

**GOMBE JOURNAL OF ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT (GJAM)**

Vol. 5 No. 1

Print ISSN: 2705-3407

Online ISSN: 2714-2442

May, 2023

THE BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY AND NIGERIAN-NIGER RELATIONS: AN ASSESSMENT OF BORDER SECURITY PARTNERSHIP

Daniel Wununyatu¹, Abdullahi Liman² & Jideofor Adibe³

¹Department of Political Science, Federal University Wukari, Nigeria.

^{1&2}Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University Keffi, Nigeria.

dawunny2@gmail.com¹, danieln@fuwukari.edu.ng¹

abdullahi.liman@nsuk.edu.ng² jideofora@nsuk.edu.ng³

Abstract

The study interrogates the impact of the Boko Haram Insurgency on the content of Nigerian-Niger Relations with the sole objective to examine the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on Nigeria-Niger border security relations. This is geared towards examining the extent to which the Boko Haram insurgency impacted on Nigeria-Niger border security partnership. The population of the study was 10,395 and a sample of 400, was used for the study via Taro Yamane's (1967) formula. Data were generated from both primary and secondary sources. A questionnaire was used to collect primary data. The collected data were analysed using descriptive statistical analysis in the form of frequency distribution and simple percentages. The research adopted the System as its framework of analysis. The findings revealed that the inability to establish a solid institutional framework to regulate their relations has resulted in a security dilemma and consequential spillover effect on border security. Again, the Boko Haram insurgency has heightened Nigeria and Niger's security partnership via joint border patrols. The study also revealed that Nigeria and Niger signed a defence pact in Niger's capital, Niamey, establishing joint border patrols along their 930-mile border. Thus, Boko Haram activities compelled the government of Niger to actively participate in containing the activities of the Boko Haram insurgency. The study, therefore, recommends among others that Nigeria and the Niger Republic should adopt a perpetual joint military operation strategy as a formal modality not only as a means to restrain the Boko Haram threat thus, creating a pre-emptive mechanism to checkmate irregularities and sanity of the borders.

Key Words: Boko Haram, Insurgency, Nigeria-Niger, Border Security Partnership, Security Agencies.

Introduction

The most dreaded and challenging issue in West Africa in the 21st century is the phenomena of insurgents' activities in different countries of the sub-region. West African countries have experienced relatively high levels of insurgency. No wonder, Ogbaji, (2012) posits that the world of the 21st century, in which we are today, is more precarious, unpredictable, and dangerous than at any other time in the history of mankind, the spectre of insurgency is haunting the world. The times have changed throughout the world as a result of the activities of people who willingly destroy, harm and kill to score political and social goals. Insurgency, the latest architect of insecurity with overt and covert activities has threatened the very foundation of the sub-region (Thurston, 2016).

Presently, Nigeria has been grappling with the daunting challenges posed by the Boko Haram insurgency. The targets of its attacks have remained government institutions, security agencies, moderate Muslims, non-Muslims (thought to be responsible for social, economic and political misfortune against the northern part of the country) certain clerics, churches, Christian businesses, and relaxation centres. Added to the list are media houses and tertiary institutions (Olu, 2012). The sect has killed no fewer than 9352 people since it launched an uprising in 2009. Between January and May 2012, hundreds of lives were lost to the insurgency. The group was alleged to have carried out more than 115 separate attacks in the Northern part of the country in 2011 alone (Joseph, 2015). Ediba (2018) stated that between July 27, 2009 and February 17, 2016, the dreaded Boko Haram insurgents had launched up to 93 attacks in which more than six thousand people were killed and thousands seriously injured.

The operation of Boko Haram has moved from the sphere of domestic or internal politics to the international domain. Onuoha (2014) observed that the violent upsurge of Boko Haram not only poses a serious threat to internal security in Nigeria but also threatens stability in West Africa. The foregoing

demonstrates that Boko Haram has grown to become the biggest security challenge facing Nigeria, its neighbours and the entire West African sub-region. In Niger's eastern Diffa region, there were several violent attacks by Boko Haram members on army patrol (Onouha, 2014). These cross-border attacks reveal a web of an originally Nigerian-based insurgency and how it has become a vector of insecurity in the neighbouring countries, especially Niger (Onouha, 2014).

