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BOKO HARAM ONSLAUGHT: ITS EXTERNAL LINKAGE AND REPERCUSSION ON NIGERIAN SOCIETY, 2009 - 2013

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria had experienced and is still experiencing terrible socio-political instability, economic backwardness and international opprobrium as a result of sinister assaults being unleashed by the "Islamic" fundamentalists under the name Jama'atu Ahliss-Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad otherwise known and widely publicized by Nigerian news media as Boko Haram which literally means Western Education – Is – Sinful. The dastardly activities of the sect and its modus operandi have influenced writers including journalists, scholars and commentators to brand Nigeria a terrorist state. Much has been written on Boko Haram and its insurgency in the Northern parts of the country. The thrust of this discourse is, therefore, to establish or dispute the argument as to whether Boko Haram is a terrorizing force, trace its origin historically and substantiate its foreign backing in terms of its militants and weaponry. In addition, this study examines some instances of the sect's mayhem and highlights the repercussions vis –a- vis the visible instability and underdevelopment underscoring the variables underlying the poor performance of the security agencies and later the Nigerian Army and the Air Force. This academic engagement is very crucial bearing in mind that the Crippled Giant of Africa is backward

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in the real sense of the word even after her 53rd Independence Anniversary celebration. This pathetic situation of things urgently calls for the attention of all and sundry especially top government functionaries and security decision makers to be awake to their responsibilities by charting a proactive course toward taking the nation to greater heights in all dimensions and the study will go a long way in sensitizing the general public of this onerous task.

Key Words: *Boko Haram*, Nigeria, National Insecurity, External Linkage, Repercussion

INTRODUCTION

There have been polemics presented by scholars as regard their perception, understanding, or conceptualization of the word "Terrorism". It is imperative to examine the meaning of the term and its dimensions in order to arrive at a safe conclusion with regard to the *Boko Haram* killer scud being a terrorist movement or not. This is necessary considering the fact that that former President Olusegun Obasanjo cried out a few years ago that the international community must not criminalize Nigeria by branding it a terrorist nation. It is, however, unfortunate that hardly had Obasanjo defended the country than the *Boko Haram* insurrection began, sending tens of hundreds of souls into early grace with the attendant destruction of property worth billions of naira.

Concise Dictionary conceptualizes terrorism as "the systematic use of violence and intimidation to achieve some goal, force a government, community, race etc to act in a certain way or accept certain demands".[1] In its own connotation, the *Black Law Dictionary* regards it as "an activity that involves a violent act dangerous to human life that is violation of criminal law and appears to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of government by intimidation or coercion to effect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping".[2]

The above definitions point out that the government of any given nation is beset with some reactions emanating from some aggrieved or disgruntled elements, who may have genuine reasons for rebelling against the constituted authorities. Such people seek to influence the government by engaging in violent acts with the sole aim of destabilizing government officials who would be forced to at least listen to the grievances and demands of the terrorizing arrowhead, even if they will not be willing to accede to those demands.

Historically, the word "terrorism" was first coined and used in reference to the "Reign of Terror" during the French Revolution (1789-1799). This phrase became popular in the wake of the event when some of its leading actors exclaimed "the Regime *de la Terreur*" as a new system of government to champion democracy and popular rule by eliminating the enemies of the revolution; thereby sanitizing it.[3] Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in domestic and global politics. It found expression in the oppression of the Americans and Red Indians by the Anglo-Saxon nations of Europe'. The Western European powers demonstrated acts of terrorism against Africa and oriher peoples during the age of the ignominious slave trade and imposition of colonial rule that

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followed the abolition of the slave trade. The use of force, in the pre-colonial Africa by one militarily stronger state or empire against a weaker polity is a demonstration of terrorism. In addition, the use of force by the Western Big Powers particularly since the invention of atomic, nuclear and chemical weapons against non-Western states especially in the Middle East is tantamount to terrorism. This is because the Western Powers' desire to have monopoly of weapons of mass destruction. In this sense, a state government may use violence to suppress the powers that be in other countries because the former commands superior fire-power. The leading power in the use of military force, propaganda, intellectual means and financial influence to perpetrate terrorism is the United States of America.[4] Similarly, the word terrorism is relatively used as to some people
it implies fighting for one nation's freedom from a foreign power is misinterpreted by some other people as terrorism as it involves the use force. However, for the freedom fighter, it is not an act
of terrorism while it is to the recipients of its negative consequences. The various religious uprisings and bloody attacks like the wars of Reformation and Counter Reformation in church history, Islamic jihads and the fundamentalists' bombing in the recent time the world over are instances of terrorism because they involved the application of force. Terrorism is a system through which crisis, violence and instability are promoted. It is therefore apposite to cite A. A. Bola's definition of the concept as quoted by Lawal and Mayale-Eke because it sums up the above explanation:

