

Globalization and Boko Haram Islamic Sect-Effects on National Development in Nigeria

KINGDOM E.O NWAENYI (Ph.D)
Department of Social Studies
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Port Harcourt
08035426523
kingdomnwaenyi@yahoo.com

BENNETT O. ORJI
Department of Social Studies
Faculty of Social Sciences
Ignatius Ajuru University of Education
Port Harcourt

Abstract

While terrorism in Nigeria is a legacy of colonialism, modern globalization facilitated the conditions for the continual existence of terrorism. The paper examines the interface between globalization and terrorism in Nigeria. There has been an increasing trend of terrorism in the nation. It is the view of these authors that the genesis of terrorism can be traced to colonialism which emerged before modern globalization. This paper looks at the impact of Boko Haram Islamic sect as an agent of underdevelopment on Nigeria's national development. The paper recommends that the Federal Government should exercise caution in dealing with foreign interests as regards Boko Haram sect's terrorism in order to avoid being drawn into this ugly trend and should deal with the Boko Haram insurgency attacks as a peculiar problem deserving appropriate home remedy. In the process we should be cautious not to discourage foreign investors in the event of sterring the tide of Boko Haram's terrorism.

Introduction

Boko Haram is an Islamic religious sect which has been in existence before the beginning of their brutality attacks in Nigeria (Adeoye, 2005). The clashes between Boko Haram and security forces have been the result of police provocation. Globalization and terrorism are two concepts that are intertwined. While globalization results in the development of every stratum of our socio-economic, political, technological and cultural lives, it is repeatedly argued that globalization begets terrorism. Amin (1998) states inter-alia

Terrorism and other related violent activities are consequences of globalization. The current wave of international terrorism characterized by unpredictable and unprecedented threats from non-state actors not only is a reaction to globalization but is facilitated by it.

Nigeria has its fair share of the evil effects of globalization, which has penetrated by the Boko Haram activities. The policies of government on International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in the 1980s led to untold economic hardships on the citizens which prompted various groups to react violently against these policies. This period set the stage for terrorist

violence in Nigeria. The militants in the Niger Delta adopted terrorist tactics to fight the government which they believe is an agent of foreign capital. Nevertheless, Boko Haram sect follows the philosophy of who were frustrated by poverty and unemployment, decided to tear their university and college of education certificates and heighten this by destroying institutions of government. Their believed was the cause of their plight (Awolabi, 2009). In his response, Pillar (2001), states inter-alia:

The use of information technologies such as the internet, mobile phones and instant messages have extended the global reach of many terrorist groups. Of one very essential tool of globalization, the internet is used by insurgents, jihadists and terrorist organization such as the Boko Haram as a tool for radicalization and recruitment. Method of propaganda distribution is a means of communication and ground training.

Ojo (2010), the media have ensured that the objectives of Boko Haram in Nigeria are achieved. This is because news of impending Boko Haram attacks by the mass media creates an atmosphere of fear and suspicion in the country. Threats by Boko Haram have been repeatedly reported in our newspapers. In the view of Osin (2011), it seems that Boko Haram is an urban or semi urban religious movement which has built its political and ideological colouring from similar social forces of the past especially from late seventies and eighties. Osin (Ibd)

Terrorist organization poses a threat on socio-economic organizations of any nation leading to abysmal failure of any planned economy and development of Nigeria. Terrorism is best thought of as a modern phenomenon. The major attributes span from international system of nation-states and its success depends on the existence of the mass media to create an era of terror among many people (Jurgensmeyer, 2000). It is noted that Boko Haram has developed links with organized crimes, drug trafficking, state sponsors, companies and corporations, sympathetic to its causes. While globalization facilitates global terrorism, the later itself will put the brakes on globalization. Boko Haram is a controversial Nigerian Islamist group that seeks the absolute imposition of sharia law in the Northern states of Nigeria.

This Islamic Fundamentalist group call Boko Haram has admitted being responsible for the rise of Boko Haram, claiming that it started as a cell of the sect officially addressed as Jama Ahlus Sunna Lid Da'awans Jihad but named Boko Haram by the Northern elite who, under the pretext of sponsoring the youths to study in the middle east, sent them to terrorist training camps. The term "Boko Haram" stems from Hausa words Boko meaning Animist, Western or otherwise non-Islamic education and the Arabic word Haram figuratively meaning sin literally "forbidden". But due to the present heat of terrorism, geopolitics and security concerns have once become a critical issue on the agenda of international summits and international organizations.

This paper comprehensively expresses the difference examples of contemporary terrorism with a particular focus on religious fundamentalism (Boko Haram) and considers the trade-offs between national security and personal liberty in the quest to counter Boko Haram as a brand of terrorism. One issue that has come up in the course of managing the current Boko Haram is the public display of incompetence, apparently driven by an incoherent strategy via security agencies pretending to be searching for bombs in moving and stationing vehicles.

