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# IMPACT OF ISIS, ALQA'EDA AND BOKO HARAM TERRORIST GROUPS ON NIGERIA'S SECURITY

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## Abstract

The activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups continues with intensified clashes in the border areas of Nigeria with Niger and Chad, and regular Boko Haram attacks against military outposts, convoys and civilian targets, including suicide bombings involving in some cases children. The study examines the impact of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups on Nigeria's security from 2009-2022. Securitization theory was employed for the study. Questionnaire and interview were used for primary method while secondary data collection involves intense library search and internet browsing. Data from questionnaire was analysed quantitatively using simple percentages and frequency distribution while the deductive thematic analysis approach was used for analysing the data sourced from interview. The study discovers that the activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram insurgents have adversely deteriorate Nigeria's security situation. Many residents have fled their homes while a lot more others could hardly go about their normal legitimate businesses with many residents fleeing their homes and abandoning their business thus leading to serious reduction in economic activities thereby costing the government a huge lot of resources to tackle them. All these contribute threats to Nigeria's security. Base on this finding, the study recommends that in response to the increasingly [redacted] regional threat posed by the alliance of Boko Haram with Al-Qaeda and ISIS, the government of Nigeria should increase its cooperation with its neighbours Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The four countries should revisit the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) originally formed in 1998 to address security concerns in the Lake Chad area to combat the group's spread beyond the Lake Chad Basin borders. Border security should be sufficient and sensitive.

**Keyword:** Impact, Isis, Alqa'eda, Boko Haram, Terrorist, Groups and Security.

## Introduction

In the end of the Cold War in the early 90's, nations which were separated in the so called two blocks (west-east) started to integrate with one another. This phenomenon could produce international cooperation or conflict among nations which is accelerated by the development of technologies. The integration and connection are borderless and could remove the territorial distance among international actors to constitute relations. This is called the era of globalization. International relations in today's globalized world has many faces, structures, and orders. Referring to what Hedley Bull said about international order, which is a pattern of activities to maintain primary and elementary goals of international societies, the connections in globalization could be complicated since each state has its own agendas to be achieved. The complication is aggravated by the bifurcation of international relations actors, since it gave birth to new actors such as multinational corporations (MNCs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private security firms, social



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organization movement, transnational organized crime (TOC), and terrorist groups, which possess quite a powerful impact to balance the status quo. Those new actors are called non-state actors (Bull, 2002).

Prominent terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Boko Haram operate globally by establishing connection with their allies in foreign countries. Their operations do not apply any formal law such as state political territorial and state sovereignty. In other words, their operations are literally borderless. Al-Qaeda affiliated with several terrorist groups in Middle East, African territories, and in South Asia. On the other hand, ISIS affiliated with its allies that spread in African territories, Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia region (Aji and Fajria, 2018).

Around February/March 2015 when the Nigeria's military offensive started in earnest, Boko Haram hastily pledged allegiance to ISIS and the latter subsequently acknowledged that. That established a clear link although the timing and reasons for such declaration remain controversial. Although still being disputed widely, public perception in Nigeria, measured by media reports, supports the view that some members of the sect were trained by Islamist groups in Mauritania and some countries in North Africa and Middle East (Dan & Dauda, 2010).

It was also rumored that as early as 2002, some young Muslims had started receiving combat and bomb making training in Mauritania and Algeria with members of al Qaeda's North Africa branch, known as al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, or AQIM. Also, during a television programme on the African Independent Television, Lagos, Mallam Aliyu Tishau, a self-proclaimed leader of Nigeria's Boko Haram, alleged that some of the group's militants were trained in Mauritania. He made reference to the recruitment of some Nigerian youths into the Mauritanian Islamist group that was trying to overthrow the government of President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya in 2004. The youths eventually returned home to Nigeria. Tishau claimed that Mauritania 'exported' Boko Haram to Nigeria, saying that the Mauritanian-trained recruits returned to form the armed wing of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (Aamoum, 2019). In 2012, the Nigerian military chief declared at a meeting of ECOWAS security chiefs that; 'We have been able to link the activities of the Boko Haram sect to the support and training, the sect received from Al-Qeada in the Islamic Maghreb-AQIM".

