AIPGG Journal of Humanities and Peace Studies Vol. 4. NO 1.2023
ISSN: 2756-5831 (ONLINE)

Wrecked Internal Security and Development in Northern Nigeria: The Boko Haram Experience

Asanebi, Daupamowei Henry
Department of History and International Studies
Federal University Otuoke
Bayelsa State

Abstract:

The study investigates the wrecked internal security and development in Northern Nigeria created by the Boko Haram sect. Internal security is the protection of citizens and their properties by a sovereign state government from dangers and attacks within its territorial environment. On the other hand, development refers to the positive progress or changes made by man to improve society in the health, economic, social, political and technological sectors. The study methodology is historical, and premised on the use of secondary data. However, the study contends that Boko Haram actions and activities wrecked internal security and stunted development in Northern Nigeria. Unemployment, poverty, lousy governance, western civilization and religion, the impurity of Islam by western religion and culture, and the establishment of a pure and holy Islamic state in Northern Nigeria are the reasons for Boko Haram's establishment, recruitment, and attacks in Northern Nigeria. The study concludes that local, state, and federal governments should make security paramount as there is no development without internal security, and there is no security without development. As a result, their relationship is unbreakable.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Development, Internal Security, Northern, Nigeria.

Introduction

Since the dawn of the 21st century, the upswing of Boko Haram terrorist attacks and activities in Northern Nigeria has been on the rise. There is barely a month or week in Nigeria that the international and local dailies, television, and radio stations do not report Boko Haram terrorist attacks on Northern Nigeria. The phenomenon(s) of Boko Haram in Nigeria have become a subject of great concern to the nation, her citizens, international communities, and non-governmental organizations. [1] The sect is fast developing into one of the most dreaded and lethal terrorist groups in Africa and the world, as they carried out their Mephistophelean act of terror without mercy, religious or ethnic

[1]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects on the North Eastern Region of Nigeria: The Boko Haram Experience from 1995-2018, *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Sociology and Security Studies,* Vol. 4. (3), 2019.

consideration in the North-eastern region,[2]North-central and North-western regions of Nigeria.

Northern Nigeria is faced with Boko Haram security challenge that has continually wrecked the internal security and development of the region for a long time. Boko Haram seemed unstoppable; the group occupied an area bigger than Rwanda in north-eastern Nigeria. A resident of a city under attack by Boko Haram described it as "a mortuary for the uncooperative and a prison for the conquered".[3] Boko Haram's actions have terminated millions of lives, and no research can objectively present accurate figures of dead people from both the sect and Nigerian citizens.[4] While reminiscing on the above, the fulcrum of the study is to investigate how Boko Haram terrorist attacks and activities wreck the internal security and development of Northern Nigeria

Conceptual Clarification
Internal Security

Internal security as aconcept has witnessed an unprecedented riot of meaning. However, scholars, military personnel, and public analysis have defined the term from their points of understanding and disciplines**.** Sabo,[5]defined internal security as the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies that could undermine internal cohesion and the cooperative existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. According to Alhassan and Akindapo,[6]Internal security is an essential preoccupation of every nation-state and every citizen or community. Internal security covers all military actions, primarily those involving the use of force necessary to maintain and restore law and order.

Thus, internal security is the protection of citizens and their properties by a sovereign state government from dangers and attacks within its territorial environment.

Development

The Brandt Report was quite frank when it began its examination of the dimension of development by stating that:

[2]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects……
[3]Max, S. Is the end near for Boko Haram? New African, Issue 551, 2015.
4Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects……

5Sabo, S. N. M. Insecurity, Insurgency and Poverty in Northern Nigeria: The Boko Haram and Banditry Questions, Polac International Journal of Humanities and Security Studies, Vol. 4. (1), 2019.
[6]Alhassan, A. A, &Akindapo, L. T. National Security and Development: Nigeria in Perspective, *Kaduna Journal of Humanities,* Vol. 3. (3), 2019.

> *Development never will be and never can be defined as universal satisfaction.*[7]

This view was akin to that of Walter Rodney, who argued that development in human society is a many-sided process.[8]

Okorobia[9]opined that several people who had attempted to define this concept had, for the most part, emphasized one element at the expense of other aspects. Some have, for instance, looked at development as a synonym for growth. Others who have tried to be more comprehensive sometimes also failed to be holistic, as they proffered definitions that tended to equate development with either economic or industrial progress. The study will attempt to define development.