> All acts of piracy on land, air and sea, all colonialist operations including wars, military expeditions, all dictatorial acts against peoples and all forms of protection of dictatorship, not to mention their imposition on nations, all military methods contrary to human practice, such as the use of chemical weapons, the shelling of civilians populated areas, the blowing up of homes, the displacement of civilians, all types of pollution of geographical, cultural and information environment [sic] forms of terrorism

The *Boko Haram* sect could be classified as a terrorist gang because it is out to force the government in power to recognize its existence. As it was reported in *Saturday Punch* of 31 December, 2011, a security source confided in "one of our correspondents said members of the sect were bent on ensuring that the Goodluck Jonathan-led administration was portrayed as inept and lacking ability to render qualitative governance to Nigerians".[6] This has been a major factor accounting for the gruesome killings going on in the North-Eastern States of the Federation and the government at the centre was proposing a dialogue with the sect's leaders which the movement had

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envisage, albeit nothing substantial has taken place in this direction. Moreover, *Boko Haram* had dispensed its activities through bomb blasts, killing of innocent people, propaganda and other weapons to ventilate their purported grievances

Terrorists are usually and highly connected outside their own countries or areas of operation(s). This ultimately accounts for the internationalization or externalization of terrorism. This is particularly true of the Al-Qaeda movement led by the slain Osama *bin* Laden. Hardly can any terrorist group be successful in contemporary time without receiving foreign backing especially in terms of guerilla training, troops / personnel and funding.

Genesis of the Boko Haram Sect and Its External Link

Prior to the sudden bloody operations of the violence masterminded by Muhammadu Marwa a.k.a Maitatsine in Kano in 1982, the Shiite fundamentalists in Bauchi (1984), a series of protests that rocked Zango Kataf (1992) and other religious uprisings were Muslim protests against Christianity, the, violent reactions by the Muslims in the North against Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke (2002) and *Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunnah Lidda'a wati Wal Jihad* in 2009, Nigeria had experienced brutal attacks by fundamentalist or extremist Islamic sects. The various instances of violence were borne out by the fierce contest between the North and South and between Islam and Christianity.[8]

The inglorious emergence of *Boko Haram* started in 2004 but it began to mete out violent attacks in 2009. The aim of the sect was to spread Islam all over Nigeria and it emerged at three levels as revealed by its co-founder Aliyu Tishau. The first level of its membership recruitment emerged from some people in Nigeria who recruited young people and sometimes children who were sent to overseas for education by selfish members of the group (sect). In the words of Tishau:"In reality, these people are totally ignorant of the reasons why these big men take them abroad in the name of education, these country men are taken to mostly Arab countries and turned into militants who respect only those who sponsored them abroad. Those big men who sponsor these youths don't have any conscience and no love for this country."[9] The fall of the Mauritanian Government in 2004 gave rise to the formation of the dreaded Islamic fundamentalist sect. Nigeria was approached to supply some political big-wigs from Mauritanian mercenaries who would assist them in overthrowing the government of the beleaguered North African state.

The second level of the sect's membership is made up by the corps of young men dispatched by the late leader of the sect, Mohammed Yusuf, to Mauritania when he was approached by some people from that country. The youth were needed to continue with the bloody armed struggle going on in Mauritania at that time. As Tishau posits, the young men were recruited to further their Islamic studies and to serve as a support group to the Mauritanian army, a position which Mohammed Yusuf rejected. Yusuf's objection polarized the sect's leadership for as Tishau asserts: "But a number of Nigerian big men who were involved in the Mauritania struggle were angry with Yusuf. This led to a

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disagreement which pitched the young men's loyal to Yusuf against those backing the big men. Yusuf, however, insisted on genuine Islam whereas those opposing him were mercenaries who were willing to serve their master's interest in Mauritania".[10] The disagreement eventually created a loophole through which the State Security Service operatives infiltrated the rank and file of the sect and arrested the militants among them but were later released in the court through the connection of the so called big men. The return of the released members compounded the problems of the sect. This forms the third level of the membership of the *Boko Haram*.

As earlier discussed above, the pre-*Boko Haram* religious crises were precipitated by the contest between Islam and Christianity. However, the attacks being carried out did not spare the Muslims and mosques simply because those Northern States that had been declared *Shariah* States had failed to govern in accordance with Islamic injunctions as contained in the *Sharia* (Islamic Law). The plan of the sect was not to turn Nigeria into an Islamic nation but to see to the implementation of the Islamic Law in those Sharia States. The fundamentalists similarly frowned at social injustices being carried out by the governments in the so called Sharia States.[11]

Instances of Boko Haram's Violent Attacks and Government Response

The rancour that permeated the sect greatly facilitated the commencement of the organization's onslaught, beginning in Bauchi State, later Kano State, before spreading to other States in the North Eastern geo-political zone. In 2009, two events took place between the body's fractional groups laying claim to a mosque allegedly built by Tishau's group in Bauchi State and kidnapping of a young girl who was taken to Borno by another group. The police were still investigating the girl's case when the Bauchi State governor directed the group (*Boko Haram*) to leave the State. The sect members began their assault by attacking many places among which were the bombing of the United Nations Abuja office, on August 26, 2011[12], bombing of the Nigeria Police Force Headquarters in Abuja in which the then Inspector General of Police Hafiz Ringim escaped death by whiskers, and the October 1, 2010 blasts that disrupted Nigeria's 50th
Independence Anniversary. There was also the bomb attacks that took place at the Mogadishu Barracks Manny Market, Abuja, on the New Year's Eve (December 31, 2010) while another bomb exploded on May 29, 2011, at Zuba, an Abuja suburb, shortly after the inauguration of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, as the president. Maiduguri, the Borno State capital was characterized by "constant terror attacks since the beginning of 2001".[13] Still on the list was the bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger State on Christmas Day of December 25, 2011 by the notorious Kabiru Sokoto. The incident claimed 37 lives while over 57 were fatally injured by bomb explosions.[14] In the same vein, the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) office in Suleja, Niger State, had bombs planted which later exploded and killed 16 people. The suspects arrested for allegedly being responsible for the INEC episode were also accused of planning another bomb that "killed three persons at the All Christian Fellowship Church in Suleja, and a bomb that killed three persons in Bawn, a satellite town in the Federal

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Capital Territory (FCT)". The suspects were Shuaib Abubakar, Mohammed Danladi, Salisu Ahmed, Ahmed Hassan Ezimakpo, Umar Babagana, Mohammed Ali, Musa Adams and Umar Ibrahim.[15]

The list is quite endless as the nation has not known peace nor enjoyed stability since 2009. Indeed, there were the killings of a serving senator and some other political heavy weights and many people during a burial in Jos, Plateau State in 2012. The blatant murder of one retired army general in Maiduguri the same year shortly after the departure of former President Olusegun Obasanjo who went there on peace mission aroused the anger of the Nigerian Army troops there. The *Boko Haram* sect members confessed that they were responsible for the gruesome murder of between 50 and 78 students of one College of Agriculture in Yobe in the dead of the night of Saturday 26, September 2013, in their hostel while deeply asleep; and around the same time killed about 13 merchants in the city who went there from other parts of the country to transact business. The heads of the merchants were lopped off and place on their bodies. One should not forget the extermination of over ten Bodija Market (Ibadan) merchants that were sent to their early grave by the notorious sect in 2013. There was also the blowing up of Vice-President Namadi Sambo and Ringim's buildings in Kaduna and Kano respectively.[16]

Unfortunately, the *Boko Haram* bombers got away in most cases. The main security organizations in Nigeria, who are saddled with the responsibility of internal security, are the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the State Security Service (SSS). Complementing the efforts of these two bodies towards ensuring internal security among others are Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the paramilitary agencies such as, Immigration Services, Customs, Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigeria Prisons, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)[17]. These were the bodies that first swung into action to combat the *Boko Haram's* menace. Their level of authorized force used by agencies and forces responsible for maintaining internal security might range from unarmed police to fully armed paramilitary actions or the employment of some level of less-lethal weaponry in between, for violent situation".[18] This could partly explain the success being recorded by the blood thirsty killers. However, in spite of the full involvement of the Nigerian Army, the nation has not succeeded in getting rid of the sect, and a number of reasons were responsible for this ugly situation as the killers have become more boisterous, daring and satanic.

One of the major reasons that reinforced the *Boko Haram* operations was the group's international connection. It has been brought to the front burner above concerning the Mauritanian link as the training ground for the body's militia. They were similarly taught how to produce
bombs, grenades, and other explosives as well as handling firearms. Apart from Mauritania, Somalia also became a military haven where the sect's militia were being trained. A former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Onyeabor Ihejirika had by September

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2011 acknowledged this external link and that Boko was receiving tactical support from foreign elements. In his own words, Ihejirika could not hide his feelings when he admits:

> It is definite that the youths who call themselves Boko Haram or terrorists receive training and possibly funding from some foreign elements. This is evident in the type of weapons that we have captured from them and from the expertise that they have displayed in the preparation of Improvised Explosive Devices. These are pointers to the fact that there is foreign involvement in the terrorism going on in Nigeria.[19]

The late National Security Adviser, General O.A. Azazi, who died in an air crash on Saturday December 15, 2012 corroborates the external linkage of the sect. He points out that Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb was determined to have a foothold in Nigeria. This posed a serious security challenge as there were indications that Al-Qaeda had identified *Boko Haram* as an organization it could do business with. He points out the implication of this ugly development with thus:

> The con sequence of an AQIM foothold in Nigeria for our foreign policy is not in doubt. Nigeria would become unstable with spate of bombings; the country will be divided into Christians and Muslims. AQIM's objective is to install an Islamic government based on Sharia law in Nigeria.[20]

Even with the Nigerian Army being fully dragged into the scene, *Boko Haram's* foreign backing was on the increase. As at September 25, 2013, it was reported that a reliable military source had discovered that many Arabs of Shuwa extraction and fair-skinned people from Mauritania, Sudan, Somalia, Algeria and Niger, were among those whose bodies were found after some of the recent encounters with the militants. More importantly was the fact that the attackers were armed with sophisticated weapons such as Rocket Propelled Grenades and General Purpose Machine Guns 'which are more sophisticated than the AK 47 used by the Nigerian troops'. The military source declares: "We strongly believe that the foreign militants under the Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb are coordinating the attacks against over men in the troubled North Eastern States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa".[21]

The foreign backers made a non-sense of the military operations and the efforts of the paramilitary agents on a number of issues. There was division among the security agencies which led to shoddy and ineffective coordination due to lack of cooperation among their operatives. Though the SSS and military intelligence units denied reports of inter-agency rivalry and infighting there was strong evidence of wrangling among the security agencies. If there was no rancour among them why was the arrest of the *Boko Haram* spokesman, Abu Qaqa or Kaka became so controversial between the media and the SSS mouth organ, Marylyn Ogar. Ogar debunked the purported arrest.[23] The fact is

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that there must have been some information release by one or more security organizations that the Boko Haram spokesman had been arrest before the media industry took it up. It was Abu Qaqa himself that cleared the air by informing the public that it was one Abu Dardaa who was sent as a front by the militants that was arrested and not himself (Qaqa).

According to him: "He (Dardaa) volunteered to present himself for a dialogue but was betrayed. Everybody knows that none of our members could be caught on a platter of gold and without confrontation"[24]

Another setback that the security operatives had was their inability to match the weapons and other necessary equipment of the *Boko Haram* sect. The security outfits were operating with some motor vehicle bomb detection gadgets in the country that were outdated and ineffective. It was reported that some of the equipment could not detect bombs that were hidden in vehicles during a test conducted to reaffirm the efficacy of the equipment procured with millions of naira. This revelation therefore points out that organized corruption must have exacerbated the defence ministry as a result of which the troops and paramilitary officers and men were reduced to bullet fodders. The Federal Government should have imported sensitive security gadgets into the country. On the contrary, the government seemed not to have monitored the obsolete, refurbished and ineffective bomb defectors, communicating gadgets and vehicles were not imported by desperate contractors.[25]

The security agents had bitter experiences as result of negligence and gross incompetence on the part of the government. It became worrisome when the security officers and men found it extremely difficult to dig up intelligence report which is central to the success of security personnel all over the world. It became more disheartening that some bombing which claimed precious lives and destroyed properties worth millions of naira could have been averted if those in authority had not turned deaf ears to information given before they took place. For instance, Aliyu Tishau says three days before the attack of the Police Force Headquarters in Abuja "I warned the police that there would be an attack in Abuja that would embarrass the security authorities. Also after the bombing of the police headquarters, I was summoned before the IGP and given a GSM phone number. I called the person who planned and led the attack and we spoke right in front of the IGP. So, all these terror attacks are caused by the negligence of the government".[26]

The operations of the security were complicated by the activities of the black legs or fifth columnists among the rank and file of the security organizations. Apart from not taking proactive measures in averting bomb blasts and unnecessary carnage, the Boko Haram sect members infiltrated not only the government but also the security outfits. Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the president could not hide his emotion when he bursts out and declares: 'Boko Haram is in my government. They are in the government house and everywhere'. As early as June 2011, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) President-General, Mr. Peter Esele and his Secretary General, Chief John Kolawole had expressed their

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concern in this respect. The duo observed that the way the terrorists were targeting military and security formations suggested a possible involvement of security personnel in the recurring bombing incidents rocking the country[27]. Their observation was proved right by the arrest and 'escape' of Kabiru Sokoto who was said to be the brain behind the bomb blasts that killed many people and injured several others during the St Theresa's Catholic Church Madalla genocide that took place on December 25, 2011. The suspect, Sokoto, 'escaped' from prison on January 15, 2012[28] despite the tight security apparatus and personnel in the prison where he was detained. This left much to be desired on the part of the security personnel who connived with criminals and killers they were supposed to arrest and treat accordingly to the dictate of the laws of the land.

The Presidency, the military top brass and other security chiefs held series of meetings on how to curb Boko Haram's insurgency. The security arrowhead at one time or the other expressed their desire and commitment to deal decisively with the *Boko Haram*. For instance, the former CDS, Air Chief Marshal Oluwaseyi Petinrin was reported to have boasted: "Terrorism is alien to Nigeria and government forces are ready to give the terrorists a big blow"[32]. Borrowing a leaf from the CDS was the former IGP Hafiz Ringim who declares:" Any group going by any name, be it Boko Haram or Al Qaeda, the government and the police will go after them and deal with them according to the law. We would not succumb to the demands of any criminal group or individual"[33]. The depressed president Jonathan was not left out of the government commitment while reacting to the bombing of the police headquarters in Abuja. He remarks that "Nigeria is also having some ugly incidents lately; but surely we will get over it and people should not panic at all, soon, most of these things will be a thing of the past"[34]. But the continuous bloodletting and unabated bombings going on reduced the verbal expression of the security chiefs to empty promises and mere rhetoric. This was due to some fundamental issues that have been discussed above. There is no doubt that the excruciating poverty tormenting the citizenry particularly in the Northern parts of the country went a long way in fuelling the crisis. This fact was brought home by the members of the Presidential panel set up by the Federal Government to look into how to combat the *Boko Haram* onslaught. The leader of the team, Ambassador Usman Galtimari and his members stated in their report the "weak governance and failure to deliver services in the wake of huge resources accruing to governments". Galtimari pointed out that "operational lapses among security agencies, service rivalry, under funding, under-equipment and lack of collaboration fuelled the violence"[35] thus confirming the factors that hindered the security operatives quality service delivery as discussed above.

Repercussions of the Boko Haram Assault and Government Response

The assault embarked upon by the *Boko Haram* militant disparaged Nigeria in the international community. It was shameful that the nation that had performed creditably well in the areas of peace-keeping, peace-making, peace-enforcement and peace-building suddenly became a victim of general insecurity and political instability[36]. The crises initiated, planned and executed by the militants but bankrolled by their domestic and

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external financiers spoke volumes about the disunity, corruption, lack of the political will to restore peace by the government in the country and the weaknesses of the armed forces and the security agencies. The country became exposed to the outsiders many of whom became mercenaries, making the country unsafe.