While the above sources are based largely on media reports, there is the sense in which the attack on the United Nations Headquarters in Abuja on 26th August 2011 marked the internationalization of Boko Haram insurgent group. The inclusion of international targets for attack and the extension of its operations to other locations in West and Central Africa notably Cameroon, Chad, and Niger marked out the insurgents as a threat to national and international security. Although it is very difficult to draw strong similarities between the Boko Haram group and other international terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and Al-Shabaab in terms of tactics, targets and rationale the claim and declaration by the Boko Haram that it is on a mission to enthrone strict Sharia legal code first in Nigeria and later to expand to other countries through holy war puts the group in the same category as other Islamic Jihadist groups in the world.

**Statement of the Problem**

The studies on ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups have witnessed a number of contentious debates. Numbers of scholars and commentators such as Agbiboa (2013) and Akinola (2013) have written a lot of thoughtful and dispassionate pieces about Boko Haram terrorist groups across most parts of the world. Yet, none from the researchers' investigation has taken cognisance of the ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups and its implication for Nigeria's security. This gap identified in extant literature has greatly constituted a problematique that inform this study.

The activities of the Boko Haram insurgent group have drawn significant and tremendous attention and scrutiny, and this is looking increasingly likely to continue unabated, bearing in mind the in-fighting which has broken out inside the umbrella of the insurgent jihadists, and posing convoluted challenges with the death of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the Boko Haram faction. This thesis will be interesting because it is considering the activities of the revolutionary group from the outlook or standpoint of their alliance with Al-qaeda and ISIS and how they have constitute a threat to Nigeria's national security; an aspect that appears not to have drawn attention proportional to its significance. Majority of the existing studies on the subject

considered the economic dimensions, with minority concentrating on the impacts of the terrorist groups on Nigeria's national security. Without doubt, the savagery and viciousness of the group, were paramount and ostensible in all the studies, however, a very minority of the studies, at least yet, have addressed the subject at an in-depth or profound national security breadth. In the light of this lacuna in literature, therefore, this thesis will address a huge gap in literature.

The alliance of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups continues with intensified clashes in the border areas of Nigeria with Niger and Chad, and regular Boko Haram attacks against military outposts, convoys and civilian targets, including suicide bombings involving in some cases children. In Borno State these ongoing incidents further threaten the existing, tenuous stability and worsen an already complex humanitarian situation. IDP camps and settlements face constant threats of attacks, leading to restrictive security measures around border areas and in refugee returnee and IDP settlements.

Nigeria entered into pacts with foreign nations like the United States of America, France, United Kingdom, Israel and other countries in the fight against terrorism. Despite these measures, together with Nigerian government response to the fight against Boko Haram terrorism, alliance of the ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups has rendered so many people homeless, the number of house destroyed cannot be quantified. This destruction has contributed to number of displaced persons according to International Organization on Migration (2015) more than 2.1 million were displaced in Nigeria North East by the Boko-Haram terrorism. These displace population have migrated and now live in host communities and in serious need of shelter and in lasting resettlement.

**Research Questions**

The research is guided by the following questions:

i. What is the impact of the ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups on Nigeria's security?
ii. How has the impact of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups deteriorate Nigeria's security situation?

**Empirical Review**

Samuel (2017) worked on Boko Haram Internationalism & its Sub-Regional Security Implications. The study was built within the framework of securitization theory. Secondary method was relied upon. It was found that Boko Haram is a jihadist group with sub-regional reach. At present however, the group may not be considered to be of the same ilk as other notorious extremist groups such as ISIS, AQIM or al-Shabaab. Nevertheless, its continued linkages with these terrorist groups should be a cause for concern not only for Nigeria, her neighbours and other members of the international community. The reason is, though security threats in West Africa and the Lake Chad region have existed for decades and from several sources, religious resurgence and the rise of political Islam is altering and leading to a re-examination of the nature of security threats in these affected areas. Therefore, not paying adequate attention to Boko Haram terrorism including its growing relationship with notorious foreign FTOs poses a greater risk of instability for the region and beyond. The study concluded that the group's internationalization represents an emerging and bigger threat to national and regional security which can only be contained through a combination of national, regional and global efforts targeted at not only armed confrontation but also eliminating the incentives that continue to feed its ideology, recruitment process, radicalization and funding.