According to Brandt Report,[10]development refers broadly to desirable social and economic progress, even though people will always have different views about what is desirable. Despite the divergence in opinion as to what is desirable, the report was sure that, certainly, development must mean improvement in living conditions, for which economic growth and industrialization are essential. But there is no attention to the quality of growth and social change; one cannot speak of development. Okorobia,[11] argued that one substantial qualification the Brandt Report has made on its definition is worthy of special attention. And this is that "development is more than the passage from poor to rich, from a traditional rural economy to a sophisticated urban one. It carries with it not only the idea of economic betterment but also a greater human dignity, security, justice and equity".

The Brandt Report's views on development are akin to Walter Rodney's. According to Rodney[12]At the individual level, development may denote an increase in one's skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility, and well-being; the same may mean an increased ability to regulate internal and external relationships. However, development can be defined as the positive progress or changes made by man to improve society in the health, economic, social, political, and technological sectors. The fundamental assumption of the definition is that economic, social, political, etc.,

---

[7] Brandt Report 1979 Extracted from Okorobia, A. M. Undergraduate Lecture Note on Economic History, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State on the 2nd August 2022.
[8]Walter, R. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, London: Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, 1972.
[9]Okorobia, A. M. Undergraduate Lecture Note on Economic History, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State on the 2nd August 2022.
[10]Brandt Report ……
[11]Okorobia, A. M. Undergraduate Lecture Note on Economic History…..

[12] Walter, R. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa…….*

progress or changes will directly and indirectly lead to the speedy development and growth of the standard of living of every individual in society.

Discourse Area, People and Religion

The region known as Northern Nigeria consists of the following states with the inclusion of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT, Abuja), which are: Adamawa, Gombe, Taraba, Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Benue, Plateau, Nasarawa, Kwara, Kogi, Niger, Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto, Kaduna, Katsina, and Kano. Northern Nigeria, like its southern counterpart, is clustered into three geopolitical zones in Nigeria: the North East, the North Central, and the North West. In addendum, northern Nigeria has been reported to be the poorest region in Nigeria since 1985, with the highest incidence of poverty (ranging between 54.9% and 72.2%).[13]The highest unemployment rate and the number of Internal Displaced Persons (IDP) were 2,241,848 as of 2017, according to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).[14]

The following are some of the ethnic groups of the Northern Nigeria, they are; Berom, Hausa, Fulani, Kanuri, Kaka, Jarawa, Sayawa, Tiv, Igede, Ebira, Igala, Butawa, Idoma, Waja, Badawa, Tangala, Affude, Durguri, Babur, Jere, Zulawa, Wariawa, Bachama, Karekare, Ataka, Batta, Bille, Bokko, Banka, Gizigz, Chamo, Buru, Angas, Alago, Akweya-Yachi, Bali, Ayi, Bada, Bomawa, Afo, Duma, Chokobo, Chukkoi, Gengle, Gavako, Gbedde, Dabba, Danda, Dangsa, Daza, Deno, Eggon, Palli, Pulani, Fyam, Fyer, Ga'anda, Gada, Jukun, Nupe, Galambi, Geji, Gera, Gure, Gwom, Higi, Juba, Buji, Bunu, Chip, Afizere, Gonia, Margi, Fulfulde, Savana, Mango, Chamba, Langtang, Kaje, Kamo and Lala, etc. According to Asanebi,[15]most people are peasant farmers, with a large number also engaging in livestock rearing and fishing. The principal crops in the region include maize, sorghum, millet, wheat, cotton, cowpeas, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, cassava, yam, etc. The region is the most crucial livestock-producing area of the country, especially in the production of cattle, sheep, and goats. Also, the region is richly blessed with numerous solid mineral resources. The three major religions of northern Nigeria are Islam, Christianity, and African Traditional Religion (ATR).

Meaning of Boko Haram

The term Boko Haram is translated as western education is forbidden. The term is derived from Arabic and Hausa words. Boko in Hausa means western or non-Islamic education, while Haram in Arabic means sin, forbidden, or abomination. Therefore, the term Boko Haram can be translated as western education is a sin, and western westernization is a sacrilege. Today, the name Boko Haram

[13]Sabo, S. N. M. Insecurity, Insurgency and Poverty in Northern Nigeria…..
[14]Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report, 2017.

