



## **The Determinants and Consequences of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects**

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### **Abstract**

Insurgency has become a threat to global peace and security in the 21<sup>st</sup> century due to the fact that it constitutes the highest contributor to humanitarian crisis, hence, this paper is poised to investigate into how the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents and their series of attacks have had serious effects on the Nigeria socio-economic milieu as it is the most dreadful insurgents group operating within the country and the sub-saharan west African region. The problem is virtually affecting all sectors of the country which include, security, education, food supply, economy, social and the political spheres, many lives have been lost, private and public properties have been destroyed. The paper is a qualitative research, it relied more on the secondary form of data collection, and the theoretical thrust hinged on the Relative Deprivation and the Anomie/Strain theory respectively; noting that the people feel highly deprived in the scheme of things in Nigeria. There is an acute shortage in their basic needs, high rate of unemployment, an unacceptable level of poverty and shortage of infrastructures. The study recommended that government should be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, training, logistics, motivation and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges in the affected states in Nigeria and poverty alleviation programmes should be initiated in the affected states with the aim of improving the lives of the affected people in the country.

**Keywords: Boko Haram, Terrorism, Poverty, Insurgency, National security**

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## **Introduction**

In recent years, different security challenges has emerged in Nigeria which has become threats to national security, this include: Boko Haram insurgency, armed banditry, farmers-herders mayhem, terrorism, kidnapping, cattle rustling, water piracy e.t.c. Insurgency is a security challenge to many nations, as it causes instability and confusion by disrupting peace and stability. Insurgent groups engage in armed uprising or revolt against an established civil and political authority. The goal of insurgency is to confront the existing government for the control of its territory, showing political power by competing with the government for popular support. The desire of most insurgent groups like Boko Haram is to control a nation and establish political system based on their ideology.

According to United States Government Counterinsurgency Guide (2009), posits that insurgents seek to subvert or displace the government and completely or partially control the resources and political power of a given territory. They do so through the use of force (including guerilla warfare, terrorism, coercion and intimidation), propaganda, subversion and political mobilization. Insurgents fight government forces to achieve their political aims and their aim is to have control over the population, making it impossible for the government to administer over its territory and people. Insurgents' activity is therefore designed to weaken government control and legitimacy while increasing insurgents' control and influences (Forest, 2007).

The most dreadful insurgency affecting Nigeria is the Boko Haram militants operating in the North-Eastern Nigeria, which came to prominence in 2009. The insurgent group employed an open confrontation with the Nigerian State in 2009 (Ifenyi, 2012). The tactics used by the insurgent group includes prison break, assassinations, suicide bombings, and massive deployment of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) (Musa, 2015). Boko Haram movement started in Borno and is seriously affecting states in Nigeria. Many towns and villages were captured in the North-Eastern States by the insurgents which affected the lives of the people socially, politically, economically and educationally (Mohammed, 2014).

Both Muslims and Christians were killed; Mosques, Churches, Markets, Banks, Schools, colleges and universities were destroyed. Men, women and children were seriously affected by becoming refugee, orphan or widow (Harnischfeger, 2014). According to Musa (2015) Boko Haram insurgency fits quite well with the terrorist model of insurgents who aim to create panic in order to destabilize the state. The violent activities of the insurgents have made Nigeria a country of serious security concern for the international community and a subject of research interest for scholars focusing on insurgency and terrorism.

## **Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria and their Ideological Evolution Trajectory**

Insurgency is a global insecurity phenomenon affecting different nations in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The most dreadful insurgent groups operating in Africa include: Boko Haram in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger Republic, Azwad and Ansarudeen in Mali, Al-Shabab in Somalia and Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). It is however imperative to state that before the appearance of Boko Haram in Nigeria's political space, there were different Islamic sects, for instance, the Mohammed Marwa led Maitastine faction of the 1980s, the Shiite Movement under the control of Sheikh el-Zakzaky (also known as the Islamic Movement of Nigeria), the Sheikh Abubakar Gumi revolution-driven preaching from late 1980s to early 1990s, and the Yobe state Taleban transformed into Boko Haram. Most of these sects (except the Shiite movement) were influenced by the Salafist ideology that form the basis of their Islamic knowledge. Abdul Hamid (2017) blamed the Salafist for the increasing radicalization of the Muslim youths. He alleges that the Salafist had expunged spirituality from Islam and emphasize the preaching of martyrdom as the ultimate prize and the only guarantee of the forgiveness of sins. This belief by many youths has increased their love for fundamentalism as against spirituality.

