

**Nigeria and the War against Terrorism: The Scourge of Unending
Boko Haram's Insurgency**

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Abstract

Nigeria, just like any other nation across the globe is facing adverse security concerns arising from the increasing globalization of national cultures, governments and economies. Nigeria is presently at loggerheads with the menacing onslaughts from the invading Jama'atul Ahlus Sunnah Lid daawati wal Jihad popularly known as Boko Haram, which means 'western education is forbidden'. In northern and central Nigeria, at least 30,000 people have been killed, and millions of peoples have been displaced by alleged Boko Haram militants since July 2009. The gang has perpetrated terrible crimes such as murder, abduction, sexual violence, forced labour, forced conscription of girls and women, looting, and burning public buildings (such as schools), personal property (such as farmland), and in some cases entire villages. These abuses are regularly staged against Nigerians, claiming their aim is to get rid of the nation's corrupt and abusive leadership and then impose what they term religious purity. The article examines the atrocities committed by the Islamist organization as well as the response from the Nigerian security forces, whose actions against the violence sometimes violated international human rights norms and has sparked additional attacks from the insurgents. The group's series of unprecedented attacks run contrary to the national interest and security doctrines of Nigeria. Expectedly, it is expedient that every serious and responsible government have to take these challenges seriously. The Nigerian military, with assistance from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger has pushed Boko Haram out of several provinces in northeastern Nigeria, but the group retains control over some villages and pockets of territory and continues to launch deadly suicide attacks and abduct civilians, mostly women and children.

Keywords: *National Interest, Globalization, Security, Organization, Violence.*

Introduction

Agitations, protests and confrontations of any kind have always been part and parcel of the Nigerian system. Nigeria, as a developing nation has had a long and unfortunate history of communal conflicts and ethno-religious violence (reliefweb.int, 2011). For example, it can be categorically submitted that all regions within Nigeria's geographical landscape have at one time or the other been visited with the outbreaks of bloody violence between different communities before and since the return of democracy in 1999. There have also been riots in urban centres such as Lagos, Ibadan, Port-Harcourt, Kaduna, Owerri, Enugu and Kano; and for several decades there has been a simmering conflict in other major towns and large settlements. When casually viewed, it can appear that these conflicts boil down to religious differences, tensions between blocs of Muslim and Christian inhabitants. However, when a deeper look is taken, it is discovered that politics, that is, control of government patronage is the primary cause of many of these conflicts (reliefweb.int, 2011).

At other times, election disputes have also led to series of misunderstanding between Muslim and Christian faiths. The typical example was in 2011 polls, when youths went on rampage in southern Kaduna state. In these situations, violence typically starts when one group in a very varied and ethnically mixed area of Nigeria claims control of the government machinery over another group or groups. The Muslim sects have a history of expanding in the cities of northern Nigeria (reliefweb.int, 2011).

For instance, in the 1980s, the Maitatsine sect founded itself in the slums Kano and made the heretical assertion that Muhammad was not the messenger of Allah. The group was brutally eliminated when women and kids attacked heavily armed military and police forces with knives, bows and arrows. Over the course of a decade, the gang dispersed and was completely destroyed.

Political conditions have been established where such threats to stability are not dealt with until violence is a foregone conclusion due to weaknesses in the institutions of politics and the security forces. Most times, state's officials won't order any action against the threat unless they are sure that it cannot be used against them. Due to security organizations' inherent weakness, violence is the only way for them to address any threat of this nature. Boko Haram was founded in response to these conditions (reliefweb.int, 2011). According to the Islamic sect, northern politics have been taken over by a bunch of dishonest, fraudulent Muslims. In order to establish a

"pure" Islamic state governed by sharia law, it wishes to wage war against them and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in general. It has been motivated by a desire for vengeance against politicians, police, and Islamic officials since 2009 because of their part in the group's horrific suppression that year. However, the group has shown that it is incredibly versatile, quickly altering its methods and its objectives under the command of a charismatic leadership.

