

**TERRORISM AND TOURISM IN NIGERIA, 2009-2017**

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**Abstract**

The post-colonial era in Nigeria has witnessed a lot of political and religious crises which often led to the destruction of lives and property. However, religious violence, profound poverty, negligence by the government on providing basic amenities, porosity of Nigerian borders, ethnicity and other politically motivated conflicts in Nigeria laid the foundation for terror groups. Terror attacks have forced both domestic and international tourists to restrict their activities in the flashpoint areas because of the fear of being killed or injured. It is in the light of this, that this study was undertaken to examine the effects of terrorism on the tourism industry in Nigeria and to recommend possible ways to combating the phenomenon. Data for the research was gathered mostly through oral interviews, text materials, journal articles, and newspapers. The study is qualitative in nature. The study finds that terrorist acts in Nigeria have affected the development of tourism sector, causing unemployment, dwindling in foreign direct investment (FDI), destruction of the tourism sector as well as the cancellation of cultural festivals, among others. It has also affected the choice of Nigeria as a tourist destination. The study proffers possible solutions on how to curb the menace of terrorism in the country so that the tourism industry can thrive.

**Keywords:** Terrorism, Tourism, Boko Haram, Destination, Insecurity

**Introduction**

The outcome of globalization in the twenty first century is characterized by more connectivity more than any other point in human history. Developments in technology, transport system and communication over the years, have made human existence so interconnected and interdependent, to the extent that it is no longer possible to conceive the world as non interacting units and systems. However, globalization has decimated national boundaries making the long aspired international community a reality. As such, global travel has become widespread, both for business, leisure and also other activities such as terrorism and other associated political violence. Nigeria is not immune to such an ugly phenomenon which reduced the country to a state of insecurity as evidenced by the activities of Boko Haram.

The activities of the Boko Haram terrorists in the northern part of Nigeria put the security situation of the country on the verge of total collapse. These attacks and countless bombings of worship centers, tourist sites and other soft spots infuse fear, caused deaths of citizens, destruction of properties and affect many sectors of the economy. The development of tourism sector which largely depend on atmosphere of tranquility to thrive has been threatened by violent eruptions of the sect. This causes a paradigm shift in tourist behaviour and demand of Nigeria as a tourist destination. However, the extent of the impact of terrorism on tourism in Nigeria is yet to be reconstructed through history. What existed were fragmented materials on the devastations caused by terrorism on national security. Thus, the problem of the study which the researcher intends to solve is based on the premise that the impact of terrorism on tourism industry in Nigeria is yet to be determined and historically documented. In this regard therefore, this study aspires to investigate how terrorism affects tourism in Nigeria and to navigate available options in order to proffer solutions on how to curb terrorism so that tourism can thrive. These are the prime problems of this research.

This research fills the identified lacuna in literature and augment existing literature and bring to the fore, new insights particularly the effects of terror on tourism industry in Nigeria. This study is an entry point for other researchers interested in further analyzing terrorism and tourism in this way, adds to the body of existing knowledge. It also suggests areas for further research. However, the study is beneficial to policy makers in the country to help them configure formidable counter terrorism policies in order to ameliorate the impact of terrorism on tourism industry in Nigeria. The research method employed is the qualitative approach and thematically presented.. Data for the study was gathered through primary and secondary sources, the primary sources employed were oral interviews while the secondary sources consulted were books, academic thesis, several related documents including a wide variety of print literature, internet based resources, government publications, and unpublished materials.

### Conceptual Clarifications

**Terrorism:** One of the challenges of examining the concept of terrorism is that there is no widely accepted definition of the term. Etymologically, terrorism comes from the Latin word *terrere* which means “to frighten”. Paul Pillar in his book *Terrorism and U.S Foreign Policy* described the controversy as semantic quagmire, which has less frequent tendencies approach to defining the concept.<sup>1</sup> Admittedly, terrorism and insecurity is demarcated by a thin line, which makes terrorism tantamount to all activities orchestrated by clandestine elements in the society to disrupt peace and tranquility aimed at creating fear in order to achieve defined objectives through violence means.

