

BOKO HARAM/FULANI INSURGENCY: THE BANE OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The insecurity challenge posed by the fundamentalist group (Boko Haram) has heightened serious fears among Nigerian populace. The trend has led to incessant suicide bombings and all sorts of attacks in the northern parts of the country with little or no provocation. Consequently, lives and property are lost, business ventures and shops have remained closed especially in the north. Most regrettably, the Igbo people who are the life-wire of economic activities in the north are relocating in large numbers to their states of origin to avoid losing their lives in the hands of the sect. It was discovered from the study that the use of force or declarations of state of emergencies by the federal government were of no effect to the Boko Haram insurgency. Alternatively, the federal government should embrace dialogue approach, especially now that the fundamentalist group has declared its readiness to dialogue with the federal government Akhain⁴¹, but this can only be effective if the dissident group within the government cycle, who are ever ready to sabotage the strategy, are fished out, dislodged and prosecuted accordingly.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Fulani, Insurgency, Africa, Development

Introduction

Most of African nations, especially Nigeria have had a long and unfortunate history of communal conflicts and ethno religious violence. For example, in plateau state, in Nigeria's "middle belt", there have been many outbreaks of bloody violence between different communities since the return of democracy in 1999. There have also been riots in the urban centers of Kaduna and Kano, and for several decades there has been a simmering conflict in the Tafawa Balewa district of Bauchi Walker¹.

The northern Nigeria in particular had witnessed a religious conflict in 1980s known as Maitatsine crisis, which caused havoc in major cities of northern Nigeria. Muhammed Marwa was an Islamic scholar who migrated from the town of Marwa in northern Cameroun to the city of Kano in 1945. While in Kano

he became an Islamic zealot concerned with the purification of Islam. He believed that Islam had been corrupted by modernization (westernization) and the formation of the modern state. His constant preaching became very abusive and provocative, especially against established institutions like the emirate and the political class to the extent that the then Emir of Kano, Alhaji Sanusi Lamido, expelled him from Kano. Marwa found his way back to Kano in 1966, presumably after the death of Alhaji Sanusi. Between 1972 and 1979 Marwa was detained in prison several times for his provocative preaching and acts of lawlessness against the state Danjibo².

There is a growing suspicion among Nigerians about the real identity and motive of Boko Harm sect. most Muslims see it as an extension of Maitatsine sect which was established in 1945 to transport turmoil to Islam as it was confirmed that Maitatsine was not a Muslim until his death, while a reasonable number of Christians see it as an attempt to Islamize Nigerians while some are indifferent Shehu³

Book Harm is an Islamic sect like Maitatsine sect of 1980 believes that northern politics has been seized by a group of corrupt, false Muslims. The sect wants to wage a war against them, and the federal republic of Nigeria generally, to create a "pure" Islamic state ruled by Sharia laws Walker⁴

According to shuaibu, sallah, and shehu 2015⁵, jama'ah al-Ahlu al-Sunnah li al-Da'wah wa al-hihad known as, Boko Haram in Hausa which means western education is forbidden emerged around 2002 as a peaceful local salafist Islamic movement whose original aim was preaching and assisting the needy. The activities of Boko Haram took violent dimension in 2009 and Nigerian security forces, clashed with the group in five day violent that resulted in death of its leader Muhammad Yusuf and many of his followers Umar⁶. Since 2009 Boko Haram has been driven by a desire for vengeance against politicians, police, and Islamic authorities for their role in a brutal suppression of the group that year Walker⁷.

Historical Origin Of Boko Haram And The Spate Of Terrorism In Africa

Boko Haram is a dreaded Islamic sect known as "jama 'atul Alhul sunnh Lidda'wat, wal jihad" meaning a group committed to the propagation of prophet muhammed's teachings and jihad Meehan and Spaier⁸.