The Boko Haram had since then continued to unleash terror on the Nigerian state without abating. It had killed many people, destroyed houses and villages, paralyzed the economic system in the North east. Onuoha and Oyewole (2018), found that the insurgent is responsible for sending over 2.6 million people out from their residents, the damages on properties worth about \$9 billion and over 100,000 lives were taken. The UNICEF also faults the insurgent for the destruction of over 1,400 schools and the death of 2,295 teachers since the crises began in 2009 (Tukur, 2017).

The northern part of Nigeria has been suffering from the violent activities of Boko Haram since 2009. Boko Haram has led to human casualties, destruction of properties, internally displaced persons, food insecurity and state of lawlessness. Boko Haram poses as one of the major security challenges threatening Nigeria. The problem is virtually affecting all sectors, including security, education, economy, and the socio-political spheres. It hinders political development, economic growth and distorts national integration and has subjected people to hardship (Human Right Watch, 2015).

Mohammed (2014) asserted that insurgency is often linked to terrorism, as terrorism is a tool that many insurgent groups use to further their agenda. The activities of Boko Haram has serious impacts on the populace, they employ the use of terrorist tactics against the larger population. The tactics used by the insurgents includes prison break, kidnapping, assassinations, suicide bombings, and massive deployment of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Many towns and villages in Northern Nigeria were captured by the insurgents; this has serious implication on the lives of the populace. Boko Haram discourages foreign investors in the region. Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States have been placed under curfew and state of emergency due to Boko Haram, with movement of few hours allowed. This has paralyzed socio-economic activities of the states in the region and the country in general. The activity of the insurgents had and is still having negative consequences/implications on Nigeria's development and national security, placing the country in a negative pedestal as one of the most terrorized countries in the world. It has resulted in human casualties, human right abuses, population displacement, livelihood crisis and public insecurity (Babalola, 2016).

Boko Haram is a Salafist Islamic movement highly influenced by the literatures of ibn Taymiyyah and is found in North-Eastern Nigeria. It is believed that Boko Haram started its activities in Maiduguri, Borno State and is greatly limited in the north eastern states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa, from where it spread to virtually all regions of northern Nigeria and advancing towards other parts of the country.

It is worthy to note that Boko Haram was formed based on the ideology of the Sunni sect, championing the implementation of Islamic sharia law in a heterogeneous Nigerian state. It transformed into a Salafist-jihad sect in 2009, motivated by the ideology of the Wahhabi's school of thought (Institute for Economic Peace, 2015). The benign group became violent only after the assassination of its leader Muhammad Yusuf in July 2009. The murder of Mohammed Yusuf was the genesis of the brutal phase of Boko Haram insurgency.

Boko Haram had a shadowy goal of establishing Shariah law originally in Borno and subsequently Nigeria and beyond. Its ideologue and creator, Muhammad Yusuf born in 1970 and acquired some knowledge in Qur'anic exegesis, Arabic and hadith. He was a charismatic leader of the group and a highly respected personality among his peers. Yusuf preached radical and provocative sermons against moderate Islamic clerics, and political institutions. The group rejected all forms of western culture and influence and sought the enactment of Sharia law all over the country. The group recruits its members among the poorest, unemployed, criminals,

drug addicts, as well as the educated and the employed. They called themselves the "Nigerian Taliban" and adopted a modest way of life in rural parts of the northeast, which the group named "Afghanistan" (Sani, 2011).

Yusuf and his group showed severe hatred for western education and civilization; this was predicated in their philosophical underpinning. He also saw the state as a product of westernization because of its ideas and working system. Along these lines, he and his supporters separated themselves from the state and blatantly defied established states laws. Yusuf kept up the conviction which he and his supporters 'will preferably die than to surrender to the corrupt system in the nation'(Sani, 2011). It was Yusuf's disapproval of westernization that led to his conclusion that democracy is kufr (disbelieve). It is against this background that the sect had many conflicts with the security agents before the July 2009 event that brought Boko Haram into the spotlight.

