



GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF NIGERIA FOREIGN POLICY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY

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Abstract

The key significance of international strategy in the headway of national enthusiasm outside the guest has for some time been perceived. The ongoing year has seen momentous difficulties in Nigeria's outer connection because of local security insurgency, for example, Boko Haram, Fulani herders, criminals, and scoundrels. This paper for the most part examines the Boko haram insurrection and its impacts on Nigeria's international strategy utilising the linkage theory. Subjective techniques for examination were utilised, drawing to a great extent from auxiliary sources. Discoveries from this paper show that the activities of Boko Haram constitute a serious threat to the development of Nigeria. Aside, the socioeconomic implications, the human costs are of great concern to everybody in Nigeria. This paper, therefore, recommends the need for more foreign policy engagement in the direction of human security especially as it relates to youth employment and protects the liberty of citizens

Keywords: Foreign Policy, National Security, Boko Haram.

1. Introduction

The Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009 when the jihadist group Boko Haram started an armed rebellion against the government of Nigeria. The conflict takes place within the context of long-standing issues of religious violence between Nigeria's Christian, Muslim communities and the insurgents'. The ultimate aim is to establish an independent Islamic state in the region which is against the sovereignty of an independent nation.

However, global development has seemingly reduced the relevance of the existence of separate states to a historic accident and sovereign state is more and more becoming an anachronism (Apadorai 1975). Multinational political, economic and military alliances have provided a platform for Nongovernmental organisations, multinational non-governmental groups (including terrorists, insurgents, secessionists and cross-national rebel), dangerously, technological advancement and proliferation of weapons has given rise to irregular forces with a loose chain of command, frequently divided along ethnic and religious lines. Small arms are the major weapons of choice and non-combatant accounts for the majority of the casualty. Once considered merely "collateral damage", the civilians are being thrown into the epicenter of contemporary security crises and war.

Nigeria has a long history of advancing her national interest through the instrumentality of foreign policy, prime of which is national security. Though the world continues to present a dynamic environment and the interest of nations has changed over the years, the fundamental



objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy have been fairly consistent since they were first espoused shortly after independence in October 1960 (Ashiru, 2013:24). The orientation and posture of Nigeria's foreign policy do not only support the status quo in the international system but equally seek to maintain a good friendly relation with other nations. In other words, there seems to be an unwritten code in Nigeria's external relation that the achievement of the national objective is to ensure that Nigeria maintains friendly relations in the international system. The role of Nigeria in economic integration in West African (ECOWAS), the formation of OAU and the transformation of OAU to AU as well as her efforts in peacekeeping operation across the world among others are a pointer to Nigeria's determination to contribute to global peace and security through her foreign policy.

It is in this context that the various activities of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria could conveniently be situated. While traditional diplomacy and sovereign states struggle to preserve Westphalia's political system, the majority of world people who are excluded from just economic globalisation are committed to changing the world order (Molt 2004:42). All aspects of the economy; raw materials, labour, information, transportation, finance, distribution, marketing etc. are passing through the process of integration and interdependence on a global scale, leading to a situation in which security crisis is becoming so endemic in recent time that by its disruptive consequence has brought the process of socio-economic development in many developing nations especially Nigeria to a halt.

Boko Haram is a top-level risk to Nigeria and Africa as an entirety. A rebellion driven by the Islamist order known as Boko Haram has claimed a huge number of lives and dislodged millions more lately. Now and again, the viciousness has overflowed Nigeria's fringes into different nations. The exercises and activity of Boko Haram have prompted the colossal loss of lives and property in the nation, especially in the Northern part of the nation.

These exercises incorporate terrorising, besieging, suicide assaults, rapping, sporadic gunfire of unarmed people, consuming of police headquarters, mosques and places of worship. The paper seeks to achieve the following objectives; to look at the elements that advance Boko Haram rebellion; to look at international strategic endeavours towards controlling Boko Haram in Nigeria; to look at the difficulties of international strategy in accomplishing its security intrigue.

