supply (Echebiri, 2011). Lack of employment has led to young people becoming political thugs and murderous hoodlums at the service of politicians. The most important lesson learned is that when adolescent unemployment rates are high, their struggle to survive may cause them to become willing tools in the hands of mavericks and disgruntled politicians who may want to exploit them for illicit and anti-social political acts (Okafor, 2017).

The increasing rate of unemployment in the North and Nigeria as a whole gives rise to youth involvement in illicit acts following their idleness. This factor pushes the able minds of the region to engage themselves in action that aimed to harm the progress of the Nation rather than channelling same effort on the activities that tends to spur the growth and development of the country. When young people in the north are unemployed, they are more prone to radicalization.

From 2006 to 2011, when it reached an all-time high of 23.90 percent, the unemployment rate in Nigeria averaged 14.60 percent, according to figures from the National Bureau of Statistics. Additionally, it revealed how widespread unemployment was in Kaduna State and Borno. The high degree of unemployment that is prevalent in the state was cited by survey respondents in Borno and Kaduna State as the second most significant factor in why young people engage in religious-based violence, according to the statement (Akinloye, June 29, 2014).

Impact Of Boko Haram On National Development

The operation of Boko Haram as a terrorist group has impacted the national development of Nigeria negatively. Below are some of the areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria:

i. Decline in Agriculture Output

The Boko Haram activities have greatly affected the performance of agricultural output in the Nation, as many farm owners and farmers find it hard to plant crops for commercial use due to fear of the deadly terrorist group. This have added to the food insecurity issue in the Nation and consequently resulted into hike in prices of goods and service. In addition to this effect, the agricultural contribution to the gross domestic product of the Nation have decline compared to the envisaged performance. The Boko Haram insurgency in the north had an effect on the

agriculture sector's contribution to Nigeria's economy, which accounts for a particular percentage of national income. The unpredictable conditions reduced the output of farmlands, which led to a modest increase in food costs. The inflation rate in Nigeria reached 8.2%, the highest level since the few months of disruption brought on by terrorism, while food prices rose by 9.8%, according to the central bank of Nigeria (CBN 2014). Farm workers worried about their safety while caring for their livestock as a result of insurgent attacks, while terrorists searching for supplies targeted the agricultural industry as a target. Theft by terrorist organizations includes food, money, and other items. Nigeria spends about \$10 billion a year on importing just foods consisting of flour, such sugar, wheat, and rice (Eme, 2012 in Dauda, 2014). The danger has increased the risk and cost of other operations, which has a detrimental effect on economic production. Currently, the fear of Boko Haram assaults among workers is reducing agricultural output. Consumers are purchasing fewer items from the north of Nigeria as a result of the rumor that terrorists aim to ship commodities laced with poison from that region to other parts of Nigeria (Dauda, 2014).

Studies show that those who live close to the Sambiza Forest, such as those in Maiduguri, Kondugha, Mafa Dika, Damboa, and Kala-Balge, were unable to

produce during the previous growing seasons because of the rise in insurgency. In order to augment their food supplies, farmers sell the crops they grow, but extremists stop them from doing so.

ii. Declining Government Revenue and Increase in Government Spending

Also, the continuous attack of the terrorist group (Boko Haram) has resulted into government spending excessively in restructuring and reconstruction of infrastructural amenities that were affected in the course of the Boko Haram attack. This action tends to cause a double spending on the government and further slow the growth and development rate of the Nation. Equally, the aftermath of the Boko Haram action has led to many organisations that pay tax to vacate the country due to security threat posed by the terrorist and further resulting into a declining in the revenue generation of the government. The nation's entire production activities may suffer as a result of terrorism. Due to terrorism, it is difficult for homes to supply essential services to the business sector (Adebayo, 2014). The government earns money via levies on corporate activities and household income. When economic activity slows down and factor service earnings fall, the government also loses money. Nevertheless, other writers argue that even while the government would only lose a little amount of money as a result of terrorism, the expenditures of military drills aimed to counter terrorism constitute a

drain on the nation's resources (Mueller and Stewart, 2014).

The cost of conducting business, in both the public and private sectors, rises when terrorism is present in a country. The nation's precious resources are routinely diverted to combat, control, and prevent terrorism when they might be utilized to promote good programs like transportation, power, telecommunications, health, education, and social welfare. The assumption that terrorist activity has a more negative influence on public financial management in low income and emerging countries than it does in wealthier and more varied nations is also supported by empirical evidence (Cevik and Ricco, 2015).

iii. Destruction of Lives and Properties

As a result of the several attacks by the terrorist group, many lives and properties had been lost in the course of the action. This left some properties owners before the advent of the group to settle for the government special housing for the affected victims of natural disasters; Internal displace People (IDP). On the other hands, many lives have also been lost in the course of the action. Some the lost lives were skilled personnel who have the intellectual capacity to contribute positively to the growth and development of the nation. As a result of this, the affected region and the nation at large suffers brain drain and human

capital inefficiency in general. Numerous Nigerians have been forced to leave their homes as a result of racial unrest, natural calamities, civil wars, terrorism, etc. One may contend that the primary cause of internal migration in Nigeria is terrorism, particularly in the years after the establishment of Boko Haram. Nearly 200,000 people were relocated in the northeast in 2018 as a result of Boko Haram's attacks. Due to terrorism, many Nigerians have left their homes in quest of safety (World Report 2019). Since 2009, Boko Haram has killed a number of people, including an undetermined number of women and children. There will probably be a lot more fatalities than that, though. There have been civilian bombs, shootings, beheadings, amputations, and stone attacks.