The killing of Mohammed Yusuf was a watershed in the development of the insurgent's revolt in Nigeria. Some of their members went into hiding after the face-off that led to the death of Yusuf in 2009. They re-emerged in 2010 under the control of Abubakar Shekau as a fierce and violent sect, resolved to retaliate the death of its leader. In 2010, the sect organized several violent assaults against government institutions in many northern states. Under Shekau's leadership, the Boko Haram became brutal and waged deadly attacks that mostly targeted common citizens through killings, assaults, bombings, armed robbery, looting, abductions, invasion of border communities, and seizures and control of territory in Nigeria. According to Oftedal (2013), Shekau transformed the group into the most dreaded and dangerous terrorist group in African history.

### **Conceptualization**

In the light of placing the underlying concepts of this paper into proper perspective, this section of the paper is designed to highlight some germane concepts in a bid to elicit a comprehensive insight of the philosophical position of this article.

### **Boko Haram**

It is imperative to state that the name Boko Haram is not an official name credited to the group by its founders, rather it is a product of media construction that is gotten from the perception of the public on the operation of the insurgent. However, in the Hausa language, "Boko" means "education or western education" while "Haram" in the Arabic language means "forbidden",

hence, the term 'Boko Haram', meaning a group that "forbids western education", hence, it is widely accepted among the local Hausa population that Boko Haram connotes "Western education is forbidden".. According to Onapajo and Uzodike (2012), the sect was also known as Yusufiyah, which means 'the group or followers of Yusuf' (who was the founder and leader of the group), by the public. On the strength of the findings of Amusan and Oyewole (2014), the sect's original name was Jama'atu Ahlis Suna Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, translated to mean, "a group entrusted with the spreading of the prophetic teachings and jihad". Albeit, some members of the group split and named themselves as the Wilayat al-Islamiyya Gharb Afriqiyyah, meaning the Islamic State of the West African Province (ISWAP) in March 2013. Their underlying belief holds that most of the problems surrounding our political heritage, which has engendered endemic corruption, underdevelopment, poverty, the dearth of infrastructures unevenness (inequality) and injustices in the affected area are as a result of Western effect, hence, sees Islamic restoration as the credible alternative which can ultimately bring national redemption.

### **Insurgency**

According to Ottoh (2015) Insurgency is and could be regarded as unionized opposition group that is disruptive in nature, which takes up arms and attack, to cause conflict in order to accomplish an agenda or motives. Insurgencies exist and try to collapse the current social order in a bid to elicit control inside the nation. Insurgencies typically try to topple the current establishment in order to exert control of the nation. Insurgency is a struggle between a non-ruling group and the authorities in which the insurgents consciously use political resources (e.g. organizational expertise, propaganda, and demonstration) and violence to destroy, reformulate, or sustain the basis of one or more aspects of politics (O'Nelli,1990). Insurgents are anti-government fighters that employ armed uprising against government, it is an organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict. According to Abdulkareem, (2010), insurgency causes instability and disrupts peace and socioeconomic activities. Insurgent groups engage in armed uprising against an established political authority. Most successful insurgencies have received some form of state or international support including moral or political support, resources (money, weapons, food, advisors and training), sanctuary (secure training sites, operational bases across the border, and protection from extradition), intelligence, organizational aid and in some cases even fighters (Olateju, 2013).

## **Terrorism**

The concept Terrorism is better appreciated when the origin of the word is traced and understood. Terror is translated to be a Latin word 'Terrere' meaning to frighten, panic, anxiety and overwhelmed of fear. Terrorism is the act of violence for political or religious reasons. According to the United State department of Defense, in title 22 of the United State code, section 2656f (d), defined the term terrorism to mean a premeditated, politically or religiously motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience. Terrorism is also the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion perpetrated for religious, political or ideological goal, deliberately targeted or with disregard to the safety of non-combatant

The term terrorist groups means any group practicing or that has significant sub-groups that practice terrorism.

The term non-combatant is interpreted to include civilians and military personnel who, at the time of the attack/incident are unarmed and, or not on duty

## **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework of this article is poised to explicating the causes/determinants of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, hence, the paper's adoption of the following crime causation theories; This study's argument is anchored on the Anomie theory as associated with the work of French Sociologist Emile Durkheim and later developed by American Sociologist Robert K. Merton (1957) and the theory of Relative Deprivation of Ted Robert Gurr (1970) respectively.