Literarily, Boko Haram means "western education is forbidden" which is the belief the sect emphasized. The origin and founder of Boko Haram is shrouded in

uncertainty. Some scholars traced the origin of the sect to 1995 with Lawan Abubakar as its founder. It was when Abubakar left for further studies in Saudi Arabia that the sect then known as Sahaba that Muhammed Yusuf who is also regarded as the leader, took over the affairs of the sect. others traced the sect founder to Shehu Sanni, a civil right activist in the Northern Nigeria. Apart from the above, numerous expositions on the origin and founder of Boko Haram abound Danjibo⁹.

The Boko Haram movement founded by Ustadh Muhammed Yusuf in the North-eastern part of Nigeria is officially recognized by its members as jama' at Ahlis sunnah lid da'wat wal jihad, meaning people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and jihad. The Hausa appellation Boko Haram signifies its ideology which forbids western education and any culture that is western. It is for this reason that they advocate abolition of democratic governance and any man-made laws. The movement did not become militant until 2009 when its leader was captured by the men of security forces and was later found dead. From 2009 till date, the Boko Haram, in pursuit of their ideology, have engaged in arson, bombing, shooting, stabbing with disdain and impunity, targeting important national events, public institutions, markets and sometimes Christian places of worship and Christian festivals etc. It is remarkable to note that apart from the Boko Haram's targets, they sometimes engage in sporadic bombings of the major Northern towns and cities as it did happen in Kaduna, Zaria, Jos, Kano, Maiduguri and Damaturu among others. When this happens, they kill indiscriminately; they killed both Muslims and Christians alike, they have killed the rich and the poor, young and old males and females, weak and strong, elite and commoners, northerners and southerners alike. With this, it can be reasonably concluded that the Boko Haram insurgency is a war against the nation. It was under the leadership of the slain Mallam Muhammed Yusuf that Boko Haram became radicalized and enjoyed foreign collaboration especially with the Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb Abimbola and Adosote¹⁰.

Since 2009, Boko Haram has constituted a serious security threat in the Northern part of Nigeria. Its terror campaign assumed an alarming dimension from 2010 till date. However, until June 16, 2011, the onslaught was restricted to the North-East geo-political zone. The first attack outside the zone was the bombing of the Nigeria police Headquarters in Abuja. That attack was triggered off by the utterances of Hafiz Ringim, the then Inspector General of Police who threatened to smoke Boko Haram out in a press statement on his duty tour to Maiduguri,

where the sect launched an attack. The attack on the police Headquarters was followed up with the bombing of the United Nations House also in Abuja on August 26, 2011, Aloejewu¹¹.

The northern power elites had through history created a thin layer of leaders from whom everyone else draws their protective existence. It was observed that unless one belonged to such elite group, there would be no appointment into a position in the upper echelons of government. This was done for fear of breeding critics who might rise to overthrow them. A recognized member of the power elite group had to approve appointments at any level Odu¹². In other words, only those who are nominated by the powers that can be in high places could get top positions. Notably, a great number of young men who had no privilege of having the overlord influence existed side-side with the power elites. Sequel to this kind of discrimination against their kinsmen, the youths became aggrieved with restraint for over sixty years Odu¹³, why should they not be aggrieved when for instance, a general manager of federal housing authority (FHA), a nominee of Sokoto caliphate, who was expected to serve the housing needs of Nigerian populace, was in practical term, catering for their elite group residing in Lagos. This was when FHA had not moved to Abuja. His main concern was to ensure that positions were created for their members in Lagos and other places using his privileged position. It is unfortunate to note that these young men were ignorantly brain-washed against any attempt to change the feudal system and inhuman treatment being inflicted on them by their feudal lords, even today, majority of these young men do not have any meaningful sources of livelihood. Though, they do not have bright and promising future, yet these lords are praised for their magnanimity for the daily meals served them (young men) through their cronies. It is observed that a few numbers of northerners are self-employed with little basic western education. According to Odu¹⁴, some of the northern youths are versed in Arabic language and the Qu'ran. He observed that these northern leaders and power elites, who desire to fees young students of Qu'ranic schools, provide them (youths) with classes: another group of students known as Almajiris move from place to place begging for alms which they share all the time with their Qu'ranic masters. There is no doubt that they have been subjected to ineptitudeness and impoverishment contrary to the settlers such as Ndi-Igbo and Yoruba, who most of the time, make progress in their own land. In other words, their leaders who preached to them that Qu'ranic education was all they needed could not provide them with any tangible and meaningful sources of livelihood, which Ndigbo and Yoruba settlers are enjoying while the indigenes are watchers in their own land.