Nigeria maintains close relations with the Republic of Niger because both countries share a large Hausa population on each side of their 450-mile (1500km) border. Nigeria and Niger Republic shared a common land border and have engaged in relations which predate colonial balkanization of the African continent. The two countries exhibited weak security apparatus at their borders and a lack of effective security communications among the security agents at the borders. The forgoing constitutes what is known as a fragile security framework, this has persisted between the two countries, especially in the densely populated areas of Northern Nigeria and Southern Niger Republic. The two countries have been unable to translate their common land border proximity into solid trans-border security cooperation and people across these boundaries and movements across the border remain unhindered. Consequently, the fragility of the Nigeria-Niger security network has allowed for unhindered movements across the border and illegal activities across the two countries. These include; armed bandits, drugs, illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons/ammunitions and human beings. It is against this backdrop that this study is set to examine the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on Nigeria-Niger border security relations.

Conceptual Clarification

Boko Haram Insurgency

Boko Haram derives its name from one of Nigeria's major languages Hausa and literally, it means 'Western education is forbidden'. It is generally now used as a name for an Islamic religious sect known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad which is an Arabic word for "people who are committed to the propagation of the teachings of prophet Mohammad (Peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him) and Jihad". The term is specifically employed to describe the basic contention of the group which is that Western civilization as represented by its secular education is a sin and therefore forbidden to adherents of the Islamic religion. As a sect that is against a constituted authority, Boko Haram represents a typical insurgent organization. Onouha (2014) opined that Boko Haram (BH), meaning Western education is forbidden, an Islamist militant insurgent group based in north-eastern Nigeria, has been carrying out armed attacks on civilian populations since 2011. This perspective sees Boko Haram as a religious militant insurgent group. In their view, Onouha (2014) added, Boko Haram is seeking to establish an Islamic state with strict adherence to Shariah (Islamic law) in the economically marginalized northeastern states. This implies that Boko Haram is domiciled in the northeast of the Nigerian state. Aghedo, Iro, and Oarhe (2014) see Boko Haram as an unofficial name for the radical Islamic sect that began its activities in Nigeria in 2009, although its origin can be traced to the formation of a group called Sahaba in 1995 headed by Abubakar Lawan. On the foregoing, Boko Haram assumed the position of a sect that employs a violent method to un-ease the Nigerian state. Aghedo, Iro, & Oarhe further traced the origin of Boko Haram from 1995 to 2000. However, they seem to agree that religious connotation is embedded in Boko Haram. Thus, this affirms the status of Boko Haram as a sect. Aghedo, Iro, & Oarhe (2014) further unravel that the official name of Boko Haram is Jama'atuAhl as-SunnahLidda'awatihwa-Jihad (in Arabic) and translated to means people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teaching and Jihad. It is apt to note that the ideology of the sect is opposed to western education and culture which they see as a threat to traditional values, beliefs and customs among Muslim communities in Northern Nigeria. On the contrary, JHAP (2014) designates Boko Haram as an insurgent group. Affirming their position, the Nigerian government declared that the ongoing armed confrontation between Nigerian security forces and the Boko Haram insurgents in the North Eastern region of the country is not a civil war but a fight against terrorism. Thus, Boko Haram is an insurgent group and as well as that adopts various methods to establish an Islamic state where its value system will not be jeopardized by any Western culture and teaching.

Insurgency

African society today is described as the home of insurgency, and the sanctuary of insurgents. Despite this conclusion, little is known about the true meaning and unique attributes of the concept by its users. Thus, Thomas (2009, p.12) posits that insurgency is "an organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict". Thus, it could be inferred that insurgency is an organized venture with a defined aim to achieve. As observed by Manual (1986) and Joel (1998) cited in Ford (2007), insurgency movements traditionally find their roots in a desire for social and/or political change, and they utilize guerrilla warfare to accomplish their goals. Insurgencies converse internally from leader to leader, leader to fighter, fighter to fighter, and externally to civilians and the international community. Mustafa (2016) notes that insurgency has existed throughout antiquity but ebbed and flowed in strategic significance, this implies that is not unique to Africa as some conceived, rather it is a wild wind that cut across human society and civilizations. Insurgency according to Mustafa (2016) "is a strategy adopted by groups which cannot attain their political objectives through conventional means or by a quick seizure of power. It is used by those too weak to do otherwise". They further describe the attribute of insurgency as protracted, asymmetric violence, ambiguity, the use of complex terrain (jungles, mountains, and urban areas), psychological warfare, and political mobilization—all designed to protect the insurgents and eventually alter the balance of power in their favour. However, it is apt to note that insurgencies differ across time and regions but most follow a common life sequence. Krepinevich in Drew (2001) maintains that an insurgency is nothing more than an armed revolution against the established political order. It is apt to note that insurgencies are domestic affairs--unless in some cases the role of one or both sides is co-opted by an intervening power. It is thus informative that the act of insurgency remains the same from time immemorial; they only change in name and time and most of the reasons often time given were on the ground of political agitation or dissatisfaction from a group of the citizen against the state

