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**EFFECTS OF TERRORISM ON NIGERIA'S NATIONAL
SECURITY**

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ABSTRACT

For any nation to achieve development and national security all sectors must be at optimum levels of operations. Terrorism in the recent past has been a menace to society. This has been in operation in foreign lands but today is on the increase in Nigeria. The major thrust of this paper is to find out whether and how terrorism has affected Nigeria's national security. The method adopted for this study is survey design. Questionnaires were administered and relevant data generated from responses. On the premise of the findings of this research, this study concludes that terrorism has negative effects on Nigeria's national security. The study therefore, recommends modernization and harmonization of intelligence gathering mechanisms in Nigeria, placement of structures of good governance as well as a reorientation of Nigeria towards participating in voting activities and intelligence gathering.

KEY WORDS: *Terrorism, National Security, Boko Haram, Nigeria*

INTRODUCTION

The nature and composition of a state is key to understanding the origin of crisis within it. When the state in this case Nigeria is unstable, there remains the likelihood for a sustained crisis leading to instability. The return of Nigeria to shaky democracy handed over by the military in 1999 after a long stance in government has had unexpected consequences of heightening ethnic, religious and other forms of socio-political tension. This has led to springing up of terrorist groups that propagate values, demand basic rights through force instead of dialogue, with the emergence of these groups and deep divide, their intolerance has become more violent with more devastating results (Bashiru, 2016). Terrorism remains a dreaded form of aggression against humanity at different times from time in memorial to the era of civilization. Human race has suffered several types of violence and terrorism which is one of the most unlawful and remains the oldest type of violent behaviour used by individuals or the state and society in general. (Langvevr2007). In Nigeria today, terrorism is considered a very dangerous phenomenon which is at variant with the values and norms of the Nigerian society. As it remains clearly a violation of criminal laws thereby demeaning moral values of society.

Northern Nigeria, overtime, has been affected by ethno-religious conflicts but at no time had it reached the stage it has reached at present. The northern part of Nigeria suffers from a mix of economic malaise and contentions, community based distribution of public resources. Terrorism which started in the north as a social defect peculiar to the north has spilt to remaining parts of the country and beyond.

Due to terrorist activities, Nigerians are unsafe and live in fear. Nigerians have been affected socially, economically as the cost of maintenance of security has taken an upward tide.

The objectives of the study are to establish the effects of terrorism (Boko Haram) on Nigeria's National Security and to observe the relationship between terrorism and Nigeria's National Security.

It is against this backdrop that this paper investigates the effects of terrorism on Nigeria's national security. The major questions here are:

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. Has terrorism affected Nigeria's national security?
- ii. Is there a link between terrorism and Nigeria's National Security?

Research Proposition

Terrorist activities could have effects on Nigeria's national security.

CONCEPTUAL

CLARIFICATIONS/ANALYSIS

Terrorism: Terrorism as a term seems a bit difficult to define as several scholars have tried depending on

how they view it. To Bozimo (2010) terrorism is a calculated use of violence and non-violence or threat of both to intimidate to oppress and suppress people into submission, usually for the purposes of achieving certain goals. Crensham (2009) observes that the concept terrorism, is subjective and pejorative, due to the conditions that push persons to engage in terrorist activities. He notes that terrorism is any act that is intended to cause death or severe bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when such purposes or act by nature is to intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing an act.

Terrorism according to Pasquino, (1987) is series of acts intended to spread intimidation, panic and destruction in a population. These acts can be carried out by individuals and groups opposing a state, or acting on its behalf. The amount of violence is often disproportionate, apparently random and deliberately symbolic to hit a target which has intention of conveying a message with the goal of awaking the public to perceived injustice.

According to Hughes and Kroehler (2008) the U.S Department of State defines terrorism as "premeditated" politically motivated violence, perpetrated against non-combatant targets by substantial groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of government by intimidation or coercion or to affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping. Furthermore, to Yinusa and Adeoye in Salihuet *et al* (Eds) (2008) "Terrorism as a concept is an immensely complex phenomenon that portrays different perceptions. Terrorism includes different kinds of activities, such as assassination, murder, kidnapping, sabotage/vandalism, arson, biochemical attacks, exotic pollution, rail derailment, violation of diplomatic immunity, ambush/barricade arms smuggling, among other opprobrious acts of crimes and violence.