From the foregoing, envy against the settlers and acrimony against the elite group from the north are undisputable the outcome of long age accumulation of grievances from the downtrodden in the north. Comparatively, Islamic education cannot compete favorably with the western education and contemporary technological movement in Nigeria. How can the Moslem preachers or fanatics convince Nigerians that western education and its accompanied life styles were responsible for their plight of greater majority of the northerners, when their Moslem brothers in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and their neighbors with their huge oil resources are great beneficial of western technology today? These countries serve as models in Islamic culture, which other Moslem countries try to emulate. Therefore, the claim by the Boko Haram fundamentalists sect in Nigeria that “western education is sin” is a fallacy and cannot be substantiated. Rather the sect arose as a result of long years of accumulated grievances against their northern elite groups, who have been exploiting their ignorance to their own advantages. The Boko Haram official name is Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal jihad, meaning “people committed to the propagation of the prophet’s teachings and jihad Okpaga, Ugwu and Eme¹⁵. According to these writers, the group earned its nickname from the teachings of its founder, Mohammed Yusuf in the early 2000s, in the restive northern eastern city of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State. In his own argument, Yussuf believed that western education (Boko) was forbidden (Haram) in the region because of the fact that education had brought nothing good to the people but poverty and misery. He succeeded in brain-washing his already disenchanted and disgruntled adherents that western education was the cause of their plight.

Theoretical Framework

The functional superiority of theories as guideposts in all fields of human endeavor lies in the fact that rather than base action on judgment derived from mere experience, guesswork or speculations, theories enable a chosen line of action to be anchored in and guided by evidence derived from scientific research, which makes the consequences of such an action fall as close in line with the intended direction as possible Onah¹⁶. It is in view of the above that conflict theory is selected as the viewpoint for the study.

Conflict is a common phenomenon in all organizations where two or more persons come together to achieve certain objectives set by organizations. That is why conflict was defined by Ugwu¹⁷, as an act of striking together, mutual interference of opposing or incompatible forces, ideas, interest contest, discord

among different persons. He said, when there is a conflict, it implies that there is a dispute and struggle against something undesirable by the persons expressing opposing views or claims.

Furthermore, conflict is believed to represent a condition of disharmony within an interaction process usually as a result of a clash of interests between or among the parties involved in some form of relationship Imobighe¹⁸. But Nnoli¹⁹, refers conflict as contradictions arising from perceptions, behaviors, phenomena and tendencies, while Mialli²⁰, believed that conflict emerges where a clear contradiction exists or is perceived to exist among the participants who view the outcome as extremely important. It can be deduced from the above contributions that conflict is a behavioral pattern involving two or more individual ties, which can be inter-personal, inter-groups, inter-organizations and inter-states Afegbua²¹.

The conflict as a concept has been well highlighted by Dhrendorf²², who saw it as a basic factor underlying societal dynamics. Dhrendorf cited and industry as a case where all participants are interested in self-gain. As a result, there is bound to be conflict as participants in the industrialization process try to out-do each other in the quest for self-gain Anugwom²³.

According to conflict theory, Anugwom²⁴ argued that the conflict between management and labor results from the fact that they have conflicting and contradicting interests. Precisely, the theory sees management as possessing the profit consciousness while labor possesses the wages consciousness. Under this circumstance, each party tries to make its own consciousness or interest dominant as well as increase its sphere of domination but this can only happen at the detriment of the other party. This conflict of interests between the two parties will create a situation where they are constantly fighting over whose interest or consciousness will have dominion over each other. Considering the above analysis, the quest for material rewards, power and the predisposition to rule by the few elites in Northern Nigeria against the interest of the people of the downtrodden, has made the conflict theory relevant to this study. It is within the contending viewpoints above that this study attempts to ascertain the extent to which the conflict theory will provide reasonable explanations to prevailing insurgency in Africa.