The stability and political integrity of Nigeria, Africa's most populous state, are threatened by the country's protracted conflict with rebel groups and ongoing government corruption. Since 2011, Boko Haram, one of the biggest Islamist militant organizations in Africa, has attacked civilians in crowded markets and communities as well as political and religious institutions, local law enforcement, and the military (CPA, 2022). The abduction of more than 200 Chibok girls from their school in April 2014 brought Boko Haram's continued danger and the government's failure to contain it to the attention of the entire world. Presently, about 103 of the girls have been released as a result of discussions between Boko Haram and the Nigerian government mediated by the International Committee for the Red Cross (CPA, 2022).

Recalled, that it was on a platform of counterterrorism, that President Muhammadu Buhari won the 2015 election against the former President Goodluck Jonathan. However, Nigeria's economic and political problems have made the war against Boko Haram more difficult. In addition to the military struggle, the Middle Belt region's violence, high levels of corruption, and ongoing inequitable oil money distribution present substantial security issues for Nigeria. The thought of possible links between Boko Haram and other Islamist organizations has increased worries about regional security (CPA, 2022). In an effort to aid in the fight against Boko Haram, the United States increased its military support and sent 300 troops to Nigeria after the group declared allegiance to the Islamic State in March 2015 (govinfo.2016).

The stability of Nigeria is crucial to regional security and American economic interests as it is the largest oil producer in Africa (CPA, 2022). Boko Haram has been driven from several northeastern Nigerian provinces by the Nigerian military, with help from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, (Reuters, 2015) but the group still holds some villages and small patches of land, continues to carry out deadly suicide attacks, and kidnap civilians, mostly women and children. A Boko Haram group known as Islamic State West Africa kidnapped about 112 girls and one boy in February 2018 (Crisis Group, 2018). A little over a month later, the militants released 107 of the captives, with a

report that 5 of the girls have died; and that one girl, a fifteen-year-old, Leah Sharibu, remains captive (Crisis Group, 2018). Although the fighting has largely been restricted in the Muslim north, especially in Borno state, millions of people have been displaced there. The Nigerian Army declared in June 2018 that 2,000 internally displaced individuals would be returning home (CPA, 2022).

Some observers say Boko Haram has reached out to find allies in other global jihadist movements in the Sahel. The speed at which the group developed the capability to produce large and effective improvised explosive devices and enlist suicide bombers to deliver them suggests outside help. But thus far there remains no evidence to say the group's intentions are to confront and attack Western interests inside or outside Nigeria (Walker, 2012).

The operations of the insurgents have caused untold displacements, led to monumental infrastructural deficits, as well as business facilities recording massive downturn, they have not been spared of the devastating impacts of the Boko Haram insurgency. Since 2009, millions of people have been force out of their ancestral homes, a development that has led to food shortages, which in turn has created food insecurity in Nigeria because many farmers have either been killed, displaced or their livelihoods destroyed.

THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

For the purpose of this study, we shall define and analyze such concepts as war, terrorism, and insurgency, which are very significant to its understanding.

War

According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, "war should be understood as an actual, intentional and widespread armed conflict between political communities" (Orend, 2012) [2] A war strategist, Carl von Clausewitz defined war as "an act of force to compel our enemy to do our will" this is captured on the first page of his book, "On War" (Clausewitz, 1976).[3] Most people would concur that, in the broad framework of what the ordinary person thinks when they hear the word "war," these definitions are clear and correct. However, from a strategic standpoint, it may

be argued that these explanations undersell the complexity of conflict and the numerous factors that affect a country's ability to compete successfully on the world stage.

Today's leaders must think define war from a broader viewpoint, and the analysis that follows will try to achieve just that by providing a comprehensive meaning of the term "war." Three elements are covered by this new definition: the nuanced and complicated nature of war waged in a global society; a larger understanding of who engages in (or should engage in) war; and potential future strategies for fighting and winning conflicts. But first, it's important to consider why today's leaders need a new concept of war.