In addition was the loss of human lives and waste of properties worth billions of naira. It was a sad development that many people who became victims died in their prime, leaving behind them dependants who were subjected to harrowing psychological and emotional turmoil. There were instances when both parents or the main bread winners of a family got gobbled up in the *melee*. For instance, a 13-year old girl, Nancy Maduka, lost her parents and all her siblings in the December 25, 2011 bomb blasts that ravaged St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State[37]. This is just a tip of the ice berg. One should imagine how terrible life will be for such a little girl and other people / children in such a similar distressful situation. Although government officials including the president, ministers, and governors made promises and commiserated with the bereaved, this could not mitigate the emotional agonies of the affected individuals, groups, families and communities. In addition, governmental promises in Nigeria are as good as promissory notes that lack value and general acceptability. Many people who had been promised to receive government care and education up to the university in the past were left to their fate.

Added to this was the material and financial waste that attended the operations hatched by the militants. Uncountable costly edifices, expensive cars, factories, industries and other assets including big farms were lost to fire ignited by the religious rabble-rousers. The government had to source for funds to prosecute the resistance action against the happy trigger boys on the list of the *Boko Haram*. All these resources that should have been channeled toward improving the economy and social services were directed towards fighting the *Boko Haram* insurgence. Again, the crises paralyzed social, political and economic activities as a result of the prevailing general insecurity caused by the militants and this hindered developmental efforts since development could only be achieved when there is peace and security. The *Boko Haram* insurgency has encouraged capital flight as business tycoons removed their business overseas including Ghana while foreign investors never ventured into the country.

Another major implication of the *Boko Haram* onslaught was the sacking of key top security chiefs. One of such was Zakari Biu who was chastised for the perfidious role he played in the 'escape' saga of Kabiru Sokoto from the prison under his (Biu's) jurisdiction. Biui was dismissed and later suspended in the first instance and was finally compulsorily retired from the Nigeria Police Force. His dismissal was converted to compulsory retirement after Sokoto had been 'found'. The Police Service Commission also retired six Deputy Inspectors-General of the Nigeria Police[38]. The IGP Hafiz Ringim was also retired as a result of the disclosures made by Aliyu Tishau and Ringim's failure to act promptly. He was replaced by AIG Mohammed Abubakar. The NSA, General Azazi was also fired

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by President Jonathan who replaced him with Colonel Sambo Mohammed Dasuki (retired)[39].

The *Boko Haram* also exposed the type of people it made use of. The organization made use of stark illiterate who were sent to the war zones. This was revealed in court where some suspected bombers working for the sect were arraigned. It was regrettably reported that: "All but one of the suspects pleaded not guilty to the charge, which was read in English but translated to Hausa when they said they did not speak (sic) English"[40]. If the literary icon and Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka described the Nigerian youth as belonging to wasted generation over two decades before the emergence of the *Boko Haram*. The implication is that the country is receding fast into leadership oblivion as those who ought to take up the mantle of leadership are not being trained for the future task. This is a major accusation against the governments, especially in the North for failing to deliver public goods- sound and qualitative education, economy, electricity, employment, security and other services.

Conclusion

As a result of the observed menaces of the Boko Haram insurgency, the study concludes that it is therefore important for those in corridors of power in Nigeria to have a rethink of their policies and programmes and redefine them in such a way that the sufferings of the masses might be mitigated. Again, urgent steps should be taken in monitoring migration across Nigeria's borders with her neighbours particularly in the crisis-ridden North Eastern parts of the nation. This is necessary in order to curb the smuggling of small arms, explosive and other dangerous weapons into the country. In addition, there is the need to restructure and rejuvenate the security outfits and the armed forces especially in the area of training in counter insurgency, bomb detection and detonation, and better conditions of service. More importantly is the need for the government to take care of those fatally wounded and the dependants of the security personnel and the civilian population. The most shocking of the harassing assaults of the deadly organization is the sordid abduction of over 200 secondary school girls at Chibok in Bornu State on April 14, 2014, an incident that has further exposed the government ineptitude in securing the citizenry and which has aroused public outcry from both the domestic and international community. It is a shame that the unfortunate victims are still at the mercy of their captors while the government is utterly confused as to the next line of action to take towards the safe release of the girls.

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