**Tourism:** Tourism just like any other concepts in the social science and humanities remains very controversial and no consensus has been reached by scholars of tourism studies in streamlining the definition. Tourism as a generic term has been traditionally accepted to connote traveling to other countries or destination for leisure. However, H.C Schullard in. Candela and P. Figini’s “The Economics of Tourism Destinations” defines tourism as the total sum of operators mainly of an economic nature which directly relate to the entry, stay and movement of foreigners inside and outside a certain country, city or a region.<sup>2</sup> Ifeyinwa Emejulu in her well articulated thesis opined that, the fundamental fact remains that tourism entails the movement of people from their own place of permanent abode to other places either for relaxation, pleasure or even work and other that diverse economic activities associated with it.<sup>3</sup> Implicitly, from the above definitions, it can be deduced that there are some important elements of tourism which include; tourism occurs from movement of people to various destinations, there are reasons and motivations, it must happen outside the usual environment of residence.

### Theoretical Framework

Terrorism destabilizes the economy of a state where there is insurgency. It generates human loss, capital loss, and fear of uncertainty. These factors significantly affect the growth and development of tourism industry in Nigeria. Against this backdrop, scholars have adduced several theories to explain the upsurge of terrorism and terrorist activities in the society. However, the above view correlates with the thesis of this study which argues that despite government anti-terrorism policies, terrorism and other political violence has continued to increase and envelope the entity of Nigeria into great fear of uncertainty, and huge economic downturn evidenced by decrease in foreign direct investment, unemployment, destruction of heritage sites, decrease in the influx of foreign visitors for business or leisure. This study therefore adopts the instrumental theory of terrorism as an explanatory framework upon which the crux of this study is based.

The instrumental theory of terrorism postulates that terrorism comprises of acts resulting in deliberate or premeditated choice by a political actor. In this perspective, violence is seen as intentional, thereby justifying terrorism as a means to end. According to the proponents of this theory, Crenshaw Martha Hermann, Richard Betts, David E. Long and Edward Mickolus, terrorism is seen as a response to external stimuli which could be government or individuals which terrorists acts to hurt. The major thrust or basic assumption of this theory is that terrorism is intentional and a means to a political end.<sup>4</sup> According to Schelling, terrorism is one form of violent coercion, a bargaining process based on the power to hurt and intimidate as a substitute for the use of overt military force. As such it is similar to

other strategies based on the power to hurt rather than conventional military strength. Within this context, terrorism is meant to produce a change in the government's political position, not the destruction of military potential.<sup>5</sup> The theory also argues that terrorists are not mentally ill people who are hell bent on using violence for the sake of it but the theory submits that non-state organizations using terrorism is assumed to act on the basis of calculation of the benefit of their actions.

While the proponents of the theory including Martha Crenshaw acknowledge that it's rarely the case that terrorist organization attains all its ends due to the fact that their opponent, the state is more powerful and has multiple ways of dealing with the terror organization, the survival of the terrorist organization is success in itself. As such, terrorist groups are able to survive destruction by the more powerful and stronger state through use of tactics like attracting widespread recognition and publicity. The theory captures fragmentation of terrorist groups into factions as a survival mechanism through which it survives government's counter terror wars. Factions like those observed in groups like Boko Haram and Al-Qaida are a consequence of disagreements between the group's members on political ends, differences in ideology or even the success or lack of it in achieving the end goal.

The Instrumental Theory of Terrorism is thus suitable for this study as it explains the publicity motive behind terrorist's targeting of tourists. For instance, Ansaru (a faction of Boko Haram) kidnapped and killed seven foreigners abducted from their residence in Jamaare, Bauchi state.<sup>6</sup> It also explains why terrorists attack the economic nerve of a government whether by attacking the tourism industry which contributes significantly to the GDP or other economic interests.