NATIONAL SECURITY

National security remains a fundamental function of any responsible government. Security in general is peoples relative feeling of being secure from economic, political, social cultural and psychological fear. Insecurity is peoples relative feeling of the presence of economic, political, social cultural and psychological fear. Among these, economic insecurity is very important since it has to do with absence of jobs, basic health care, access to education and various long term needs of various people in society. When these do not exist citizens are insecure, this is in turn detrimental to human existence (Booth, 2007). To Williams (2008) security as an essential concept is commonly associated alleviation of threats to cherished

values, especially those that have to do with survival of individuals, groups or objects. Therefore, security involves the ability to persevere cherished political and social ambitions. On the other hand, to Elaigwu (2013) security is the ability of a state to ward off all forms of threats external to its survival these include internal stability and predictability of the system.

National security as a concept once meant military power consisting of defence, prosecution of war, disposition of armed forces nuclear weapons, activities of securities and intelligence services. National security is to safeguard national values (Okechukwu and Ogochukwu, 2018) on the other hand Babaginda (2011) sees national security as the physical defence and protection of citizens as well as promotion of economic wellbeing and prosperity of citizens that in turn promotes attainment of national interest. Arisa (2011) categorises national security in terms of protection to the social sector, food sector, environmental sector and technological sector. At this point it is important to note that national security cannot be narrowed down to defence and military might alone, but also the ability of the state to overcome all forms of challenges through provision of food, water, good health and shelter to its citizens (Abubakar, 2005).

It is important to note that National Security consists of military national security which entails the readiness of the country's security organizations ability to protect the territorial integrity of the nation through military equipment and from external aggression and non-military national security which entails infrastructural development, poverty reduction, employment opportunities, provision of healthcare facilities, educational advancement, employment opportunities as well as investment opportunities. When military national security exists and non-military national security does not exist or vice versa as the case may be the country has not attained national security. Both of them must be in existence at all times before a nation state can be said to have attained national security (Orkar, 2018).

OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA AND THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

No nation state Nigeria inclusive is free from acts of terrorism. It is a known fact that Nigeria is engulfed with issues of terrorism and other security challenges. In the oil rich Niger-delta area series of acts of terrorism exists in the area, while in the south east part of the country, kidnapping is a lucrative business. (Ayegba, 2016). Since the return of Nigeria to a democratic era, the country has had series of terrorist attacks of all sorts from kidnapping to hostage taking to oil pipe vandalism these are different shades of terrorist activities. Several terrorist activities which

have shaken the Nigerian state in the recent past include:

- The Niger-Delta insurgency/militancy for recourses control from 1999 – till date
- Matatsine riot which ignited an orgy of violence between Christians and Moslems in Kano and other parts of the northern states from 1980 to 1985.
- A communal feud between Katafs and Hausas with the dimension of inter religious war between Muslims and Christians in Kaduna in 1992
- Muslims-Christians religious violence arising from Sharia implementation in Northern States of Nigeria in 2000.
- Ethnic clash between Tivs and Jukums/Fulani in 2001
- Jos political differences between Christians Natives and settler communities made up of Hausa-Fulani which has assumed religious dimension from 2001-till date.
- The orgy of violence bomb blasts and hostage taking by a sect of Muslims which is tagged Boko Haram which further ignited ethno-religious tension with terrorist dimension.

(News watch magazine November 2nd 2009)

Other terrorist attacks in Nigeria include attacks by suspected Fulani herdsmen on indigenes of Plateau state in 2018, attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen on indigenes and the farming communities of Benue, Nasarawa, Zamfara, Sokoto and other northern states.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA

The first terrorist activity attempted in Nigeria was by the movement to liberate the Niger Deltas. It was led by Major Isaac Jasper Adaho Boro February 23, 1965 he led a rebellion against the federal government due to perceived exploitation and disregard of the Niger/Delta region which was and still remains a major source of Nigeria's revenue (Egboe, et al, 2015). Also, another case of terrorism in Nigeria was an attempt by Biafransto secede from Nigeria. Their reason was they perceived that they were being marginalized. This action was led by Colone IOdimegwu Ochuhwumeha Ojokwu. He declared the Republic of Biafra in 27, May, 1967. This act of terrorism and sabotage led to a brutal war known as the civil war (Ibid). Many years later, another action was led by Ken SaroWiwa against the Federal Government and multi-national companies, the leader Ken SaroWiwa was killed which led to more security action leading to the death of many Ateke Tom and Alhaji Asari Dokobo declared war on the Federal Government as kidnapping of foreigners and hostage taking became that order of the day in the region

popularly known as the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria (Egbue et al, 2015).