Theory of Anomie as espoused by Merton suggests that all social structures have two characteristics, namely goals and means. The goals are those things that are worth striving for. The means are the approved methods for achieving the goals (Nkpa, 1994). According to Merton there is relationship between the normative system and the social structures that operate in the society. Society provides means of attaining the societal goals, but members do not have equal opportunities for attaining the goals. Members of the society with less access to means of attaining the societal goals will reject the social values and strife for success by any available means. When the goals are rejected, or the means for obtaining those goals are rejected criminal behavior results (Burke, 2009). Hence, the Boko Haram insurgents are categorized under rebellion. They reject both the goals and the means of the society. Boko Haram insurgents strife for success through illegal or unconstitutional means to achieve their goals which society

deemed as crime to any one that reject the means and the goals established by the society. Boko Haram reject the goals and the means because it is not commensurate with their ideology, as such they intend to substitute the system with new social order as claimed by Boko Haram leader late Abubakar Shekau.

On the other theoretical standpoint, based on the postulation of Gurr in his work titled "Why Men Rebel", published in 1970, argues that individuals ended up disappointed if they believe they have less of what they ought to and could have. After some time, such disappointment prompts dissatisfaction and then resistance against the perceived or real oppressors and their source of deprivation. Economic deprivation and endemic poverty are negative triggers for violent political movement and terrorism in any country. In the same vein, Rummel (1977) concludes that a consequence of frustration is always aggression. This assertion was supported by the work of Davies (1962) when he wrote that political violence becomes unavoidable if there is an unjustifiable gap between what the masses need and what they have; this variance according to him is a frustrating and annoying experience that could result in either rebellion or revolution.

In relating the theories to this article, the acts of insurgency as perpetuated by many groups is caused by long years of neglect and deprivation. It is pertinent to also note that besides Boko Haram, there are other groups that have agitated violently against the state. For example, the Niger-Delta militants, Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Mobilization for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) amongst others. Reasons adduced for their militancy include the increasing rate of unemployment, abject poverty, the dearth of infrastructure, marginalization and bad governance. Hence, when there is no correlation between what the people need and what they get, it can easily lead to frustration and a very negative reaction.

However, from the prevailing facts, it is evident that the level of poverty in Nigeria in general and the Northeast in particular is deep-rooted; it calls for a closer look than what is presently obtains. Sectors like agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing industries were the mainstay of the economy of northern Nigeria, and it has been neglected by successive governments since independence. This abdication of responsibility could be attributed to the level of unemployment and the raging hunger in the area. Unemployment in some northern states is estimated at above 80%, and indicators in health and education are among the lowest in the country (Akinola, 2015). Distinctions in the standard of living is as well, a determinant factor



in the apparent feeling of hardship among the people. So, it is easy to conclude that such lack or deprivations play a paramount part in the development of the insurgent group.

### **Methodology**

The study was majorly relied on secondary data such as journals, literature magazines and the internet materials e.t.c, to make sense and arrive at a qualitative position of the paper, hence, the need for the adoption of secondary sources of data became sacrosanct due to the dangerous nature of the Boko Haram sect and the Northeast region. The area is not safe for on-the-field research work, questionnaire administrations and interview session in that all the regions are practically not safe because the people are so skeptical, they don't know who to be trusted or believe, hence, the qualitative nature of this article.

### **The Determinant/Causes of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria**

Lots of reasons are adduced as the reasons of Boko Haram insurgency. Some of the reasons are caused by citizens who feel alienated from the benefits or dividend of democracy. The reasons can best be categorized into three, which is political causes, socio-economic causes and ethno religious causes of the insurgency

### **Political Determinant/Perspective**

The leading causes of insurgencies everywhere could be attributed to the lack of political will from the government from the beginning. Eubank and Weinberg (2001) opined that regarding the main political drivers of insurgency, a few investigations have shown that the absence of common freedoms, corruption, feeble political organizations, unstable political system, weak state, high level of subjugation, ethno-religious conflicts can instigate the frequency of terrorism.

