



University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
Vol. 5, 2016

*Journal of the Faculty of
Graduate Studies*

**Analysis of Cause and Effect of Boko Haram Insurgency in North-East
Nigeria**

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Abstract:

This research analyzed the causes and effects of Boko Haram insurgency in North-East Nigeria. The research used of secondary sources of data. Academic write-ups in journals, magazines, newspapers, periodicals, reading manuals as well as internet based information provided the data utilized in this research. The research found out that Boko Haram Insurgency was incubated and hatched by both remote and immediate causes. Rise in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as well as serious waste of lives and properties were discovered as some of the effects of the insurgency. This research recommended that Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) should be rehabilitated and an independent commission to rebuild the north-east region especially Borno and Yobe States should be established by the Nigerian government.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Cause, Effect, Insurgency and North-East

Introduction:

Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009 when the Jihadists rebel group started an armed rebellion against the government of Nigeria. In 2012, tensions within the group resulted in gradual split of sect between Salafist conservative faction led by Abu Usman al-Ansari, and the more dominant violent faction led by Abubakar Shekau. By 2015, part of the group split al-Qaeda affiliated Ansaru, and Shekau faction became ISIL's West Africa branch. In 2013, over 1,000 people died as a result of the conflict. The violence escalated dramatically in 2014 with 10, 849 deaths. In 2014, the insurgency spread to neighboring Cameroun, Chad and Niger thus becoming a major regional conflict. In 2015, a coalition offensive forced Boko Haram to retreat into the Sambisa Forest. The insurgency took place within the context of long-standing issues of religious violence between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities. Boko Haram has been called the world's deadliest terrorist group, in terms of the number of people it has killed (Wikipedia, 2016).

Figure 1: States affected by Boko Haram attacks in Northern Nigeria



Source: Google (2016)

Key

	3 North East states (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) highly affected by the Boko Haram Insurgency
	Other parts of Nigeria where the insurgency did not affect
	8 Northern states (Bauchi, Benue, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Nasarawa, Plateau and Taraba) affected by suicide bombings and explosions in soft places and which Boko Haram claimed responsibilities

Popularly known as Jama`at Ahl as-sunnah lid-Dawah wal-jihad, the group was led by Abubakar Shekau until August 2016 when he was succeeded by Abu Musab al-Barnawi (BBC, 2016). After its founding in 2002, Boko Haram`s increasing radicalization led to a violent uprising in July 2009 in which its leader was summarily executed (Winsor, 2015). Its unexpected resurgence, following a mass prison break in September 2010 was accompanied by increasingly sophisticated attacks (Nicholas, 2015) initially against soft targets and progressing in 2011 to include suicide bombings of Police buildings and the United Nations office in Abuja (Marama, 2014). The group in its operations demonstrates sound elements of braveness which contradict government persistent pronouncements of how prepared it is to counter terrorism in the North East region of the country. Instead of containing the group, government pronouncement of how ready it is to crush the group is often escorted with new waves of attacks by the group than before-development that continue to create doubts on the minds of several citizens of how prepare the government is to counter terrorism promoted by Boko Haram.

Insurgency as experienced in north-east Nigeria to me is another form of political violence. In addition to the view that such violence can sometimes be state sponsored, Wilkins (2014) observed that they are violence which are politically motivated. Urbanization and the pressures it create as Otite (2011) submits also make society vulnerable to political violence. The North-East region of Nigeria as the nation`s population commission (NPC, 2006) presented, is a home to one-fourth of the people living in the country. The proximity of the region to other African countries such as Cameroun, Chad and Niger as Baba and Abubakar (2015) explained is additional reason why immigration into Nigeria through this region is eminent. Prior to the beginning of Boko Haram insurgency in 2009, Maiduguri as Baba and Ibrahim (2015) pointed out was already considered as the fastest growing city in Western Sudan and Sub-Saharan Africa as far as urbanization is concerned. Social vices such as unemployment, prostitution, destitution, poverty, illiteracy, conflicts, armed robbery, diseases, over utilization of available basic amenities among others as Uche (2015) pointed out are synonymous with

urbanization. The velocity in which urbanization was growing in Maiduguri in the period closer to 2009 that insurgency broke out itself was a signal that conflict was likely to engulfed the town which is the capital of Borno state nick name the Nigerian Home of Peace.

The controversial dispersed of mob of Boko Haram members by the men of the Nigerian Police Force and Federal Road Safety Corps on ground of lack of use of helmets on motorcycles when they were taking dead body of one of their members for burial in Gwange cemetery along Custom ward in the heart of Maiduguri the Borno state capital is an issue accompanied with combatant confrontations by the group. Occurrence of similar development along the same route on another occasion led to an open letter written to the Federal Government of Nigeria by Mohammed Yusuf the group leader. Yusuf claimed in his last letter read before his followers in his Angwan Doki preaching ground along Old GRA road in Maiduguri that in all his letters, he consistently called on the government to investigate what he considered as unlawful attacks of his followers by men of the Nigerian security operatives and allow justice to take its cause. Nigerian government to him defied all his calls. And these to him are reasons why he has no alternative than to invite his followers to arm up and prepare for battle with the Nigerian Police Force as retaliation for unlawful attacks of his followers. These to me are immediate and not remote in the causes of the insurgency. Because if his followers were not attacked, the desire for the establishment of an Islamic state and government in North-East Nigeria would have still triggered confrontations with the Nigerian government forces who would on their own part battle to protect national unity, secularism, democracy and safeguard the rights of Non-Muslims.

Statement of Problem:

Conditions created by insurgency in north-east Nigeria may be severe than the ones which created the conflict. But then, the severity of the effects have features which are almost similar with the causes. Instead of reduction, unemployment rate grew higher than the pre-insurgency periods in the region especially in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states which are the most affected places in the region. Alarming rise in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), poverty, distortion in settlement pattern especially in rural communities, growth in number of mismanaged refugee centers, over concentration of persons in urban centers as a result of migration from rural areas to escape possible attacks by Boko Haram combatants, shortages of social and basic amenities in urban centers as a

result of over utilization caused by influx of refugees fleeing attacks in their communities, destruction of social and basic amenities especially schools which before the insurgency were not even adequate in the region, rise in number of widows and unsupported abandoned families as well as unquantifiable loss of lives and properties form the major phenomena which insurgency has succeeded in throwing the north-east region of Nigeria into. It is however in order to analyze the causes and effects of this conflict so as to come up with recommendations which will serve as solution to ameliorating this problem and prevent future occurrence of similar conflicts that this research was necessitated.

Objectives of the Research:

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To analyze the causes of Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria.
2. Examine the effects of the insurgency in the region.
3. And to find out possible solution on how to manage, end and avoid future occurrence of similar conflict in the region.

Research Questions:

This research raised and answered a number of questions which includes:

1. What are some of the causes of Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria?
2. How has the insurgency affected the region?
3. Through what ways can the insurgency be effectively managed, end and avoided in the future?

Literature Review:

Boko Haram must be understood in the context of Nigeria`s current conditions. It is Africa`s most populous nation, largest economy and biggest oil producer, but astounding levels of corruption have left it without basic development and infrastructure. Disparities between the country`s north, which is mainly Muslim, and its south, which is mostly Christian, are also important in understanding the conflicts. Today much of the north badly trails the south in terms of education and wealth due to complex list of historical and other factors (Smith, 2016). Inequalities as Smith (2016) pointed out are to me additional reasons why insurgency engulfed the north east region of Nigeria. Boko Haram like every other organizations have aims and objectives. The procedures it adopt in achieving its objectives can hardly be considered to be the cause of its confrontations than

the aims it is established to achieve. Under stable democratic condition with peace and orderliness existing, it will be difficult for a group to without any reason clashed with authority. Therefore to be able to achieve its aims and objectives, Boko Haram need to create a confusion that will provoke the authority into confronting it for a level ground necessary for conflicts to be created. Defying the use of helmets on motor cycle was one of the tactics adopted by the group in the provocation of authority-development that gave the group an excuse for retaliation.

The violence began when Police clashed with mourners participating in a funeral procession on 11 June over the refusal of participants to wear helmets while operating motorcycles. As a result of the altercation, seventeen of Yusuf's followers were shot by Police Officers. Boko Haram denounced the brutality and vowed to avenge the death (Ford, 2013). Government is a whole system and all its components are its sub-system. All sub-systems work unitedly to enhance the functionality and stability of the whole system. State security apparatus were supposed to have place the group under serious surveillance from the period it started vowing to avenge. The group leadership, interactions and movements from then were supposed to be monitored by the necessary agency. In conflicts, no group can be under estimated no matter how small it is. The group's vow for retaliation was taken for granted and later succeeded in throwing Nigeria into a serious battle for countering insurgency since 2009 till date. The inability to place the group under severe surveillance is a demonstration of system failure on the part of the Nigerian authority. Measures to prevent the occurrence of the insurgency would have favored the government and people of Nigeria than allowing the insurgency to start before countering it or declaring state of emergency rule in affected areas.

Figure 2: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)



Source: Google (2016)

The government's establishment of state of emergency at the beginning of 2012, extended in the following year to cover the entire northeast Nigeria, led to an increase in both security force abuses and militants attacks. In mid-2014, the militants gained control of swathes of territory in and around their home state of Borno, estimated at 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 sq. mi) in January 2015, but did not capture the state capital, Maiduguri, where the group was originally based (Lamb, 2016). This conquest of territories by the group resulted in the inflow of refugees into Maiduguri considered as one of the places not captured by the militants. Amenities became over stressed and other factors considered by some to be causes of the insurgency like poverty, unemployment as well as rise in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) grew higher than they were even before the insurgency started in the region. The devastation caused by Boko Haram between 2011 and 2015 in the North East as Vanguard (2016) reports cost the region \$9 billion.

Figure 3: Areas Liberated from Boko Haram Insurgents



Source: Google (2016)

In some other cases, several arguments conceived low level of education and illiteracy as determinant factors that contributed to the rise of insurgency in the north east region. These cannot completely be doubted because illiteracy among the youths in the region was used in deceiving them to fight for reasons many of them do not even know. But then, insurgency exacerbated low levels of education and literacy in Nigeria's North East region. The group as Adedeji (2016) submitted has targeted Teachers and schools, with more than 910 schools destroyed between 2009 and 2015, and 1, 500 forced to close. In addition, government security forces to him, have also used schools for military purposes, further reducing children's right to education. Illiteracy and low level of education as well as other socio-economic and political factors serve as both causes and effects of the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East region of Nigeria. But then, understanding the aims and objectives of the group to me is in position to create adequate understanding of the causes and effects of the insurgency.

Figure 4: Some Properties and Lives wasted in the Insurgency



Source: Google (2016)

Theoretical Frameworks

This research is built upon two different theories. The first is the Political System Theory of David Easton (1965) and secondly the Islamization Agenda Theory of Tony Osai Osborg (2014).

1. The basic unit of Easton`s system analysis is interaction which is generated from the behavior of members of the system when they play their role as such. When these myriad interactions, in the perception of the scholar, became a `set of interrelations`, they are considered as a system. There are four major premises of his input-output analysis which include: - system, environment, response and feedback.
2. The Islamization Agenda Theory is the most common theory associated with the sect. It begins with the very etymological concept of the term `Boko Haram` which translate to mean western education is sinful and whose objective seeks to establish a `pure` Islamic state ruled by sharia law.

Conceptual Framework:

The theories upon which this research is built led the researcher into conceptualizing that:

1. System failure incubated and hatched by injustice on the part of the Nigerian authority is one of the causes of Boko Haram insurgency in north east Nigeria. Security operatives work independently instead of interdependently- development that made it easier for Boko Haram to vow retaliation without been contained until it carryout its vow.

2. Boko Haram goals are to create Islamic state and impose sharia law. These cannot be achieved peacefully in multi-religious communities as in north east and other regions of Nigeria. Therefore, the group deliberately look for avenue to create confusion so as to engage the authority and implement its desire if it emerged victorious. Defying the use of helmets which attracted security attack became an excuse to strike.

Since 2009 till date, the insurgency has not been completely countered by the Nigerian government. This is because the actual cause of the insurgency has not yet been known or addressed. It is not possible to find solution to a problem which cause is not known. Study of the actual aims, objectives and goals of Boko Haram will create a peaceful and easier avenue for solving the problem of the insurgency in the North East region to me.

Methodology:

This research is an analytical investigation conducted with the used of qualitative research methodology. Secondary sources of data sourced from journal articles, text books, magazines, newspapers, bulletins, periodicals, lecture notes, manuals, etc. were utilized in the research. Relevant internet based data or information were also used in this research. Basic among the objectives of the research is the point that the study examined the causes and effects of Boko Haram insurgency in North East Nigeria. It also came up with a number of recommendations which are likely to result in effective management and if possible end the conflict in the North East Region of Nigeria.

Data Presentation and Analysis:

Data collected for this research were presented and analyzed under two different headings. The Researcher first of all presented the causes of the insurgency under both remote and immediate causes. Then later the effects of the insurgency were also presented by the Researcher. This led the Researcher into arriving at a number of major findings which were also enumerated by the Researcher.

Causes of Boko Haram Insurgency:

Based on the related literatures and theoretical frameworks reviewed in this research, the Researcher discovered that Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria was caused by both remote and immediate causes such as:

Remote Causes:

1. The desire to establish Islamic state first in north east Nigeria and if possible later, in the entire country.
2. The aim to implement pure sharia law without adulteration with common law in north east region first and later in other regions of Nigeria.
3. And high rate of illiteracy among the youths of North East region of Nigeria which made it easier for them to be deceived into fighting for reasons they do not know.

Immediate Causes:

1. Injustice on the part of the Nigerian authority i.e. for not carrying out investigations on complains of attacks on Boko Haram members during their funeral event despite open call for so by the group leader.
2. Alleged extra-judicial killings of Boko Haram members by the Nigerian Government Police Force.
3. And alleged summary execution of Boko Haram leader by the Nigerian Police Force.

Effects of Boko Haram Insurgency:

Boko Haram insurgency as this research observed has effects on the socio-economic and political lives of the people of the north east region. Basic among which include:

1. Increase in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP`s).
2. Serious waste of lives and properties.

Discussion of Results:

The desire to establish an Islamic State first in North-East Nigeria and later across the other zones of the country is the major reason why Boko Haram has declared a total war on the Nigerian State and Government. An Islamic State where Sharia which is the legal system and method will be in use throughout the country has been the major cause of the group fighting the Nigerian secular system and government. Administratively, Nigeria boast of 6 Geo-political Regions with 36 States and a Federal Capital Territory as well as 774 Local Government Councils across the country. The choice of the North East Region as a place to stage this rebellion against the government can be explain in context of the economic and social background of the region. Poverty, unemployment and illiteracy greatly found basis in states within the region. This has made it possible to recruit youths in the area into combatant missions against the central government. In addition of these remote causes, the insurgency was later fueled up by injustice on the part of the Nigerian state and government. The authority refusal to take measures despite earlier threats by the group in some of their preaching as well its sluggishness in investigating the extra-judicial killings of Boko Haram members and the summary execution of its leader in one the earliest confrontations with government forces exacerbated the wave of the conflict. Boko Haram Insurgency has resulted in the loss of several lives and properties in the north eastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe as well as in other parts of northern Nigeria where suicide bombings in soft spots have taken place. Actual figure and statistics of casualties cannot be given considering the fact that the insurgency is still on in these states of the region in Nigeria. In addition to several loss of lives and properties, Boko Haram insurgency has resulted in the serious rise in number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the North East Region of Nigeria. Although the conflict has not ended, but considering the level of victory recorded by the government forces, it is advisably that those displaced from their original homes be rehabilitated and an independent commission established to rebuild the devastated and affected states in the north east region of the country. An Independent Administrative or Judicial Panel of Inquiry would also be needed to investigate complains of human right violation. But this cannot be recommended at the moment because the insurgency to me has not completely been countered by the government yet.

Major Findings of the Research:

This research made the following major findings:

1. Boko Haram insurgency in north east Nigeria is caused by remote reasons like the desire to establish Islamic state, impose sharia law and high rate of illiteracy among the youths of the region.
2. Immediate causes of the insurgency are injustice on the part of the Nigerian authority, alleged extra-judicial killings of the sect members and summary execution of its leader by the Nigerian Government Police Force.
3. The research also found out that increase in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP`s) as well as serious waste of lives and properties are the effects of the insurgency in the north east region.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Based on the major findings made in this research, the Researcher finally recommends that:

1. Internally Displaced Persons (IDP`s) in north east Nigeria be rehabilitated as soon as practicable.
2. The government of Nigeria should establish an independent commission to rebuild the north east region especially Borno and Yobe states being the most affected states in the region.
3. And Nigerian authority should start thinking towards the direction of managing and resolving the conflict using political means. Study by Saleh (2016) revealed that history has it as a record that only 20% of insurgency problem are solved using military means, the remaining 80% are solved using political means.

Future Research:

I have argued under the conceptual framework of this research that a problem which original causes have not been identified can hardly be solve. Boko Haram insurgency started in north east Nigeria and till date efforts to counter it has proved unsuccessful. In order to understand the reason and cause of confrontation by any group, I subscribed to the view that the aims and objectives of the group be examined. Other reasons beside aims and objectives are excuses and means to achieving the objectives. Haven identified the aims and objectives of Boko Haram sect which include the islamization of north east

Nigeria and imposition of pure sharia law first in the region and later in the entire country as the cause of the insurgency in the north east region, future research can now concentrate on how to assist the Nigerian authority fashion out political measures and solution to the conflicts. It should also banking on the recommendations made by try to educate the Nigerian state and authority on how best those affected by insurgency or internal conflicts can be rehabilitated and compensated as a precaution against possible retaliation in the near future.

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