In present day Nigeria, security challenges are being experienced by the dreaded Boko-Haram terrorist group. This terrorist group emerged in north-eastern part of Nigeria basically as a Islamic fundamentalist group with the intention of preaching and practicing Islamic law and injunctions and has diverted into terrorist activities with bombing of schools, market places, motor parks, public buildings at will. The group has gone as far as detonating bombs at the police force headquarters which is hitherto the seat of police power and have the courage to bomb the United Nations building in Abuja. This is a serious diplomatic blunder on the Nigerian government. The group is accused of having ties with the Al Qaeda – terrorist group. The Boko Haram terrorist group which means in Hausa Western education is forbidden was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 (Chothia,

2015). The sect had the aim of creating an Islamic state founded on Sharia law in Nigeria. The major aim was to topple the Nigerian government, establish Sharia law all over Nigeria and eradicate all western influence in Nigeria and replace them with Islamic culture. This was a form of a pressure group (Boyle, 2009). After unleashing mayhem on the government and security forces there was a clash which left many dead. The leader Mohammed Yusuf was killed and his deputy AbubakarShekau took over. The sect under this new leader became more deadly and practiced several forms of terrorism. They explored the use of explosives, bombs and embarked on serious killings and destruction of lives and property (Kwaghe, 2017).

This group operates in mainly in the north-east but its effects are felt all over the Nigerian state.

LIST OF BOKO HARAM ATTACKS IN NIGERIA

S/N	Place of attack	Date
1	Attack on Potiskum Yobe State divisional Headquarters, three policemen and five service officers killed	July 27, 2009
2	Bauchi Central Prison set ablaze and members of Boko Haram freed	September 8, 2010
3	Boko Haram operation in the northern part of Jos, Plateau state. this led to death of 300 people	March 13, 2010
4	Explosions near Eagle Square, Abuja claimed 12 lives leaving many injured	October 1 2010
5	A bomb attack in Barkin Ladi, Plateau State killed eight people	December 29, 2010
6	Explosion at Mogadishu Mammy Market, Abuja claimed 10 lives	December 31, 2010
7	Alhaji Modo Gobia, brother to former governor attacked and killed along six people in Maiduguri	January 21, 2011
8	Boko Haram terrorist killed two policemen attached to divisional police office. Rigasa Kaduna state.	March 2, 2011
9	Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe state exploded and killed a police officer	March 30, 2011
10	Bomb at INEC office in Suleija, Niger state, claimed lives of eight corp members and the suicide bomber	April 8, 2011
11	Bomb exploded at polling unit in Ungumar Doki, Maiduguri Borno state killing the suicide bomber	April 9, 2011
12	Many people killed and scores injured in bomb attack	April 20, 2011
13	Army barracks in Bauchi bombed	April 29, 2011
14	Three policemen killed and two soldiers injured in bomb attack	May 19, 2011
15	Explosion at mammy market of Shadawanka Barracks in Bauchi state claimed lives and left many injured	May 29, 2011
16	Bombs exploded early morning in Baga road Maiduguri Borno state 13 people dead and 40 injured	May 30, 2011
17	Nigerian Police Headquarters, Abuja bombed by a suspected suicide bomber three killed and many vehicles damaged	June 16, 2011
18	Four children killed in bomb blast at Damboa town, Maiduguri, Borno state	June 16, 2011
19	Seven policemen killed when Boko Haram stormed Kankara police station in Katsina state and two police officers guarding a bank nearby were also killed	June 20, 2011
20	Clash with Boko Haram and military left 31 people dead in Maiduguri, Borno state. in Suleija Niger state a bomb targeted at a church killed four and left others injured	July 9, 2011
21	Tragic explosion in public seat out in Kaduna state	July 11, 2011
22	Boko Haram three explosive device on a moving patrol vehicle claiming 5 lives	July 12, 2011
23	Explosive in Maiduguri injured five people	July 15, 2011
24	Explosion close to the palace of Shehu of Borno in killing 3 people	July 23, 2011
25	Bomb explosion near palace of a traditional ruler in Maiduguri claiming 8 lives	July 25, 2011
26	Terrorist kill four policemen, one soldier and seven civilians carting away with undisclosed sum of money in a bank robbery	August 25, 2011
27	Suicide bomber drove into the United Nations building in Abuja 23 killed and 60 injured	August 26, 2011
28	Seven people including four policemen killed during a bomb attack on police station in Misau, Bauchi state	September 12, 2012
29	Sect members injured four soldiers in an attack in Maiduguri after arrest of 15 sect members during raid on, Boko Haram hide outs in Bauchi state	September 13, 2012
30	Younger brother of Slain Boko Haram leader shot dead at his house	September 17, 2011
31	Boko Haram attacked Baga Market in Maiduguri and killed three people	October 3, 2011

