

# Boko Haram Insurgency and its implications on Nigeria's National Security

Emmanuel Chukwuma Okwara

Department of Political Science and Diplomacy,  
Veritas University, Abuja

---

## Abstract

Boko Haram has been a security challenge to Nigeria since at least 2009, and recently it has posed considerable challenges to the African Sub-Region because of its international linkage with the al-Qaeda terrorists' network. The aim of this study is to examine the implications of the Boko Haram Insurgency on Nigeria's National Security. We use secondary sources of data drawn from textbooks, and journals, internet sources among others while content analysis was used to analyze the data. This study is situated within the framework of both the internal and external perspectives on the origin of the Boko haram insurgency to be able to get a better understanding of the security challenges posed he Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security. Moreover, we discovered that the implications of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security are enormous such that it activities have generated national and international condemnation such as targets such as the United Nations building in Abuja in August 2011. In November 2011, the U.S. Department of State issued an alert for all U.S. and Western citizens in Abuja to avoid major hotels and landmarks, based on information about a potential Boko Haram attack. Besides, from received training in bomb-making and other terrorist tactics from al-Qaeda-affiliated groups and their mode of operations ranges bombing, kidnapping, maiming etc. However, we discovered that poverty, bad governance, deepen crisis, and are among the causes of the Boko Haran insurgency. Lastly, political will, international collaboration, strategic training, are among key recommendations in this study.

---

**Keywords:** Boko haram, Insurgency, Terrorists, Nigeria, Security

## Introduction

The French Revolution of 1789-1799 produced the first usage of the word "terrorist" and "terrorism", in relation to the Reign of Terror (Regime de la Terror) which initiated the revolutionary government. During that time, the agents of the Committee of Public Safety and the National Convention that implemented the policies of "terror" were called "terrorists". It is important to note that this state of timidity was ushered in order to suppress the enemies of the state and that Terreur should be feared as an enforcer of state policies. Since then the word "terrorism" has been ascribe a negative connotation. Though, the negative usage of terrorism began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when group of Russian Revolutionaries use the term "terrorism" to describe their violent struggle against tsarist rule. From the 19<sup>th</sup> century hitherto the word "terrorism" represent anti-government activities (Akor & Momoh, 2017).

Over the years various terrorists groups have existed such as Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna formed in 1960 which was based in Basque, Al-jihad and Al-gama'a Al-Islamiyya in the 1970's in Egypt, Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the 80's in Ireland, Jamaat UI-Fuqra based in Palistan and was formed in the 1980's, Hezbollah which was active from 1982 which operate from Beka valley, in the Southern suburbs of Beirut, and in southern Lebanon, Hamas in 1987, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba which began operations in 1989 base in Pakistan, Orange Volunteers (OV) in the late 1990's in Northern Ireland, Aum Shinrikyo also known as Aleph in 1994 and 1995 in Japan, Harkat UI-Mujahidin (HUM) whose activities was noticed from the early 1990's, Al-Qaeda bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal building in U.S.A in 1995, Asbat al-Ansar in the early 1990's, Abu Sanyaf which started its operations in 1991 base in Southern Philippines, Harakat UI-Ansar (HUA) founded

on October 1993 based in Pakistan, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades which started in 2000 among others (Akor et al 2017).

Since on 11 September 2001, when a coordinated series of terrorist attacks were launched against the USA using four hijacked aeroplanes. Two jumbo jets crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, causing their collapse; the first aeroplane was the American Airlines flight 11 (a Boeing 767) bound for Los Angeles from Boston; the second aeroplane was the United States Airlines 175 (a Boeing 767) also bound for Los Angeles from Boston; the third aeroplane was an American Airlines flight 77 (a Boeing 757) which took off from Washington Dulles International Airport crashed into Pentagon, the headquarters of the Department of Defense, in Washington; and the fourth aeroplane was American Airlines flight 93 (a Boeing 757), believed to be headed towards the White House, crashed in a field near Pittsburgh. In a videotape released in October 2001, responsibility for the attacks was admitted by Osama bin Laden, head of the al-Qaeda organization, who praised his followers as the "vanguards of Islam" (Emesowum, 2008:3; Heywood, 2007:136)