The Socio-Economic Implications of Book Haram/Fulani Insurgency in Africa

Aside the human cost in the Boko Harm insurgency, the atrocities of the sect have socioeconomic implications, especially in the northeastern part of Nigeria

where Boko Haram has dominance, the economic, social and psychological costs of the insurgency cannot be quantified. Commercial activities in the northeastern part of Nigeria have been reduced because of the unprecedented attacks by the sect. Banks, markets and shops do not open regularly due to the fear of the coordinated attacks from Boko Haram/Fulani herdsmen. According to Okereocha²⁵ human capital and investors drain is hampering economic development in the northeast. This is due to the attacks on banks, markets, parks and government departments. The attacks on these commercial areas have led to the migration of people to other parts of the country. Shilkam²⁶ posits that:

The Maiduguri Monday market said to be the biggest market in the city is reported to have been seriously affected as hundreds of shop owners, especially southerners are said to have closed their businesses and left the troubled city. About half of the 10,000 shops and stalls in the market were said to have been abandoned by traders who have fled the city.

Aside the migration of people who have business in the northeast to other parts of Nigeria, foreign national of Chad, Cameroun and Niger are being repatriated to their home countries for what the government of Nigeria said they constitute the members of Boko Haram. Evidence has shown that not all the repatriated nationals of the above countries are members of boko Haram. Definitely, those who have business in cities like Maiduguri, Damarutu and Yola will form part of those that are sent homes which will actually affect the economic activities in these cities. Under this situation, the economy of the northeast will seriously be affected if foreign citizens who contribute large quota to the development of the northeast as well as their economic activities are sent back to their countries of origin. The never-ending attacks by book Haram/Fulani Herdsmen in borno, Yobe and Adamawa states have a severe impact on the economic lives of people living in these areas. A case in point is that the working duration of most commercial banks in the affected areas hit by boko Haram bombing has been reduced from eight to three hours Mohammed²⁷. "In Maiduguri, Borno state, where the sect originated, the frequent bombings and clashes between boko Haram and the security agents have weighed down seriously on the commercial and businesses activities in the city as many businesses have reportedly crumbled while many people have fled the state" Shilam²⁸. There is already a dichotomy in the north and south development in Nigeria. The poverty profile released by the national bureau of statistics illustrates that there is the prevalence of poverty in the north as compared to the south. It is in this data that the business day newspaper predicted if the insecurity situation continues

development in the northern part will remain static and the gap between the north and south will broaden further BDN, 2012²⁹. "The region needs peace and stability more than any region in the country, particularly because the region clearly lagging behind in term of infrastructure, education and other development indices" Minister of information, Labara Maku cited in Ogochukwu³⁰: Prominent Nigerians who have bemoaned the economic impact of Boko Haram insurgency in northeastern Nigeria including the president Goodluck Jonathan and Northern Governors forum. According to obaremi³¹ "economic affairs in the north is already depleting due to a massive departure of people and financial institutions from the northern region. But if the government delays in the implementing comprehensive plans to tackle insecurity from its roots, then not only will the northern region be economically desolating, the country as whole risk losing billions of dollars in foreign direct investment". The business activities of telecom operators have not been left out from the attacks of book Haram. For instance, some telecom masts belong to some major mobile telephone operators were destroyed by Boko Haram and the banning of telephone services by the military affected the income generation of some of the mobile phone operators. Just as the economic implications of Boko Haram atrocities cannot be quantified, the social costs are enormous. The church, school, market, clinic and mosque are potential targets of Boko Haram. For example, in April 2014, a federal government girl's college was attacked which subsequently led to the abduction of over 250 female students. Attacks on these social places have prevented people from going to these places. Some students have stopped going to school, others have been transferred to the southern part of the country to continue their education. Christians are afraid to go for worship in the church on Sundays due to the fear of being attacked by the sect. The same is applicable for the Muslim faithful who abandon their worshipping centers because of Boko Haram attacks. The markets have become deserted. The national youth service corps (NYSC) that was created by the government after the end of Nigerian civil war to foster unity among Nigerians is under threat due to Boko Haram attacks. The NYSC directorate posted 4171 corps members to Adamawa state, 1041 of the corps members have to abandon their national duty due to the precarious security situation. Some parents from the south of the country have protested vehemently against the posting of their children to the northeast. Aside the socioeconomic implications, the human cost is more worrisome, more than 10,000 have been killed, a lot of people have been kidnapped in agony. In a nutshell, most of the family members of Boko Haram victims are going through a traumatized period. Many have left their homes and over 650 thousand