### **The Nexus between Terrorism and Tourism**

Terrorism and tourism appear to have nothing in common at a glance, as both are diametrical. With investigation and research, this study reveals that the two do have lots of commonalities. As rightly observed by David Schlagheck, terrorism and tourism involve crossing of different national borders of different countries, and also involves citizens of different states.<sup>7</sup> Like an international tourist coming into Nigeria from Europe, Asia, America or Africa, and terrorists sneaking into Nigeria through her porous borders respectively. Since the post independent era, the history of Nigeria is replete with several episodes of internally motivated crisis including acts of terror. Thus, terror related crimes that were escalated by the multifaceted political and religious demands of different groups in the country and for the reason of religious and ethnic sentiments. It is pertinent to mention here that the level of impact of terrorism on tourism industry of a country depends on the level of the country's development and political stability among others.<sup>8</sup> This is to say that Nigeria being a developing nation, it's tourism industry suffers more set back than developed nations due to incidences of terrorism. Tourism contributes significantly to overall development of Nigerian economy, and also the most sensitive and fragile as it is heavily depends on the stability and utmost secure environment for it to thrive.

The beginning of Boko Haram nefarious activities in Northern Nigeria in 2009 paled into significance the insurgent and clandestine activities of Niger-Delta militants in the southern part of the country. Boko Haram styled terror acts took a more virulent, sophisticated and religious dimension evidenced by their ability to maneuver the state security apparatus and carry out their attacks. In his erudite treatise, Adesoji traced the evolution of the crisis to the Maitatsine uprisings of 1980 in Kano, 1982 in Kaduna and Bulumkutu, 1984 in Yola and 1985 in Bauchi.<sup>9</sup> These were the first attempts to impose a religious ideology on a secular, independent Nigeria, and marked the beginning of ferocious post-independence conflict and crises in that region. Boko Haram attacks on civilian and military targets spread fear across the length and breathe of Nigeria with their incessant kidnap of foreign and local citizens. This condition of fear of uncertainty is not conducive for the growth and development of tourism which largely depends on state of tranquility. In other words, in the presence of terrorism, tourism will only but crawl. Alison Geary writes that Boko Haram has created widespread insecurity across Northern Nigeria, increased tensions between ethnic communities, interrupt development activities, frightened off investors and generated concerns among Nigeria's northeast neighbours.<sup>10</sup> From Alison's illustrations, tourism and travel can hardly thrive in such situation of fear and insecurity.

### **Impact of Terrorism on Cultural Tourism and Festivals**

Nigeria is multi ethnic with diverse culture. Most of the peoples of Northern Nigeria have organized festivals which previously attracted tourists from within and outside the country. Hence, these festivals became avenues through which economic gains are made. The famous Argungu fishing festival also known as *Matan fada* River or Argungu dance festival that became an annual event since 1934 was also a victim of Boko Haram insurgency. Though in Kebbi state, many residents have described their woes as the festival was suspended in 2009 due to the fear of terror attacks. The festival as reported, attracted about 30,000 fishermen from Nigeria and neighboring countries at each occasion, as well as local and international tourists.<sup>11</sup> The festival moreover placed Argungu community in the map of the world as destination hub for tourist. The festival also created jobs for people of the community; food vendors, its discontinuation caused a drastic drop in the revenue earned by the host community.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, the famous Nzem Beron festival of Jos people was held last in 2009 and was suspended until 2016 due to the level of insecurity in Jos and the fear of Boko Haram attacks. The Berom speaking people of Plateau state could be found in Plateau north senatorial district which comprised of six local government councils which are Rayon, Bakin Ladi, Jos South, Jos North, Bassa and Jos East. The festival brought Berom sons and daughters, both home and abroad to showcase their rich culture to the outside world. The festival and other tourist attractions like Rayon rock formations, Jos Zoological Garden, Jos Wildlife Park, Pandan Reserve and Kuara Falls among others, had previously attracted both domestic and international tourists to Jos metropolis.<sup>13</sup>

### **Impact on Tourist Destinations/Sites**

Terrorist activities in Nigeria have made it difficult for citizens and international visitors to exercise their rights of freedom of movement and association. In most states of Nigeria like Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, people hardly gather for leisure or social activities or travel with ease due to frequent attacks or threats of attack by Boko Haram terrorist during the period under study. It is on record that Boko Haram insurgents took control of many local government areas in Borno State and rendered the socio-political activities of captured communities dormant until when emergency rule was declared in three states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa in May 13, 2013 by President Goodluck Jonathan. Simon et al wrote that Boko Haram rendered political and social activities in these state useless as the institutions and governance structures in most of these state were rendered redundant.<sup>14</sup>