Since, 2001 the US posture towards the war against terrorism has changed considerably as the dimension of modern terrorism has significantly affected the security network of most states across the world, such that the proliferation of terrorists networks such as Al-Qaeda, Taliban, Hamas, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) now Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) among others has posed enormous threats to international security such that terrorism has been used to secure things that ordinarily people do not possess or to preserve things that they possess as such terrorism is usually directed against the state, its property, and men who manage its institutions as well as the citizens (Lapalombara, 1974). Based on historical evidence, the dimensions of terrorists engagement has changed over the years just as their motivation has been dynamic which may be political, economic, psychological or religious reasons or combination of all of these reasons.

Although, in the past when terrorism are mentioned or when the list of terrorist nations are published Nigeria is exempted, but the Abdulmutallab saga has painted Nigeria in a bad light before the international community. Therefore, Nigeria is not left out in these waves of terrorism following the act of Abdulmutallab who attempted to bomb the US aircraft while on board to the US on the 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and the current activities of the dreaded Islamic sect Boko Haram. It is against this background, this study seeks to examine the mode of operations of the Boko Haram terrorists and its implications for Nigeria's national security.

### **Conceptual Review: Insurgency and Security**

The concept of insurgency has no universally acceptable definition. However, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary the word "Insurgency" was first used in 1803. It is a condition of revolt against a government that is less than an organized revolution and that is not recognized as belligerency. Moreover, insurgency is another form of manmade security threat. It usually involves an armed struggle or rebellion aimed to challenge the sovereign power of a constituted authority. It can also be described as violence aggression by belligerents against the government of a given country, especially the one recognized by the United Nations (Oxford English Dictionary, 1989).

Also, insurgency can be defined as an organized rebellion aimed at overthrowing a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict ([www.wordnetweb.princeton.edu/per/webwn](http://www.wordnetweb.princeton.edu/per/webwn)). It is an armed uprising, revolt, or insurrection against an established civil or political authority, persons engaging in insurgency are called insurgents, and typically engage in regular or guerrilla combat against the armed forces of the established regime or conduct sabotage and harassment in the land ([www.answerbag.com/view/68079](http://www.answerbag.com/view/68079)). The concept of security is not new and has been core even in ancient day societies. Security has historically involved 'seeing like a state'. It has been associated with the ability of states to resist internal and external threats, in particular military threats. Whilst the state has been considered as the thing to be secured, or the 'referent object', increasingly analytical attention has broadened to encompass the security of individuals, groups, and a far more diverse range of dangers and threats. (Nwanegbo et al 2013).

Security as an essential concept is commonly associated with the alleviation of threats to cherished values, especially the survival of individuals, groups or objects in the near future. Thus, security as the name implies, involves the ability to pursue cherished political and social ambitions (Williams, 2008:6).

Security is the way one feels safe from harm or danger, the defence, protection and the absence of threats to acquire values (Igbuzor, 2011:2). Security in the actual sense, weighs the absence of threats to get values, in subjective sense, the absence of fear that such values will be seized. The past fifteen years, for example, have

witnessed numerous insurgency as well as regional, religious and secessionist violence, whilst acts of piracy in the Niger Delta seem to have characterised much of the current period of democracy.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Scholars have developed various theories for instance, Adibe (2012), has observed that while the popular belief is that it was founded around 2001 or 2002, Madike, he notes, traces the date to as far back as 1995, and argues that, one Lawan Abubakar, who later left for further studies at the University of Medina, Saudi Arabia, actually founded the Boko Haram sect. Under Abubakar, the sect was known as *Sahaba*, (Madike 2011 cited in Adibe, 2012: 50). Elsewhere, these expositions are credited to Shehu Sani, a civil right activist in northern Nigeria, who helped broker the first peace deal with the sect with these revelations, which failed (*Businessday*, online, February 1, 2012). While Uzodike and Maiangwa on the other hand acknowledge the Lawan Abubakar angle, they attribute their source to Ujah et al. (see Uzodike and Maiangwa, 2012: 100). They also acknowledge Gusau (2009) version which traced the origin to an evangelical group formed by Muslim students at the University of Maiduguri, Borno state, who reportedly felt dissatisfied with Western education (Uzodike and Maiangwa, 2012: 100).