2. Literature Review

Conceptual Clarification

Insurgency - According to Powell and Abraham (2006), insurgency alludes to a fierce move by an individual or gathering of people to oppose or restrict the requirement of law or running of government or rebel against the constituted authority of the state or of partaking in revolt. Insurrection, as characterised above, violates provisions of the constitution criminal law and the worldwide arrangement commitments of a country in the accompanying situation:

When it constitutes an attack on defenseless citizens and other property resulting into injuries, loss of lives and property as well as forced or massive internal displacement of people out of their habitual places of residence when it drives business/investors away from an insecure area and also when it constitutes domestic and international crimes punishable by law such as



treasonable felony, terrorism, murder, crimes against humanity and genocide (Powell and Abraham, 2006).

Generally, in any case, revolts try to topple a current regime with one that is proportionate with their political, financial, ideological or strict objectives (Gompert & Gordon 2008). According to Kilcullen, "revolt is a battle to control a challenged political space, between a state (or a group of states or occupying powers), and at least one famously based, non-state challengers". He further draws a line among traditional and contemporary revolts showing that the last tries to supplant the current regime, while the previous now and then take a stab at the ejection of outside intruders from their region or look to fill a current force vacuum (Kilcullen, 2006).

Boko Haram - Boko Haram got its name from one of Nigeria's predominant ethnic languages Hausa (Boko Haram) which signifies 'western training is taboo'. It is commonly utilised as a name for an Islamic strict organisation known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad which is an Arabic word for "individuals who are focused on the proliferation of the lessons of Prophet Mohammad (Peace and Blessing of Allah arrive) and Jihad". The term is explicitly utilised to depict the essential conflict of the gathering which is that western human progress as spoken to by its mainstream training is wrongdoing and thus, prohibited to disciples of the Islamic religion. Boko Haram speaks to a commonplace radical association. Kilcullen (2006) clarified that this kind of gathering is described by a battle to control a challenged political space, between a state (or a group of states or occupying powers) and at least one famously based, the non-state challenger. Boko Haram as a radical gathering has been the most unmistakable security risk in Nigeria since it intensified its violent attacks in 2009.

Although individuals from Boko haram sect are not recognisable, Nigerian State Security Service gauged that the gathering has more than 540,000 individuals spread over Nigeria and the neighboring nations of Chad, Niger, and Cameroun (Sahara Reporters New York, 2012). Moreover, the Boko Haram sect is exceptionally populated by young people beneath the age of 40 years. As an individual from Salafist group, Boko Haram pioneer Mohammed Yusuf was impacted by the extreme lessons of researcher Ibn Taymiyyah who was notable for Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East. Although there is no proof connecting Boko Haram with either Al-Qaeda or the Taliban, its structure is designed according to that of the Afghanistan Taliban. Furthermore, its outrageous disdain for western training and majority rule government, which is its principle philosophy, is designed after the Taliban. At a point, the gathering was synonymous with the Taliban as it renamed its originally settled region in Kanama town Afghanistan before it was wrecked by the security powers.

Security - This denotes a situation that provides national and international conditions favourable to the protection of a nation, state, and its citizens against existing and potential threats (Held, 1998). This is viewed as obtaining, organisation, and utilisation of military power to accomplish national objectives. It cuts across numerous orders covering military assurance, observation, insurance of national qualities and human rights. It is additionally observed as the non-attendance of dangers to obtain esteems, and the nonappearance of dread that such qualities will be assaulted.

Baldwin (1997) conceptualises security from the conventional viewpoint, where he takes note that customary security is likened to the state's promise to improve its military in the barrier of



national center valves, for example, power and regional trustworthiness. Nwolise (2009) noticed that security includes the sending and utilisation of military assets by society to support its valves notwithstanding dangers and difficulties from both interior and outer sources (Nwolise, 2009). Richmond (2012) advocates endeavours to kill dangers to human security by improving the impacts of neediness, joblessness, conflicts(diseases, hunger, evacuee fiascos) and human rights infringement on the populace.

