Fostering Nigeria – Us Relations, And Partnership in Tackling Terrorism and Global Insecurity

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Abstract

Terrorism has become a universal miasmal and a global canker worm that has bedeviled nations of the world and therefore poses threat to human existence thereby making vulnerable nations to live in perpetual fear and anxiety. Sequel to the incessant increase of the activities of terrorist group in the world, including Nigeria where it is known as Boko Haram , various steps have been taken by the Nigerian government to checkmate this insurgency but to no avail hence, a move by Nigerian government to collaborate with United States in order to create a security synergy that would curb this threat in Nigeria and the world generally. Suffice it to say that despite the efforts of both countries at checkmating this security challenges the desired result is yet to be attained. To this effect, this study explored the convergent interests that underpin the efforts of Nigeria and the United States in tackling the challenges of terrorism and global insecurity.

Introduction

Fundamentally, the terrorist activity or event of September 11, 2001 that led to the bombing of the world Trade Centre in New York, USA and the Twin Towers building has since opened up a new chapter in United States efforts in tackling terrorism. Before then, the canker worm known as terrorism has occurred in different countries of the world. Among which include; the Munich Massacre, 1972 in the defunct West Germany involving the killing of Israeli hostages and the Lockerbie Bombing of Pan AM flight 103 in December 21, 1988 in Scotland, United Kingdom, where 243 passengers and 16 crew members lost their lives in addition to killing 11 (eleven) people on the group. This incidence was tagged official terrorism, because it was believed the erstwhile and former strongman of Libya, Gaddafi sponsored it. Terrorist network and groups called Al-Qaeda have emerged across the globe causing destruction of lives and properties of immense proportion. The groups operate with such names as Al-Qaeda Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) operating in the Africa and specifically North Africa using the Sahara desert as its coven. The Al-Qaeda in the Arabia Peninsula with base in Yemen, Iran; Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan with different cells across the Middle East Europe, America, Asia and Africa (Particularly in Somali, Algeria, Egypt, Mali, Libya and Nigeria).

In Nigeria, the terrorist group known as Boko Haram sect began in 2002 and since then more than 10,000 (ten thousand) lives have been lost; 90, 000 (ninety thousand) others displaced from their homes and properties worth billions of Naira wasted both at individual and corporate level (Onuoha and Ugwueze 2014). This is giving the governments of both Nigeria and the United States serious concern such that both countries are critically involved in finding a lasting solution to the crisis. Boko Haram insurgence was hitherto thought to be a manifestation of mere aggrieved members of the Nigerian society. (Precisely of Northern extraction) who were dissatisfied with the performance of the Nigerian government over the years. However, latest events have shown that beyond expression of mere grievance, the group is increasingly becoming provocative reminiscent of a terrorist organization.

Madunagu, Johnson Compbell, Adefuye, Ngwodo (2007) noted that at the onset of the Boko Haram insurgence, many analysts thought it to be a domestic problem that constituted little or no international dimension as to elicit corresponding international attention. It was not until the group became more vexatious and successful in their attacks against both domestic and international establishments in Nigeria with threats of expansion beyond its shores that they were taken to be serious and capable of making real their threats. It was then observed that the terrorist group was aligning with other foreign terrorist organizations like Al-Qaeda Islamic Maghreb, Al-Qaeda in Arabic Peninsula, Al Shabaab, and Al Qaeda senior leaders in Pakistan (Ham 2012). These attacks on the domestic and international establishments in Nigeria like the UN Building in Abuja, helped in launching the group to limelight thereby eliciting argument whether or not it should be recognized as foreign terrorist organization (Adefuye, 2012; Oritsejafor 2012; Campbell 2012 and Mechan, 2012).

To this effect, this study explored some basic themes: Conceptual clarification of the term terrorism and global security, terrorism and the challenge to Nigerians security and unity, the U.S foreign policy and the crisis of religion in Nigeria, Boko Haram violence and the American security strategy in Nigeria.