All this perspectives can be divided into two broad spectrums. One views the problem essentially as internal. The other blames external forces. The former looks at socio-economic factors, as well as deep-seated political, religious differences in the Nigerian society. It also includes vengeance over the death of the sect's leader, Ustaz Muhammed Yussuf. The external forces argument has two planks: one characterizes the problem as part of global Islamic jihad and focuses on the sect's links with international terror groups such as al Qaeda or its affiliates as al Shabaab or the al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, (AQIM); the other views it as conspiratorial – a grand strategy to achieve the predicted disintegration of Nigeria by 2015, (See "Africa in 2020 Panel" Report). Within the conspiratorial thesis is the sub-theme that Nigeria is being targeted by envious and troubled neighbours. This aspect also links it to the now 'unemployed' war-hardened returnees from the Libyan crisis and the assorted arms streaming out from that tumult.

On the whole, this study is situated within the framework of both the internal and external perspectives on the origin of the Boko haram insurgency to be able to get a better understanding of the security challenges pose by the Boko Haram on Africa's sub-regional security.

### **Implications of Boko Haram Terrorists attacks on Nigeria's National Security**

According to Human Rights Watch report, between July and December 2010, at least 85 people were killed in some 35 separate attacks in four states in North East and North Central Nigeria, as well as Abuja, the nation's capital. Attacks attributed to Boko Haram in 2011 left at least 550 people dead in some 115 separate attacks in 12 northern and North Central Nigeria, as well as Abuja (Human Rights Watch, 2013). Among the numerous attacks carried out by the Boko Haram terrorist group are the United Nations Office Abuja, Police Headquarters Abuja on June 16 2011, This Day Newspapers Abuja, Sun Newspapers, and Daily Trust, St Theresa's Catholic Church Madalla, Niger State, Deeper life Church, Okene; Military Cantonment Jaji, Special Anti-robbery Squad (SAS) office Abuja, St Finba Catholic Church Ray Field Jos, Prison Break in Bauchi on September 7, 2010, Yola jailbreak in which the Boko Haram terrorist group allegedly freed 14 prisoners suspected to be the members of the group on April 22, 2011 and other numerous worship centres, recreation centres, security facilities especially Police stations, Military barracks, Motor parks, Banks among others (Momoh, 2013).

The Nigerian security forces also went on counter-offensive arresting, detaining and in many instances killing Boko Haram members and leaders. Notably among the counter-offensive by the Nigerian security forces was the saga of Baga town on Friday April, 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 which was described by many as a black Friday, in Baga, a border town in Borno State. Similarly, there was confrontation between the Nigeria – led Multinational Joint Task Force (JTF) and the Boko Haram terrorists group which led to the near total destruction of the fish market town called Baga. It was estimated that over 200 people, mainly vulnerable civilians namely women and children estimate over 200 and about 2,275 houses burnt, and 125 residences severely damaged (Human Right Watch, 2013). Again, it been observed that the Boko Haram group has since 2009 – 2013 killed over two thousand innocent Nigerians across northern states and Abuja (Momoh, 2013).

On 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 2013 there was an attack on police, army and prison formations in Bama town, Borno State by Boko Haram terrorists group which left 55 people dead, the attack on the 202 Battalion Barracks, with rocket

propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns was aimed at over running the barracks and creating mayhem. The Director of Army public Relations Brigadier General Ibrahim Attahiru disclosed, that the attack was repelled in the initial exchange of fire in Baga, Marte, Bama Banki he gave the actual number of casualty recorded during the attack thus: *"those killed in action include 21 Boko Haram terrorists, Six Police officers, 14 prison staff, two soldiers and 4 civilians including 3 children and a woman. They were burnt to death by the insurgents"*. He added that the attack was aimed at overrunning the Barrack and creating mayhem. The Bama Police Station, Police, Local Magistrate Court, School were burnt by the Boko Haram terrorists group which about 105 in mates were equally set free from Bama Prison. The items recovered include 4 vehicles, 14 weapons 12 IED'S assorted ammunition, several RPG tubes and bombs ([www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)).