Border Security

Border security is the control of the cross-border movement of people with the main goal of reducing illegal flows and not (unduly) limiting legal flows (Predd, Davis & Brown, 2010). Nelson, Conley, Schaffer, Bodurian, Krauit, Cipolette & Walker (2010) defined border security as "managing the flow of people, goods, and other tangible items across national boundaries." Okumu (2011) views that generally, border security includes:

- a. Geophysical control of a boundary through patrol by the military or special border patrol protection force.
- b. Immigration by internally enforcing laws.
- c. Migration by controlling the transnational movement of people.
- d. Enhancing enforcement of the immigration and migration law by asking questions that assist in screening people using the border
- e. Enhancing inspections through searches to ensure that harmful products or individuals do not enter a country Enhancing management of institutions and systems that contribute to border security
- f. Detecting and preventing criminals and illegal persons, goods, drugs and weapons as well as other prohibited items, from entering a country.

Here we refer to border security as the state of protecting the country against any illegal Cross-border flows like illegal drugs, illegal migration, illegal arms etc. that pose a threat to the survival of a state. In other words, border security means the prevention of illegal movement of goods and persons across borders, which can pose a threat to national security and development. Thus, Border security includes controls on the movement of people and goods across borders, as well as the prevention of unlawful interference in maritime navigation and international cargo movement. Maintaining secure maritime borders and policing sea and coastal areas requires a high level of technical capacity and

resources to effectively patrol vast marine spaces and maintain a presence at physical borders and checkpoints.

Literature Review

Border security has come to assume heightened importance in the world today as the rate of criminal and insurgent activities has also increased in scale, especially since the end of the Cold War and the wake of globalization. The component of a state includes a territorial border - the sovereignty over a territory which is only achievable through a defined border. International borders which define the legal limits of a country could be partially or fully controlled and may be crossed legally only at designated border checkpoints. Ultimately security of borders and their management constitute a major factor in dealing with national security challenges such as arms smuggling and any related crime (Olusegun, 2017). Commonly, border permeability is considered one of the causes of the security challenges countries face. Contributing to the debate on porous borders and the security risk they constitute, Aduloji, et al, (2014) identify the inability of concerned governments to exercise strict control and authority over their borders as part of the main causes of the security dilemma in West Africa. The sub-region is classified by Aduloju, et al, (2014) as composed of weak and failing states that are offering sanctuary for terrorist movements from within and outside the continent. Consequently, James (2012) opines that the porous nature of the Nigeria-Niger border paves the way for smuggling, trafficking and movement of arms and ammunition that occurs between the two countries and infiltration by religious fundamentalists concerns these countries on a growing basis. Nigeria's security relations with Niger are no doubt the function of developments and activities along the Nigeria-Niger border such as crimes and smuggling of arms. James (2012) simply outline the nature and character of the Nigeria-Niger border but fail to proffer adequate solution on how the identified challenges could be ameliorated and also fail to demonstrate how the common customs, language and religious romance between Nigeria-Niger can impact negatively.