[15]Asanebi, D. H. Strangers in One's Land: Boko Haram Insurgency and the Plight of Internal Displaced Persons in North East Nigeria, *Al-Hikmah Journal of History and International Relations*, Vol.4. (1), 2017.

triggers bugaboo in the hearts of Nigerians irrespective of religion, ethnicity, and geographical zones.[16]

Origin of Boko Haram and Recruitment

Boko Haram, also known as Ahlulsana Wal' Jama' ah Hijra and Jamaatu Takaful Wal Hyra Alilus Sunna, is an Islamic sect with a base in Northern Nigeria, precisely in North Eastern Nigeria, as its origin and strongest operational base and support. The precise date of Boko Haram's origin remains controversial, especially if one relies on media accounts. Most local and foreign media traced its origins to 2002, when Mohammed Yusuf emerged as the sect's leader.[17] Security forces traced the origin of the sect to 1995,[18]when Abubarkar Lawan established the Ahulsunnawal' Jama'ahhijra Alilus Sunna sect at the University of Maiduguri, Borno State. It flourished as a non-violent movement until Mohammed Yusuf assumed leadership of the sect in 2002, shortly after Abubakar Lawan left to pursue further studies at the University of Medina, Saudi Arabia.[19]

Over time, the Nigerian government was not pleased with the teachings and activities of Mohammed Yusuf, the sect's leader, and his group. On July 30th, 2011, Mohammed Yusuf was killed by the Nigerian Police Force after they arrested him. The killing of the Boko Haram leader created a massive uproar in northern Nigeria, leading to the wrecked of internal security and stunted development. Abubakar Shakau, a more deadly member of the sect, took over the leadership of Boko Haram. Under his reign, which was recently terminated by his death by another splinter group of Boko Haram known as the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP), the Northern Nigeria region and Nigerian citizens wake up every month with sad and despicable news of the killings of Nigerian citizens, armed robberies in different locations, kidnappings, rape, bombings of private and public properties, destruction of motor parks, markets and agricultural products in northern Nigeria. His reign is best described as an era of massive death and destruction of internal security and development in northern Nigeria. The new leader of the Boko Haram sect is on the defensive and regrouping with members after the humiliation meted out to the sect by ISWAP. The new leader is not famous, and many of his members are now loyal and working with the ISWAP sect, which has vowed not to stabilized internal security in Northern Nigeria and allow Nigerians to sleep with their two eyes close in their country.

[16]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects…..
[17]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects…..
[18]Taiwo, J and Olugbode, M. Boko Haram Leader Killed; This-day, 31st July 2009.
[19]John, S. Globalization of Terrorism: A case study of Boko Haram in Nigeria", *International Journal of Politics and Good Governance*. VI. (6), 2015.

Be that as it may, Boko Haram enjoyed membership recruitment in Northern Nigeria, as the nation Nigeria, blessed with human and natural resources, has failed to provide the basic amenities of life for her citizenry.Abetiloye[20] observed that:

> In Nigeria, the case has been years of economic stagnation in a country blessed with incredible natural resources to cater to everyone. Still, for which few elites preposterously accrued to themselves and their cronies the wealth of the nation…… the gravities of their doings have brought the country to its present horrific status quo where Boko Haram is now a big issue.

In an analogous thread, Abiye[21] Opined thus:

> Domestic terrorism arose in Nigeria because emergent militant groups took advantage of the government's inefficient action and inaction in dealing with fundamental elements of nationhood. Such as internal security, resource control, injustice, corruption, ethnicism, sycophancy, favouritism, overlord-ship and marginalization.

Sadly, the lousy governance, unemployment, and chronic poverty, etc has lured many Northern Nigerian citizens into terrorism to enable them through the proceeds of terrorism feed themselves and their family members. While for some, it is an avenue for paying back the corrupt system created by selfish Nigerian leaders since independence. The following are the core fundamental reasons for Boko Haram's establishment, recruitment of members, and attacks on properties and Nigerians in Northern Nigeria: unemployment, chronic poverty, lousy governance, western civilization and religion, injustice, poor infrastructural development, western method of governance, impurity of Islam by western religion and civilization, and the establishment of a pure and holy Islamic state in Northern Nigeria.

Liolio,[22] assert that successful recruitment of the people into the Boko Haram terrorist group depends on the nature of the economic and poverty level in the area; primarily, insurgents gain members by claiming their struggle is for the people, and they would provide the basic necessity for the general population if supported.