Furthermore, the actions got underway after Boko Haram and the Nigerian Police fought in July 2009. The Nigerian Police launched an inquiry into the organization after receiving reports that it was arming itself. Over 800 people were killed in violent battles with Nigerian security forces after many leaders were detained in Bauchi. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/new/world-africa>). Before these fights, a number of Muslim elders and at least one military officer warned the government about Boko Haram. There are claims that the warnings went unheeded. The mob murdered four people in Maiduguri's Dada Alemderi area in Borno State in

January 2010 (The Nation Newspaper, 2nd February, 2010, p. 8.). Similarly, On Friday, January 28, 2011, the group killed a candidate for governor, his brother, and four police officers (The Nation Newspaper, 29th January, 2011, p. 12.). On May 29, 2011, Boko Haram detonated several explosives in northern Nigeria, killing fifteen people (The Nation, May 30, 2011. p.6).

Also, On August 27, 2011, Boko Haram members exploded a bomb outside the United Nations building, which resulted in another terrorist attack that claimed 23 lives. The world was made aware of this historic event, which was seen as an attack on not only Nigeria but also the whole international community. Prior to the bombing of the UN building on August 16, the fundamentalist organization committed its most outrageous act when it attacked the police headquarters in Abuja on June 17, 2011. Following the bombing of the police headquarters, the cult carried out other assaults in Maiduguri on June 27, including an attack on a beer shop. Three customs officials were injured and two girls perished in a second blast that happened in Maiduguri on June 27, 2011 (The Sun Newspaper, June 28, 2011. p.4).

iv. Reduction in Household income

Since both the government and individual operate in the same unit, an action that affect the government

will equally affect the individual. The terrorist attack have affect individual income level as most household means of livelihood were affected by the shooting and the bombing attack. This led to loss of jobs to some people and some other lost their businesses to the numerous attack. Some families' standard of living declined exceedingly as the major source of income for the family were affected. The operations of Boko Haram are a hindrance to the household's economic source. Because terrorism sows fear, instability, and distrust, it has a negative influence on daily life in areas that are susceptible to terrorist strikes. Operating a business and producing goods are difficult to do in a terrifying environment. This is due to the possibility that certain locations may not guarantee the protection of persons and their belongings. Consequently, terrorism may result in monetary damages for individuals, companies, and the economy (Fatima 2015). The local economy has been severely harmed by the terrorist insurgency in northern Nigeria. Lebanese and Indian merchants who had long worked in Kano were compelled to relocate to Abuja and other areas of the country's south (Adebayo, 2014). In addition, many businesses and foreign nationals have left the country entirely for neighbouring countries. Border towns in the nation, which have long-standing business relationships with their neighbours, are not spared from the expanding restrictions on cross-border travel. The effects of terrorism on a country can be more easily understood

if its development trajectory can be recreated without it (Bloomberg et al, 2004).

Policy And Legal Measures Taken To Curtail The Activities Of Boko Haram In Nigeria

In the aim of curbing the menace created by the terrorist group (Boko Haram) that have affected the progress of Nigeria economy negatively, the government in the quest of ensuring safety and security of lives and properties have formulated policies which aim to curtail the operation of the deadly and as well bring sanity to the affected regions and the Nation as a whole. Some of the actions taken were the formulation of joint security group which consists of the member of the army force, navy, police and the state security service, the adopted of the Igwebuiké philosophy among others.

Nigeria has created a lot of laudable policies, but their effective implementation is often a problem. A lack of political will or an attitude toward policy implementation, inadequate funding, corruption, attitudes that are ethnocentric, the proliferation of policies to address the same issues, incompetent human resources, selective and non-implementation of budgets, and inappropriate priorities are some of the causes of these. But the Federal Government has created a variety of efforts to address the issue in response to the growing threat of terrorism in Nigeria. The Jonathan-led administration established a military

task force in Maiduguri in June 2011 that was made up of the Nigerian Police Force, the Army, Navy, and Air Force as well as the Department of State Security (Amnesty International 2011).

At least conceptually, the formation of such a joint task force was designed to ease resource sharing, prevent duplication, and foster open communication among the various security services. After two terrorist attacks on the nation's capital, the administration increased the number of checkpoints in the area of Abuja and declared a state of emergency in sections of the states of Borno, Niger, Yobe, and Plateau. Curfews were also put in place in states like Adamawa. 30,000 troops, police officers, and state security professionals were dispatched to enforce the curfew and emergency declaration (Baldauf 2012). Additionally, the administration shut down the borders with neighbouring States in Northern Nigeria (Omede 2011).