This distinction is important given the long-held belief that wars are fought between nation-states (or city-states as early as the Peloponnesian War). It also casts doubt on the idea that war is governed by a code of conduct or set of laws, in which the parties to a conflict agree to participate in hostilities under certain restrictions and exclusions; whether the parties to a conflict have abided by this agreement is a subject for debate. There has always been some degree of restriction, from the combat operations of the Clausewitzian era through the formal rule of law and Geneva Conventions that nation-states use today.

Strategic decision-makers must reconsider these conventional aspects of warfare as well as the definition of war itself in light of terrorism and violent aggression committed by non-state actors. The Global War on Terrorism has shown that war is no longer just a "conflict between states or nations," nor is it only fought between political communities (Merriam-Webster, 2012). As Joseph Nye pointed out, "in today's global information age...more things are happening outside the control of even the most powerful states."(Nye, 2011). If a nation's interests align with those of other entities, then there will naturally be a propensity toward world peace. The natural tendency will increasingly lean towards more aggressive national engagement and military conflict if disagreement arises between a nation's interests and those of other nation-states or non-state entities. Intentionally, this theory emphasizes nation-states and/or non-state actors (Long, 2012).

At this juncture, it is very imperative that a strategic leader's concept of war must necessarily be more encompassing, and also more complex. Solace is found in Long's definition which says War is the coherent execution of all means to bring about sufficient adherence to a nation's will in the international (global) arena; resulting in armed conflict only when all other means fail (Long, 2012). As it can be seen from this new definition, Clausewitz's view that a nation's main goal in a

war is "to compel our enemy to do our will" remains unchanged (Clausewitz, 1976). The nation's resources that can be employed to carry out this activity have altered in terms of their scope and purpose. While Kautilya and Clausewitz both advocated for the restricted use of diplomacy in conflict, this notion takes a more dramatic approach by encompassing all tools at a nation-state or non-state actor's disposal. It also departs from the conventional definition of war as "armed conflict," contending that war is instead the ongoing desire and acts of nation-states and non-state actors to impose their will rather than an act of armed aggression.

It should be noted that inherent in this definition of war by Long, is that while Nigeria assumes the driving seat of a "nation-state", the Boko Haram insurgents fit into the description of the "non-state" actors.

War and terrorism and war are dehumanizing activities that appear to undercut and disregard the principles that underpin human rights and the legal framework that safeguards them. However, even in the midst of such a breakdown, human rights continue to exist, albeit in a weakened state. While they cannot completely eradicate all wrongs, they can still offer some modest protection and a glimmer of hope for justice. States may diminish from or temporarily disregard some of their obligations to uphold human rights during times of war and other national catastrophes. Certain human rights, including the right to life or the right to be free from torture and other cruel, inhumane, or humiliating treatment, however, cannot ever be compromised. These are viewed as being so crucial and essential that they ought to be upheld even when a state's security is under danger.

Terrorism

Compared to any other moment in human history, the world we live in today is more unstable, unpredictable, and deadly. No country is safe from terrorism since it has spread around the world and its repercussions are felt everywhere. Although terrorism is a problem that is recognized on a worldwide scale, the international community has not always reached a consensus on what constitutes terrorism. It is clear that there are numerous ways to define terrorism. Perhaps there are as many definitions as academics researching the ever-changing problem of terrorism.

The definition provided by Thomas Imobighe (2005:361) is that terrorism is the 'indiscriminate use of different levels of violence to strike fear on an opponent in an adversarial relationship in order to tailor the action of the latter towards a desired goal'. Ogaba Oche (2007:7) also agrees with the point that terrorists are groups of individuals involved in creating a state of fear, which gives rise to the very essence of terrorism. Though some have argued that terrorism is essentially the weapon of the weak against the strong, it is evident that both the powerful and the weak, as well as both government and non-governmental actors within the society have applied terrorism at some point in time. Such terrorist acts may include bombing of selected places, hostage taking, hijacking of planes, assassinations, and many others.