Aamoum (2019) attempted to show how radical Islamic terrorist organisations like Al-Qaeda and ISIS have been able to infiltrate African societies and exploit their conflict in order to spread their own ideology. The study looked at Algeria and Nigeria, two major countries on the African continent that have been plagued by terrorism since the late 20th century, and how the terrorist groups known as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Boko Haram, and the Islamic State West Africa (IS-WA) came to be in their respective nations. This was done through the analysis of journal articles, newspapers and articles within Algeria and Nigeria, and surveys of the local population. It was a combination of internal and external factors that allowed insurgent

groups and later terrorist organisations to take hold of these two nations with the internal factors revolving around the political and economic development of Algeria and Nigeria.

However it is impossible to tell the causality of these factors, as one does not cause the other. These factors include high unemployment rates, lack of state capacity, poverty, corruption, religion, and institutional weakness. The combination of these factors is what ultimately allowed radical Islamic terrorism to gain a foothold in the North and Western regions of Africa. The study recommended that future research should look into how and why the states have managed to stay in power while portions of the countries have been infiltrated and overrun by terrorist organisations.

Odebola (2019) analyzed the effect of Boko Haram terrorism on the macroeconomy of Nigeria. The study used data from Nigerian GDP contributors. It takes each GDP indicators into cognizance looking at their contributions to various economic sectors relatively to growth rate (real GDP), in the years of the terror. Therefore, the methodology used to pinpoint and highlight the adverse effect of terrorism on the generality of the Nigerian economy cum sectors are facts, figures and data with use of images and graphical illustrations from existing secondary data and sources. More so, data from the Central Bank of Nigeria, with figures and illustrations from the detailed 2015 and 2018 reports of Global Terrorism Index, GTI published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) are employed.

More importantly, the work justifies and shows that Boko Haram was one of the root causes of the economic recession witnessed in the Nigerian economy through 2016 to second quarter of 2017. Justifications used are GDP components, economic indicators, key sector contributors; their percentage contribution to GDP, value added as share of GDP, with the values mostly in US billion dollars and percentage change in the indicators, for effective evaluation of the impacts and implications of terrorism on the macro-economy of Nigeria.

The study concluded that terrorism has adversely affected the macro-economy of Nigeria, and recommended that apart from the government increasing security and defense, there is need to focus on economic indicators and growth, thereby stipulating that service industry should be enhanced as it can help the economy even in the face of terrorism, also is the need for devaluation of the currency as these can drive the economy to a state of stable growth in the presence of insurgency and attendant terrorism. However, the study did not provide explanation for the nature and impact of the ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups on Nigeria's security, rather it focused major on the effect of Boko Haram alone on the macro economy of Nigeria.

**Theoretical Framework**

The study adopted securitization theory. Securitization theory was originally proposed by Buzan, Waever and Jaap (1998). In the last quarter of the twentieth century, due to dissatisfaction with the narrow, state-centric, and military-oriented approach of traditional security studies, new approaches to security started to emerge under the general topic of critical security studies. These new approaches both widened and deepened security studies both by adding new issues like the environment and economics, and new levels like individual human beings and global security.

To Buzan (1991), security is pursuit of freedom from threats. Security is about survival; it is when an issue, presented as posing an existential threat to a designated referent object, justifies the use of extraordinary measures to handle them (Buzan, Waever and de Wilde, 1998). To analyze how security issues are constructed, Securitization theory focuses on the speech acts of political elites. The elites convince the audience that an issue is an existential security threat to a referent object that must be protected. They thereby legitimize the subsequent implementation of extraordinary measures to overcome this threat.