Furthermore, an investigation by Piazza (2006) demonstrates that countries with substantial complex heterogeneous systems are more inclined to frequent cases of insurgencies than those with a couple of homogeneous systems. Also, countries practicing democracy as a system of government are thought to be in a less likely position to thwart insurgency bombardments; they are more inclined to assaults compared to countries with the oligarchic government. The principle and ideals of democracy make it easy for insurgency or terrorism to flourish; principles like respect for national identity or symbols, freedom of association, free press and

fundamental human rights amongst others, given clearance for the insurgents to hide and perpetuate their evil.

On internal terrorism in the Northeast, some investigations faulted the development of Boko Haram on the nation's political system. Botha, Ewi, Salifu and Abdile (2017) contend that Boko Haram is a product of politics, supported by politicians. As indicated by Mbah, Nwangwu and Edeh (2017) Boko Haram rose up out of the battle between the political elites of both the north and southern counterpart on who controls power at the federal level, particularly after the demise of President Umar Yar'Adua. The victory of Jonathan Goodluck in 2011 at that point prompted the utilization of Boko Haram as a tool to weaken his government by the elites of northern extraction (Okoro, 2014). Mbah et al. contend that these cases cannot completely clarify the rise of the sect since there are other factors that facilitated the growth of the sect. For example, in their research, they contend that development of the sect could be connected to poor governance, deep-rooted corruption and economic marginalization in the zone, which has aided the growth of the radical groups.

### **Socio-Economic Determinant/Perspective**

Poverty and joblessness have been recognized as primary reasons for terrorism. The general conviction of the security and intelligence experts is that individuals whose basic needs are denied are bound to fall back on violence as an approach to express their complaints. That is, poverty and joblessness breed insurgency. The hypothesis of deprivation as one of the theoretical frameworks of this study clarifies that when individuals feel denied of something they are hoping to have, they end up being discontented, thus could utilize brutality to express their grievances. Bhatia and Ghanem (2017) in their research analyzed the connection between educations, joblessness also, fierce fanaticism, be that as it may, found that jobless instructed youth are bound to be radicalized by the militant group because of the joblessness and absence of business opportunities in Arab countries. Ayegba (2015) contends that poverty and joblessness are the main triggers behind the rebellion in Nigeria. Moreover, he argued that the level of youth joblessness has brought about destitution and anxiety in the nation.

David, e'tal (2016) argue that social and economic indices such as destitution, joblessness, unevenness (inequality), underdevelopment, illiteracy, inter alia, underline the appearance and consistency of Boko Haram insurgency. These affirmations recommend that the endemic destitution and joblessness in the north make the circumstance for the vulnerable youths to be controlled and enlisted by the group. While some argued that there is no connection between

poverty and insurgency, however, the vicious circle of poverty and joblessness supported the people to be vulnerable for Boko Haram enlistment. Botha and Abdile (2014) confirm that, due to adverse economic conditions and unemployment in Somalia, some people viewed al-Shabaab as a potential employer. In that same vein, so many unemployed youths, illiterates and poor people feel not catered for by the government in Nigeria became encouraged to associate with Boko Haram as they are jobless and see insurgency as a vocation or for the little remuneration given as motivation.

### **Religious Determinant/Perspective**

Religious extremism is another known factor that can cause terrorism in a country. Religion assumed a crucial stance in the operations of Boko Haram. This group attacks large number of perceived enemies, they use violence on non-members and those they feel are against their religion. Such other groups that practice this form of religious terrorism are the Al Queda, Hamas, and Hezbollah amongst others.

### **The Consequences/Implications of Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria**

There is absolutely no gainsaying the fact that the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria has had far-reaching consequences and implications on the country, affecting various aspects of society including security, economy, education, and social cohesion. This extremist group, which has been active since 2009, has carried out numerous attacks targeting civilians, government officials, and security forces, resulting in thousands of deaths and displacements, this is because insurgency is dreadful to individuals, community, organizations and government. The activities of the insurgents have paralyzed almost every sector of the affected states. Insurgency has impeded peace and development. It hinders political development; it affects economic growth and distort national integration. It has subjected people to hardship and ended up in becoming refugees. Boko Haram has become a threat to national security in Nigeria. Hence, some of the security implications of the activities of Boko Haram include:

#### **Political Implications**

The activities of Boko Haram insurgents and series of attacks have serious effects on the country and the northern part in particular. Politically there is fear and tension among citizens and most people not of the North East extraction are leaving the affected States (Odu, 2012). Boko Haram Insurgency in the North East affected the 2011 and 2015 elections and voting processes. Many citizens were politically disenfranchised, because elections did not hold in some places as a result of the insurgents' activities (Musa, 2015). A lot of resources which

would have been used for development purposes have been channeled to fighting insurgency thereby undermining political development. Democracy in Nigeria is nascent, and the act of insurgents is a serious challenge to democracy (Eze, 2012).