Despite some claims to the contrary, it is clear that both the powerful and the weak, as well as both governmental and non-governmental players within society, have used terrorism at various points in history. Such terrorist acts can involve bombing particular targets. It has been highlighted that a variety of groups, including freedom fighters, nationalists, ethnic groups, and rebels, as well as the national armed forces and other state security agents, have occasionally used terrorist tactics. Some commentators have asserted that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" as a result of these discrepancies. Most terrorists will agree with this point of view since they do not consider their actions as bad but rather as a means of defending their belief.

Despite the fact that terrorism has long plagued the world, it was the terrorist strike against the United States of America on September 11, 2001 that significantly increased awareness of the problem on a global scale. This was due to the severity of the damage caused by the attack on the superpower, which was previously believed to be unbeatable, the enormous number of lives lost, and the involvement of numerous foreign nationals.

After the events of September 11, 2001, many nations that had previously not seen terrorism as a serious social or political problem on their soil felt compelled to join the international effort to eradicate the threat. Without a question, nations have realized that the terrorism problem presents significant obstacles to their foreign policy strategies.

Insurgency

An insurgency is a brutal, armed uprising against established authority that is carried out by small, lightly armed gangs who typically operate out of rural bases (Fearon, et al, 2003; Lewis, 2020;

Kalyvas, et.al. 2010). Small, irregular forces are pitted against a powerful, well-armed force with a strong regular military force as its defining characteristic. Due to this asymmetry, rebels choose to blend in with the civilian population (mostly in the countryside), where they gradually increase their territorial control and military might, as opposed to engaging in large-scale direct engagements (Kocher, et.al. 2010). Control of and cooperation with local inhabitants are frequently key components of insurgency (Kalyvas, 2006).

Counter-insurgency warfare and other political, economic, and social measures of many kinds can be used to put an end to an insurgency (Paret, 1964). Insurgencies frequently include significant violence against civilians because rebels coexist with the civilian population (by the state and the insurgents) (Kocher, 2011). While rebel control of territory frequently involves violence against civilians, state efforts to put an end to insurgencies frequently result in the use of indiscriminate violence (Kalyvas, 2006).

If a condition of belligerency exists between one or more sovereign states and rebel troops, an armed rebellion may not be considered an insurgency. For instance, the Confederate States of America was acknowledged as a belligerent force during the American Civil War even though it did not have the status of a sovereign state. As a result, Confederate warships in foreign ports had the same privileges as American warships (Hall, 2001; Goldstein, 2003).

History Of Boko Haram

Boko Haram was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002. The group was led by Abubakar Shekau from 2009 until his death in 2021, although it splintered into other groups after Yusuf's death and also in 2015 (Enc. Brit, 2014). When the group was first formed, their main goal was to "purify" Islam in northern Nigeria. The group has the belief that jihad should be delayed until the group was strong enough to overthrow the government in Nigeria (Zenna & Pierib, 2017). The Boko Haram group formerly aligned itself with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (AFP, 2015; BBC, 2015). The group has been known for its brutality, (Matfess, 2017) and since the insurgency started in 2009, Boko Haram has killed tens of thousands of people, in frequent attacks against the police, armed forces and the populace. It has resulted in the deaths of more than 300,000 children, (Al, Jazeera, 2021) about 2.3 million people have been displaced from their homes (NYTimes, 2015). According to the Global Terrorism Index, the Boko Haram became the world's

deadliest terror group during part of the mid-2010s (Pisa, & Hume; 2015). The group has contributed in no small measure to regional food crises and famines (Matfess, 2017).

Since its formation in 2002, Boko Haram's increasing radicalization has led to series of operation of suppression by the military organizations in Nigeria. This led to the killing of its leader Mohammed Yusuf in July 2009 (Cook, 2011). The group had an unexpected resurgence in September 2010 following a mass prison break which occurred in Bauchi. This development was accompanied by increasingly sophisticated attacks, initially against children, women, and unarmed defenseless populace. By 2011, the levels of attacks had progressively included police and military targets, employing suicide bombings of police buildings. The United Nations office in Abuja was bombed in August 2011. The government's precautionary establishment of a state of emergency at the beginning of 2012, was later extended in the following year to cover the entire northeast of Nigeria, led to an increase in both security force abuses and militant attacks (Moore; The Guardian; Newsweek; BBC; 2015).