Nigerians have been displaced according the United Nations high commissioner for Refugees (UNHCH).

It has been discovered that foreigners aid and abet violence in the north. According to the Kaduan State police commissioner, Mohammed Jinjiri Abubakar in Omipidan³⁰, foreign countries sharing the same borders with the Northern states of Nigeria sneak into this country to cause disharmony. He did not hesitate to mention the citizens of Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon among those involved in the terror activities in the north. This is evident on the arrest of many nationals of these counties, who were caught in mass killings and bombings. The police commissioner could not condone the activities of these foreigners any longer and therefore warned that the police would no longer care about the Africa Charter on the free movement of citizens and would treat foreigners arrested with iron hand, adding that the nation's kind gesture should not be taken for granted. The fear is that the invasion made by the foreign elements may endanger the existing good relationships between Nigeria and her neighboring countries. When this happens, there is no doubt that the balance of payments of all countries involved will be badly affected. Under this circumstance, the economy of the north would have the greatest impact as the foreign nationals that contribute to a large extent on its development through their various economic activities, would relocate to their mother countries.

It has been observed that the incessant bombings and gun attacks in the northern parts of this county by the Boko Haram fundamentalists, have seriously affected the economic lives of individuals in the areas. For instance, commercial banks have been forced to review their operational hours to begin from 9.00am to 12noon as against the normal operational period of 8.00am to 400pm Mohammed³¹. According to Mohammed, this is a part of efforts by these financial institutions to safeguard their business premises. Under this new operational arrangement, bank customers especially traders, find it very difficult to deposit their daily proceeds in the banks due to the limited banking operational hours that are no longer in their favor. Alternatively, these helpless traders have to hide their money in their shops. That is why in addition to the frequent suicide bombings, there are rising cases of shop-breakings and burglaries in the affected areas. The growing insecurity in the north has seriously affected the socio-economic condition such that many people including businessmen are fleeing to more peaceful environment in the southern part of the country. More so, the prices of foodstuffs have started increasing astronomically following the drastic fall in the transportation of the foodstuffs

from north to the south where they (foodstuffs) are greatly consumed. This is because the traders from south find it unsafe to travel to north where they are sold. Subsequently, these farm products are stockpiled wasting in the hands of farmers who rely on them as the only source of livelihood.

The insecurity situation created by the book Haram sect is threatening the existence of NYSC scheme, which is regarded as a unifying factor in this country. For instance, out of the 4171 members of the corps that were posted to serve in Adamawa state and later trained for the Adhoc electioneering in 2011 by the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), about 1041 of them fled the state before the conduct of the general elections, due to lack of inadequate security in the country Egburonu³². Following the massacre of many corps members in some of the northern states in the same year (2011), many of them besieged the NYSC secretariat in Abuja demanding the reposting to states outside the Northern states. Today, the members of the scheme are still protesting vehemently against posting corps member to any of the crisis, ridden states in the north until peace is restored. Some of them have even vowed to quit the scheme should they be forcefully posted to such areas only to die in the waiting hands of Boko Haram sect.