The reoccurring acts of terrorism and attacks on some soft spots in the northern part of the country have affected visitor's patronage to Nigeria's tourist attraction sites, especially visitors to Gwoza Hills in Borno State. Gwoza Hills are prominent tourist sites in the region affected by Boko Haram, and have height of about 1,300 meters above the sea level. Activities done on the hills include mountaineering, trekking and picnicking. The hills are also endowed with several streams, ponds and springs. The hills provided beautiful scene which made the Nigerian Police Force to establish a training camp for its mobile police personnel in the environment. However, due to insurgency, the influx of visitors declined. Which tourist will go there when the police training camp was sacked and taken over by Boko Haram insurgents? Other attractions located in the northern part of the country were under visited while the Durbar and other festivals are casualties of terrorism. Also as averred by Samuel Nweke, Boko Haram terrorists had decimated the renowned Sambisa Game Reserve which was known to be habitat of varieties of fauna and flora.<sup>15</sup> Recall that since the occupation of the reserve by Boko Haram, Sambisa had become a war theatre for Nigeria government's counter-terrorism wars and operational base of Operation *Zaman Lafiya* which was replaced by Operation *Lafiya Dole* since July 19, 2015. Invariably, this study found out that Borno State, the epicenter of Boko Haram insurgency is divided into 27 local government areas, with attractive tourist destinations. But most of them are in towns that had at one time or the other been taken over by insurgents. Towns such as Maiduguri, Dikwa, Shani, Gwoza, Konduga, Bama, Manguno, and Damboa, were in many occasions attacked by Boko Haram with majority of them under total Boko Haram siege before the military recovered them in 2015.

Boko Haram style of warfare disregards any concept of limited areas of combat and has no respect to neutral territory. Unfortunately, Boko Haram terrorists have repeatedly taken their parochial struggles to other neighboring countries and attract people who are unconnected with their course in order to generate attention and publicity. Pointing to instrumental theory of terrorism, many tourism experts



agreed that terrorist carry out their attacks to tarnish the destination image and to cripple the economy. This assertion became valid after the attack on twin towers in New York. As David Baker rightly observed, the terror attack of September 11, 2001 on United States of America had an immediate and substantial impact on worldwide travel. The attacks induced substitution away from air travel generally and caused a shift in the preferences of travelers to particular destinations as the United States experienced an immediate and precipitous drop in arrival of international visitors.<sup>16</sup>

However, Nigeria's experience cannot be neglected in this study as similar crisis exist in the country. Though, commentators have lamented on the unavailability of adequate and proper data and statistics measuring the level of impact of terrorism on tourism industry in Nigeria. The persistent terror attacks in Northern Nigeria have also reduced the passenger traffic to the troubled Northeast as many whom reside in states affected by Boko Haram insurgency are relocating to other regions. More so, the decline in passenger traffic to the northern region is dealing a big blow to Nigerian airlines and other companies within the aviation sector. A respondent decried the decline in profits realized by the airline operators, he explained that the industry which is expected to be making about NGN3 million every day, loses half of the amount on daily basis as northern bound eastern, southern and western passengers hardly travel to destinations with hostile antecedents.<sup>17</sup> Dayo Oketola in a newspaper report observed that despite Nigeria's robust cultural assets and rich natural beauty, Boko Haram insurgents are driving local and foreign visitors away from the country. He further opined that because of the level of insecurity in the country, tourists are shunning destinations in the northeast.<sup>18</sup> To this extent, most of the Nigeria's National parks in the region have ceased to be tourist destinations and now den for insurgents.<sup>19</sup> In other words, numerous National parks were abandoned by tourists, notably, Gumti Park, Kamuku National Park, Lake Chad National Park, Yankari National Park, and Sambisa Game Reserve. All these sites were previously tourist attractive destinations, but now situated in a very unsafe region of the country. It could be stated that Boko Haram destroyed the parks reputation. The sect also destroyed the 500 year old Sukur cultural landscape, which is the Nigeria's first United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site located at the top of the Mandara Mountain in Madagali, near the Cameroon borders in Madagali local government Area of Adamawa state.<sup>20</sup> Sukur consists of a palace, villages and the remains of iron industry accessed by natural stone paved footpaths that ascend the hills.<sup>21</sup> Recall that Sukur was designated a world Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1999 and since then the site had become one of the most attractive destination in Nigeria. Infact, most tourism experts described Sukur as the jewel of Nigeria tourism industry. But Boko Haram attacks in Magadali and other Adamawa communities between September 17, 2014 and 2015 changed the story of Sukur.<sup>22</sup> However, a respondent revealed that prior to the destruction of Sukur and Boko Haram nefarious attacks in the Northeast region, a good number of tourists visited the site but due to the high level of insecurity in the region now, tourist are afraid to travel to Adamawa let alone the Sukur World Heritage site.<sup>23</sup>