Since May 2013, out of the estimated 2.3 million people that had been displaced by the conflict, about at least 250,000 left Nigeria and fled to Cameroon, Chad or Niger (Michelle, 2015). In the year 2014 alone, they killed over 6,600 people. (Buchanan, Vanguard, 2015). In the same year, the group also carried out massacres, for instance, the killing by fire of 59 schoolboys in February 2014 and later, the staging of mass abductions which included the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirl in Chibok, in Borno State, north eastern, Nigeria (Reuters, 2014).

The Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant on March 7, 2015. According to the BBC, due to internal disagreements between the two groups, hundreds of terrorists left Boko Haram and formed their own organization, named "Islamic State of West Africa Province"(Chandler & BBC News, 2015). In September 2015, the Director of Information at the Defence Headquarters of Nigeria announced that all Boko Haram camps had been destroyed but attacks from the group continue (Ibeh, 2015). In 2019, the Nigerian leader, President Mohammad Buhari said that Boko Haram was "technically defeated"(Dionne, 2019). However, more than 100 towns and communities have been destroyed in the region since 2019. The terrorists have remained there despite military's claim to have technically defeated it.

Factors Necessitating Prolong War on Terrorism

The stability and political integrity of Nigeria, Africa's most populous state, have been threatened by the country's protracted conflict with rebel groups and ongoing government corruption. Since 2009, Boko Haram, one of the biggest Islamist militant organizations in Africa, has attacked civilians in communities, military and police barracks, security mounted check-points, crowded markets, as well as political, educational and religious institutions, local law enforcement agents, and the military.

State governors, membership of national and state assemblies, political leaders, senior government officials, security chiefs, academics, lawyers, traditional rulers, religious and community leaders in Nigeria say they are worried over continuous terror attacks by Boko Haram in the country's volatile northeast region, and also the larger security lapses and the attendant economic crises across the length and breadth of Nigeria as a whole. Only a few years ago, the situation looked more hopeful. In 2015, after President Buhari was first elected, the Nigerian military made huge headway beating back Boko Haram. The following are the factors necessitating prolong war on terrorism.

Economic Stagnation and Neglect in Northern Nigeria

As efforts are on top gear focusing on defeating and stopping Boko Haram numerous devilish activities, there is a need to look at the broader context of the fundamental issues which formed the bedrock of the group's growth in Northern Nigeria. Years of economic stagnation and neglect have afflicted Northern Nigeria and created the sort of environment where terrorist groups thrive. In places where there is no support or opportunity, extremists find it easier to prey on vulnerable populations, preaching false ideologies of violence and hatred.

To push back against this tide, Nigeria's Government must address these issues of corruption by improving the professionalism of its security forces, and providing additional resources for education, infrastructure, and economic activity. In short, Nigeria must take a more holistic approach to counterterrorism (govinfo.2016).

Large Scale Corruption in the Security Services.

Large scale and monumental corruption and human right abuses committed by the upper echelon of the security services is one of the factors that have hampered efforts to stem the Boko Haram

onslaughts (HRW, 2012). Nigeria possesses Africa's largest oil and gas reserves and exported US\$86.2 billion of petroleum products in 2011(OPEC, 2012). When the country gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960, such resources led many Nigerians to be optimistic about the future of their country. Human Rights Watch has documented, however, how, rather than making concrete improvements in the lives of ordinary Nigerians, oil revenues have often fueled political violence, fraudulent elections, police abuse, and other human rights violations (HRW, 2007). Over the past few decades, poverty has increased, and key public institutions have crumbled. Several hundred billion dollars of public funds have been lost due to corruption and mismanagement (Soniya, 2012). Despite the federal government's "war on corruption," graft and corruption remain endemic at all levels of government (HRW, 2011).