Indeed, terrorist organizations, according to Schultz (1980), has harvested the globalization process to improve their methods of operation. They distanced themselves from using factory made explosives and resorted to materials that can be easily obtained from local sources such as in the form of ammonium nitrate. Ironically, locally made materials are being used with greater frequency to achieve terrorist objectives. Perhaps the best example of this is the

fact that AL Qaeda used locally sourced American-made materials to destroy American targets. Going forward, there is an increased risk of smaller terrorist groups will develop the ability to carry out attacks that will cause mass death.

In a strict sense, terrorist organizations are the most challenging of the rest natural stampedes in Nigeria due to their targets. The three major reasons include; terrorist organizations are capable of exploiting the available technologies brought about by globalization. Take for instance the anonymous nature of internet, planning and conducting operations virtually undetected resulting into conducting operations of the terrorists.

Secondly, many terrorists are ready to sacrifice their lives in abid to their lofty objectives. The established penalties that exceed perceived benefits for those who wish to defer their cause that poses a deterrent challenge. Thirdly the leaders of terrorist organizations believe that acts of terrorism will further their course. They see utility in engaging in acts of terrorizing to draw attention to their course and to coerce governments or other decision makers to yield to their demands. But it is found out that challenging deter terrorist organizations from conducting future attacks. Intelligence is the key to deter terrorist organizations. They should be made to know that they will be held accountable to their nefarious activities. They are made to know that they can be captured before actualizing their ugly intentions into the society. However, globalization has made this difficult to achieve. The greater tasks of moving people, goods, resources and information across borders has allowed terrorists to travel wide and build globe-spanning infrastructures. This infrastructure extends the geographic alternative for attacks, provides chances for recruitment and even fund raising to facilitate movement of both material resources and other support functions.

In another perspective, terrorist cells most often cross international boundaries and most often accommodate members of multiple nationality. A great number of terrorists established affiliations to more than one group which subsequently results into greater cooperation in obtaining counterfeit documents and moving personnel. The loosely affiliated international terrorist networks are difficult to predict, track and penetrate.

Experts note that advances in communications and information technology facilitate terrorist operations. The terrorist leaders often use satellite telephones, allowing them to remain in accessible and at the same time influencing events far away. The terrorists equally utilize internet for long-distance operational direction and communication with some groups using it for propaganda, recruitment and fund raising exercises. A more challenging policy maker's face is the sensitivity within Islamic world towards initiatives intended to increase literacy, education and act-based cultural awareness. The very foundation of our existence as a nation was rocked violently by the religious sect called Boko Haram which literally depicts Western education as sin, and therefore desirous to rid the nation of this sin of Westernization (Sunday Sun, August 2, 2009).

It is sad that during the uprisings in Jos and other parts of Nigeria at different times, the stories were titled to sound as if it were acts of genocide against the Muslims. This is not true. In Maiduguri, Bauchi, Yobe and Kano among others where Boko Haram struck counter this claim. The report was presented leaving out the attacks on Christians and places of worships which resulted into the death of pastors and forceful conversions of Christians to Islamic belief and to join in their Jihad. For instance, in Zaria 37 churches were burnt in 1987. (Field work, 2013).

Agekameh (2011) states that Nigeria has little choice now but to tighten the visa on terrorists more firmly. Border controls and identity checks must be heightened.

Research Methodology

This work utilizes a simple random sampling (SRS) in the selection of the sample. It will also entail the combinations of questionnaire, personal interview, library and internet research.

Hypothesis I

H0: Globalization aids the formation of Boko Haram in Nigeria

H1: Globalization does not in any way aids Boko Haram.

Hypothesis II

Globalization has not in any way aided the formation of Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Table 1: This is a contingency table showing whether globalization aids the formation of Boko Haram in Nigeria

Respondents	Yes	No	Total
Security Agencies/Practitioners	18	9	27
Press/Media	20	10	30
Civic Servants	28	2	30
Politicians	25	4	29
General Public	10	15	25
Total	101	40	141

Source: Questionnaire result (2015)

The values of the expected frequencies are calculated on the above table.

Expected Frequency Table

Respondents	Yes	No
Security Agencies/Practitioners	19.3	7.7
Press/Media	21.5	8.5
Civic Servants	21.5	8.5
Politicians	20.8	8.2
General Public	17.9	7.0

O	E	O-E	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
18	19.3	-1.3	1.6	0.0875
9	7.7	1.3	1.6	0.2194
20	21.5	-1.5	2.25	0.1046
10	8.5	1.5	2.25	0.2647
28	21.5	6.5	42.25	1.9651
2	8.5	-5.5	30.25	3.5588
25	20.8	4.2	17.64	0.8480
4	8.2	-4.2	17.64	2.1512
10	17.9	-7.9	62.41	3.4865
15	7.0	8	64.00	9.1428
Total				23.2403

Source: Fieldwork (2015)

Using the degree of freedom of (r-1) (k-i) at 5% level of significance confidence, the table value +t becomes.

(5-1)(2-i)

4 x 1

4 at 0.05

9.488

Since $t > t_c$, we therefore reject H_0 and accept H_1

Therefore globalization has not in any way aided the formation of Boko Haram in Nigeria.