Conceptualizing Terrorism

Dempsey (2006) posit that 'terrorism' is a failure of political process that begins with in-equalities, corruption and injustice in a given political system, and moves from a frustrated attempts at reform that breed fear and anger, to political confrontation and conspicuously erupted into violence. This can be exploited to rationalize the use of any form of violence against any target. It seems that solutions to terrorism could be found at any stage of the evolving, or deteriorating political and social processes. This suggests that we must start by understanding the historical context of terrorism.

Historically, 'terrorism' dates back to the first organized human interactions. At minimum, it could be traced back to the period when Jewish zealots and Arab nationalists used terrorism to resist the imperial authority (Romans) by killing many Roman soldiers and destroying Roman property. The Arabs also fought each other (Shiites versus Sunni) over religious doctrine and also revolted against the crusaders. Terrorism of the modern era was conceived as a tool to achieve political and religious goals; it began during the French Revolution (1793-1794). During this period, the government of France sponsored terrorism in order to maintain power and suppress opposition to the government (Hoffman 1999).

Similarly, the Soviet Revolution in 1917, Lenin and Stalin, evolved government sponsored terrorism as a useful tool to maintain government control. These personalities systematically used the act of terrorism to intimidate and frighten the entire society. To them, both terror and fear were veritable instruments for governmental operations and to suppress and consolidate their positions or power.

In the 20 century, act of terrorism was carried out by opposition leftist or rightist political leaders in order to consolidate their influence and authority over the available scarce resources. The dynamic nature of terrorism has now shifted to groups within a political system who are discontented with the socio-political and economic arrangements and ever determine to challenge the existing authority to their advantages. However, going by this development, terrorism has been internationalized and domesticated in every part of the globe.

Most scholars of political violence would agree with cooper cited in Dempsey (2006) that the term terrorism poses a problem for academics and policymakers alike. As cooper notes, scholars have problem with the definition of this phenomenon, specifically, this difficulty is derived from establishing a clear definition of the kind of problem terrorism characterizes, in other words, political violence represents a social problem, but exactly what that problem is and how to understand it within the confines of sociological theory seemingly escapes the contemporary discussion of terrorism.

Cooper's recognition of such analytic confusion rests on several issues which impacts or conceptually and operationally defines the problem of political violence. For example, simplistic definitions of terrorism abound in the literature and are used by various scholars and government agencies (Jenkins, 1983; Laqueur, 1987; FBI, 1999). These definitions are typically theoretical and are often analytically defeated by the variants of violence that have come to be categorized under the umbrella term terrorism and within the globalized social dialogue regarding political resistance and mass violence. Likewise, many of these simple definitions are politically loaded and reflect the interests and the power of the defining entity that wishes to delegitimize their opponents in the common avenues of the everyday social dialogue of this problem.

Alternative definitional perspectives on what constitutes "terrorism" do exist and offer some variation over the simplistic definitions that are commonly used (Hoffman 2002). These alternatives typically focus on one sub variety of terrorism (e.g., state terrorism) and they represent viable criticisms of the power dynamics embedded in the labeling process represented in many of the definitions noted above. Due to their limited applicability and singular focus, these alternative definitions do not necessarily fully help to cultivate an understanding of the multiplicity of experiences that should be accounted for when discussing a globalized social problem like terrorism. The simple definitions used by government agencies and some academics, represent political choices about what constitutes the relevant issues and what are acceptable questions for study.

However, a chosen definition of terrorism used by the U.S. state Department, contained in title 22 of the United States code, section 2656f (d). That statute contains the following definitions. The term 'terrorism' means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience. The term 'international terrorism' means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country. The term "terrorist group" means any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism" (Dempsey, 2006).

The lack of an acceptable definition of terrorism has also created room for different interpretations of the concept at the domestic level where the label of terrorism has been selectively used by political leaders to target their enemies. In this particular case, the definition of domestic terrorism is so broad that it can be used

against any protest group whose activities are deemed tobe tantamount to intimidating an incumbent government to change or accept a particular policy. In this manner a self-serving ant-terrorism law could be used as a tool for checking the free exercise of the people's right of dissent or protest. According to Hoffman (2002) domestic terrorism relates to those acts of terrorism that are carried out by persons or local groups within the state that are meant to redress domestic grievances. This is distinct from international terrorism, which relates to terrorist acts by persons, or groups that are external to the affected state and whose objective is to advance an extraterritorial cause.