Empirical Review of the Literature

Boko Haram has heightened its activity in the North-East of Nigeria despite the highly sensitive situation that was pronounced by the central government in the three states in the northern region where Boko Haram exercises are concentrated. The exercises of the organisation have been of worry to researchers who have composed different scholastic papers on the problem of Boko haram. Eme and Ibietan (2012) dissected the source and philosophy of the organisation. From their examination they observed that Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, otherwise called Boko Haram, is an Islamic psychological militant gathering that has a solid operational situated in the north east of Nigeria. The philosophy of the organization according to them is to finish the mainstream arrangement of government and present Sharia law in Nigeria.

In any case, Lister (2012) didn't buy into the thought that the Boko Haram point is to Islamize Nigeria through the presentation of Sharia law. According to him, the insurgents are displeased young people who have been paid by deceitful Northern government officials to cause anarchy in the nation due to their narrow-minded desire. The high pace of neediness, joblessness and political defilement has been blamed for the elongation of the contention. The vast majority of the infantrymen of Boko Haram are adolescents that are disappointed because they need business, pay and they have been despised by government officials after being utilised by these politicians for their races.

Cook (2013), Awojobi (2014), and Onuoha (2014) all declare that young people were enrolled in Boko Haram on account of the pervasiveness of destitution in the North. The poverty profile of Nigeria that was revealed in 2011 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that the northern area has more poor individuals than the south. Aside from the killings, capturing, and besieging of the sect, their exercises comprise a deterrent to the financial advancement of the upper east where their activity is engaged and Nigeria at large. Eme and Ibietan (2012), Ogochukwu (2013), Oditia and Akan (2014) agreed in their studies on the Boko Haram insurgency that the sect's evil crimes hinder socio-economic development in Nigeria.

National Security and Linkage of Boko Haram Insurgency

Global phenomenon has posed serious security challenge to the extent that what is popularly referred to as new world order is gradually disintegrating to a world without order. International terrorism, environmental threats, global diseases and health hazards, poverty, immigration, and refugee are among the general challenges of globalization. Hubert (2007) states that globalization at times implies increase in violence. Small arms are the major weapons of choice and noncombatant accounts for the majority of the casualty. Once considered merely "collateral damage", the civilians are being thrown into the epicenter of contemporary security crises and war. Refugee and migration are security challenges in the global age.



Global events shape Nigeria's security especially concerning the protection of life, it is no longer news that our people are not safe and war is gradually becoming a normal condition in the land (Chaturvedi, 2006). Lives and property of citizens are not guaranteed or protected for the causes of tension and depressions have not been removed. Security threat in Nigeria is like a double edged-sword, one the mechanism for discouraging the enemy from taking military action is practically not existing and secondly prospective risks if deterrence fails has been on the increase. Nigeria security problem involves both external aggression and internal threat. Boko Haram Insurgency represented an internal threat to national security given its various activities and its linkage with external events as established in the table below:

S/N	Nature of Event	Date of Event	Remarks
1.	Meeting with Nigeria Officials	16/03/2010	Muammar Gadaffi suggested that Nigeria should be divided into two along North-South religious lines following Which the President of the Senate, David Mark, called him a "mad man".
2.	Security Breaches	17/08/2011	AFRICOM Commander General Ham, said that multiple sources indicated that Boko Haram had a link with two established terrorist groups; the al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb which operates in northwest Africa and al Shaabah in Somalia.
3.	Evacuation of Migrants	28/08/2011	The Federal government asked the National Transition Council (NTC) in Libya to look into the report of the murder of Nigerians and black in Libya over the accusation that they were working for the deposed Leader, Muammar Gadaffi. Over 1200 African Migrants including Nigerians who were stuck in the southern Libya desert town of Sabha were evacuated by the International Organisation for Migration(IOM).
4.	BBC Focus on Africa	13/09/2012	Former President Olusegun Obasanjo attributed the Boko-Haram sect insurgency to fallout from the fall of Gadaffi of Libya which released arm group he was training to wreak havoc in Nigeria and other parts of Africa among other factors.
5.	Kidnapping	28/07/2014	Boko-Haram members Kidnapped the wife of Amadou Ali, Cameroon's Vice Prime Minister, and one of the country's most visible political figures.
6.	Killing	20/09/2014	Boko Haram Killed four civilians in Cameroon. Over40, 000 Nigerians have fled to Cameroon in order to escape Boko haram.
7.	Attack of MilitaryCamp	12/01/2015	Boko Haram Forces crossed over from Nigeria into neighboring Cameroon and attacked a military camp in Kolofata. The Cameroon military repel the attack, killing 143 militants,