According to this theory, issues are prioritized and constructed as security threats via speech acts whereby the securitizing actor convinces the audience that the given issue is an existential threat to a referent object that must be protected. Once an issue is securitized, it becomes the top priority, and extraordinary measures against this threat are legitimized. The main argument of securitization theory is that security is a (illocutionary) speech act that solely by uttering 'security' something is being done. 'It is by labelling something a security issue that it becomes one'. By stating that a particular referent object is threatened in

its existence, a securitizing actor claims a right to extraordinary measures to ensure the referent object's survival. The issue is then moved out of the sphere of normal politics into the realm of emergency politics, where it can be dealt with swiftly and without the normal (democratic) rules and regulations of policy-making. For security, this means that it no longer has any given (pre-existing) meaning but that it can be anything a securitizing actor says it is. Security is a social and inter-subjective construction. That is the meaning of security.

Securitization theory shows us that national security policy is not a natural given, but carefully designated by politicians and decision-makers. According to securitization theory, political issues are constituted as extreme security issues to be dealt with urgently when they have been labeled as 'dangerous', 'menacing', 'threatening', 'alarming'and a'securitising actor' who has the social and institutional power to move the issu e 'beyond politics'. So, security issues are not simply 'out there' but rather must be articulated as problems by securitizing actors. This justifies the government response to the fight against alliance of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups in Nigeria.

**Methodology**

The study adopted the mixed method other wisely known as qualitative and quantitative research design. The target population of this study comprises of Command and Control Center of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Institute for Peace & ConflictResolution, Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), members of community and stakeholders (traditional rulers) in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa state making 4,484 staff of the above mentioned institutions.

The sample size was determined using Rakesh statistical formula to arrive at 400. The methods of data collection in this research is both primary and secondary. In-depth interview and 5 point Likert Scale questionnaire were utilize for this investigation making provision for respondents to tick either strongly agreed, agreed, strongly disagree, disagreed and indifferent /undecided. Purposive sampling technique was employed for the selection of interview respondents while simple random techniques was used for the distribution of questionnaire. Data from questionnaire was analysed quantitatively using simple percentages and frequency distribution while the deductive thematic analysis approach was used for analysing the data sourced from interview.

**Data Presentation and Analysis**

Four hundred (400) copies of questionnaire were distributed to the respondents who are officers of Command and Control Center of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution, Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), members of community and stakeholders (traditional rulers) in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa state out of which three hundred and eighty - nine (389) copies of questionnaire were completely filled and retrieved while eleven (11) copies of the questionnaire were not returned. However, the analysis is presented based on the premise of retrieved 389 and found fit for analysis.

The responses from questionnaire were presented according to the objectives using frequency table (frequency, count and percentage). Interviews were held with five (5) purposively selected staff from the above mentioned organizations which are among the sampled size. The interview results were supplemented with information from the extant literature, including newspapers, reports, and official documents.

**Table 1: The activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram have created security burden to Nigeria with added negative effects on the economy**

| Option | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 179 | 46% |
| Agree | 168 | 43% |
| Disagree | 15 | 4% |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Strongly Disagree | | 18 | 5% |
| Undecided | | 9 | 2% |
| **Total** | | **389** | **100%** |

Source: Field Work, August (2023).