---

[20]Abetiloye cited by Shittu, A. K. Understanding Terrorism for what it is: A Case of Boko Haram in North Eastern Nigeria, *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Humanities*, Vol. 2. (1), 2018.
[21]Abiye, S. The Abuja Attacks: The Telegraph Newspapers, 10thMay 2011.

[22]Liolio, S.E. Rethinking Counter Insurgency: A Case Study of Boko Haram in Nigeria. European Peace University Stadschalaining, Austria, 2012.
[23]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects…..

However, Asanebi and Ayibatari[23]argued that the sect successfully recruited members from Nigeria and other neighbouring countries due to the simpleton nature of the members. The sect canonizes these new members after they joined, giving them the impression that they are fighting Jihad (holy war) in Nigeria. If successful, they will Islamize the entire northern Nigeria, its citizens, and the nation at large. Therefore, there is no going back, as it is an obligation they must fulfill as Jihadists. The sect generates its finances from the ransom of kidnapped victims, armed robbery of banks, ISIS and other foreign Islamic sect's financial aid, and stealing agricultural products, cars, motorcycles, generators, televisions, radios, and money from citizens.

Wrecked Internal Security and Development in Northern Nigeria: The Boko Experience

Since the establishment of the Boko Haram sect, the internal security and development of Northern Nigeria have known no peace or better progress. Economically, the constant Boko Haram attacks and activities have negatively affected the region's development and, by extension, Nigeria, as several investors at home and abroad have withdrawn from investing in the region and Nigeria at large, as security is a vital element of business and development. No meaningful investor will want to invest in a conflict environment, knowing sufficiently that internal security affects business and development tremendously.

With the poor turnout of investors and the withdrawal of a few from Northern Nigeria, foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nigeria ebbs, which is not suitable for the economy and development of the North and Nigeria as a nation. Several nations, such as the United States of America, Russia, India, Britain, etc., have asked their citizens to come back home due to widespread insecurity in Northern Nigeria and further disengagement in business in Nigeria. Sardonically, the activities and attacks of the Boko Haram sect branded Nigeria's image negatively in the international committees of nations. The Nigerian nation fought hard under the late Professor Dora Akunyili, former Minister of Information and National Orientation, to rebrand Nigeria's image in the Committee of Nations. Due to her efforts, Nigeria was removed as a terrorist nation from the terrorist list of United States of America and other countries in the world.

According to Asanebi and Ayibatari,[24]The region's economy is in dire need of oxygen, as it is on the verge of collapsing, if nothing is done quickly to address the Boko Haram menace. The sect attacks have made it difficult for citizens in the North to carry out their legitimate economic activities effectively, as all sectors that contribute to the region's economy are adversely affected.The pride of the people, which is agriculture, is nose-diving as agriculturalists cannot

[24]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects…..

access their agricultural products in peace; even when they do, they do so in fear.

The constant Boko Haram attacks on the agricultural sector have resulted in decline of production that has escalated the price of agricultural output and reduced the per capita income of individuals in the industry. By these, they are increasing reports of food shortage in northern Nigeria, which was not the case before the establishment of Boko Haram.[25]Manufacturing companies in the North are not left out; they suffered a significant setback as manufacturing of goods became minimal due to Boko Haram attacks and activities in the region. Buyers within and outside the region are afraid to risk their lives to patronize these manufacturing companies. The constant terrorism attacks and activities by Boko Haram have tremendously reduced the zeal and political power for industrialization in the North by the Nigerian government, domestic and foreign investors in the country.

In addendum, the roads of the region are now unsafe, as Boko Haram killed and kidnapped passengers on a daily basis on northern roads in Nigeria. While, commercial banks and markets in the region has recorded several bank robberies, cash and goods thefts in various markets. For fear of Boko Haram terrorist attacks and activities in Northern Nigeria (specifically Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Yobe, Borno, Plateau, and Zamfara State), several banks and markets have closed before their due time of the day, leaving citizens to their fate. These actions of Boko Haram have affected the economic and profit proceeds of commercial banks, markets, the government, domestic and foreign companies, the transportation sector, and the agricultural sector, thereby wrecking the economy and development of northern Nigeria.