The USAID report 2006 states that: "Nigeria has one of the highest rates of internal violence in the world, only unlike others with similar levels of bloodshed such as Colombia or Chechnya, there is not a civil war going on. Since 1999, over 50,000 have been killed in ethno-religious violence and over 80,000 displaced. In the north, an explosive growth of strident Christianity has confronted an upsurge of puritanical, reformist Islam. In the Middle Belt, the mainly Christian local farmers have collided with predominantly Muslim settler herdsmen in Plateau State, requiring the president to declare a state of emergency. In the Niger Delta, new rebel groups such as MEND have escalated their attacks on government and multinational installations, including the use of car bombings. There have been a number of violent incidents linked to the forthcoming elections, primarily at the state level, especially in the south such as in Rivers and Delta states. A proliferation of small arms in the country has further helped to bring violent conflict closer to the surface. Nowhere is the crisis more pronounced than the Niger Delta"(USAID, 2006:8)

Besides, efforts were made by the federal government of Nigeria by the President Jonathan's administration for the Boko haram terrorists group to shield their sword to create room for dialogue, all to no avail. Momoh, (2013) posits that security threat posed by the Boko haram terrorists group in mostly northern part of Nigeria made many northern leaders and groups, including the Arewa consultative Forum (ACF) urged government to dialogue with the Boko haram terrorists group to end the killings which has been a subject of debate among Security Experts.

Though, in November, 2012, the Boko Haram group gave the Federal Government of Nigeria conditions for ending the hostilities in which it acclaimed spokesman of the group, Abu Mohammed Ibn Abdulazeez in a tele-conference with journalists in Maiduguri, in Borno state stated that if the Federal Government of Nigeria want the group to cease-fire completely, a governor in the North-Eastern part of the country must be arrested and prosecuted according to the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Also, Abu Mohammed Ibn Abdulazeez said that the Federal Government of Nigeria should compensate the group and rebuild their places of worship which were destroyed during the 2009 uprising ([www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)).

In addition, the abduction of over 250 Girls from Government Secondary School Chibok in April 12, 2012 brought international attention to Nigeria such that during the World Cup in Germany in 2014, a minute silence were held in honour of those school girls as well as other international and national campaign especially the Bring Back our Girl Movement in Nigeria. Other attacks carried out by the Boko harm terrorists group between 2013 and 2014 including killing of prominent Islamic Cleric who opposed their extremist version of Islam such as Liman Bana, Sheikh Adam Albani, a leader of Nigeria's Salafi movement Traditional rulers and Politicians and attacks on Mosques and Churches in Kano, Abuja, Kaduna, Zaria, Bauchi, Damaturu, and Maiduguri.

### **Boko Haram Insurgency and Nigeria's National Security**

According to Keri, (2011) it is this radicalization and, admittedly, sophistication of the sect that has caused many to speculate that Boko Haram, has established ties with external forces such as Al- Qaeda in the Middle East and even al- Shabaab in Somalis. According to Hazen, (2007) in Nigeria, politics are militarized and violence is used as an electoral tool, leading to the inculcation of a culture of violence in society. Armed groups are not a new phenomenon. However, today's armed groups are better armed, better trained, and increasingly sophisticated in their actions. Armed groups, hired by politicians as togs, have developed their own economic bases thereby freeing themselves from their political patrons. This has led some groups to engage in the political process themselves. Armed violence is about access to resources, whether through committing crime, playing on communal tensions, stealing oil, or winning elections.

Nadabo, (2013) opined that; threats to the general peace may range from low-level civil disorder, large scale violence, or even an armed insurgency. Threats to internal security may be directed at either the state's citizens, or the organs and infrastructure of the state itself, and may range from petty crime, serious organised crime, political or industrial unrest, or even domestic terrorism. Foreign powers may also act as a threat to internal security, by either committing or sponsoring terrorism or rebellion, without actually declaring war.