Border security in its entire ramifications is a core value that a country's foreign policy serves (Victor, 2011). In the case of Nigeria-Niger is guided by a policy of good neighbourliness. This was informed by Nigerian negative experience of the Civil War 'sharpened Nigeria's perception of national security and survival and the importance of good neighbours thus, Nigerian leaders' recognition of this fact was immediately translated into an improved and closer relationship' with adjacent neighbours immediately after the end of the Civil War (Fawole, 2003). These scholars; Victor (2011), Fawole (2003), Comolli (2015) and the preceding studies have not shown in any way if the Nigeria-Niger border security relation was motivated by the Boko Haram insurgency. Hence, border security between the two countries is maintained by the policy of good neighbourliness. This is with the view to make Nigeria-Niger "safe" friends to help reinforce boundary claims and protect the human rights of Nigerian citizens who are migrant workers and stabilize relations with its immediate neighbouring countries. Victor (2011) buttressed further that, the intensity of cross-border crimes like smuggling and illicit drug in West Africa has serious implications for Nigeria-Niger relations. The author advanced further that, there is a new policy consciousness between Nigeria-Niger on how best to manage threats between them. This official policy consciousness response ranges from unilateral actions to cooperation enforcement to promote cooperation towards ensuring the security of their borders which has led to the arrest of dozens of bandits along the borders. Adedoyin (2006) rightly observed that Niger borders Nigeria in the northwestern part of the country. The author maintained that though there are no geographical obstacles between the Niger Republic and Nigeria yet, the two countries had not in the past resorted to the use of arms in settling border disputes. In particular, the point could be made that Nigerien refugees have flooded Nigeria and coupled with their Chadian counterparts, have turned the Northern highways into killing zones. Sophisticated weapons such as submachine guns and Barretta rifles, bows and arrows are being used to perpetuate these violent acts.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the system theory. Systems theory attempts to explain and provide an understanding of systems. Obi asserted that the system theory came into being in the 1950s (Obi, 2006). Its underlying assumption is that there is order in our system of international relations. It sees nations as being in constant contact in an intricate framework of relationships resulting from the process of interaction. According to this theory, every nation is involved in some degree of participation in the international environment. A nation's behaviour according to the theory is a two-way activity of taking from and giving to the international environment. It is this process of exchange that the theory referred to as the international system. Thus, systems theory encompasses the body of knowledge that attempts to describe systems, their interacting units, the units' connections, the system's characteristics, their structure, their effects, and their sensitivity to conditions.

Waltz (2010) describes a system as a set of "interacting units" and structures. Similarly, Jervis says that a system exists when two criteria are satisfied: "(a) a set of units or elements is interconnected so that changes in some elements or their relations produce changes in other parts of the system, and (b) the entire system exhibits properties and behaviours that are different from those of the parts (Waltz, 2010). Waltz argues that "agents and agencies act; systems as wholes do not." The interacting units or elements in the system can be anything; the interaction of thermal currents in a flowing liquid, the interaction of nation-states, the interaction of ethnic groups, or the interaction of multiple people in a room as long as these units are connected and acting against and with each other exhibiting some non-additive, emergent quality. In the case of highly complex social systems, such as war and conflict, the actors generally are groups of people, organized and grouped along any number of social characteristics, such as ethnic or tribal groups, religious organizations, gang affiliations, or political orientation. Each of these units has its own "incentives, goals, and calculations," and these groups cause the system to change by injecting energy into it, otherwise known as taking action (Waltz, 2010).

Energy inputs into the system have any number of forms. For example, nation-states inject energy into the system through war, economic sanctions, information operations, and diplomacy. Non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations, transnational criminal organizations, and non-governmental organizations, inject energy through other methods. Terrorist organizations can use targeted violence to achieve some sort of micro-level systems change. Transnational criminal organizations can control under-governed or non-governed spaces to bring about systems change, and non-governmental organizations can affect systems change by influencing governments and societies. From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that the entire world is a system and the distortion of one part can affect other parts either positively or negatively. System theory is relevant to this work because it offers very useful insight into explaining the pattern of relation and behaviour between Nigeria and the Niger Republic, the inability of the two countries to setup an effective security apparatus and share security information has negatively affected the smooth relations of the two countries. Moreover, the activities of Boko Haram which started in Nigeria and later extended to the Niger Republic have created a security challenge that the two countries must step up to contain. The prevalence of these attacks has created a serious security problem as many people are no longer free or able to go about their daily activities at the border towns due to fear of being attacked by the insurgents. This scenario implies that people's fundamental right to free movement is being restricted and violated by the violent activities of the insurgents as a result of the weak security and inadequate security measure by Nigeria and the Niger Republic to safeguard their borders.

Methodology

Research Design

The study used the survey method as a design utilising the questionnaire as an instrument for data collection.