### **Economic Implications**

According to (Odu, 2012), in 2010 Nigeria lost about 4.4 billion USD due to Boko Haram insurgency. The kidnapping and killing of foreign nationals by the insurgents is discouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Furthermore, the insurgency has had a detrimental effect on the economy of Nigeria. The attacks on infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, and markets, have disrupted economic activities and hindered development in the affected regions. The insecurity caused by Boko Haram has also deterred foreign investment and tourism, further exacerbating the economic challenges faced by the country as jobs, revenue, foreign trade, tourism, investment and savings were affected. The affected states have been placed under curfew In the face of the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents, with only movement for few hours allowed. This has paralyzed economic activities of the affected states. According to Eze (2012), the economy and social life of the affected states have collapsed necessitating the states government to appeal to the federal government for assistance. Economic activities have been stalled in the affected States. Banks, petrol stations, schools, markets, houses, hospital, industries, transport network and communication networks have been affected. Business activities have been forced to close and are gradually declining. This forced the inhabitants to fled away and become refugees (Ude, 2014).

### **Educational Implications**

In addition, the Boko Haram insurgency has had a profound impact on education in Nigeria. The group has targeted schools and students, leading to the closure of educational institutions and the displacement of teachers and students. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, more than 1,500 schools have been destroyed by Boko Haram, depriving thousands of children of their right to education and perpetuating a cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Education at primary, secondary and institutions of higher learning have been affected. The major target of the insurgents is the western education which to them is a sin (Haram). Higher institutions have become a dreadful area as the target of the insurgents, in many higher institutions of the affected states students abandoned their studies. Boko Haram has abducted, displaced and killed students and staff particularly in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. Academic activities have been jeopardized, lecturers and students live in fear (Ifenyi, 2012). In 2014, about 276 students were abducted from Chibok Secondary School. 85 schools were closed in north east Borno

affecting 120,000 students. Many educational institutions were closed for more than two years in Borno and Yobe States. Structures in many institutions were devastated; this affected teaching, learning and research in most educational institutions in Nigeria (Musa, 2015).

### **Diplomatic Relations Implications**

Nigeria is involved in diplomatic relations with many countries of the world from which it drives some benefits such as foreign aids, attraction of foreign investment among others. The emergence of insurgency in the country particularly Boko Haram insurgency has negatively affected the relationship between Nigeria and other nations of the world. Boko Haram activities has become a serious issue that disturb not only Nigeria but neighboring countries like Cameroon, Chad, Niger Republic and international community (Ismail, 2014).

### **Implications on Agriculture and Food Production**

Agriculture and food supply is affected in many ways by the activities of Boko Haram. The land which is very essential for agricultural production has become battle field. All most all the states affected in the northern Nigeria formed the major food supply to the country were left by the people which resulted to hunger and diseases. Crop and animals' production that provide food, hides and skin are no longer productive as a result of the insurgents' activities that undermine the well-being of the people (Ifenyi, 2012).

The environment has always formed a central part of the development. The activities of Boko Haram insurgents have led to environmental degradation, and it hindered rapid economic growth and development. Pollution by war equipment such as bomb, gasses, chemicals and toxics have endangered the lives of people. Refugees' problems to neighboring countries and cities has consequences on their own environment like over population, destruction of their forest, over-cultivation and grazing of their lands (Persson, 2014).

### **Human Right Abuses**

According to the Human Right Watch and Amnesty International (2015), insurgency in Nigeria has led to violation of human rights and war crime by Boko Haram insurgents and the government forces. The military and police have committed human rights abuses and extra-judicial killings. A prominent case was the killing of the pioneer leader of Boko Haram, Muhammad Yusuf in 2009 by the Nigerian police. On the side of the insurgents, heinous human right abuses and war crimes have also been committed. These include forced conversion of people of their faiths, wanton attacks on mosques and churches, murder, torture and persecution of the inhabitants. Others include rape, killing of women, children and civilian (non-combatant) populations. During raids in communities, often in the aftermath of the insurgents' attacks,

members of the security forces have executed men in front of their families, arbitrary arrested or beaten members of the community, burned houses, shops and cars, stolen money while searching homes and rape (Philip and Okoli, 2014).