On whether the activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram have created security burden to Nigeria with added negative effects on the economy, data made available by respondents show that one hundred and seventy-nine respondents (179) representing forty-six (46%) percent strongly agreed while one hundred and sixty-eight (168) respondents representing forty-three (43%) percent agreed. Those who disagreed are fifteen (15) respondents or four (4%) percent while eighteen (18) respondents representing five (5%) percent strongly disagreed. Nine (9) respondents or two (2%) percent are undecided. Therefore, it is safe to conclude that the activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram have created security burden to Nigeria with added negative effects on the economy. However, an interview conducted with a participant who is an official of Institute for Peace & ConflictResolution exposed that:

> When Boko Haram pledged its allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), in 2015, Boko Haram became known as Wilayat Gharb Afriqiyyah, the translation of this meaning the Islamic State of West Africa. Additionally, since it has "rebranded itself as the Islamic State of West Africa Province" (ISWAP) it also goes by Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad. Moving forward, the name Boko Haram will be used for this group, acknowledging that the group has resisted this name because of its perceived Westernized acceptance and usage. The ideological fault line of Boko Haram became that of the toleration of violence against Muslims and re-defining who is an ummah imitating ISIS and al-Qaeda terrorists. It was not surprising that violence became the modus operandi of Boko Haram, and they mushroomed into a dreaded and deadliest terrorist organization (August 26th, 2023).

In his study Bukarti (2021) of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change entitled 'Violent Extremism in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from the Rise of Boko Haram' identified the evolution of Boko Haram into five broad periods, namely: the non-violent preaching phase, organization and insurgency, allegiance to ISIS and the declaration of a caliphate, internal schism, and splintering. According to the International Crisis Group (ICG), in 2014 there were six existing dominant factions and a "splinter group," called Ansaru, who "focuses more on foreign targets," but still works closely at times with the main factions of Boko Haram: Ansaru, however, also coordinates, trains and receives funding largely from the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Altogether, "Al-Barnawi and Shekau are thus the two main rival figureheads, but they do not represent the only factions" of Boko Haram.

Going further, a security expert in Command and Control Centre of the Joint Task Force (JTF) revealed that:

> Boko Haram's leadership diffuses itself further through continuous engagement and ties to international terrorist organizations. Boko Haram recruits can receive training in surrounding states from other terrorist groups: moreover, their funding structures can be tied to both the AQIM providing financial resources, military arsenals and training facilities available, as well as links to other organizations such as ISIS, Al-Shabeeb, Afghan Taliban and al-Qaeda. Under Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS in 2015, and at that time the Syria and Iraq-based ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, accepted this, urging followers to travel to Western Africa and support Boko Haram (August 22nd, 2023).

The BBC reported that in 2017 ISIS took credit for only thirteen of Boko Haram's attacks, which may indicate that Boko Haram's fragmented structure could "make it difficult for IS to issue claims as it cannot verify which faction is behind an attack." This reveals Boko Haram's fractured organizational structure and the need to

further understand its relationship with ISIS. Within the broad and interconnected terror network of the Islamic State it remains notable to point out that "that the fundamental ideology of ISIS, Boko Haram, and Al-Shabaab rests on Wahhabism." Wahhabism is the ideology that Boko Haram uses to "justify" their behaviour and shape their groups activity. Wahhabism dates back to the eighteenth century to the "Sunni Muslim scholar Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab," whose stance was to promote the "purest form" of Islam. The beliefs of this sect are highly conservative and follow the Salafi doctrine – Salafis are associated with Wahhabism; Salafis and Wahhabis argue that only they are destined for heaven, whereas anyone who does not practice this, regardless of the religion or sect, must be denounced. The current followers of Wahhabism do not reflect the Islamic "principle of tolerance." Boko Haram takes a radical approach to the "mainstream Salafi strands of Nigerian Islam;" Boko Haram's decision-making is based, though, through religious texts of the Quaran.

**Table 2: ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups deteriorate Nigeria's security to a large extent**

| Option | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Strongly Agree | 153 | 39% |
| Agree | 147 | 38% |
| Disagree | 29 | 8% |
| Strongly Disagree | 36 | 9% |
| Undecided | 24 | 6% |
| **Total** | **389** | **100%** |

Source: Field Work, August (2023).