Nabado, (2011) posit that whenever there is a problem there is always the cause but the case becomes a bigger problem when the cause is not just one or two but an accumulation of national problems. Nwanegbo,etal,(2013) observe that our leaders are bad, corrupt, with illiteracy as a factor and many more are all responsible as the causes of insecurity in the country. The crop of leaders in a country contributed so much to the insecurity of a nation today. Unemployment according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) could be seen as 'numbers of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have voluntarily left work' (World Bank 1998:63).

Ezeike, (2011) assert that no nation can be a tourist destination without considering the security of the destination and the tourist. More than other economic activity, the development or lack of progress of a tourism destinations depends on being able to provide security of environment for visitors. Looking at the urgle state of insecurity in the country, couple with the unprecedented trend of activities by the Boko Haram sect, people have viewed it that the industry has not fared well in the last few years due to the insecurity. Similarly, while our African nations like Kenya, South Africa., Egypt and Tanzania have wholeheartedly embraced tourism as veritable means for nation building, many concerned citizens in Nigeria wonder if the Federal Government will be able to provide solutions to the challenges bedeviling the tourism sector's growth.

Sohnen, (2012) says insecurity may displace human capital- creating refugees and migrants, both internal and international. Although evidence on linkages between insecurity and international migration in the region remains mostly undependable, in Mexico, one study estimates that a total of 264,693 Mexicans migrated internally or internationally in direct response to drug related homicides during the 2006-1- period. 66 internal migrations of children and young people may also be linked to violence. The scenario is a big threat to investment in the country especially the hospitality sector that thrives on peaceful environment and free movement of people. Today, most investors in the hospitality industry are shying away from the Plateau state and Abuja despite its being the seat of power, due to insecurity. The development negates the dream of tourism and hospitality becoming a sustainable alternative to crude oil earnings.

The indirect non-monetary losses may include lost investment in human capital and the effects of any psychology harm the victim suffers as the results of the crime. As a result of continuing lower productivity, an individual's earnings may be lower over his or her lifetime. Insecurity incidents at destinations can have very harmful impacts on the hotel sector as a whole if there are dramatic falls in arrival Arshad, (2009) and the financial and less tangible costs to individual properties are acute when they are the scene of the outrage. Hotels have a history of being targeted, some in popular holiday centres and other in trouble states where guests are mainly citizen and foreigners travelling for business or official purposes.

However, Palme (1992:9), states that "there is a correlation between security and survival". Whereas survival is an essential condition, security is viewed as safety, confidence, free from danger, fear, doubt, among others. Therefore, security is „survival-plus' and the word 'plus' could be understood from the standpoint of being able to enjoy some freedom from life- determining threats and some life choices" (Booth, 2007: 15).

Nevertheless, the concept - security, is meaningless without a critical discourse of something pertinent to secure. Indeed, security could best be understood when situated within the context, of a referent object. In the long sweep of human history, the central focus of security has been people (Rothschild, 1995:68). Contrarily, some scholars especially those in international politics have argued that when thinking about security, states should be the most important referents. On the other hand, some analysts have challenged this position by arguing that any intellectual discourse on security should accord priority to human beings since without reference to individual humans, security makes no sense (McSweeney, 1999:127).

Notwithstanding these controversial debates, the focus of this investigation is on micro security. However, micro security deals with the internal security of which Nigeria is currently mired in a state of obfuscation. Therefore, crux of this study is to examine the security challenges in Nigeria and the extent to which the insurgencies of different militia groups as well as the prevailing internal insurrections across the country have adversely affected the Nigerian economy from 2007-2017.

Thus, this is imperative considering the fact that micro security starts with the stabilization of internal security of a given nation state. The essence of this strategy is not only to safeguard the lives of the citizens, but also to achieve the desired economic growth and development in the state. The import of internal security in a state like Nigeria has been carefully articulated by Gbanite (2001): *... when our citizens' right to safety from all kinds of man-made threats are reduced considerably, the government will inherit an increase in foreign investments ... most countries would like a likely trading partner to secure the lives and property of their citizens first before they themselves allow theirs to move into such territories...* To be sure, Nigeria has long been facing severe security challenges prior to 2007. Thus, the internal security challenges in Nigeria since the enthronement of democracy in 1999 has received mixed reactions within and outside the Nigeria's political environment.