Corruption has also infected the Nigeria Police Force, undermined the criminal justice system, and fueled police abuses. Human Rights Watch has documented how police routinely extort money from victims of crimes to initiate investigations or from suspects to drop investigations. High-level police officials have embezzled and mismanaged vast sums of money meant for basic police operations, leaving officers on the ground with few resources to ensure public security. Senior officers also enforce a perverse system of "returns," in which rank-and-file officers pay a share of the money extorted from the public up the chain of command (HRW, 2007). The police have been implicated in frequent extortion-related abuses, including arbitrary arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings. Nearly all of these crimes have been committed with impunity (HRW, 2007).

The Multiple Dimensions of the Violence.

Beyond the early tactics of fighting the Nigerian security forces through direct attacks or conventional styles, the Boko Haram insurgents and its affiliates have widened the scope and diversified their strategies. For instance, they now see the act of kidnapping schoolchildren as an effective way to raise money for their broad operations across northern Nigeria, due to gains in widespread media coverage and the way it puts federal and state governments under pressure to secure the release of the victims at any cost. The Nigerian government and its over-stretched security forces have other numerous beckoning security challenges across the length and breadth of the country.

Challenges of Inefficient Military Operation

Virtually all the membership of the joint forces fighting against Boko Haram terrorists suffer unprofessional elements with poor morale. It is a struggle for the Nigerian military to cope with the threat of standing against Boko Haram, which in most cases are armed with heavy weapons, grenade and other assorted sophisticated weapons with which they are waging a brutal war.

In fact, one of the major challenges that Nigeria's international security partners face is working with the Nigerian military itself. In addition, despite a series of intelligence-sharing agreement, there are legitimate concerns that intelligence shared with the military to assist them in their operations might be leaked. And to make matters worse, this corruption is rampant throughout the force. Nigerian security forces are the best funded on the African continent. Yet, many of the funds are siphoned off by corruption and troops often aren't paid a living wage, generating increased frustration in the ranks and fueling low-level morale (govinfo.2016).

Lack of Trust and Cooperation between the Military and the People.

Research has shown that there exist lack of trust and cooperation between the military and the people of Northern Nigeria. The military forces approach in Northern Nigeria has often alienated the very population that could be providing valuable information about Boko Haram's activities. But instead of forming these relationships, unfortunately, the military has too often built a record of indiscriminate destruction themselves, theft of personal property, arbitrary arrests, indefinite detention, torture, and extrajudicial killing of civilians, much of this with impunity (govinfo.2016).

The Challenge of Inter-Agency Rivalry among Military Forces.

The Joint Task Force is the hybrid government security forces, primarily comprised of military, police, and State Security Service personnel and other volunteers, deployed to various northern Nigerian states to respond to the Boko Haram violence. Though, the membership of JTF as it is constituted have been fighting along military troops in the region but the terrorists still pose security threats. The sustainability of any operation would largely depend on participation of one united indivisible military force.

Other security agencies have been established to support the Nigeria Police, which is the primary organization tasked with the onerous responsibility of maintaining internal law and order for the protection of citizens' lives and property. It does seem as though the security services have turned into liabilities rather than assets. This is due to the fact that the allocated overlapping positions and obligations inevitably result in bitter rivalries that permeate society. Due to the security agencies' waste of human and material resources in supremacy rivalry brought on by jurisdictional disputes, personality conflicts, and competition for operational funds at the expense of other agencies, this condition worsens Nigeria's crime rate and general sense of unease (Innocent, 2018). Unfortunately, the lack of efficient interagency coordination has resulted in the deaths of numerous members of the military, paramilitary, police, and Civilian Joint Task Force in addition to the hundreds of civilians who have fallen victim to armed bandits (C-JTF). This demonstrates that increased interagency cooperation is needed for the benefit of all of these agencies' employees as well as the country as a whole. The federal government has forced to turn to a loose structure known as the Joint Task Force even though the police may have the primary responsibility of restoring peace and order in our nation since they have shown to be lacking in the necessary capacity to do so (JTF)

This means that, with soldiers leading the charge, members of other armed services and security agencies are typically called upon to support their efforts in handling conflict situations (Adeniyi, 2012). With the emergence of numerous threats such as cattle rustling, kidnapping, separatist movements, Boko haram, farmer/herder conflicts, militancy, sea pirates, yahoo-yahoo, ethno-religious conflicts, and electoral violence that necessitate joint operations by security agencies, the current security situation in Nigeria has gotten worse.