Terrorism and the Challenge to Nigeria's Security and Unity

The threats incurred by terrorist acts in Nigeria have generated profound security and economic implications on the corporate existence of Nigeria as a united and indivisible entity. This has created level of mistrust and mutual suspicion of Nigerians in other part of the country. In southern part of the country, the act of domestic terrorism has taken over the production and exportation of crude oil to the world market, and had seen a short fall in supply of the commodity and raises the demand level, although the traditional buyers of the nation's crude oil could not easily access the commodity. Only through black marketers who are accomplice of the terrorists by supplying them with dangerous weapons and ammunitions by the Nigerian backers and from dissidents and merchants of death from European countries to further their campaign against the state (Jekins 2001).

The region has also witnessed the growth of terrorists into the class of multimillionaires and this also renders it difficult for meaningful development to take place in the regions (Ogundiya, 2009). The wide scale destruction of life and properties by terrorist activities in the northern part of the country has crippled the once buoyant economic fortress of Kano and the tourism life of Plateau states, the main cities and towns in north are now living in abject fear. The issue of fear has dominated the mindset of the people that they no longer patronize religious places of worships in their thousands, everybody is suspecting one another because no one knows who the terrorist is. Traditionally the north has been the symbol of Nigerian unity is no longer tenable, because the north which has now turned into a war zone and divided along sentiments.

The current wave of domestic terrorism in the north has endangered the lives of women and children and has crippled the socio-economic and political activities of the region and the security situation in the region is deteriorating on a daily basis those charged with the responsibility of protecting life of Nigerians are also infiltrated by terrorist ideology and thus perpetuating violence on defenseless Nigerians. The patriotic zeal of the nation's law enforcement officials are placed under severe scrutiny because of the threat of switching allegiance and sympathy to terrorist has placed Nigeria on a dangerous path and it will take a long time before this situation can come under control.

The US foreign Policy and the Crisis of Religion in Nigeria

A similar incidence of disaffection of the US global policy also occurs in Russia and China between 2008 and 2009. No concerned northerners came out to condemn or protested against the Russian and Chinese authorities over their foreign and domestic policies in their own countries and in developing countries, since the global war on terror began, many countries have taken measures to combat the menace internally. This incidence had seen the US adopting tactical and decisive measures in order to liquidate the effectiveness and efficiency of potential threat of terrorism anywhere. However, these measures were aimed at checking the spread of terrorism across continents and countries in solidarity with the US. The terrorists also incorporate new strategies in order to establish bases and cells within the local populace as a direct consequence of the country's actions. Majority of northerners believe that the US is the main cause of Africa's problems through its foreign policy, but the fact remains very visible, the US is not the only major power that operated in this framework, Russia and China are very relevant and are present in the domestic affairs of developing nations. The unhealthy political rivalries and the quest for power among the elites in Nigeria, have often lead to violence clashes among supporters or at factional level of the political parties, regional and cultural factors. (Carson 2012).

The liberalization of religious activities and the proliferation of different religious groups and sects with strange and conflicting doctrines and practice and the inability of the federal and state governments in Nigeria to censor these religious activities in the country have rendered the authority ineffective to combat the rising wave of terrorism. 'Most religious fundamentalist teaching in Nigeria is all about hatred, in most places of their worship today "Satan who used to be the traditional enemy of mankind is no longer the enemy, but the hatred inbuilt by the extremists leader and preachers, preaching against the basic tenets of religion to encourage violence among the major religious groups, against one another is the common feature in thier places of worship. (Ali,2002).