However, the increasing spate of ethnic militia in Nigeria and their continuous attacks on both the government and the citizens prior to 2007 partly explains why Akinterinwa (2001) declares:

*... security appointees have failed the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. If we are to judge by the current state of affairs in the country ... Nigeria is in a state of lawlessness. It is a shame when the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice was killed so easily. The aggressive posturing Oadua Peoples Congress (OPC), armed robbery, paid assassins kidnapping of foreigner's, drug trafficking, advanced, free fraud (419), unemployment, high price of commodities ... are realities being faced in the country that require urgent remedies...* (Akinterinwa, 2001).

Furthermore, the security situation between 2009 and 2017 in Nigeria obviously took different dimensions. This period, however, witnessed a consistent pressure on the government by Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MOSSOB), increasing spate of kidnapping in the South - East geo – political zone, incessant bombings in the northern parts of Nigeria by Boko Haram group, Mehem by the Islamic assailants in Jos crisis, politically motivated killings by unscrupulous groups, among others (Ameh, 2008:9).

Boko Haram group has been described by Akinterinwa, (2015) as a serious problem and threat to Nigeria's national stability because of its international linkages to AL Qaeda. In explaining the implications of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national stability Akinterinwa, (2015) posits that the main objective of the Boko Haram is established in Sharia-Compliant Islamic State in Nigeria which its objective is either to carve out an Islamic state out of the present day Nigeria or to totally change the entire Nigerian state into an Islamic state. This according to him will be possible under two conditions. First, there can be a cession of part of national territory and secondly, the name Nigeria may cease to exist (ThisDay, December 13, 2015).

The effect of Boko Haram activities in Africa Sub-Region especially in Nigeria, Cameroun, Niger cannot be overemphasized. Their activities have paralyzed almost all sectors of North Eastern, Nigeria. Terrorism in Nigeria has impeded peace and progressive development in the country. It hinders political development, it affects rapid economic growth and it distorts socio-cultural equilibrium and leads to environmental deterioration.

Furthermore, the Boko Haram group has been described by Akinterinwa, (2015) as a serious problem and threat to Nigeria's national stability because of its international linkages to AL Qaeda. In explaining the implications of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national stability Akinterinwa, (2015) posits that the main objective of the Boko Haram is established in Sharia-Compliant Islamic State in Nigeria which its objective is either to carve out an Islamic state out of the present day Nigeria or to totally change the entire Nigerian state into an Islamic state. This according to him will be possible under two conditions. First, there can be a cession of part of national territory and secondly, the name Nigeria may cease to exist (ThisDay, December 13, 2015).

The actions and impact of terrorist outfit such as Boko Haram cannot be ignored as a destabilizing factor in the country since 2008. However, the challenges of combating terrorism has remained a major challenge to the Nigeria government and by extension the international community this is because modern terrorists activities is dynamic as it has, international dimensions and advanced Technologies are used in perpetrating or carrying out their activities.

Furthermore, one of the negative impacts of the Boko Haram terrorist group on Nigeria's national development was that on 7 February 2015 Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) postponed the elections scheduled 2015 Nigeria's general elections slated for 14 and 28 February by six weeks. This followed the

National Security Advisor and all the Armed Services and Intelligence Chiefs stating that they could not guarantee security of Nigerians for the proposed election days as six weeks was needed to conclude military operations against Boko Haram (EU, 2015).

### **Conclusion**

From the above analysis, all the perspectives of the origin of Boko Haram can be divided into two broad spectrums. One views the problem essentially as internal. The other blames external forces. The former looks at socio-economic factors, as well as deep-seated political, religious differences in the Nigerian society. It also includes vengeance over the death of the sect's leader, Ustaz Muhammed Yussuf. The external forces argument has two planks: one characterizes the problem as part of global Islamic jihad and focuses on the sect's links with international terror groups such as al Qaeda or its affiliates as al Shabaab or the al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, (AQIM); the other views it as conspiratorial – a grand strategy to achieve the predicted disintegration of Nigeria by 2015 the causes of the Boko Haram insurgency ranges from poverty, bad governance, indoctrination, ethnicity, deepen crisis, manipulation among others. One of the implications of the Boko Haram insurgency on Africa's Sub-Regional security is Refugee problems to neighboring countries and cities and its consequences on their own environment; like overpopulation, destruction of their forests, over cultivation and grazing of their lands, social and cultural breakdown, economic cost on the host towns and countries etc. Chad, Benin Republic and the cities closer to Maiduguri will testify better. On the whole, in other to address challenges of insecurity pose by the Boko Haram insurgency, development of professional capacity, the building of trust and a crack team of equipment-led intelligence officers are critical for success.