S/N	Nature of Event	Date of Event	Remarks
			according to the government. At least one Cameroonian soldier died in the fight.
8.	Attack of Border Town	05/02/2014	Boko Haram insurgent shut and burnt to death 90 Civilians in a Cameroon border town.
9.	Hijack/Kidnapping	09/02/2015	Boko Haram militant hijacked a bus in the north of Cameroon, kidnapping as Many as 30 civilians.
10.	Kidnapped	10/04/2014	Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls in chibok
11.	Launching of Attack	17/06/2015	Boko Haram launched an attack in Niger, killing dozens, in Diffa region of Niger close to Nigeria border.
12.	Suicide Bombing	11/10/2015	Five suicide bombers belonging to Boko-Haram killed at least 36 Nigerians at a refugee camp in Chad
13.	Split into two factions	05/08/2016	Boko-Haram split into two factions after longtime leader Abubakar Shekau rejected an attempt by ISI's Abu Musab al-Barnawi to replace him
14.	Kidnapped and Killing	09/09/2017	Boko Haram militants kidnapped about 40 young adults, women and children and killed 18 in the town of Banki, 130km southeast of Maiduguri, Borno State. On the border of Nigeria and Cameroon, Boko Haram was reported to have killed 380 people between April and September 2017 in the lake chad area.
15.	Bombers	26/04/2018	Boko Haram bombers killed at least four civilians in the outskirts of Maiduguri.
16.	Killing	27/07/2019	Boko Haram terrorists opened fire on a group of people walking from a funeral in Nganzai District of Borno State, Nigeria
17.	Kidnapped	03/01/2020	Revered Andimi was abducted by book haram when they attacked Michika in Adamawa state and Revered Andimi was later killed by Boko-Haram and many more.

Source: Author's compilation from the National News Papers.

Theoretical Framework

The paper makes use of linkage theory. Nigerian international strategy researchers and Writers have effectively applied Rosenau's linkage arrangement to clarify Nigerian international strategy (Akinyemi, 2007; Olofin, 2013; Gambari, 1974; Saliu, 2013). Their submission is that whatever Nigeria does outside her border can only be better understood if we look at both internal and external factors that compel those actions. This research is aware that there are other theories of international relations that could be applied including the balance of power, power realism, idealism, Marxian theory, dependency theory, game theory, decision-making theory, integration, feminist and communication theory to mention but few.



Linkage theory is chosen not because the game theory is not convincing in its explanation of the interplay between and among states and in emphasizing maximisation of opportunities and minimisation of cost, nor because Hans Morgenthau's classical realist theory is not strong and convincing in its prediction of power as the most potent currency with which state possesses their possessions and achieve their present and future desires in the international system. The theory is chosen because a comprehensive understanding of international relations is assured when internal and external environments are merged and treated as two sides of a coin. This has become a profitable way to treat international relations because the thick wall that separated domestic politics from the external environment has consistently been assaulted by happenings in the global world (Saliu, 2013).

Although linkage theory, like many theories of international relation, may not be too good a navigator or approach when scientific criteria for linking what transpired between domestic and external environment is required given the dynamic and implication of certain issues that have visited the contemporary international system with their distinct complexity, nevertheless there is a sense in seeing Nigeria's foreign policy as a reflection of the domestic politics because the initial effort of treating the domestic environment as being different from the external environment has limited the understanding of international relation.