The Population of the Study

Matters of border security relations cannot be left in the hand of anybody except those saddled with the responsibility of managing such relations for their countries. Thus, the targeted population for this study was drawn from the following organizations in Table 1.

Table 1: Sample Population

S/No.	Category of Targeted Population	Selected Units	The Population of Staff in the Selected Units
1.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria	West African Affairs Department	248
2.	Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment Nigeria	Trade and Investment Department	87
3.	Nigerian Customs Service Head Quarters Abuja,	Border Division	141
4.	Niger Embassy, Nigeria	Niger Embassy, Nigeria	18
5.	Ministry of Defence Nigeria	Operational Unit	134
6.	Nigeria Immigration Service, Headquarters Abuja	Border Division	76
7.	University of Maiduguri	Political Science Department	46
8.	Niger Immigration Service, Diffa	Diffa, Niger Republic	53
9.	Niger Consulate Post Kano, Nigeria	Niger Consulate Post, Kano	26
10.	Mobile Border Control Unit	Niger Republic	232
11.	Diffa, Niger Republic	Diffa community, Niger Republic	9334
	Total		10,395

Source: Field Survey, (2019)

Therefore, the sample size was drawn from the above-selected organizations to administer questionnaires using Taro Yamane's (1967) formula. Where:

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

Where: n= sample size required

N= number of people in the population

e= precision (0.5)²

N=10,395

1+10,395 (e)²

$$n = \frac{10,395}{1 + 10,395 (0.5)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{10,395}{1 + 10,395 (0.25)}$$

$$n = \frac{10,395}{1 + 10,395 \times 0.25}$$

$$n = \frac{10,395}{2,599.75}$$

$$n = 3.998461390518319$$

Sampling Technique and Procedure

Sampling is the procedure of selecting from a population to ensure that the portion of the population selected is representative of the population see Table 1. There are two main types of sampling methods-probability and non-probability. The selection of the sample for the study involved a two-stage sampling technique. In the first stage, a purposive selection of the respondents was made respectively. In the last stage, from the sample frame of 400, simple random techniques were used to administer the questionnaire.

Method of Data Collection

The researchers used the questionnaire to collect primary data for the study and the secondary data; books, journals and internet materials were used. The questionnaire was chosen because of its advantage of gathering information directly from the sample population. It is cost-effective and proved to be useful in sounding the opinions of respondents.

Method of Data Analysis

The data for the study was collected, coded and analysed using the computer-based Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 21 for Microsoft Windows). Descriptive statistics were used to examine the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on Nigeria-Niger border security relations.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The data obtained through the questionnaire has been presented below using simple frequency and percentages. 368 questionnaires were returned and properly filled and 32 questionnaires were either not returned or invalid. The presentation is made below in Table 2

Table 2

Questions	SA	A	DA	D	SD
Nigeria and Niger have a weak border security relation	24	344			
the fragile border security relation between Nigeria and Niger triggers the extension of Boko Haram activities from Nigeria to Niger	36	332			
Boko Haram create a security challenge to Nigeria and the Niger Republic	320	48			
Boko Haram insurgency has re-awaking security consciousness at the Nigeria-Niger border	284	84			
The raising spates of Boko Haram attacks have ignited security collaboration between Nigeria and the Niger Republic	316	52			
The Joint Military Patrol scheme by Nigeria and Niger has so much to do with the Boko Haram insurgency	304	64			

Source: Field Survey (2021)

Table 2: Analysis of the Responses to the Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Nigeria-Niger border security relation. From Table 2, 344 respondents representing 93.5% of the total respondents agreed that Nigeria and Niger have a weak border security relation, 24 representing 6.5% of the total respondents also strongly agreed with it. This implies that Nigeria and Niger have a weak border security relationship. Table 2 equally reveals that 36 respondents representing 9.8% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the fragile border security relation between Nigeria and Niger triggers the extension of Boko Haram activities from Nigeria to Niger, however, 332 respondents representing 90.2% of the total respondents also agreed to it.

Table 2 also reveals that 48 respondents representing 13% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the activities of Boko Haram create a security challenge to Nigeria and the Niger Republic. Similarly, 320 respondents representing 87.0% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the activities of Boko Haram create a security challenge to Nigeria and the Niger Republic. The position of the respondents in Table 4.10 is strengthening that Boko Haram poses a transnational threat within the wider Lake Chad Basin.