32	Seven people killed in attacks by terrorist in Geidam, Yobe state	November 27, 2012
33	Three members of BokoHaram killed by suicide bombing in Shumari, Maiduguri, Borno state	December, 2011
34	80 people killed in bombing Jos, Plateau state	December 27, 2011
35	About 50 people killed on Christmas day bombing in Madalla, Niger state	December 24, 2011
36	Seven killed in Maiduguri Borno state	December 30, 2011
37	17 people killed in Apostolic Church Yola Adamawa state	January 6, 2012
38	About 250 people killed in multiple attacks in Kano state	January 20, 2012
39	Two churches destroyed in Bauchi state, two military personnel a police D.P.O and eight civilians killed 6, gunmen at headquarters TafawaBalewa Local Government Area in Bauchi	January 22, 2013
40	Sabon-Gari area of Kano state witness another explosion, many injured as luxury buses were damaged in explosion.	January 26, 2012
41	Suicide bombing by Boko Haram terrorist at army headquarters, Kaduna	February 8, 2012
42	Prison break and 119 prisoners killed one warder released	February 16, 2012
43	BokoHaram terrorist kidnap 234 girls at Government Secondary School Chibok, Borno state	April 14, 2012
44	BokoHaram terrorist kidnap 110 school girls at Dapchi, Yobe State	February 19, 2018

Source: Tell Magazine, February 6th, 2012, Premium Times April 21, 2014 and [www.http://en.m.wikipedia.org>wikizdapchi](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/dapchi)

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS/Framework Frustration – Aggression Theory

Proponents of this theory are John Dollard, Leonard Berhomite and Aubreg Yates 1939 and 1962 respectively. Theorists who rely on this explanation use psychological theories of motivation and behaviour. Their theories appear to be the most common explanation for violent behaviour stemming from inability to fulfill needs. Humans expect a lot from society and in reality deserve much. Where expectation does not meet attainment, there is a tendency for people to confront those they hold responsible for frustrating their ambitions (Faleti, 2006).

The main explanation the frustration-aggression theory provides is that aggression is not just undertaken as a natural reaction or instinct, it is the outcome of frustration, a situation where legitimate desires of an individual is denied either by direct consequence of the way society is structured. The feeling of disappointment and helplessness may lead such a person to express his anger through violence to those he holds responsible or people directly or indirectly related to them. (Faleti, 2006). In Nigeria today, poverty unemployment and other negative vices loom, meanwhile Nigeria is rich and blessed with both human and natural resources, despite this hunger poverty and unemployment have taken the centre stage as Nigeria today is described as headquarters of poverty. Based on this, frustrated Nigerians become angry with the government since corruption is at the

peak causing hunger, unemployment, poverty etc. Frustrated Nigerians become violent an attack objects to attract attention of government to their cause.

In the Niger Delta after waiting and agitating peacefully for what the people of the region feel is their right which is a fair share of oil wealth exploited from their land, restive youths take the law in their hands as they vandalize pipelines, kidnap oil workers for ransom and create general problems leading to insecurity in the region and entire country as a whole.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study area of this research is North East Nigeria. The north east states are made up of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi and Taraba. The North East region in Nigeria is made up of porous unarmed borders of more than 100,000sqkm bordering Cameroun, Chad and Niger. These countries have proliferated weapons from conflicts in Sudan, Libya, Mali and Central African Republic. (Alaku and Nwankwo, 2017). However, the chosen states of study for this paper within the north east are, Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. These states have seen heavily attacked by Boko Haram (ACCAPS, 2016). The Borno state has a population of 4,151,193, Yobestate has a population of 2,321,339 while Adamawa state has a population of 3,168,100 (NBC, 2008).

Sample Size Determination

Sample size for this research was calculated at 94%. The statistical formula Taro Yamane was used to determine the sample size of the human population of

the study. This formula was relevant since the population size was known formula

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where

n = Sample size

N = Total population

e = acceptable error link or margin error

Thus;

$$n = 9640663$$

$$e = 4\% = 0.04$$

$$(e)^2 = 0.0016$$

$$n = 9640663 = \frac{9640663}{1+964663(0.0016)}$$

$$n = \frac{9640663}{1+15425.0608}$$

$$n = \frac{1.154250608}{9640663}$$

$$n = \frac{15426.0608}{9640663}$$

$$n = \therefore = 624$$

n = 600 (rounded)