On the proposition whether the ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups deteriorate Nigeria's security to a large extent, data supplied show that one hundred and fifty-three respondents (153) representing thirty - nine (39%) percent strongly agreed while one hundred and forty-seven (147) respondents accounting for thirty-eight (38%) percent agreed. Those who disagreed are twenty-nine (29) respondents or eight (8%) percent while thirty-six (36) respondents representing nine (9%) percent strongly disagreed. Twenty-four (24) respondents or six (6%) percent are undecided. It is evident from the data analysis that the alliance of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups deteriorate Nigeria's security to a large extent. However, an official of the Institute for Peace & ConflictResolution noted in an interview that:

> It was noticed that a significant watershed of Boko Haram's activities following its romance with ISIS in 2014. The former observed the notorious acts of the latter, and hence found some important catalyst and source of motivation which the Boko Haram adopts for control of territory. Previously the strength and capacity of Boko Haram does not fit-in in capturing a small territorial cubicle nor was a village, all it does at embryonic stage, hit and run attacks. But considering how ISIS had succeeded in controlling some areas such as Tikrit, Mosul and other Sunni territories impelled Boko Haram to adopt such style. In August 2014 Boko Haram released a video in which it declared the establishment of Islamic state with headquarters in Gwoza local government of Borno state. This development coincided with the ISIL declaration few months before Boko Haram's own. Observers believe it was indicative that ISIL had influenced Boko Haram to shift from its initial tactics of hit and run to occupation and control of territory. Such strategy yielded positive outcome for the movement. This is largely because they were able to occupy and control large territories in Borno, Adamawa, Yobe States, and some parts of northern Cameroon (August 22nd, 2023).

A respondent who is a traditional ruler responded that there was a point that the Boko Haram adopted the name Wilayat West Africa, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). The romance between the groups

raised concern not only for Nigerian government and its neighbors but including the UN Security Council. Of particular concern are the growing sophisticated arms and weapons used by Boko Haram fighters in recent attacks, as shown in the seizures made by state security forces in northern Nigeria. Following an intensified state offensive against Boko Haram, thousands of Nigerians are fleeing into neighbouring countries fearing retaliatory attacks and general insecurity. Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram have declared on the different fora that every Muslim must rise against any state that fails to adopt the laws of Allah and the teaching of the prophet Muhammad. But the violent terrorist on their part adopted a barbaric system that defies both the doctrine of Islam and secularism. For instance, Boko Haram's adoption of Chibok schoolgirls and ISIS capturing of Yazidi women in Iraq (August 20th, 2023).

While Boko Haram's grievances and attacks are fundamentally localized, the group's most high-profile suicide attacks have targeted the United Nations mission in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, in August 2011. Following the attack, Boko Haram released a statement that read: All over the world, the United Nations is a global partner in the oppression of believers. We are at war against infidels. In Nigeria, the Federal Government tries to perpetuate the agenda of the United Nations… We have told everyone that the United Nations is the bastion of the global oppression of Muslims all over the world (The Punch, September 2, 2011).

Since Al-Qaeda has attacked United Nations targets in Algeria, and Al-Shabaab has attacked UN targets in Somalia, Boko Haram's decision to attack the United Nations mission is unlikely to be a coincidence. Forest (2012: 130) is convinced that 'this attack on a distinctly non-Nigerian target was a first for Boko Haram and indicates a major shift in its ideology and strategic goals.' Already, in one of its early statements, the group declared that 'Boko Haram is just a version of the Al-Qaeda which we align with and respect. We support Osama bin Laden, we shall carry out his command in Nigeria until the country is totally Islamized which is according to the wish of Allah' (Vanguard, August 14 2009). Akinola (2013) argues that the 'sophistication of the Boko Haram operations, outsmarting the military in the manner in which they have been doing, suggests the outfit benefits from the collaboration of experienced international terrorist groups.'

**Discussion of Findings**

The study confirms that the activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram have created security burden to Nigeria with added negative effects on the economy. This is supported by data made available by respondents through questionnaire showing that one hundred and seventy-nine respondents (179) representing forty-six (46%) percent strongly agreed while one hundred and sixty-eight (168) respondents representing forty-three (43%) percent agreed. Those who disagreed are fifteen (15) respondents or four (4%) percent while eighteen (18) respondents representing five (5%) percent strongly disagreed. Nine (9) respondents or two (2%) percent are undecided.