Table 2 also indicates that 284 respondents representing 77.2% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the Boko Haram insurgency has re-awaking security consciousness at the Nigeria-Niger border, while 84 respondents representing 22.8% of the total respondents also agreed. Moreover, table 2 shows that 316 respondents representing 85.9.2% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the raising spates of Boko Haram attacks have ignited security collaboration between Nigeria and the Niger Republic, and 52 respondents representing 14.1% of the total respondents also agreed.

Finally, Table 2 reveals shows that 304 respondents representing 82.6% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the Joint Military Patrol scheme by Nigeria and Niger has so to do with the Boko Haram insurgency similarly, 64 respondents representing 17.4% of the total respondents also agreed.

Discussion of Findings

The objective of this study is to examine the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency on Nigeria-Niger border security relations. The finding shows that Boko Haram started in Nigeria and over time spread its tentacles to the Niger Republic. This is evident in the numerous attacks staged by the sect in Nigeria and Niger as reported by respondents and Kyari (2020). Boko Haram's violent attacks have

heightened security collaboration between the two countries seeing that Nigeria and the Niger Republic share security information and Army training scheme to boost their ability in fighting the insurgents. About 284 respondents representing 77.2% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the Boko Haram insurgency has re-awakening security consciousness at the Nigeria-Niger border, while 84 respondents representing 22.8% of the total respondents also agreed. This turns out to be a major development in the content of Nigeria-Niger border security relations.

Similarly, the aftermath of the 2009 Boko Haram uprising which left more than one thousand people dead in Northern Nigeria inspired the re-organization of the MNJSF to re-launch as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) with a wide scope of operation. The security threat along with the border towns in the north-eastern part of Borno State, Yobe State of Nigeria and Diffa Region of Niger Republic occasioned by the Boko Haram, led to deaths, destruction of property, and displacement of people and the influx of refugees across both countries has prompted the two countries to work together to defeat Boko Haram insurgents since the insurgents pose threat to their common interests. This involves Nigeria-Niger joining forces in sharing security information and a joint training scheme between the Nigerian Army and the Nigerien Army to enhance their fight against the insurgent, thus, introducing a new dimension in Nigeria-Niger relations. On the whole, the border security apparatus put in place by Nigeria-Niger under bilateral and multilateral treaties are an apparent mechanism that never translated into coherent border security relation before the Boko Haram insurgency. Because, Table 2 reveals shows that 304 respondents representing 82.6% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the Joint Military Patrol scheme by Nigeria and Niger has so to do with the Boko Haram insurgency similarly, 64 respondents representing 17.4% of the total respondents also agreed.

Conclusion

Boko Haram is a group made up of Nigerian citizens who believed that Western influences and Western forms of government caused people to be sinful, which led to corruption. Therefore, the return to pure Islamic forms of society was the only cure for society's ills. The group sprang up from a religious commune established by Mallam Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. It started as a peaceful organization, advocating a strict interpretation and implementation of Islamic law in Nigeria. The Boko Haram organization's ideology is influenced by orthodox Islamic doctrines that forbid Western culture and its system of government.

In 2009, the sect launched an insurrection centred in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital city. In suppressing the insurrection, the police and security forces extra-judicially killed Mohammed Yusuf and more than 700 of his followers. After the insurrection, the group then went underground until 2011, when, under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau; it mounted a successful jailbreak and its first suicide bombings of police headquarters and the United Nations buildings in Abuja. Since then, Boko Haram's activities have included recurrent attacks; the killing of persons; wanton destruction of property, population displacements, and other forms of aggression. The activities of the sect especially since 2009 have constituted a major security threat to the nation and have made Northern Nigeria, particularly the Northeast, which is the epicentre of Boko Haram activities, the most dangerous region in the country.

The activities of the group were initially limited within Nigeria but in the long run, shifted to the neighbouring countries of Niger Republic. Having evaluated the information from the raw data gathered through questionnaires evidence from the analysis of this study showed that the Boko Haram violent attacks have heightened security collaboration between the two countries seeing that, Nigeria and the Niger Republic share security information and Army training scheme to boost their ability in fighting the insurgents.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from primary and secondary data collected, the following recommendations have been made; Nigeria and the Niger Republic should adopt the joint military operation strategy as a formal modality not only as a means to restrain the Boko Haram threat. The

ungoverned spaces, with little or no government presence in Nigeria and the Niger Republic creating a sanctuary for Boko Haram, should be converted into military training camps to ensure government presence and thus will checkmate the porosity of the borders.