This blockade was primarily implemented to prevent terrorist attack perpetrators from escaping into neighboring countries and to prevent Boko Haram from receiving reinforcements from foreign jihadi elements in the region. In order to combat terrorism, the federal government has been granted presidential orders to deploy troops, relocate the military command center, and set up camps for internally displaced persons. The establishment of a combined task force with surrounding African nations including Cameroon,

Niger, and Chad is another strategy the government use to combat terrorism (Omede 2011).

Furthermore, a number of laws have been passed both locally and internationally to counter the crime of terrorism and the operations of Boko Haram in Nigeria. The National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria amended the Terrorism Prevention Act in 2013 to focus on the terrorism-related offenses included under the Act. "All acts of terrorism and financing of terrorism are hereby prohibited," states Section 1 of the Act. "Any person or body corporate who knowingly, in or outside of Nigeria directly or indirectly willingly, commits an act of terrorism, attempts to commit an act of terrorism, threatens to commit an act of terrorism, commits an act that is preparatory to or furthers an act of terrorism, or fails to take any reasonable precaution to prevent an act of terrorism," is also prohibited. Participates as an accomplice in or contributes to the commission of any act of terrorism or offenses under this Act, or assists, facilitates, organizes, or directs the activities of individuals or organizations engaged in any such act of terrorism, or is an accessory to such an act, or incites, promises, or induces any other person by any means whatsoever.

Additionally, the act's Section 1A (5-6) grants law enforcement agencies a broad range of authority, including the ability to conduct investigations, carry out

search warrants, examine evidence, seize property, and seal off buildings. It also states that law enforcement agencies may develop or enhance specific training programs for their officers who are responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation, elimination, and prosecution of terrorist activities.

The judiciary in Nigeria has likewise taken a strong stance in favor of harsh penalties for crimes related to terrorism. The justification is based on the type of offense, its seriousness, and its ramifications for national security. In the case of Adamu Ali Karumi v. Federal Republic of Nigeria (2016) LPELR 40473, the appellant was charged with, among other things, engaging in terrorist acts, as well as acts that were either precursors to or furthered the commission of terrorist acts that were punishable under the Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act 2013. He was found guilty and given a 25-year jail sentence, some of which will run concurrently. As a result of this ruling and others like it, harsh sentences will always be imposed for terrorist crimes. It is urged that the court consider non-custodial punishments with the goal of desacralizing terrorist defendants. In Dakubo-Asari v. Federal Republic of Nigeria, (2007) 12 NWLR (1048) 320, 358359, the Supreme Court approved of the decision to deny the appellant bail until trial on the grounds that he, among other things, posed a threat to the country's security.

Conclusion

A multifaceted strategy that addresses both the signs and symptoms of terrorism and its underlying causes must be used to address the issues and create an environment that is conducive to solving them. This is necessary for any solution to a security situation like that of Boko Haram to be successful. The most alarming development is the entrance of the Boko Haram sect, which changed from a neutral political apparatus to further the goals of a number of Northern leaders. With its unusually frequent attacks on innocent Nigerians, the cult has emerged as the most ruthless insurgent group in the history of the nation (Ogbonnaya & Ehigiamusoe, 2013; Okoli & Iortyer, 2014; Eme & Ibietan, 2012). The gang is a descendant of a radical Islamic youth group that gathered in the Alhaji Muhammadu Ndimi Mosque in Maiduguri in the 1990s. Over the years, the Boko Haram group has made it very apparent by its behaviour that it is not interested in peace talks. However, even if the government were to pardon the gang, who would speak on their behalf? It's crucial to know the answer to this query since the sect's members have opted not to reveal their names.

The Boko Haram organization only wants to be acknowledged through influencing governmental decisions, actions, programs, and projects, it has now become evident. They seek to topple the existing administration in addition to taking control of the

money that has been awarded to the state of Nigeria. Based on the findings of the study this research recommends that:

- i. By prohibiting the cult from organizing or reorganizing, recruiting new members, and launching assaults, the government should deny the group the necessary operational space to carry out its activities. Any funding for the sect should also be withheld. The entire network of permeable borders must be sealed off in order to prevent the organization from receiving weapons and assistance from other Islamic movements outside.
- ii. Following the core causes of the insurgency, the government needs to formulate policies on how best to empower the youth by channelling considerable amount of resources to them which will in turn keep them busy and as well productive for the growth and development of the Nation.
- iii. Similarly, a proper orientation on the need for formal education is expedient in the Northern part of the Nigeria region, the

action have the capacity to give them a view on the need for peaceful coexistence of people irrespective of tribal, ethnic or religion.

- iv. Also, the leaders need to shun corruption as this contributed to the misconception of the terrorist group in the course of its formulation.
- v. Lastly, there is need for communal securities measure such as state police and other local securities as this will enable the securities body relate properly with the immediate happenings of the region and as well give them a full sense of belonging in the process of combating the security threat issue in their respective region.

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