Effects on National Development in Nigeria

The insurgence of Boko Haram has the following unprecedented effects on the nation's developmental stride. The effects are many but we decide to isolate the following for precision.

- **Foreign investors:** In a crisis ridden environment, it is obvious that intending investors must be scared from investing into such nation. This reduces volume of investment, low output, poor revenue generation leading to mass poverty among the citizens. It is a fact that investment boosts the income of a nation which consequently increases income which in turn creates more investments.
- **Insurrection and arson:** The prevalence of Boko Haram has led to serious destruction of national installations which have adversely affected lives and expensive properties of the nation's economy especially states like Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.
- **Loss of manpower:** The nation's available manpower has largely been destroyed through their suicide bombing in the North East of Nigeria.
- **Demographic displacement:** There is a large displacement of the nation's population especially the vulnerable states of Nigeria. This has led to unprecedented refugeeism leading to unhealthy spread of contagious diseases and poor accommodation which is very unhealthy. The displaced persons have necessarily put to a stop all their plans within the period of refugeeism. This leads to a halt in national development.
- **National image:** The image of a nation stinks abuse at the international level and this denies a nation an appreciating development. When the image of a nation stinks abuse other nations would dump it in any dealing internationally.
- **Instability and hostility:** In the face of instability and hostility the image of a nation is at stake for any international dealing. Any nation feels uneasy to have any meaningful development oriented contract considering the nature of such environment.
- **Punctuation of regime:** The issue of Boko Haram sect has a grievous effect on any well constituted regime. The current situation where three states in the nation Borno, Adamawa and Yobe stand risk of not participating in the March and April 2015 election does not encourage development plan in any way.
- The Boko Haram insurgence has paralyzed the education of this country. In the absence of a stable educational enterprise the future of such nation is ruined as the needed manpowers may not be found.
- Wanton destruction of churches and mosques is capable of attracting the anger of God. A nation that loses the spiritual support and favour of God is bound to remain undeveloped. The country Nigeria is in crisis and subsequently losing so many things including her gallantry in football match. This is a reflection of attitude of immorality through insurgency as in Boko Haram Islamic sect.

Conclusion

Recent occurrences in Nigeria clearly show that the state of insecurity in the polity has assumed a frightening dimension. While it may be posited that insecurity is a global problem, what looks rather strange is our situation is the seeming inability of our government to tackle the challenging head-long. The cliché of ‘security threat’ has almost transformed to ‘security collapse’. Boko Haram and gun attacks on innocent Nigerians have become almost a daily routine, the group added another dimension to the campaign. It ordered Northern Muslims and resident in the South to return to the North and indigenes of the Southern States living in the North to go home. Many people have chosen to obey the other rather than the governments order to disregard the instruction.

President Jonathan has a duty to restore security and maintain the country's unity. He should borrow a leaf from the strategy of his predecessors, President Babangida and use it to deal with the Niger Delta Insurgency. He should seek out competent persons and if necessary, set up new security strategies to deal with the current attacks. He should also exercise caution in dealing with foreign interests, to avoid being drawn into a terror orbit far greater than our present predicament. He should deal with the Boko Haram attacks as peculiar problems deserving appropriate home grown remedy, without courting the physical presence of foreigners.

A critical look at the above key factors, as earlier indicated shows that Nigeria is prone to terrorism either internally or externally motivated. The state of the economy is dwindling, standard of living extremely poor, security systems, perpetual state of instability and poor morale of the population and high crisis of legitimacy (Ogundiya, 2001). Therefore, to prevent domestic terrorism in Nigeria, the country's economy must be put on a sound footing with the eradication of corruption in all facets of human endeavour. Effective poverty alleviation programme devoid of rhetoric must also be put in place. This argument is predicated on the fact that deprived citizens may provide means for the implementation of terrorist act especially when sponsored by disaffected elite with a global institution. Cremshaw (1981) observed that terrorism is more likely to occur precisely where mass passivity and elite dissatisfaction coincide.

Suggestions

- The historical antecedent should be investigated and arrest the propellers of this Islamic sect in the country. If the history of any insurgence is not known it becomes difficult to proffer any effective solution to it.
- To check this ugly trend in the country, the affected states should be made to experience emergency rule being strictly guarded by a detachment of soldiers be released to such region.
- In as much as insurrection and arson constitute a great threat to the unity of the nation it should not be treated by government with levity.
- There should be a legislation making it mandatory to imprison instantly any one being accused of involvement in Boko Haram Islamic sect activity.
- There should be consideration of higher budget for security in order to crush them instantly. A situation where their weapon of wars is far greater and sophisticated is woefully discouraging for a strong nation like Nigeria.
- The military hardwares and other equipment should be adequate to enable them face any insurgency in the country. Their condition of service should also be given priority attention in order to reduce various terrorism in our society today.
- There should be employment opportunities as a check on idleness that can lead to

negative activities. The young school leavers should be engaged in employment so that they shall be diversification away from negativities.

- Finally, federal government should be careful in dealing with foreign interests.

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