Insufficient Personnel

Since the Nigerian military began the fight against the Boko Haram fighters over the past years, It was in 2015, that scores of soldiers made a decision that they would no more put their lives in grave danger. They refused to continue fighting for three major reasons. First, it wasn't for lack of bravery; it was for lack of availability of weapons. Second, there were cases of units of Nigerian army which have been depleted as a result of series of ambush they had earlier suffered, leaving many troops dead and large number of others injured. Thirdly, the issues of abandonment, slashing

of allowances without explanation and glaring cases of corruption. During the trial, at least 66 of the soldiers were found guilty of mutiny and sentenced to death by firing squad. Many others remained in detention, awaiting trial. The cases have opened a rare window into the Nigerian military, once one of the strongest in Africa but struggling to combat an Islamist insurgency of several thousand fighters. The Nigerian army doesn't have a history of desertions. However, the moment the military escalated its fight against Boko Haram, reported cases of mutiny have appeared to surge.

The Nigerian military was hailed for its role in peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone and Liberia in the 1990s. However, since the inception of democratic rule in 1999, obviously, the armed forces were kept weak to prevent them from attempting coups. The Nigerian army is currently mere 60,000 soldiers strong. According to James Hall, a former British military attaché to Nigeria, “under-resourcing has gone on for years, and a decline in competence has come with it, the government has been unable to recognize that the military has gone from something competent to something deeply incompetent” (Sieff, 2015). However, the Nigerian government seems to have been nudged to the realization of this basic truth, but probably lacked the will power to do the needful. The Nigerian government has admitted and blamed the lack of security presence in some communities affected by insurgency, on the shortage of personnel in the war against terrorism (Igwe, 2019).

Suggested Panacea to End the Scourge

Governments must make it a priority to create efficient avenues for citizens to file reports of abuse by military personnel and make sure that each is followed up with a reputable and open inquiry. Military personnel suspected of violating human rights should be reported by authorities for criminal inquiry by civil tribunals. There must be complete cooperation with any criminal inquiry into the actions of military personnel.

Effective panels of inquiry must be established to thoroughly look into allegations of human rights violations by troops and to set up a strong witness protection program for Nigerians who disclose abuses by the security forces. Military personnel who are the subject of credible allegations of violating human rights must also be suspended while investigations are ongoing (HRW, 2022).

As part of its constitutional roles, the Nigerian government must safeguard its citizens from violence while also adhering to international human rights legislation regarding the use of force by its security forces, detainee care, the proscription of torture, and the need for prompt and transparent prosecutions. These rights are protected by a number of international treaties, notably the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which Nigeria has ratified. Nigerian authorities should also bring criminal charges against anyone responsible for crimes committed by either Boko Haram or government security forces.

The escalating violence in Nigeria, scales of violations of human rights, and government failures to address the root causes of the violence have alarmed Nigeria's international allies, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom (govinfo.2016). It is expected of them to keep putting pressure on the Nigerian government to uphold human rights, improve security for residents at risk of new attacks, restraint abusive security forces, prosecute violent offenders, and meaningfully address corruption, poverty, and other issues that have helped to foster violent militancy (HRW, 2022).

In 2010, the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to which Nigeria became a party in 2001, placed the situation in Nigeria under preliminary examination. The ICC prosecutor was in Nigeria in July 2012 (icc-cpi., 2020). In accordance with its obligations under the Rome Statute and the complementarity principle, the ICC should continue to keep an eye on Nigeria's efforts to hold offenders accountable and exert pressure on the government to ensure that those accused of serious crimes against humanity and other violations of international law are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted (HRW, 2022).