References

- Adedoyin, J. O. (2006). Nigeria's Relations with Her Neighbours. *Stud. Tribes Tribals*, 4(1): 7-17.
- Aduloju, A. A., Opanike. A., & Adenipekun O. L. (2014). 'Boko Haram Insurgency in North-eastern Nigeria and Its Implications for Security and Stability in West African Sub-region'. *International Journal of Development Conflict*. 2(201-107). Retrieved from <http://www.ijdc.org.in/uploads/1/7/5/7/17570463/de2.pdf> on 8/06/2023
- Aghedo, I., & Oarhe, O. (2014). "Insurgency in Nigeria: A Comparative Study of Niger Delta and Boko Haram Uprisings." *Journal of Asian and African Studies*: 5
- Comolli, V. (2015). *Boko Haram: Nigeria's Islamist Insurgency*. London: Hurst & Company.
- Drew, D. M. (2001). Insurgency and Counterinsurgency American Military Dilemmas and Doctrinal Proposals. <https://smallwarsjournal.com/documents/drew.pdf>
- Ediba. I. O. (2018). Ecological Factor in the Rise of Insurgency in North-East Nigeria. *RIMA International Journal of Historical Studies (RIJHIS)*. Vol. 2 No. 1. Accessed @: <https://rijhis.com/archive/volume-2-issue-1-july-2018/ecological-factors-in-the-rise-ofinsurgency-in-north-east-nigeria>
- Fawole, W. A. (2013). Boko Haram: Origin, development and Links with Domestic Politics. <https://www.researchgate.net>. retrieved 18/07/2020
- Ford, C. M. (2007). Globalization and Insurgency Warfare. https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/military.review/Archives/English/MilitaryReview_20070630_art014.pdf
- James, H. A. (2012). *Improving Nigerian Border Security: A Comprehensive Approach*. Naval War College Newport, R.I.
- Joseph, O. A. (2015). Examining the Boko Haram Insurgency in Northern Nigeria and the Quest for a Permanent Resolution of the Crisis. *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences* 8 (3), 32-45
- Joint Humanitarian Action Plan (2013). The New Humanitarian. www.thenewhumanitarian.org Retrieved 16/09/2021
- Mustafa, C. Ü. (2016). Terrorism versus Insurgency: A Conceptual Analysis. <https://iusgentium.ufsc.br/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/1-3-Terrorism-versus-insurgency-a-conceptual-analysis.pdf>
- Obi, E. (2006). *Nigeria's Foreign Policy and International Relations Theories*. Vector Publishers, Onitsha.
- Ogbaji, A. O. (2012). *Historical Origin of Terrorism cited Contemporary Thoughts on International Relations*. Lagos: Absolute Media Production
- Olu, O. H. G. (Ed.) (2012). *Complex Insurgencies in Nigeria*. National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, Nigeria.
- Onuoh, F. O. A. (2014). Danger Not Only to Nigeria Alone- Boko Haram's Transnational Reach and Regional Response. *Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung*, Regional office (2), 6-15.
- Onuoha, F. C. (2014). Why Do Youth Join Boko Haram, United States Institute of Peace Special Report 348, http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR348-Why_do_Youth_Join_Boko_Haram.pdf, 5
- Okumu, W. (2011). Border management and security in Africa. Retrieved 09/08/2020 <https://www.researchgate.net/file.PostFileLoader.html?id...assetkey>
- Thurston, A. (2016). The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World. <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/> Retrieved 16/09/2021/brookings-analysis-paper_alex-thurston_final_web.pdf

- Thomas, R. & Hecker, M. (2009). *Irregular Warfare in the Information Age*. Westport, Connecticut and London
- Vivtor, A. A. (2011). Development, Conflict and Peace building in Africa. In G, B. Shedrack (Ed.), *Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies West Africa* (Pp.383-405). Ibadan, Spectrum Books Limited.
- Willis, H. H., Predd, J. B., Davis, P. K. & Brown, W. P. (2010). *Measuring the Effectiveness of Border Security between Ports of Entry*. Santa Monica: RAND Corporation
- Waltz, K. N. (2010). *Theory of International Politics*. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc,