

## Global Terror and Allied Boko Haram Operational Mechanisms: Implications for the Nigerian State

**Blessing E. N. THOM-OTUYA**

Department of Political Science  
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.  
[thomotuyablessing@yahoo.com](mailto:thomotuyablessing@yahoo.com)

**Gogo Patrick IBIAMU**

Department of Political Science  
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.  
[gogoibiamu@yahoo.com](mailto:gogoibiamu@yahoo.com)

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### Abstract

Global terrorism is a major problem that has impacted negatively on both developed and developing countries. It has engendered boarder crime, proliferation of arms, human trafficking, atmosphere of fear, unemployment, poverty, cultural conflicts and increased defense budget against human ordeals and welfare. In Nigeria, it has also deterred national integration and economic development. Boko Haram insurgency in Northern Nigeria has caused colossal damages to the Nigerian State. It has inflicted material, human and environmental damages to the country. It has demystified the military preparedness of the Nigeria Armed Forces and, tainted the country's image internationally. This paper argues that, global terrorism has an influence on the upsurge and sustenance of local or domestic terrorism, with costly implications on the Nigerian State .Hence, containing global terrorism will reduce the potency of local terrorism. The paper examines the dimensions, motivations of global terrorism, the impact of global terrorism on Boko Haram's operation in the Nigerian State and ways of mitigating global terrorism as a ruse to curb Boko Haram. This paper is therefore aimed at containing the operations of Boko Haram insurgency, and enhancing national security in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Global terrorism, Boko Haram, Operational mechanism, Nigeria state, Terrorism, Mercenary terrorists, Poverty

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### INTRODUCTION

Terrorism is known as a domesticated and internationally clandestine activity that could be state-synergized group or individually-sponsored to infuse fear on People or the State. Sometimes terrorism can emerge as a liberation struggle of organized minorities against the State. Terrorism that used to be a state centric activity now has transcended national boundaries to jeopardize the internal security of both developed and developing nations; and has found expression in countries such as Indonesia, Philippines, Yemen, Kenya, Tanzania, Turkey, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America, Nigeria, etc. Hariharan (2004) wrote that, in each of these countries dedicated and indoctrinated locals had provided them intelligence support, and access to finance, arms and recruits, hence it is now called global terrorism. Global terrorism is

landmarked by the September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 Al Qaeda attack against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon building in the United States of America. It was an attack with economic and military implications directed at the heart of the international financial district, and the military might of USA. This attack was done to destabilize America economically, politically and militarily. Ogundia and Amzat (2008) wrote that, many nations both developed and developing that had never considered terrorism as a serious social and political issue began to do so after the September 11, 2001 attack.

Global terrorism is a problem that concerns all the countries on earth. It has created a network; penetrating every country especially developing countries, where poverty is very high, hence in Nigeria, we notice an upsurge of insurgency groups with very sophisticated weapons that threaten the internal security of the country. Global terrorism has promoted boarder crime, proliferation of arms, and atmosphere of fear, unemployment, poverty, and cultural conflicts as well as increased defense expenditure as against human needs and welfare. The operations of Boko Haram in Nigeria have created serious phobia among the people and destroyed lots of lives and properties. It has equally rendered some household homeless and has precipitated underdevelopment.

Boko Haram started as a local insurgency group. But its operations and continuous sustainability is an indication that, it has an external support from global terrorist group whose purpose is a total destruction of the society or bringing government to her knees. Boko Haram has been able to sustain her fight against the Federal Government of Nigeria for so long due to the support of Global Terrorist Groups (Moro in Ugwuanyi, 2014). This perception was further corroborated by President Jonathan when he spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria and France 24 Radio at the close of a two-day summit on Peace and Security in Africa, hosted by the French President: Francois Hollande in France. He said, “We believe that a lot of assistance is coming to the Sect from outside the Country”, and further contended that, the large scale attacks in part of Maiduguri, Bornu State, including the Air force Base, had further confirmed government suspicion that the Sect enjoyed international backing.

This paper argues that, global terrorism has an influence on the upsurge of local or domestic terrorism with costly implications on the Nigerian State. Hence containing global terrorism will reduce the potency of local terrorism. The paper examines the dimensions, motivations of global terrorism and the impact of global terrorism on Boko Haram’s operation and the Nigerian State as well; and proffers solution that will help to mitigate the impact of global terrorism on the operations of Boko Haram.

## **CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

### **Terrorism**

The word terrorism has no singular or commonly accepted definition. According to Hariharan (2004, p. 1) terrorism is probably the most defined word- there are over 109 definitions for it”. The phrase “one man’s terrorist is another’s man freedom fighter” makes it difficult to define terrorism and to classify it as moral or immoral act. Consequently different scholars have defined it both from an idealistic and realistic point of view. Idealistically, terrorism is every act that produces fear, terror, or death, whether legitimately carried out or not by an individual group or State. The realist school of thought sees terrorism essentially as an attack by clandestine groups

on non-combatants or civilians in order to draw attention by infusing fear in the public to coerce a State actor from carrying out an action for their political objectives (Njoku, 2011).

The African Union defines terrorism as any act which is a violation of the criminal laws of a State party and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of, or cause serious injury or death to any person, any member or group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage.

Lastly, America's State Department defines terrorism as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetuated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience" (Ogundiya & Amzat, 2008, p. 2).

**Global Terrorism:** Global terrorism is referred to as international or new dimension of terrorism. It is a shift from conventional terrorism that is state-centric to a sub-national groups or clandestine agents that promote an uncompromising view of the world in accordance with the belief of their religion and /or their ideology. They use excessive indiscriminate violence to destroy the society and eliminate large sections of the population. Global terrorists lack a clearly defined political demand. They are not interested in any sort of negotiation. According to Michael (2002), "today's terrorists don't want to seat at the table, they want to destroy the table and everyone sitting on it".

The threat of mass destruction by terrorists is a fundamental part of the concept of "new terrorism" (Spencer 2006). Theorist like Stern (2003) believes that, due to their motivation to use extreme violence, 'new terrorists' are likely to use biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Global Terrorism in this work will be referred to as every supporting act that produces fear, terror, or death, whether legitimately carried out or not, by an individual group or State across national boundaries.

## **Boko Haram**

Thom-Otuya (2013) described Boko Haram as an Hausa phrase which means, "western education is forbidden or sinful". This phrase is used to refer to the Bornu based Islamic sect called Jama 'atu Ahlis Suna Lidda' await wal-Jihad which in Arabic means "People committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and jihad" (Social and Economic Rights Action Centre Report, [www.serac.org](http://www.serac.org): 4).

## **Nigerian State**

This has to do with the indivisibility of Nigeria as a Country. It connotes the unity of the country, and the ability of Government to protect lives and properties within her territorial jurisdiction.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This paper will use the conflict theory as a theoretical framework to analyze the issues raised in this paper. Though there are many proponents of conflict theory such as Karl Marx, Ludwig Gumplowicz, Lester F. Ward, Marx Weber, etc. The paper lays emphasis on conflict theory as propagated by Karl Marx. The theory is premised on the social, political or material inequality that characterizes every social group, and posits that as far as this inequality exists, there must be conflict in a society.

Conflict theory draws attention to power differentials, such as class conflict, and generally contrast historically dominant ideologies. It is therefore a macro level analysis of society. Conflict is based upon the view that the fundamental causes of crime are the social and economic forces operating within society. The criminal justice system and criminal law are thought to be operating on behalf of rich and powerful social elites, with resultant policies aimed at controlling the poor. The criminal justice establishment aims at imposing standards of morality and good behaviour created by the powerful on the whole society. The focus is on separating the powerful from the have-not who would steal from others and protect themselves from physical attacks. In the process the legal rights of poor folks might be ignored. The middle class is also co-opted side-by-side with the elites, thinking it might rise to the top by supporting the status quo.

The Northern Nigeria operates a capitalist system where the social, economic and criminal justice system favour the rich over the poor. This inequality definitely results to oppression and conflict. The insurgents are people who purportedly want to change the political system that will guarantee freedom and justice. Boko Haram operatives started by deliberately contravening State laws and regulations as well as engage in constant challenges of constituted authorities before going into extreme violence after the founder Mohammad Yusuf died in the hands of the law enforcement agencies.

## **DIMENSIONS AND MOTIVATION OF GLOBAL TERRORISM**

There are new dimensions to the operation of Global Terrorism; one of which is Global Networking. The operations of terrorists now are not limited to the domestic milieu. They have a trans-border networking where they communicate to exchange information, financial support, recruitment and training of local converts. They have trans-border areas of operation, where exchanges of assistance and shelter are done. The Boko Haram that troubles Nigeria internal security operates from Northern Nigeria, Northern Cameroon, Niger Republic and Chad.

Another dimension is the use of information technology in reaching out to other terrorist groups in other countries. The global terrorist groups including Boko Haram, use internet, mobile phones and instant messaging in communicating with other terrorist groups in different Countries for radicalization, recruitment, propaganda distribution and training. Njoku (2011, pp. 11-12) wrote that, “the Leader of the AL Qaeda network, Osama Bin Laden, had been able to communicate with terrorists in Nigeria through the media, promising to support the quest to destroy their fellow countrymen” He quoted Karon reporting that, in February 2003, Osama Bin Laden stated that, Nigeria is a country that is ripe for liberation, that is, worthy of Jihad. The Boko Haram sect claimed responsibility through the internet for the Christmas Eve bombings of some parts of Plateau State.

Cyber terrorism is another new dimension to global terrorism. Cyber terrorism according to German Federal Criminal Police Office “is the use of cyber capacities to carry out disruptive or destructive militant operations and to instrumentalize fear by means of violence in an attempt to bring about political change”. The operation of cyber terrorism has to do with surprise attacks on information and communication technology such as: computers, televisions, radio, etc including hacking to wreak havoc in a nation’s network system. The Cyber Caliphate commandeered the YouTube and Twitter accounts of the United States Central Command which is responsible for coordinating American warfare in Syria and Iraq for about thirty minutes. The hackers published private information about American soldiers and their relatives on their sites, a

situation that created panic and anxiety among American troops. Njoku (2011) wrote that, there are about 40million computers in Nigeria, these computers can be deployed as foot soldiers by an attacker from another country, to do the biddings of some evil geniuses.

The new operational dimensions of the terrorists make it difficult and dangerous for government troops to combat. Their networking, cooperation and use of modern technology create a different sophistication on their operation and sustainability. Global terrorism is a menace that needs genuine collective effort of non- Islamic countries and even Islamic countries to combat. Perhaps the collective security principle of the United Nations of “an attack on one is an attack on all” should be applied in combating global terrorism; no matter the attendant challenges.

Alapiki (2015, p. 5) wrote that, terrorism is motivated by political, religious, ideological and socio-economic objectives. Boko Haram is motivated by religious extremism, with the desire of Islamizing the country and imposing sharia law on all citizens. Worst of it all, is that even if they win the war, they will equally turn against their elite faithful branding them as infidels and purging them out of the society; thereby instate the rule of perpetual fear and vigilance on the populace. Therefore, there should be genuine efforts by Christians, Moslems and other religions to resist terrorism despite its deceitful religious connotations.

## **OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS OF GLOBAL TERRORIST**

The approach and style of operation of global terrorists are similar to those of Boko Haram. Global terrorists have resorted to the use of extreme aggressiveness and obnoxious tactics in achieving their aims. They have grown to the use of suicide bombing, threaten the use of biological and chemical weapons containing anthrax, cyber terrorism where hackers manipulate software glitches to re-write the website of Central Intelligence Agency – the American secret service (Vestica, 2001); and nuclear terrorism; that is the use of nuclear weapons to attack their targets. Oche (2006, p. 118) wrote that, “The fear of bio-terrorism seized the American Citizenry to the point that the budget for the US Department of Homeland Security was increased”.

Boko Haram targets members of the security forces, their offices, Christian, churches, village heads, students, and Islamic clerics who do not share their views. They use AK 47 as weapon of choice, and motor bikes as favoured means of mobility. They use improvised explosive devices (IEDs) or homemade bombs to attack their targets. They plant these explosives at churches, where security operatives are stationed. They throw it at the Police patrol vehicles, or plant at strategic places. It is equally used to detonate prison gates and fences to free inmates and detainees suspected to be their members. From their records of victims, the police are Boko Haram’s main target. Its trademark has been the use of gunmen on motorbikes to strike their opponents.

Boko Haram members live among the community but people are either too scared or unwilling to inform the security agents. Their positioning makes it difficult for the law enforcement agents to fish them out, more so, due to the fears infused in the people. Nobody can identify them for arrest.

As part of their operations, some Boko Haram operatives are not Nigerians. Security investigations revealed that, these foreign agents or Boko Haram mercenaries operate and leave the state once their operations were complete. They are recruited from Mali, Somalia and Sudan. The sect is reported to have links with a foreign Islamic group connected to *Al-Qaeda*. Some of their operatives are trained in Somalia, Afghanistan and Libya. Former Sultan of Sokoto Ibrahim

Dasuki does not believe that the Boko Haram members are fighting for the interest of Islam. According to him: “how can they be killing people including Muslims, and say they are fighting for Islam? These people are just doing it to tarnish the image of Islam” (Tell, March 21, 2012, p. 23).

From the pattern of operation of Boko Haramist, one can glaringly notice the features of Boko Haram. One of the features is the prominence of religion. The founder and members of Boko Haram are Muslim fanatics; they have slaughtered many Christians and burnt down many Churches. Their goal is to Islamize Northern Nigeria. Religion is used to drive, recruit, indoctrinate and sustain followership for the struggle. Another feature is their willingness to use excessive indiscriminate violence at their targets. Boko Haram members are religious terrorists who see their struggle as ‘good versus evil’; hence they are willing to risk and prepare to die because they believe martyrdom is a way of reaching heaven. They are not ready to negotiate for peace; rather they want to destroy everyone including the negotiation table.

The third feature is the lack of State backers. Boko Haram is not sponsored from the State fund but other illegal sources such as drug trafficking, video piracy, smuggling, credit card fraud, as well as legal business investments, donations from wealthy individuals, clients and Diaspora. The threat of mass destruction is a fundamental part of the concept of new terrorism; they are likely to use biological, chemical and radioactive and nuclear weapons of mass destruction hence Christians need to be advised to be on the watch out of an attempt to annihilate them through a weapon of mass destruction.

Boko Haram usually displays a higher degree of technological and operational competence. They use wide range of communication equipment including mobile and satellite phones as well as e-mails and web-sites to plan their attacks, communicate with other terrorist groups and spread their message around the world. In this type of terrorism, there are some operatives that operate on part time. They mingle with the society, work or do their business normally. These persons are technologically very competent. Boko Haram has loose network and less hierarchical organizational structure.

## **IMPACT OF GLOBAL TERRORISM ON BOKO HARAM**

Global terrorism has immensely influenced the operations of Boko Haram in Nigeria. They train their local and foreign operatives; provide them with sophisticated weapons and mercenaries to destabilize the Nigerian State. Global terrorism has impacted on the operations of Boko Haram in the following ways:

### **Influx of Mercenary Terrorists into the Local Milieu to Wage Asymmetrical Warfare against the State**

Global terrorism has impacted on Boko Haram on the use of asymmetric warfare to cow their opponents. Asymmetrical warfare has to do with unfair practice of fighting which includes the use of surprise in all of its operations, the instrumentalization of terror and fear against the state for the achievement of her goals. Boko Haram has emulated this kind of warfare to prosecute her insurgency. They have employed suicide bombing in their operations to destroy lives and properties and to infuse permanent fear in the innocent citizens. They even use women volunteers as suicide bombers to wreak Havoc on their target. A cursory view at their operations reveals the use of asymmetrical warfare in the destruction of the United Nations compound in

Abuja on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2011, coordinated bombing in Northern Nigeria during Goodluck Jonathan's swearing in as the new President in which fifteen(15) lives were lost in Abuja and Bauchi, On the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 Boko Haram operatives bombed three(3) media houses killing eight(8) persons while several persons were injured, on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2015; a ten(10) year female suicide bomber killed herself and nineteen(19) others at a market square in Maiduguri, as well as many other indiscriminate attacks.

### **Proliferation of Small Arms within the Country and in the Hands of Insurgent Groups**

Hazen and Homer (2007, p. 133) wrote that, the sources of small arms include arms dealers, serving and retired military and Police Officers, returning peace keepers, armed groups across borders, and other individuals. Mr. Daniel Parradang the Comptroller- General of Nigeria immigration service (Nigeria News world, 2014) disclosed that, the nation has 1,400 illegal border posts across the country. These porous borders on both land and sea allow gun smuggling from neighboring countries. Notably too, the influx of terrorist's Islamic fundamentalists into Africa especially West Africa from the Middle East Arab due to their man-hunts in Europe and the United States of America contributes to the smuggling of small arms and terrorists to the country.

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons contributes to the fueling of internal security challenges in Nigeria. It has boosted the continued operation of Boko Haram insurgency, intensified intra-state armed conflicts, kidnapping, robbery; thereby impeding economic development by killing youths and discouraging investments.

### **Radicalization of Local Groups or Sub-national Bodies through Indoctrination and Spread of Hate Ideologies as Well as Training**

Weapon handling, deployment and suicide bombing is part of the influences and support that Boko Haram enjoys from global terrorism. Global terrorists are motivated by religious ideology which is a common phenomenon amongst the new wave of terrorists. They are motivated by religious extremism and Jihad. Hence, there is a common phenomenon in their increased readiness to the use of extreme indiscriminate violence in their operations. This method is employed by the Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Talibans and Boko Haram operatives. In addition, their political demands are vague. They take pride in the destruction of society and the elimination of large sections of the population. Thus, the Boko Haram is set up as an integral part of the global concept of Jihadism that is also characteristic of such major terrorist groups as Hamas, Al-Shabab, Hezbollah and Al-Qaeda. It has been observed that the initial followers of Boko Haram mastermind, Mohammed Yusuf; were primarily drawn from tertiary institutions in Bornu and Yobe states, namely: the Federal Polytechnic Damaturu, Ramat Polytechnic Damaturu and the University of Maiduguri. They reportedly tore their certificates, withdrew from school and joined the Boko Haram in Qur'anic lessons and preaching (Essien, 2015, p. 379). Alapiki (2015, p. 20) wrote that the new terrorism is a product of a new paradigm shift that sees mass destruction as a weapon for fear and intimidation. Boko haram has been striking indiscriminately creating expensive and regrettable colossal damages to humanity, infrastructures and the society.

Provision of External Funding, Logistics and Moral Support for Local Insurgent via Alliances, Cells and Management of Information and Intelligence Gathering: Global terrorist are very buoyant due to their illicit economic activities and looting of treasures. They use their

financial buoyancy to support local insurgents. They equally train the operatives of local insurgents, advance their potency and capacity to do their destructive biddings. In addition, they donate ammunition and weapons of mass destruction to the local insurgents. They use their advance network to gather intelligence information about their opponents and inform the local insurgents accordingly thereby, arming them with reliable information of when to advance their attacks and when to retreat.

Accentuation of the Activities of Local Terrorist Groups into Global Reckoning through Global Media Platforms: Global terrorists have legitimate multi-national business platforms that generate income, but are also involved in espionage activities. They use various media platforms to magnify the operations of the local insurgents in other to exaggerate their activities as to give a false impression about their destructive capacity, and to instill fear into the populace. In summary, global terrorist fund the propaganda machinery and media expenditures of the local insurgents. This apart, the timing, location and targets of attack are selected in a manner that can produce tremendous local and international effects. The initial announcement of Boko Haram's global incursion was in the dastardly bombing of the UN office in Abuja, Nigeria. According to Essien (2015:378) "the attack marked a big leap in Boko Haram's ambitions and suggested it might now be colluding with more established groups outside..." The next was the alarming Chibok girl's saga. In the mid-night of April 14, 2014; the Boko Haram attacked Government Secondary School, Chibok; in Bornu State, Nigeria; and abducted over two hundred female students (Sunday Punch, May 4, 2014, pp. 22-23), whom the sect's leader Shekau, in a video message obtained by AFP, on May 5, 2014; described as "slaves" that would be sold in the market. There seem to be multiple objectives that were achievable by this act; first, to insult, ridicule and undermine the global feminine sensibilities about the girl-child deprivation and protection; second, to use them as instrument of negotiation for the release of high profile Boko Haram detainees, and finally to enforce the controversial precept of extreme Islamism, that restricts opportunities for western education for the female folk in a typical Moslem enclave.

Although international outrage toward Boko Haram atrocities in Nigeria was initially slow in coming, this particular incident elicited spontaneous reaction from within and outside the country. From organized protestation of a million-women march of April 30, 2014; involving several wailing women that throng the premises of the National Assembly in Abuja; to the formation of the famous Bring Back Our Girls (BBOG) group which sustained and accentuated the status of the protest beyond the domestic order ;the responses were torrential and laden with anger ,anguish condemnation. The threat was taken so seriously that the United Nations Human Rights office retorted that:

we are deeply concerned about the outrageous claim made in a video believed to be by the leader of Boko Haram in Nigeria...in which he brazenly says he will sell the abducted school girls in a market and 'marry them off', referring to them as 'slaves' (and warned them to note that) there is absolute prohibition against slavery and sexual slavery in international law (which) can under certain circumstances constitute crime against humanity (The Guardian, May 7, 2014, p. 1).

From the US senate, Senator Amy Klobucher did not only describe the incident as barbaric but also invited Washington to intervene. Similarly the British Foreign Secretary, William Hague

described the kidnapping as “disgusting” and proposed London’s “practical help” to Nigeria , to secure the release of the girls (p. 2).

Creating a pool of clientele ready for easy recruitment and mobilization into terrorist activism: Global terrorists are always seeking to recruit more people to do their biddings. They have facilities that can be used to indoctrinate new recruits, train them on the use of weapons of mass destructions; and financially mobilize them to join the band wagon of creating expensive and colossal damages to humanity, infrastructures and the society at large.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF TERRORISM ON THE NIGERIAN STATE**

### **National Unity**

Nigeria is a country that is made up of over three hundred and sixty tribes, with varied languages and cultures. Most of these ethnic tribes were autonomous tribes before the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates of Nigeria. Conscious of this background, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria firmly and solemnly affirms that the people have resolved to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation. The activity of Boko Haram is a campaign against the unity of Nigeria whose purpose is to balkanize the country where-in the Northern Nigeria will proclaim a sharia state and adopt sharia laws; and the Southern Nigerians are treated as infidels. This campaign of calumny is an impediment to achieving national integration; which portend a very huge setback to the Nigerian State.

### **Exposes the Weak Military Preparedness to Defend our Territorial Jurisdiction**

The operational activities of the Boko Haram in the country have exposed the weakness of the Nigerian State to protect her military installations and territorial Jurisdiction. The Nigerian Military has been severally embarrassed by the Boko Haram insurgents. They have severally attacked military installations and barracks without meeting much resistance. The insurgents stormed the Nigeria Air Force Base at Maidiguri where they destroyed three military aircrafts and two helicopters and wounded some military personnel. They went after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Artillery Battalion of the Nigerian Army, destroying the barracks and military hardware. In addition, at Baga in Borno State a military barrack had earlier been attacked by the insurgents who killed a lot of Officers (Suleiman, 2013). It is surprising that security personnel will be taken unaware. In fact in 2011 the Boko Haram raise the notch of its attack with the use of suicide bomber for the first time in Nigeria, at Nigeria Police Force headquarters , Abuja; that successfully detonated a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device(VBIED) (Nwogu, 2012, p. 45). That exposes the weakness and lack of preparedness on the part of security agencies in protecting lives and properties.

### **Institution of Fear Amongst the Populace**

The operational approach of Boko Haram; using extreme brutality and inhumanity of the wicked against human beings and random attacks on people and properties institutes fear among the populace. According to Baba Boko Haram leadership “the fear of Boko Haram is the beginning of safety” (Orode, p. 25). Boko Haram is an Islamic sect terrorist group operating in the North Eastern part of Nigeria notably: Borno, Bauchi, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Taraba States. Her

terrorist activities and victims have extended to Abuja the Federal Capital of Nigeria and her fears extended to all parts of Nigeria. In addition, University Students in some Universities in the Western and Southern parts of Nigeria such as: University of Ibadan, Obefemi Awolowo University, Osun State, University of Benin, Edo State and University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State among others, were stampeded out of their campuses for fear of Boko Haram attack (Adeyemo in Thom-Otuya , 2013). In late 2011, the two chambers of the National Assembly had to be hurriedly evacuated following reported threats of attack by Boko Haram (Tell Editorial). Her victims range from security operatives and their offices, government infrastructures, government officials, churches, Christians, Muslims, traders and innocent civilians.

In recent times as the military Joint Task Force claims a technical victory over Boko Haram, by decimating their capacity to hold any territory in Nigeria, there has also been increasing attacks of Fulani herdsmen on areas outside the known theatre of terrorist activities in the North-East, thereby fuelling fears that Boko Haram insurgents now disguise as herdsmen to perpetrate inhuman treatment – raid, kill, rape, maim, plunder, etc. in other parts of the country. Major incidents of herdsmen attacks have been credibly reported in Agatu (Benue state), Abam (Abia state), Southern Kaduna (Kaduna state), Ideato (Imo state), Ndiagu Attaukwu and Akagbe Ukwu (Enugu state) and sundry minor cases in spatially detached locations like Osun, Ekiti and Nasarawa states. The seamy implication is not only in instilling fears on the people, but also in causing population –dislocation in the affected areas and stretching the capacity of the military to a thin limit in security-tending, with at least ten internal security operations as at 2016 (see This Day, 11 September, 2016, p. 1; Sunday Sun, 1 August, 2017 and Vanguard, 6 September, 2016, p. 34).

### **Increase in Defense Budget**

It is common sense to emphasize that, when the security agencies have challenges of fighting insurgency, that there will be need for the military to increase their firing power and military hardware by increasing the defense budget. Aside from the period of military rule, when the armed forces were unquestionably in charge of governance in Nigeria, there had been no time in the country's history that expenditures on security assumed such a gargantuan stature than the period of Boko Haram insurgency. The Premium Times (March 8, 2017) reported that Nigeria spent 4.62 trillion naira on national security in five years in the following order: 2011 (920 billion naira), 2012 (924 billion naira), 2013 (923 billion naira), 2014 (923 billion naira) and 2015 (934 billion naira). Yet the Boko Haram attacks have not abated; claiming at least 23,000 lives in six years. Thus despite the huge amounts spent on security, heads of security agencies have continued to bemoan the paucity of funds to equip the armed forces to perform optimally.

But within the scope of available resources the capital expenditure component consumed only 22 percent, while a whopping 88 percent was spent on recurrent expenditure. During this period also, there was a huge divergence between allocation to the Office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) and the Defense Ministry. While the former got 240 billion naira, the latter was allocated 206 billion naira, which made the capital allocation to the NSA office higher than those of the Army, Navy and Air force combined (Premium Times, March 8, 2017). However, in recent times, the Defense Ministry has been criticized for cautiously (and strangely) hiding its expenditure from the public; a practice which Nyager believes is “prone to contract inflation and ineffective service delivery”. In the opinion of the Premium Times : the high risk and probability of contract inflation in itself fuels the (Boko Haram) insurgency because no

amount of resources would ever be sufficient to contain a system with unchecked leakages. This means that the persistence of the Boko Haram crises may after all arouse or deepen the prebendal interests of the major actors, as shown in the recent cases of monumental fraud leveled against former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Mohammed Umar; former Chief of Defense Staff, Alex Bade and former National Security Adviser, Col. Sambo Dasuki (Vanguard, January 26, 2017, p. 4 & 37); if the defense budget grows unmitigated. Therefore, the money that is often (albeit allegedly) padded to the defense budget would have been used for development purposes.

### **Increased Poverty in the Country**

Insurgency creates a lot of economic hazards by creating an atmosphere of fear, displacing people from their homes, preventing economic activities by the people, preventing foreign investments, diverting funds to procurement of military hardware and depriving people from freedom of movement. Thus, more people are now poorer, since the escalation of the Boko Haram insurgency. At least this was evident or implied in President Buhari's address to the United Nations General Assembly Session on Refugee in September 2016. The Nigerian President acknowledged that a refugee profile of 6 million persons, leaving in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps has been created, while about 6000 others now reside in neighboring countries (Buhari, Broadcast 19 September, 2016); with neither any articulated nor sustainable means of livelihood; but are rather surviving and dependent on humanitarian (and sometimes) unreliable and/or fatigued goodwill of donor agencies, persons or the state. The decimation in the area and the inactivity of such a large aggregate of people, tell the story of the ravaging poverty in the North-East and the black-lash effect on other parts of Nigeria; in terms of rapidly declining productivity, and strain on existing facilities, occasioned by the Boko Haram activities.

### **MITIGATING GLOBAL TERRORISM TO CURB BOKO HARAM**

This paper argues that, the strength of Boko Haram lies on the cooperation and assistance of global terrorism to her operation. Hence they have succeeded in engaging Nigerian Government and her forces for several years. Therefore, mitigating the operations of global terrorism will go a long way to curb the operations of Boko Haram operatives. The causes of terrorism have been attributed to: poverty, social deprivations, lack of economic growth, and loss of cultural identity, political repression, and State disintegration. But Albert (2005) argued that, these causes themselves do not lead to terrorism rather that (1) mobilizing, unifying idea, such as the one offered by Islamic fundamentalism and (2) Committed agitators ready to organize a powerful terrorist force against a common enemy are the two crucial factors that can play effective roles in the origin and growth of terrorist movements.

One of the ways of mitigating global terrorism is that, the developed world must carry out deliberate policies to develop and grow the economy of developing countries. This is done to ease poverty by creating employment and improving the standard of living of the people. It is an acclaimed fact that, poverty leads to crime and frustration; and exposes a people to be easily vulnerable to recruitment into all kinds of antisocial activities including terrorism.

There must be deliberate debt relief policies on the part of the international lending agencies and developed countries. No country has attained a condition of autarky; devoid of any external assistance to grow her economy or developmental strides. The debt repayment is very

cumbersome on the part of the developing economies. It keeps them revolving within a certain poverty circle and increase the poverty effects on the people.

Global terrorism must be considered as a global problem that affects the whole world. It should not be viewed as an American or individual country's problem. Therefore, a global approach in initiating anti-terrorism laws should be adopted and sustained. In other words, the United Nations for instance should be used as a platform for the eradication or combating terrorism. This has to be reinforced with sub regional collective efforts to implement and monitor United Nations rules or guidelines against terrorism.

There must be overt efforts to institute democracy, good governance and transparency in governance amongst all nations or members of the United Nations. Social deprivations and political repression are major contributory factors to agitations and formation of cells to resist oppression, marginalization and bad governance. Leaders must eschew greed, nepotism, tribalism, corruption to institute fairness and justice in the society. Injustice is one of the causes of terrorism. Therefore, governance must be just and objective in other for the people to be loyal and supportive to the legal authority.

Regulation and adequate policing of borders will be very necessary in containing the movement and migration of terrorist group. Most countries especially Nigeria has amorphous and porous borders that are weakly manned and hardly monitored and policed. Hence, illegal movement and transactions always take place at most borders. Nigeria security agencies should guard and police our borders effectively in other to discourage illicit entry of people and goods into the country.

## **CONCLUSION**

Global terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security. Poverty, injustice and subversion of due process and the rule of law can result to frustration and consequently lead to aggressive tendencies. Global terrorism just like Boko Haram is motivated by religious extremism. They use maximum force and aggression to scare their opponents and asymmetrical warfare, suicide bombing, information technology, cyber terrorism and the threat to use nuclear and chemical weapons to annihilate their opponents. Global terrorists work in tandem with other terrorist cells in different countries, to wreak havoc on their target. Global terrorism has posed a threat to the national security of many countries and now serves as a tool for underdevelopment. The continued operation of Boko Haram in Nigeria is as a result of the assistance it derives from global terrorist. Their ideology and dastardly attacks on lives and properties create disunity, derogate our military preparedness and cast aspersions on our nation -state.

There is great need to combat global terrorism. It requires the collective effort of the members of the international community and regional organizations, to halt or contain the scourge of terrorism. The collective security principles of the United Nations should be applied in combating global terrorism. It is a menace that will jeopardize development and internal stability of both developed and developing nations if not properly expeditiously checked. The time to act is now!

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