The sample size was rounded to 600 thereby have 200 per state for equal representation. The 4% choice for margin error was to enhance the reliability of the outcome of the findings.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument for data collection was questionnaires. The questionnaire comprised both open and closed ended questions. A total of 600 copies of the questionnaire were administered, however, 577 were returned making a success rate of 97.5%.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

This research used simple percentages to answer the research question as well as to prove or disprove the proposition.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Percentage on Boko Haram Activities and Effects on Nigeria’s National Security

Responses	Frequency	Percentages %
SA	264	45.6
A	189	32.6
D	94	16.2
SD	32	5.5
Total	579	100

Source: Field Survey 2018

The table above reveals that out of 579 respondents that answered the questions, majority of 264 representing (45.6%) strongly agree that Boko Haram activities have affected Nigeria’s National Security, while 189 respondents representing (32.6%) also agree that Boko Haram activities have affected Nigeria’s National Security. 94 respondents representing (16.2%) disagree and 32 respondents representing (3.5%) strongly disagree that Boko Haram activities have affected Nigeria’s National Security. The implication of the results from this study thereby implies that Boko Haram activities have affected Nigeria’s National Security. This is because the simple percentage reveals that the total respondents who agreed summed up to 78.2%. Thereby the proposition of this result paper has been proved or accepted that terrorist activities have affected Nigeria’s National Security in agreement with Adebajoh, Ojua and Okorie (2017) who observe that capital flight has been encouraged as many foreign investors are reluctant to come and invest in Nigeria, even those who had investments in Nigeria have relocated to other countries. Furthermore, property worth billions have been destroyed bringing businesses to a standstill thereby increasing unemployment, crime and poverty. This as a contributing factor, has placed Nigeria on its current global poverty headquarters. In the aspect of food security which is a very integral part of national security. Agricultural productivity is at a low ebbs many farmers in the northern part of the country have

abandoned their farms, for fear of attack as farmers have run away from their farms moving outside farming areas thereby leaving nobody to attend to their farms, this has brought about low yields in agricultural productivity thereby affecting food availability and accessibility as food supply chains to other parts of the country have also been broken. (Awodola and Agyeno, 2015). Further in agreement with the findings of this study Stephen and Orokpo (2016) note that due to fear of attacks from terrorist, governments and organizations are compelled to expand huge sums of money to develop anti-terror infrastructure and upgrade on security apparatus. This is very capital intensive as such funds could otherwise be used for more benefits of uplifting members of society as budgets for defence and security unavoidably on the increase.

In agreement, Olademeji and Orensanwo (2014) report that the direct economic costs of terrorism including destruction of lives and property is overbearing as emergency responses, restoration and habitation are expensive. Furthermore, costs of terrorism have slowed down Nigeria’s infrastructural development as monies meant for developmental products are used to fight terrorism. Education and literacy are very important aspects of national security. Terrorist activities have led to the closure of schools as parents don’t feel safe sending their wards to school, teachers are no longer available as they have fled their duty posts due to insecurity. School buildings are destroyed by bombs as infrastructure is on the decline,

physiologically; students are no longer in the mood as they are already disadvantaged educationally. (Kwaghe, 2015). In his report Ajaebilli (2011) opines that terrorist activities in Nigeria speaks volumes globally as the social menace has further battered Nigeria's image abroad as many foreign countries have withdrawn their operations to Nigeria due to insecurity further affecting Nigeria's National Security since cooperation among nation states is needed to attain a positive level of national security.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

This research paper set out to find out if there was an existing relationship between terrorism and Nigeria's national security and whether terrorism has any effects on Nigeria's national security. The paper has been able to establish the fact through empirical evidence that there is an existing relationship between terrorism and Nigeria's national security. Furthermore, this research paper has been able to establish the fact that terrorism has negative effects on Nigeria's national security.

Based on the findings of this paper recommendations are: The need for modernization of intelligence gathering mechanisms so as to be able to forestall terrorist attacks before they are executed as well as the harmonization and collaboration of intelligence reports by the various security organizations that exists in Nigeria that is the armed forces, the Nigerian police and the state security services.

The issue of good governance also comes to play since with the emergence of good governance there will be no place for terrorist activities to thrive. Issues of good governance that immediately come to play are zero tolerance to corruption as well as genuine development policies that have the interest on the generality of the people.

The citizens need to be given good orientation by the National orientation agency towards voting credible citizens into positions of authority with a view to having citizens in authority that have welfare of the generality of the people in mind.

Further studies can be carried out by narrowing how terrorism has affected Nigeria's national security sectorial and specifically, rather than on a general note as this research study is quite broad on Nigeria's national security.

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