In a swift reaction to the federal government's decision not to post NYSC members to some Northern states, governor Kashim Shetima of Borno state lamented the impact the decision will have on their affairs, and therefore, pleaded with the federal government to reconsider the decision as the state's health and education sectors could be negatively affected. Musa³³. This is because corps members that have been serving in the state provided per 65 percent of the required healthcare delivery and education services at the grassroots level where about 75 percent of the citizens live. The current activities of the Boko Haram/Fulani Herdsmen are threat among the corporate existence of Nigeria's sovereignty. The north and south of the county are in disharmony as a result of allegations and counter allegations against each other. There is established impression in the minds of the majority of the southerners that some northern leaders, disgruntled with loss of leadership in the past nine years, have decided to precipitate crises using religious and sectarian platforms. According to the southerners, these frustrated leaders from the north have the belief that rulership of this county is their birthright. For instance, political power rested in the north for 38 years out of 50 years of this country's existence Obumneme³⁴: but having understood that the current political arrangement in the country has changed in contrast to their expectations, and having also realized that restoring

the power (rulership) to status quo may not be easy, they decided to hide under the religious sect, Boko Haram/Fulani Herdsmen to express their ill-fated anger and ill-feelings. That is why they decided to incite the members of the sect and other people at the downtrodden from the same north, who were already aggrieved and frustrated following the highhandedness of the same leaders, who have been tormenting, alienating and denying them of their fundamental human rights. It is believed that the poor and wretched young men from north are products of long years of neglect and economic slavery Obumneme³⁵. That the poorest people will be found in the north has been authenticated by these boys who are willing to die by killing others. There is no person with well-established future prospect who would want to die wretchedly. There is the belief from different quarters that the north is presently reaping what it sowed in the lives of these frustrated youths so many years ago. It is observed that Boko Haram activities are now threatening the hope and future of the children from the northern states of this country. It is disheartening to note that the security situation in the areas has denied these children the opportunity of participating in the recent Cowbell National Secondary Schools Mathematics Competition (NASSMAC), organized by Promasordor Nigeria Ltd. It was revealed that out of those who emerged champions in this year's competition, and were honored, only two northern schools participated, and only one male student could make the list from the entire northern region Tyessi³⁶. This situation is opposed to 6,7 and 11 champions that emerged from the region in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. The above pathetic situation calls for immediate solution to the security problem in the north as its escalation may lead to total breakdown of education system in the area, and the consequence will be very disastrous not only to the region but to the entire country as well as Africa as a nation.

It is alleged that Boko Haram sect was the creation of politicians, especially some governors from the north, who needed them (Boko Haram) to win elections, intimidate opponents, score political points and extract relevance at the national level Okpaga, Ugwu and Ene³⁷. According to these writers, the sect reached an agreement with the former Kano state governor, Ibrahim Shekarau in 2004 to be receiving monthly payment of five million, which was later increased to ten million in 2009. Similar agreement was equally reached between the sect and the Bauchi state government. Unfortunately, these agreements broke down following the takeover of the mantle of leaderships in the two states by the new governors in 2011, and the payments were stopped. This, according to the sect's spokesman, warranted the bombings in the two states. That is why Lister³⁸, claimed that it is no longer a sect of Islamic fanatics but has the support of

disgruntled politicians and their paid thugs. In his own reaction, a legal practitioner and human rights activists, barrister Pedro Azogu was not comfortable with the roles played by some politicians from north. He stated without mincing words that all the children from the same cultural background, who were denied western education but trained to be killers, are the same people that will kill those that had deprived them of social and economic wellbeing Onuoha³⁹. Hence concentration of suicide bombings and gun attacks in the northern states. Boko Haram has succeeded in instilling fear and hatreds among the people who have been living in peace and harmony for decade. For instance, Adamawa state is a heterogeneous society with high social diffusion made up of over 70 different tribes, ethnic compositions and languages. But in spite of their differences, Adamawa state known to be one of the most peaceful states in the north east until the rise of the current bombings and attacks, which have brought misery among the people. Prior to the present insurgency, Muslims, Christians and other religious believers were living peacefully. But today, Boko Haram/Fulani Herdsmen have brought disintegration, discrimination and lack of trust among people of the same blood. Muslims are no longer comfortably discussing family issues with their Christian brothers and sisters. This ugly situation is not peculiar to Adamawa state but cuts across the northern region. For fear of being attacked, northern parents are no longer eager to register their children in most schools in the north. That is why parents of northern origin are sending their children and wards down to the southern part of this country for their education.