### **Recommendations**

The Federal Government of Nigeria must address socio-economic deprivation and the severe wealth inequality among its people. Today, ill-equipped and clearly confounded young soldiers are deployed all over the country to deal with civil policing duties that fall outside their charge. Worse still, they are two far and spread tooth in by a military establishment that is constrained to deal with a wider terrain and spree activity, with corresponding increase in overall staff strength. There is also an embarrassing dearth of pre-emptive intelligence, leading to a consistent pattern of post damage responses to national security.

In other to address these challenges, development of professional capacity, the building of trust and a crack team of equipment-led intelligence officers are critical for success. Yet, one issue that has come up in the course of managing the current Boko Haram challenges is the public display of incompetence, apparently driven by an incoherent strategy, by security agencies pretending to be searching for bombs in moving and stationing vehicles. Major highway and street corners are now taken over by checkpoints, manned by Sundry uniform personnel. In every case their task is simple; to stop all motor vehicles and search them for bombs. At least that is what they claim when motorists are stopped. But how many of them know what a contemporary bomb looks like when anything, from the head lamp of a car to the knob of the gear lever, could be a bomb? As Eme (2009, 2010 and 2011) have consistently argued, this is the 21st century. Technology works for the rest of the world in the matter of detecting, and even detonating bombs of all hues. The manual search, ever so incompetently done, and with the unpardonable waste of man hours, is out of date, out of time with the efficiency needs of today's world; and totally limited in its ability to deal with the matter at hand. There is nothing to choose between the manual, time-wasting fondling of personal effects by security personnel at checkpoints and the shopping trolley performance of hotel gatekeepers who have no training whatsoever in these matters.

At its current crossroads, Nigerians have gone beyond the present structure of the police and other security agencies. a complete overhaul of the security agencies should be undertaken.

So much went wrong, landing the government and its agencies in the present quagmire. Mistakes have been made from past official approaches to issues. There is a culture of alienation of the people: the government is doing nothing to properly understand the people, or restore their lost confidence on the government's capability. There is a Yawning gap in the long years of Neglect and failure to consciously and deliberately build effective and operational capacities in the security agencies to combat insurgency. Strategies adopted in confronting the preventing threats have not worked as they ought to. A linked understanding of the scope of problem in all too clear utterances of key government functionaries and security chiefs give them out as

helpless, at best, just as some of the pronouncements could aggravate the situation. The authorities can do with more strategies thinking.

In constructing a strategies agenda to tackle general security problems, the president Buhari lead administration should try wider consultations through leveraging political and cultural establishments. The presidency does not seem to be reaching out enough for advice. It is not too late for him to quietly seek credible elders and leaders of the right who understand the problems on the ground; and deploy them appropriately.

Lastly, it is perhaps time the federal government took bold steps towards streamlining the rations of security agencies and making them more attune to serious intelligence gathering. Without that, foreign direct investment, faith in Nigeria's' democracy and commitment to core national values will be permanently jeopardized by a state of insecurity. The time for the government to act is now.