Boko Haram Violence and the American Security Strategies in Nigeria

In a recent study conducted by Onuoha and Ugwueze (2014) they noted that United States government has been known to evolve a direct confrontational strategy in protecting her interest in oversea countries especially where oil is found in abundance. This has been demonstrated in many places, and according to Adogamhe (2006:108):the brutal intervention of the United states in the Iraq/Kuwait conflict destroyed Iraq, and brought starvation on the Iraqi population through maintaining peace an account the consequences of the intervention. The Gulf War resulted to an islamist fundamentalist group, a revolutionary fundamentalist group. Before the Gulf War, people of Islam could envisage two options and exercise their choice: either support Iraqi-He further argued that: Syrian Baathism, a socialist and a secular group are opposed to values proclaimed by Islam. If need be, to fight this civilization by terrorism, for the lack of any other means which could confront it successfully (Adogamhe, 2006: 108).

Following the cataclysmic implication of the Gulf War which also led to profound resentment of the population of more than I billion Muslims all over the globe, the United States decided to abandon its role of "The Great Satan" who supported Israel and to take the one of the friends of Arabs and Muslims in general. However, in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the world trade center and the pentagon in the US on 9/11, president Bush Jr. declared an open global war on terrorism. Since then, the US strategies against global terrorism shifted to direct confrontation. Adogamhe (2006:109) has identified Bush's strategies against terrorism as follows:

- To end state support for terrorism

- To replace terror-sponsoring regimes with democratic government and

- If necessary, the US government will make use of its military capability to maintain its global hegemonic power.

Recently, under President Barack Obama, the strategy against terrorism is gradually being given a new phase of no-violent confrontation. In fact, in a research conducted by the USAID, the Boko Haram insurgence is a mere expression of grievance against the non-performance of the Nigeria government and therefore, its fight should not attract direct confrontation from the US government instead, a coordinated strategy that involves both the state and the local governments, especially in the North (WND Exlusive, 2012).

Other scholars have continually argued that involvement of the international community (the US for instance) will hamper prompt solution to the problem of terrorism in Nigeria (Adefuye, 2012; Campbell, 2012; among others). As a corollary, it is on record that 21 scholars with expertise on Nigeria, including Peter Lewis from SAIS and Jean Herskovits from SUNY, sent a letter to former US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton on Boko Haram (LeVan, 2012). The letter began by noting the horrific violence perpetrated against civilians and government officials, but argued that responding to Boko Haram ultimately requires a diplomatic, developmental and demilitarized framework (LeVan, 2012).

As a counter to the call for diplomatic framework, the chairman of the US House Homeland Security Committee, Peter King and Patrick Meehan, the chairman of the US Subcommittee on Counter Terrorism and Intelligence, continued to pressure the Secretary of State, Clinton. to adopt a more robust approach to checkmate the insurgence of Boko Haram in Nigeria; maybe by considering labeling the group foreign terrorist organization. In their own letter to the Secretary, they argued that "Boko Haram's evolution into an operationally mature al Qaeda affiliate must be stopped before it is too late" (http://carllevan. com/20 12/05/boko-haram-lefter-to-clinton- from-scholars).

Campbell (2012) arguing otherwise, has stated that:

Boko Haram is different from other FTOs, such as Hezbollah, Hamas, or the Tamil Tigers, which have an organizational structure and a unified goal. Boko Haram is a highly diffused movement with little, if any, central organization. In fact, the name "Boko Haram" is a label applied only by the Nigerian Government, press, and security services, usually to describe the violence occurring (daily) in the north of the country. . .the uniting feature of Boko Haram is its focus on Nigeria. . . (http ://ynaija. com/blog/20 12/05/25/why-not-to-designate-boko- haram-a- foreign-terrorist-organization).

Among other things, Meehan, in a lecture delivered at the Heritage Foundation on July 24, 2012, had warned that the US should increase its security operation with Nigeria, remain vigilant, and officially designate Boko Haram a foreign terrorist organization (Heritage.Org, 20 12).Adogamhe (2006: 118) also observed that "just as the terrorist chose to resort to terrorism to fight against Judeo Christian civilization, so did the US choose to resort to pre-emptive war to eradicate global terrorism". The problem now is, if the US has chosen to resort to

pre-emptive war against global terrorism; given that terrorists have chosen to resort to terrorism in fighting against Judeo Christian civilization (Muslim interpretation of western civilization), why has the United States not chosen its avowed pre-emptive strategy of war against Boko Haram — a group that has categorically stated that western civilization is not only a sin, but should be forbidden?

The US government has adopted non confrontational strategies involving 3 important US Departments in the fight against Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria. These strategies include:

- Signing of Bi-National Commission pioneered by the US Department of State

- Provision of Security-Related Training and Funding by the US Department of Defense and

- Provision of aid by USAID

- Proscription of the Boko Haram leaders and the subsequent placement of $7 million bounty on Abubakar Shekau.

Signing of the US/Nigeria Bi-national Commission

The question that has continued to agitate the minds of many analysts is what has the US been doing to curtail Boko Haram activities in Nigeria? This question came not because Nigeria is part of the US territory, but because the former remains strategically important to the later (Gartenstein and Vassefl, 2012; Onuoha, 2008; Lantigua-Williams, 2012 and Meehan, 2012). According to the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Johnnie Carson, "Nigeria is probably the most important country in Sub-Saharan Africa". As an answer to the question above, the United States has established the US/Nigeriali Bi-national Commission with concentration on four key areas of:

1. Good governance and transparency

2. Promoting regional cooperation and development

3. Energy reform and investment

4. Food security and agriculture.

The US/Nigeria Bi-national Commission was the first United States Department of State's move in the fight against Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria, and it was launched by the Secretary of States, Hillary Clinton, in October 2010. The Bi national Commission (BNC) is coordinated by the Department of States (DoS). However, the US Department of Defense also plays crucial role in the commission's working groups. As Amanda Dory, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs, said in April, 2012 House testimony:

In late January, 2012, Department of Defense (DoD) participated in the inaugural meeting of the regional security working group established under the DoS-led US-Nigeria Bi-national Commission. Although meant to address the full range of U.S-Nigeria security cooperation, this working group meeting focusedon countering violent extremism (org/20 1 2/06/current-u-s-pol icies-toward-nigerias- boko-ha ram!).

The second United States Department of State move to curtail the activities of

Boko Haram in Nigeria is improvement of local partners in Nigeria. According to

Gartenstein-Ross and Vassefi (2012), the State Department's Antiterrorism

Assistance Program (ATA), which provides training and equipment to countries combating the threat of terrorism, has projects with Nigeria (http://gunpowderandlead. org/201 2/06/current-u-s-policies-toward-nigerias- boko-haramf). A key ATA project initiative, according to Ambassador Benjamin, involves building Nigeria's counter incident countermeasures capacity as the level of terrorism and political violence at the hands of Boko Haram increases.The third US Department of State goal in fighting Boko Haram insurgenceis finding means on how to reduce the flow of funds to Boko Haram. Its Counter

Terrorist Finance (CTF) is working with the Government of Nigeria to address

Boko Haram's revenue streams, with special focus on dealing with kidnappings.

In fact, Ambassador Benjamin had explained that:

The State CIF program works with the interagency to provide the Government of Nigeria with an array of training to include Bulk Cash Smuggling, Terrorist Finance Investigations, Financial Intelligence Unit Analytical Training, as well as soft skill development targeting the financial regulatory system. Pending adoption of

AML/CTF legislation that meets international standards, Nigeria may be one of the best equipped nations in West Africa to address the threat of money laundering and terrorist finance.

In an effort to build regional cooperation toward stopping the flow of illicit funds and illegal goods and substances through West Africa to Europe, from the Western Hemisphere, state will partner with the Department of Homeland Security in July, 2012 to deliver a new program in partnership with both the Senegalese and Nigerian governments. The venue will serve as a platform for dialogue foe each country to discuss common challenges presented by organizations such as Boko Haram and Hezbollah (http://gunpowderandlead org/20 12/06/current-u-s-policies-toward-nigerias- boko-haram/).Indeed, money has been described as a key to international terrorism and thus to counterterrorism. Track it, and the responsibility for terrorist attacks will become clear. Interdict it, and terrorism will be reduced as its financial "lifeblood" dries up (Pillar, 2001). The long quote from Ambassador Benjamin is suggestive of the fact that insecurity and terrorism need collective fight by the regional powers and by extension, other power blocs as well.

Sequel to the grave insecurity in the country especially in the North, the US/Nigeria Bi-National Commission (BNC) has been re-arranged by both the US and Nigeria by splitting its Regional Security Cooperation and the Niger Delta component into an entirely separate working group, with emphasis on insecurity in the North. At the inception of the BNC, its core mandates were basically protecting the Niger-Delta, which then was the haven of militants, promotion of good governance, strengthening national institutions for better performance, among others. (Okpaga,Ugwu and Ene 2012).However, when officials of Nigeria and the United States began a two-day talk under the BNC in Abuja on 23 January, 2012, there was a consensus amongthe participants that the terror in the North should be given prominence in its framework (http ://www. information.com/20 12/01/nigeria-u-s-at-talks-make- terror-in-north-ssecurily- threat.html). At the inaugural meeting of the Regional Security Cooperation Working Group of the BNC in Abuja, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mr. William Fitzgerald, said that the security situation in the Northern part of Nigeria had reached a significant dimension. The move according to officials, will enable a sharper focus on the terrorism onslaught emanating from Nigeria while the end of the same instrument takes care of the older Niger-Delta problem.Fitzgerald said that, "although Niger-Delta issues are ever pressing alongside with maritime security, there is a critical need for a more delineated approach to security in Nigeria" (http.//www. information. com/2012/O1/nigeria- u-s-at-talks-make-terror-in-north-ssecurity- threat. html).

Provision of Security-Related Training and Funding

In the opinion of Onuoha and Ugwueze (2014) the provision of security- related training and funding is being coordinated by the US Department of Defense (DoD). The Department of Defense provides the Nigerian Government with security-related training as well as funding. General Carter Ham had said that the US military relationship with Nigeria is very long-standing, very helpful and very useful.The Department of Defense provides training and support activities. The US Army Special Forces Soldiers have provided counterinsurgency training to Nigerian troops, helping them to prepare to fight Boko Haram. In November, 2011, it was disclosed that the US sent 100 Special Forces Soldiers for training through both the African Coastal and Border Security Program (ACBS) and the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) (http://gunpowderandlead.org/2012/06/current-u-s-policies-toward-nigeria bokoharam/).

ACBS was designed by DoD to provide training, border and maritime security, and increase military professionalism; while TSCTP began in 2005 to prevent the expansion of terrorist groups. In Nigeria, the program provides training and intelligence support directed against Boko Haram. Additionally, the National Guard's State Partnership Program thinks the California National Guard with Nigeria (Onuoha and Ugwueze 2014).Besides the provision of military training, the United States Defense Department also provides funding to the Nigerian Army to improve their capabilities. In fact, it has been observed that: DoD has provided the Nigerian army with $2.2 million for the development of a counterterrorism infantry unit, and another $6.2 million designated to the tactical communications and interoperability within its counterterrorism unit(http ://gunpowderandlead. org/20 12/06/current-u-s-policies-toward- nigerias boko-haram/).

Involvement of USAID

In addition to involving the Departments of States and Defense, American government has also involved USAID in the fight against Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria. Honorable Patrick Meehan, the Chairman US House Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, has suggested the involvement of USAID to reach out to the northern Nigerian Muslims, among whom Boko Haram has found a sympathetic following. The USAID involvement in the fight against the insurgents was before now unclear sequel to its claim that the misunderstandings between Muslims and Christians made it difficult to administer aid program (http.'//mobile. wnd. com/20 12/05/obama-slaughter-of-christia ns-a misunderstanding/). To make the situation

clearer for possible solution through aid program, USAID launched a program titled Project PEACE — an acronym for Programming Effectively Against Conflict and Extremism. PEACE says it would hire contractors to help the agency analyze the "true" causes of the conflict and consequently provide more effective humanitarian and conflict-resolution assistance (http:1/mobile. wnd. com/20 12/05/obama-slaughter-of-christians-a-misunderstanding/).The result of the finding of USAID revealed that Boko Haram simply shares with other groups' anger over the nation's poor governance. The document therefore recommended that improved state service capacities and working to enhance the service delivery capacity of local governments would help in reducing such anger and the resultant conflict.