### **Population Displacement**

Boko Haram Insurgency has led to the displacement of huge human population in the affected states. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (2014), 13,000 refugees from Mubi crossed neighboring Cameroon after the insurgents attacked and captured Mubi in late October 2014, while thousands fled to refugee camp in Yola and other states in Nigeria. About 2 million people became displaced in Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger Republic due to Boko Haram insurgency. According to UNICEF (2015), 800,000 children have fled their homes due to insurgency. The plight of the displaced people is threatening; they have been dislocated from their families.

### **Human Casualties/ Health**

The activities of the insurgents have led to loss of thousands of lives and many became incapacitated, in addition to various degrees and dimension of human injury. Women were raped, some lost part of their body, while others suffer from sickness like hypertension, heart problem, fear, psychologically incapacitated and trauma. The activities of the insurgents in the North East have rendered thousands of dwellers dead, homeless and many corpses were abandoned which spread diseases in the areas (Philip and Okoli, 2014). According to the United Nations Humanitarian Agency (UNHA) and Amnesty International and Human Right Watch (2015), there are about 25,000 people died as a result of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria which resulted women to become widows and children became orphans.

### **Conclusion**

Conclusively, Boko Haram is a disaster affecting Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Republic of Cameroon. The activities of Boko Haram have affected trading, business, banking, education, politics, farming, economic development of the nations and above all the national security. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of the affected nations has been crippled by Boko Haram insurgents, millions of people were displaced. Institutions such as banking industry, educational institutions, markets, trade and commerce were affected by Boko Haram insurgents. The Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria particularly has had a devastating impact on the country, affecting security, economy, education, and social cohesion. The loss of lives, destruction of property, disruption of economic activities, and displacement of populations have created a humanitarian crisis that requires urgent attention and intervention. It is

imperative for the Nigerian government, in collaboration with the international community, to address the root causes of the insurgency and work towards lasting peace and stability in the region.

### **Recommendations**

To address the problems of Boko Haram insurgency according to Okene (2011), the national leadership must be well articulated and designed to bring forth purposive followership. Leadership must be reliably engaged, transparent, purposeful, visionary, integrity-driven and excellent. It must support receptiveness and responsibility; political leadership in Nigeria should see the nation's territory as a place that needs to be impacted positively for the advancement of the country.

In this vein, this paper proffers the following recommendations, thus:

1. As experiences have shown from other countries, there are no absolute military answers to pulling a country or zone out of violent fanaticism and insurgency, hence, there is a need to desert the traditional military-driven approach as the unparalleled choice for engaging in asymmetric warfare; While not disregarding the significance of utilizing military option which is the “hard power approach”. Government and all stakeholders should encourage dialogue in the fight against insurgence as well as also adopt the “soft power approach” that is engaged in dialogue and improve on intelligence gathering. The adoption of both approaches will bring about smart result in the fight against insurgences.
2. One of the root causes of Boko Haram insurgency include poverty, therefore, the government should enact and implement policies aimed at alleviating poverty in Nigeria, especially in the Northeast. The acute shortage of basic needs has led to lots of deprivations, the dearth of infrastructural facilities and the inability of the populace to attend their choice school because of the level of poverty of most of the people of Northern Nigeria.
3. Community leaders should be actively involved in the crusade against Boko Haram and take part in public enlightenment particularly in schools, markets and motor parks to create security consciousness.
4. Government should be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats, through modern methods of intelligence gathering, training, logistics, motivation and deploying advanced technology in managing security challenges in the affected states.

5. Nigeria should partner with international community in addressing the Boko Haram insurgency. Insurgency is a global phenomenon; therefore, it should be addressed through global collaboration.

6. Streamline the Preaching in Every Religious Centre. Christian and Muslim adherents need to stay away from fanaticism in their various religious practice, and both religious leaders (Christians and Muslims) should ensure this during their lectures and sermons. They should avoid provocative preaching and teach perseverance and tolerance. The government can as well regulate the sermons by establishing a ministry saddled with the responsibilities of regulating sermons and registrations of churches and mosques.

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