The government should consider the provision of more security personnel to guard populations that are at risk. They include, Muslims, especially clerics and traditional leaders, as well as Christian minorities in the north who are seen to oppose Boko Haram. The Nigerian Police Force is understaffed and its employees are working in a variety of jobs both inside and outside of Nigeria. Additionally, it is important to plan enough manpower trainings for them.

The government must see to it that claims of arbitrary arrests and detention, use of torture, forced disappearances, and fatalities in custody are promptly and thoroughly investigated. Make sure that

all security force members accused of any of these abuses are promptly prosecuted in accordance with international fair trial standards (HRW, 2022).

Necessary steps to repeal or reform the Terrorism (Prevention) Act's provisions that violate international human rights and due process norms, such as the authority to designate and outlaw organizations as terrorist groups without providing a mechanism for judicial review and the ability to hold suspects without formal charges for protracted periods of time should be taken.

The government must pass enabling legislation to domesticate the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Nigeria signed in 2001, including making genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity illegal under Nigerian law in accordance with its definitions.

Governments at all levels must ensure that all detainees' rights to a fair trial are protected. Additionally, they must enact legislation that makes torture illegal under domestic law in accordance with international norms, such as the Convention against Torture. Detention center inspectors and family members, among others, must have access to a list of the locations of detention facilities and people who are being held there.

At detention, all detainees must be given access to attorneys. Furthermore, they should actually grant prompt, unrestricted access to all detention facilities for impartial observers without prior notice. Detained suspects should be brought as soon as possible before a suitable public civilian court, where they should be either charged with a recognized crime or freed (HRW, 2022).

In accordance with national law and global human rights norms, the government should execute the directive for security personnel to stop all forms of abuse and harassment of citizens as well as the damage of property. In consonance with Nigeria's obligations under the Rome Statute and the complementarity principle, efforts should be made to ensure that prompt and thorough investigations are carried out into claims that government security personnel committed serious crimes in violation of international law, including extrajudicial killings, physical abuse, property theft, and burning down of homes, businesses, and vehicles.

Relevant authorities in Nigeria should swiftly bring charges against anyone accused of committing these wrongdoings in accordance with international fair trial norms. This effort should be in accordance with Nigeria's obligations under the Rome Statute and the complementarity principle, which calls for all Boko Haram suspects accused of serious crimes committed in violation of

international law, including crimes against humanity, to be prosecuted by the appropriate authorities as soon as possible and in accordance with international fair trial standards (HRW, 2022).

Governments should take measures to lessen the impact of attacks on children's right to education and establish provisions for increased protection for schools that are at risk of attack. A rapid reaction system should be well prepared in advance so that in the event of an attack, schools can be rapidly restored or reconstructed and lost educational materials can be replaced. It is significant to stress that pupils receive alternative educational delivery at trainings, as well as, where necessary, psychosocial support.

Contingent measures must be put in place to address the issues that lead to militancy in Nigeria. Renew efforts to combat endemic government corruption by giving the anchor men of Nigeria's top anti-corruption organizations, like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), more security of tenure; enhancing the capacity of the judiciary's overburdened federal courts; and ensuring that all government officials are held accountable for their actions.

Governments should enact legislation to end divisive state and local government policies that discriminate against those termed "non-indigenes", that is, those who are settlers and ensure that relevant authorities swiftly investigate and prosecute those responsible for inter-communal violence, including ethnic and sectarian killings in Kaduna and Plateau states (HRW, 2022).

Concluding Remarks

From the foregoing, the Nigerian government and its armed forces are expected to abide by the principles as stipulated in the Human Rights Charter and play the game by the rule. On the part of Boko Haram militants, they also have a duty to respect the lives, property, and liberties of Nigerians even though it is a non-state actor and is not a party to international human rights treaties. The organization has to stop all assaults on Nigerian nationals, civilians and all members of the security agencies, right away. All assaults on the right to freedom of speech and religion, assaults on media and places of worship, as well as assaults on schools that jeopardize children's access to education must come to an abrupt halt.

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