Consequent upon the recommendations of PEACE, the United States has begun to engage Nigerian Muslims, primarily through US Agency for International Development (USAID) programs in the northern states of Bauchi and Sokoto (http ://gunpowderandlead. org/20 12/06/current-u-s-policies-toward-nigerias- boko-haram/). A USAID program called Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy and Development (LEAD), is helping northern governments build partnerships between states and local governments and the private sector. The goal of this program is to improve accountability, governance, and the delivery of essential services.

Proscription of Boko Haram Leaders and Placement of $7 million

Bounty on Abubakar Shekaus

In a recent study conducted by Onuoha and Ugwueze (2014) they observed that as part of the United States strategies in fighting Boko Haram insurgence in Nigeria, the US government, in addition to the proscription of the leaders of Boko Haram — Abubakar Shekau, Abubakar Adams Kambar and Khalid al-Barnawi — in June, 2012, the US government has also announced the placement of $7 million bounty of Abubakar Shekau for anybody with useful information that can lead to his arrest (Ajakaye, 2013 and Premium Times,August 4, 2013). According to a report from Monday Ateboh of Premium Times, "the United States has officially declared the leader of the extremist Boko Haram sect, Abubakar Shekau, wanted and placed a $7 million to anyone with information that could lead to the arrest of the Boko Haram leader" (Premium Times, August 4, 2013). Also declared wanted are four alleged terrorists believed to be spreading terrorism in the West African sub-region. These terrorists include: Mokhtar Bel Mokhtar, described as a one-eyed mastermind of the January, 2013 deadly attack on a gas plant in Algeria, which left 37 foreigners dead; Yahya Abou Al-Hamman, an alleged terrorist believed to be behind the 2010 murder of an elderly French hostage in Niger; Malik Abou Abdelkarim, described as a senior AQIM fighter and Oumar Ould Hamaha, spokesman for Mali's Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO). The US authority has placed $5 million bounty each on Mokhtar and Al-Hamman respectively; as well as $3 million bounty each on Oumar and Malik also (Premium Times, June 6, 2013). Recall that the United States had on June 21, 2012, designated Mr. Shekau, the Boko Haram leader, a specially Designated Global Terrorist under the Executive Order 13224 (Ateboh, 2013).

Reacting to this latest development of $7 million bounty on Shekau, the Director-General of Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Professor Bola Akinterinwa, urged Nigerians not to see the placement of bounty on Abubakar Shekau as interference in the nation's affairs but instead as a step in the right direction (in Premium Times, June 6, 2013). He further stated that: The $7 million dollar ransom was part of the $23 million posted on Monday (June 3, 2013) by the US States Department's reward for Justice Programme. It is to help track down Mr. Shekau and some leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb spreading terror in Nigeria and other West African countries. There is nothing like the United States government's interference in this case. Activities of Boko Haram are by the day assuming a worsening dimension that Nigeria alone cannot handle. Boko Haram is a terrorist group and terrorism is an international virus that should be dealt with through the right surgical operation. This is simply what the United States is doing (Premium Times, June 6, 2013).

However, since the placement of this bounty on Shekau, nobody has officially indicated that they know his whereabouts (Ateboh, 2013). Similarly, apart from the military efforts being made by the Nigerian security forces, the carrot and stick approach adopted by the US government appears to be producing little or no result. The attacks perpetuated by the Boko Haram sect are still increasing even with the declaration of state of emergency in the northeastern states of Bomb, Yobe and Adamawa (see the following table for details).