### **Impact on Tourism Business**

As Ezeanagu and Enohuan rightly observed, Nigeria is richly endowed with a wide range of natural and cultural tourism products.<sup>24</sup> The consumption of these products by tourists led to the establishment of numerous tourism service industries, which tend to boost the economy of the country. Conspicuously, the northern region of Nigeria is reeling from the continuous attacks of the Boko Haram sect and these have created a negative impression about the region as an unsafe destination in the tourism map. Adejoh and Aly in their study of the "Impact of Boko Haram Terrorism on the Yankari Game Reserve,"<sup>25</sup> revealed that there were lots of cancellation of bookings or reservation in 2011 and 2012 particularly from Lagos, Port Harcourt and Abuja because the location of Yankari Game Reserve happens to be in the Northeast and visitors are afraid of visiting the destination due to the prevailing insecurity caused by Boko Haram nefarious activities.<sup>26</sup> Recall that Yankari National park is the most developed wildlife park in Nigeria with a wide variety of flora and fauna. Its many attractions include water springs: Wiki, Damil, Gwana, Tunga Maliki and Mawulgo – with constant temperature of 30 to 32 degrees all year round. It also has chalets, corporate villa and presidential apartments and high capacity conference room. Mr. Jibrin Aliyu who works in the resort lamented on the decline on the occupancy rate, Mr. Jibrin further explained that before the advent of Boko Haram terrorism, the Yankari resort received tourists from Europe and America, but such visitors have dried up because of security concerns.<sup>27</sup> To buttress the above fact, the manager of Grand Fishing Hotel Argungu, Oseni Mudi, revealed lamented

over the low patronage of the hotel because the fishing festival was suspended due to fear of Boko Haram attack. He further said that the structures of the hotel are intact because they do everything to maintain it but low patronage is a huge problem facing the business.<sup>28</sup>

Tourism in the South-south Nigeria flourishes to an extent, though Omotola Itayemi opined that Southern Nigeria has become a no-go area for tourists due to militancy and kidnapping. Tourists who are interested in visiting the likes of Ogbunike cave, Biafra War Museum, Nike lake, Slave Trade Museum, Tinapa, Obudu Cattle Ranch, among others think twice before doing so or they make additional arrangement for private security which incurs extra cost for the tourist.<sup>29</sup> The decline in the influx of tourist to these destinations spells doom for various tourism businesses, especially the hospitality sector and travelling agencies. On another note, with the exception of Obudu cattle Ranch in Cross River State, Osun Oshogbo festival and Eyo Festival in Lagos, among others, most tourist attractions in Nigeria are greatly under-visited owing to insecurity and terrorism.