## References

1. Abubakar, A. (2004), "The Challenges of Security in Nigeria", A Page presented at the NIPSS, Kuru on November 26.
2. Adah, R. (2011), Insecurity in Nigeria: What Hope for the Common Man? Leadership, Tuesday, October, p. 31.
3. Adeyemi K. (2012a) "Boko Haram: Police arrest 180 Chadian Mercenaries", The Nation, Friday 27, pp1, 4.
4. Adibe, J. "Boko Haram: One sect, conflicting narratives." *African Renaissance*, 9(1), 2012.
5. Akinrefon, D. & Oke, G. (August 20, 2007). Why insecurity and democracy don't mix. Vanguard, p. 20.
6. Akinterinwa, B. A. (February 24, 2001). US national security strategy and Nigeria. The Nigerian Voice Newspaper, p. 2.
7. Alozieuwa. H.O.(2015). Contending Theories on Nigeria's Security Challenge in the Era of Boko Haram Insurgency
8. Akor, M.I & Momoh, Z. (2017).The Peril of Piecemeal Approach to Fighting Boko Haram Terrorists in Nigeria. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Vol.4 (4) PP:173-195
9. Akinterinwa, B. (2015) "Bakassi, Biafra, and Boko Haram: The International Linkage and Implication in ThisDay, The Sunday Newspaper December 13, 2015 Vol. 20 No 7536
10. Egburonu, S, et al (2012), "Tension as groups flee over Boko Hram Threats", The Nation on Sunday, January 29, pp 20-22.
11. Eme, O. I. (2004) "Insecurity Question in Nigeria: A Thematic Exposition," *The Academy*, Vol. 4, No. 4,(July) pp. 8-9.
12. Ezeoha, S.L. (2011), "Causes and Effects of Insecurity in Nigeria", The National Scholar, Vol 8; No. 2
13. Emesowum, C.K (2008): Global Terrorism and the New World order Ojinma Atlantica Publishers Ventures.
14. Faleti, A.S. (2006). "Theories of Social Conflict," in Best, G. S (ed). *Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.
15. Golwa, J. and Alozieuwa, S. "Perspectives on Nigeria's Security Challenges: The Niger Delta Militancy and Boko Haram Insurgency Compared." *African Renaissance*, 9 (1), 2012.
16. Momoh, Z. (2013) Political Violence in Nigeria. Jos, Geovany Print
17. Joseph, A. R. (1991). *Democracy and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria: The rise and fall of the Second Republic*. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Ltd, 1991.
18. Ibrahim, J. and Igbuzor, O. (2002) "Memorandum submitted to the Presidential Committee on National Security in Nigeria."
19. Okorie, I. (2011), "Insecurity" Consequences for Investment and Employment, "The Punch, Thursday, September 9, pp37-38.
20. Olorode, O. (2011), "Security Crisis: Implications of National Integration", The National Scholar, Vol 8;No. 2 (November) pp 9-15.
21. Oyeboode, A. (2011), "The Imperative of Security", The National Scholar, Vol 8; No. 2 (November) pp27-29.

22. Uzodike, U.O. and Maiangwa, B. (2012). "Boko Haram Terrorism in Nigeria: Casual Factors and Central problematic." *African Renaissance* 9(1).
23. Nadabo, S. (2013). *Insecurity in Nigeria: causes and resolutions*. Nigeria.
24. Nkechi, O. (2013). Boko Haram and National Security Challenges in Nigeria ; Causes and Solutions, 4(5), 12–24.
25. Nwanegbo, C. J., & Odigbo, J. (2013). Security and National Development in Nigeria: The Threat of Boko Haram Security and Development: Conceptual Explanations, 3(4), 285–291.
26. Ezeobi, C. (November 6, 2009'. Confusion as police arrest 3 over kidnap. *This day Newspaper* p. 47.
27. Fanoro, A. (July 2, 2009). Nigeria's national security in an age of anxiety. *The Guardian Newspaper*, p. 7.
28. Gbanite, M. (January 8, 2001). National Security and intelligence in Nigeria under democracy: The way forward. *Next News*, p. 4.
29. Human. Right Watch Report (July 10, 2010). Islamic assailants kill hundreds of Christians near Jos, Nigeria. *Isine*, 1. (August 3, 2007). Militancy: Bayelsa State asked FG to be of up security in Niger Delta. *Vanguard Newspaper*, p. 8.
30. Lake, D. (2001). "Beyond anarchy: The importance of security institutions". *International Security*, 26(1), 129-160. Leon, D. A. & Walt, G. (2001). *Poverty, inequality, and health: An International Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press.
31. McSweeney, B. (1999). *Security, identity and interests: Asociology of international relations*. London: Cambridge University Press.
32. William, P. D. (2008). *Security studies: An introduction* (ed.). New York
33. [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)