Table: Showing increase activities of Boko Haram sect after the declaration of state of emergency in the northeastern states of Bomb, Yobe and Adamawa

S/N	Date	Nature and Place of Attack	Number of Casualties
1	1st oct., 2012	Attacks at Adamawa State University, Federak Poly, and the school of Health Technology and also University of Maiduguri in Borno State	About 43 students killed
2	1st Oct., 2012	Attack in Minna, Niger State	2 policemen killed
3	7th Oct., 2012	Confrontation between the military and the sect members in Damaturu, Yobe state	About 32 people kified including 30 members of the sect and 2 civilians
4	8th Oct., 2012	Reprisal attack for the death of military officers through lED in Maiduguri	10 people killed
5	14th Oct., 2012	Attack at Dongo Dawa village in Gwari LGA of Kaduna state	24 people killed
6	28th Oct., 2012	Attack in Kaduna	8 people killed and 100 injured
7	28th Oct., 2012	Suicide bomber struck at St Rita's Catholic church in Angwar yero, Kaduna state	8 people killed
8	29th Oct., 2012	Attack at a drinking bar in Gindin Akwati Barkin Ladi, Plateau state	6 people killed
9	21st Nov, 2012	Attack in Maiduguri by the sect	10 people killed
10	22nd Nov, 2012	Attack on ladies believed to be on mini-skirts in Maiduguri	20 women killed
11	24th Nov, 2012	Bomb explosion in St Andrew's Anglican church at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji, Kaduna state	15 people killed
12	26th Nov, 2012	Attack on SARS headquarters in Abuja	2 officers killed and 30 detainees freed
13	1st Jan, 2013	Shootout in Maiduguri	14 people killed including 13 sect members and a solider
14	2nd Jan., 2013	Attack on a Police Station at Song town of Adamawa state	4 people killed including 2 policemen and 2 civilians
15	4th Jan., 2013	Attack on a military check-point in Marte town of Adamawa state	7 people killed including 5 sect members, a solider and a Policeman
16	19th Jan., 2013	Attack on a contingent of Mali- bound Nigerian troops in central Kogi, Kogi state	2 soldiers killed and 5 others injured
17	19th Jan., 2013	Attack on Emir of Kano's convoy	5 people killed mostly the Emir's security guards
18	21st Jan., 2013	Attack of a market in Damboa town	18 people killed mostly local hunters
19	23rd Jan. 2013	Attack at Gwange area of Maiduguri	5 people beheaded
20	27th Jan., 2013	Attack of Gajiganna village near Maiduguri	8 civilians killed
21	1st Feb., 2013	Clash with the military in two forests outside Maiduguri	17 sect members killed
22	8th Feb., 2013	Attack on 2 polio clinics in Kano	10 polio immunization workers killed and 3 others injured

23	10th Feb., 2013	Attack in Potiskum, Yobe state	3 North Korean doctors killed
24	15th Feb., 2013	Bomb attack against military patrol vehicle in Maiduguri	2 suicide bombers died and 1 solider injured
25	16th Feb., 2013	Attack on a construction company in Bauchi state	1 security employee killed and 7 foreign nationals abducted
26	19th Feb., 2013	French family taken hostage in Cameroun near the Nigerian border	No casualty reported but the family members were abducted
27	20th Feb, 2013	Attack of a military patrol vehicle in Maiduguri	3 people killed including a suicide bomber and 2 civilians
28	18th Mar, 2013	Bomb explosion in a luxurious bus park in Kano	More than 70 people killed and several others injured
29	16th April, 2013	Clash between the JTF and the sect members in Bagam Bomb state	Over 200 people killed mostly civilians.

Source: http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/timeline of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria

In fact, the Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, in a video released on Monday, August 12, 2013, has boasted that the sect is on top of the situation in the northeastern part of Nigeria even with the state of emergency that was in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states and the subsequent deployment of the military (Ajakaye, 2013).

Conclusion

Having examined various issues that underscore Nigeria and United States efforts at tackling terrorism and global insecurity, it is apt to conclude that despite all strategies employed by both countries, terrorism is still growing largely in countries of the world particularly Nigeria. Even through United States involvement in Nigeria could be said to be anchored on oil interest. Suffice it to say that solution cannot only come outside but a determined effort from the government devoid of rhetoric, to promote social justice and equity; tackling corruption, making our borders more secured, religious monitoring and censorship of religious material coming into Nigeria to stem the tide of insecurity and religious fundamentalist and providing efficient I infrastructural facilities.

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