Possible Remedy to The Boko Haram/Fulani Herdsmen Menace in Africa (Nigeria)

Allegations from different quarters have been leveled against some high placed personalities in northern Nigeria over their hidden agenda in providing financial support to Boko Haram religious sect. According to Ifejeh⁴⁰, Senator Ali Ndume and Late Ambassador Saifu Pindar were believed to be some of the greatest financiers to the sect. This is in addition to the established case against a judge with the Kano state judiciary that his call log showed that he actually had links with the religious sect (Boko Haram/Fulani Herdsmen). Considering the above, the federal government should regard these persons as terrorists, who aid and abet terrorism in Nigeria, and therefore should be arrested and prosecuted accordingly to serve as a deterrent to others who are yet to be exposed. Federal government should be reminded of the fact that the members of Boko Haram

comprise the children of the less privileged people who were unable to have access to western education owing to financial incapability of their parents: and therefore, the products of long years of neglect and economic slavery. To reduce the incidents of violence and insecurity resulting from reactions of the aggrieved and frustrated people of the downtrodden from the north, all the governments from the crisis-ridden areas should focus on investing more in education to tackle the issues of illiteracy and economic backwardness. In this regard, the governors from the areas concerned should introduce free and compulsory education particularly to the "Almajiris". The federal government had in many occasions exerted efforts in investigating and trying to question the states that were seriously devastated by the Boko Haram sect. Unfortunately, this strategy was of no effect as the members were not domiciled in a particular area. Alternatively, the federal government should invite the northern state governors and security agencies as well as the leaders of the sect who are known to claim responsibilities for the most attacks, for a dialogue. The multi-ethnic nature of this country is regarded as one of the major challenges facing the security situation in this country. This condition has obviously generated a lot of primordial feelings and sentiments among Nigerian populace. It is on this premise that Ofita⁴¹, reminded every Nigerian that this country belongs to all of us and each person has a responsibility not just the security agents. In this respect, Nigerians should not fold their hands indefinitely waiting for the government to tackle the incessant bombings and gun attacks alone. If a dialogue approach fails, the government should provide enabling environment and adequate tools to well-trained security agents to perform, while the public provide reliable information on the whereabouts of the sects' members, who are residing in the midst of the people.

Considering the level of security consciousness in this country, one may be constrained to state that Nigeria is not yet ready to tackle the issue of Boko Haram/Fulani Herdsmen menace in the north. It is pertinent to remind Nigerians that after 9/11 disaster in United States and July 7 bombings in London, all important public facilities have been well guarded with modern technological gadgets capable of detecting and preventing bomb blasts. It is not out of place if Nigeria should borrow a leaf from these advanced countries by ensuring that all the various security agencies are put on red alert and ensure that all sensitive public facilities are properly guarded with modern technological gadgets capable of detecting and preventing bomb blasts.

Conclusion

The dangerous dimension the insecurity challenge has posed by the fundamentalist group (Boko Haram) has heightened serious fears among Nigerian populace. The trend has led to incessant suicide bombings and all sorts of attacks in the northern parts of the country with little or no provocation. Consequently, lives and property are lost, business ventures and shops have remained closed especially in the north. Most regrettably, the Igbo people who are the life-wire of economic activities in the north are relocating in large numbers to their states of origin to avoid losing their lives in the hands of the sect.

It was discovered from the study that the use of force or declarations of state of emergencies by the federal government were of no effect to the Boko Haram insurgency. Alternatively, the federal government should embrace dialogue approach, especially now that the fundamentalist group has declared its readiness to dialogue with the federal government Akhain⁴¹, but this can only be effective if the dissident group within the government cycle, who are ever ready to sabotage the strategy, are fished out, dislodged and prosecuted accordingly.

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