### **Impact on Tourist Behaviour and Perception**

According to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, security comes at the top.<sup>30</sup> By implication, tourists as humans would not travel to destination with known security issues or a place where they don't feel safe. Boko Haram, Ansaru and other factions have conducted many attacks since its inception. From bombing of different locations to usurping of local authority in many towns in Borno and Adamawa State, Kidnapping of ten Chinese expatriates working for a construction company at a Nigerian-Cameroon border village and to the kidnapping of the Chibok school girls in April 2014.<sup>31</sup> Invariably, the growing spread of Boko Haram terrorist choice of attack on international institution and foreign nationals in Nigeria and its affiliation with other regional and global terrorist groups is an indication that the group has foreign ambition. In August 2011, the group (Boko Haram) pursued what many scholars described as international objective for the first time. This they did by attacking the United Nations headquarters in Abuja in a suicide bomb attack. The attack left a number of casualties. As terrorism is considered to affect individuals decision making process about travelling to a destination, Hartz opined that tourists are least expected to visit a destination in the midst of terrorist attacks.<sup>32</sup> As terrorism affects the behavior of tourists when they visit 'risky' destination, visitors may do away with conspicuous consumption, keeping of low profile and dress so as not to stand out.<sup>33</sup> This is especially for people who cannot avoid such destinations because their visit is work related.<sup>34</sup> In support of the above, Ogemdi Okongwu informed the researcher that due to insecurity in Nigeria, occasioned by Boko Haram attacks, kidnappings in the south east and militancy in the South-south and the killings perpetuated by the Fulani herdsmen, most potential tourist prefer to travel to Rwanda, south Africa, Tanzania and other destinations instead of coming to Nigeria.<sup>35</sup>

Due to globalization, the above mentioned incidences and more positioned Nigeria on the Global Terrorist index. The Global Terrorist Index (G.T.I) is a research study conducted to ascertain the impacts of terrorism, property damages, injuries, deaths, and psychological effects of terrorism. In the study Nigeria emerged the third most terrorized nation in the newly released 2017 G.T.I report.<sup>36</sup> The report placed Nigeria after the war-torn countries of Iraq and Afghanistan and ahead of Syria and Pakistan.<sup>37</sup> Similarly, previous report shows that Nigeria maintained a third position by the end of 2016 with the record of about 18, 914 deaths since 2000.<sup>38</sup>

Tourist perception of terrorism and the risks involved play important role in determining their decision to visit a destination over others. Generally speaking, terrorism poses a great risk not only to the destination country but also to the visitors. In making decisions as to whether to visit a destination or not, safety considerations become a key factor for tourists. As S.T Sonmez wrote "in the planning of a visit to a destination which is considered risky, tourist experience fear of harmful consequences which easily leads them to cancel their travel plans or alter their destination."<sup>39</sup> A respondent averred that terrorism has the potential to create anxiety about a particular destination as individual who perceives any danger in destination because of terrorism is least likely to visit that destination owing to safety concerns.<sup>40</sup> One good example of how terrorist activities affect tourist decision making was the fact that the Bolivia Football Federation called off their March 26, 2015 international friendly game against Nigeria's Super Eagles over the fear of Boko Haram attack.<sup>41</sup> Sharon lee, a tourist, revealed that the

activities of the terrorists group in the northern part of the country and other forms of insecurity had limited her movement to the southern part of the country.<sup>42</sup> She further explained that many of her colleagues are facing the same challenge of being confined to their hotel rooms.<sup>43</sup> This is a strong pointer to the dilemma intending visitors or tourists could face when contemplating to visit Nigeria.

Moreover, security alerts advising tourists against visiting Nigeria have been issued several times by Western and Asian countries where most tourist visiting the country come from. For instance, the British and the United States of America have warned their citizens against travelling to certain states in Nigeria during the yuletide seasons. In 2017, the United States government warned her citizens not to travel to Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa and Yobe States.<sup>44</sup> UK also warned British nationals to avoid places where crowds gather, including religious gatherings and places of worship, markets, shopping malls, hotels, bars, restaurants, transport hubs and camps for displaced persons (IDP).<sup>45</sup> They were also warned to review their personal security plans, remain aware of their surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates and to be vigilant to take appropriate step to enhance their personal security<sup>46</sup>.