3. Methodology

To realise the central objectives of this paper, the qualitative method was used and the secondary source was largely adopted in the area of Boko Haram and foreign policy. The paper made use of journals, textbooks, newspapers, and magazines and internet materials that treated Boko Haram and foreign policy in Nigeria.

4. Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that social disparity is broad inside and between the world's nations and various social issues. Disparity hampers national and worldwide improvement because a larger part of the populace is in poor condition. There is likewise a relationship between savagery, for example, revolt in Nigeria and a high pace of neediness. Empirical findings suggest that there is a vital correlation between the incidence of crime and the rate of poverty (Laderman, 2001). The absence of education is additionally one of the variables that underlie the Boko haram revolt. For example, education is a cultural capital or an effective means for increasing a person's prospects in life. Many Nigerian youth are in anxiety for getting occupations but there are few available vacancies. Even the educated graduates are in despair not to talk of illiterates, so, youths resort to violence and insurgency as a means to survival.

The multilateral principle of Nigeria's foreign policy, its friendly relation and defence of democracy came into bear in the fight against Boko Haram Insurgency. While the existing policy goals of Nigerian foreign policy is sustained, the methodological approaches changed in the fight against Boko Haram,. This is in line with Akinterinwa (2015:20) as "change-in-continuity". One will recall that an attempt to bomb American passenger-plane on American land in 2009 by a Nigerian citizen, Farouq Muttalib enlisted the country among international terrorists. Nigeria's government quickly embarked on skillful diplomacy to remove its name from the list of terrorist countries and allow her airline to fly freely and directly to the USA. At the inception of its attacks on the nation diplomatic effort was to ensure that Boko Haram was



not tagged, a terrorist group. But with the successful bombing of the United Nation office in Abuja, the effort became futile and government resulted in the defense of democracy seeking support from its international friends. In a similar vein, United Nations sent a board to visit Nigeria to investigate allied pirating of weapons from Libya as UN set authorisation on weapons entering or leaving Libya (Obilade, 2012). France and the UK with the US have sent mentors and materials help to Nigeria to aid the battle against Boko haram. The White House educated the Congress on October 14, 2014 that it had conveyed 300 Arm Forces' work-force to Cameroon battle against Boko Haram.

The study revealed that the western culture is destroying all cherished values everywhere leading to consumer harassment, environmental degradation, promotion of unemployment, bleeding workers, destabilising the welfare of states, undermining government, etc. This accounted for inability of citizens and government alike to rise to the challenges of Boko Haram insurgency. Besides, Information and Communication Technology as well as the unfettered market encouraged cybercrimes, and made weapons readily available to international criminal gangs without bureaucratic limitations.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

It can be said that the activities of Boko Haram constitute a serious threat to the development of Nigeria. Aside, the socioeconomic implications, the human costs are of great concern to everybody in Nigeria. A great many individuals have been uprooted because of the continued assaults. The administration should wake up from its sleep and end the rebellion for once. The country can't keep on losing its residents regularly to Boko Haram. The residential setting in Nigeria exists inside the system of the global condition and its strategy detailing and usage is molded by it. While the standard of the relationship was significant in the battle against Boko Haram insurrection, it was crystal clear that Nigeria's companions have not indicated adequate duty. By and large, the impact of worldwide issues on Nigeria international strategy isn't sufficient to clarify its position of safety in the fourth republic, all the more because passivism of any country couldn't prevent worldwide time from moving.

The paper, therefore, recommends the need for more foreign policy engagement in the direction of human security especially as it relates to youth employment and protects the liberty of citizens. There must be an enforcement of law and order, provision of job opportunities, promotion of literacy among youth and adult, uphold rule of law, procurement of modern ammunitions, training and re-training of Nigeria securities and Nigeria needs to adjust quickly to the changing worldwide time.

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