The above result is in conformity with Vanguard Newspaper report of November 24, 2011 that says that, in November 2011, a spokesman for Boko Haram called 'Abu Qaqa' stated: 'It is true that we have links with al-Qaeda. They assist us and we assist them'. After the first incidence of the kidnapping of the schoolgirls, the United Nations Security Council blacklisted the group and described it as an international terrorist organization that has linked with Al-Qaeda and the organization of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Finding shows that the ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups deteriorate Nigeria's security to a large extent, data supplied show that one hundred and fifty-three respondents (153) representing thirty - nine (39%) percent strongly agreed while one hundred and forty-seven (147) respondents accounting for thirty-eight (38%) percent agreed. Those who disagreed are twenty-nine (29) respondents or eight (8%) percent while thirty-six (36) respondents representing nine (9%) percent strongly disagreed. Twenty-four (24) respondents or six (6%) percent are undecided.

**Summary of Findings**

i. The study discovers that ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram terrorist groups exhibit growing interest in controlling captured territory and establishing state structures. This is sometimes reflected in changes in their military tactics: whereas Boko Haram long concentrated on car bombings and

suicide attacks, it now also pursues conventional military methods, such as attempting to capture military bases which resultantly affect Nigeria's security.

ii. The activities of ISIS, Alqa'eda and Boko Haram insurgents have adversely deteriorate Nigeria's security situation. Many residents have fled their homes while a lot more others could hardly go about their normal legitimate businesses with many residents fleeing their homes and abandoning their business thus leading to serious reduction in economic activities thereby costing the government a huge lot of resources to tackle them. All these contribute threats to Nigeria's security.

**Conclusion**

The growing frustration of the Nigerian government with the deteriorating security situation in northern Nigeria has become increasingly evident in its fluctuating approach from dialogue about granting amnesty to Boko Haram members to the deployment of military troops and the proclamation of war against Boko Haram. In northern and especially northeastern Nigeria, rampant levels of poverty and oppression coalesce with the sense of humiliation and grievance to create an identity crisis that is exploited by religious and political extremists to gain influence. Thus, providing mainstream paths for young people, within the cultural constraints of their society, can help to alleviate the anger, frustration, and hopelessness leading many northern youths to join terrorist. True, poverty is not itself a cause of terrorism. However, the lack of a personally meaningful career path means that there is less holding a person back psychologically from becoming involved with terrorist groups.

The current Boko Haram crisis poses the fiercest challenge to Nigeria's unity since the end of the three-year Civil War in 1970. The International Crisis Group (2014:40) notes that the Boko Haram crisis has fractured Nigerians along religious lines and thus 'reversed some of the country's hard-won gains in building national unity and stability'. In addition, the generalised sense of insecurity and ubiquitous bomb scares has dealt a major blow to political and socio-economic activities in northern Nigeria. Haram is a serious threat to the Lake Chad region and regional security in the entire West African region and its alliance with ISIS and Al-Qaeda makes it more cumbersome to defeat thereby constituting a major threat to Nigeria's security.

**Recommendations**

i. In response to the increasingly regional threat posed by the alliance of Boko Haram with Al-Qaeda and ISIS, the government of Nigeria should increase its cooperation with its neighbours Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. The four countries should revisit the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) originally formed in 1998 to address security concerns in the Lake Chad area to combat the group's spread beyond the Lake Chad Basin borders.

ii. Furthermore, a National Commission on Small Arms Control is required in Nigeria. The commission should be in charge of formulating methods and ways to keep small arms and weapons under control in the country. Similarly, the committee should ensure that every arms control programs are coordinated for effective application. Strict laws should also be enacted to guide the manufacturing of local firearms, and individuals associated with the process should be officially registered for regulation sake and propriety in the industry; security agencies to be given advanced equipment to help them fight arms proliferation. This will help in curtailing the deteriorated Nigeria's security situation.

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