With the above illustrations, it is evident that terrorism causes shift in the perceptions of tourists which are interpreted by the travel choice and advices both from local and international authorities. In like manner, the Department of the State through the U.S Embassy and Consulate in Nigeria warns U.S citizens of the risks of travelling to Nigeria and recommends that U.S citizens avoid all but essential travel to Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Kano and Yobe states because the security situation in the Northeast Nigeria remains fluid and unpredictable.<sup>47</sup>

### **Ways to Combat Terrorism**

From the foregoing analysis, this study has provided the necessary evidence which proves that acts of terrorism, especially the violent activities of Boko Haram affects the tourism industry in Nigeria. Under this section, the study proffers possible ways to combat terrorism so that tourism can thrive. Meanwhile, according to the resolutions of United Nations high level conference on counter terrorism strategy in June 12, 2018, the most effective way of combating terrorism is by:

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, measures to prevent and combat terrorism, measures to build states capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard and measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.<sup>48</sup>

Government and the private sector should be more involved in fighting radicalization and extremism by raising awareness among the youths on the negative consequences of extremism. There is a very need for the government to embark on aggressive information campaign to educate the populace on terrorism. The campaign should be aimed at sensitizing the public about the fact that terrorist attacks do not only affect the targeted victims but the country's reputation in the international arena, and everyone either directly or indirectly. But also as tax payers, most of the government resources that would have been invested in development are being diverted to fight insurgency. The huge budget allocation which amount to trillions could be channeled into job creation and human capital development. This information campaign should focus on areas where Boko Haram has penetrated, like communities in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa State. According to Musa Abdulazeez , for the Campaign to be effective, the government should enlist the support of prominent Islamic scholars and Islamic organizations such as the Nigerian supreme council of Islamic Affairs, Ansarul Islam society of Nigeria, Muslim students society of Nigeria, Federation of Muslim women Association in Nigeria and Council of Imams and preachers of Nigeria.<sup>49</sup> He further states that, this move would be very effective in launching anti-terrorism appeals because the Muslim clerics are in a better position to educate their followers on the issue of terrorism.<sup>50</sup>

There is a great need for erection of barriers along Nigeria borders. This barrier or fence will restrict the influx of foreign terrorists or aliens who are sympathetic to Boko Haram's course. Illegal immigrants who are sympathetic to Boko Haram course use these porous borders to enter Nigeria and possibly assist

Boko Haram and other criminal groups in the Nigeria. Government should install surveillance apparatus along with fence and border management to prevent drug and arms smuggling. Training of Immigration Officers to imbibe extra diligence should be done at every entry points and close monitoring of suspicious characters in the country should also be done.

Also, Nigeria government should also continue to collaborate with international community in the fight against insurgency by sharing information that could lead to the weakening of the sect's capacity. On this note, Mr Rabiou Umaru decried the continuous deception by the federal government, as they continued telling the populace that Boko Haram is technically defeated, while their strength grows, and the military and innocent civilians suffer more casualties on a daily basis.<sup>51</sup> He argued that since Boko Haram has gone international by employing foreign fighters as its being speculated in the north, the military should also employ the assistance of foreign military, with modernized weapons that are more superior to that of Boko Haram.<sup>52</sup> Also the federal government should be dispositive to dialogue with the moderates among the factions, because `brute force and repression alone cannot solve the Boko Haram insurgency. Tourism industry and government should become proactive in ensuring the safety and security of both domestic and foreign tourists. Special police like the tourism police should be created to provide security for international tourists. Tourist sites should also be secured as found in Egypt and Jordan.

### Conclusion

From the above study and findings, this research established that tourism industry in Nigeria, especially tourists centers located in the northern part of the country are adversely affected by the terror wars which ravage that section of the country. As observed, the activities of terrorist groups in Nigeria such as Boko Haram and its factions are highly inimical to the development and growth of tourism in Nigeria because destinations with a history of terrorist attack are substituted by tourists with safer ones. Many commentators and scholars have given their thoughts on the discourse, but the sad and undeniable fact is that there are many terrorist attacks in Nigeria (especially in the northeast region) to choose in order to analyze the impact of terrorism on tourism industry. However, tourism industry in Nigeria seems to be relatively resilient and to a large extent, has demonstrated great ability to recover from the devastating effects of terrorism especially tourist destinations in the southern part of the country; where there is no incidence of terrorism.

### Endnotes

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