Socially, Boko Haram has terminated sleep in the eyes of the people in the region, as religion, nightlife, and other social events and activities have drastically decreased due to their attacks and activities. The people now live in fear, as the sect can attack anytime of the day in the region. Due to the attacks of the sect, many northern Nigerian citizens are now displaced persons living in Internal Displaced Camps (IDP) within and outside the region. Lives in these IDP camps are not the same as lives in the people's indigenous homes and lands. There are reports of rape, insecurity, poor or no education, lack of health care and facilities, shortage of food and potable water in these IDP camps.

Thus, several hospitals have been destroyed by the sect in the region, while, many doctors, nurses, and medical laboratory technologists, amongst others, have been killed, and a few others have fled or worked their way out of the region due to fear of death or attack by the sect.[26]Many health volunteers from domestic and foreign non-governmental organizations have been kidnapped and attacked by the sect in northern Nigeria. In contrast, according to media

[25]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects…..
[26]Asanebi, D. H. &Ayibatari, J. Terrorism and its Mephistophelean Effects…..

reports, the region has witnessed a shortage of medical drugs and facilities in several rural and urban cities where the sect attacks occurred.

On April 15, 2014, 271 students of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State, were kidnapped by Boko Haram. A number of these girls has regained their freedom; about 109 of them are still in captivity, while 16 were said to have been killed. Some of those freed returned home traumatized, with children fathered by terrorists. [27] After the Chibok girl's abduction, massive abductions of students have become a recurring phenomenon, especially in northern Nigeria. Abducting schoolchildren became a lucrative business for the Boko Haram terrorist group, which was prepared to use this medium to finance their terrorist activities and acts. In a report to mark the abduction of Chibok schoolgirls, Amnesty International noted that between December 2020 and October 2021, 1,436 schoolchildren and teachers were abducted from schools in Nigeria by armed groups ranging from Boko Haram to bandits. The upsurge has triggered prolonged school shutdowns and led to a decline in school enrollment and attendance, as well as a surge in child marriage and pregnancies among school-age girls. [28]

Going further, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) revealed that 11,536 schools have been closed in Nigeria since December 2020 due to abductions and security issues, noting that the closure has impacted the education of approximately 1.3 million children in the 2020/2021 academic year.[29]On February 19, 2018, Boko Haram abducted 110 students from Government Girls Science and Technology College, Dapchi, Yobe State. At the same time, 334 students and a staff wife were abducted from Government Science Secondary School, Kankara, Katsina State, in December 2020. The terrorists killed a police officer in charge of school security on the day of the abduction.

SalihuTanko Islamic School, Regina, Niger State, was not left out, as terrorists abducted on May 30th, 2021, 136 students and a few indigenes of the town, including a councilor representing the ward. Again, at Government Secondary School, Kagara, Niger State, several students and non-teaching staff were abducted in February 2022.

On March 12, 2021, 39 students and eight teachers of the Federal College of Forestry and Mechanization, Afaka, Kaduna State, were abducted, while 102 students and eight teachers of the Federal Government College, Birnin-Yauri, Kebbi State, on June 17, 2021, also shared the same fate with the forestry students. With the speedily wrecked internal security; students, teachers, and citizens of the region were visible, not safe, as Bethel Baptist High School, Maraban Rido, Kaduna State, received her share of the insecurity when

[27]Kola Olarewaju. Africa (AA): Nigerian, Kaduna State Shuts 13 Schools over Bandit Attacks, extracted from www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/nigeria-s-kaduna-state-shut-13-schools-over-bandits-attacks/2297623#, on the 3rd August 2022.
[28] Kola Olarewaju. Africa (AA): Nigerian, Kaduna State Shuts 13 Schools……
[29]Kola Olarewaju. Africa (AA): Nigerian, Kaduna State Shuts 13 Schools……

terrorists abducted 120 students with links to the Boko Haram sect. In a memo, the Director General of the Kaduna State Schools Quality Assurance Authority, Mr. Umma K. Ahmed, directed that 13 (public and private) schools be shut down in response to the information reaching the authority on the security threat at the Bethel Baptist School.[30]

In their usual traditional manner, Boko Haram terrorists abducted babies, nurses, and security guards from the residential quarters of the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Centre in Zaria, Kaduna State, in July 2021. Prior to July, in February 2021, over 300 Government Girls Secondary School, Jangebe, Zamfara State, students were abducted. While in August of the same year, 73 Government Day Secondary School, Kaya, Zamfara State, students were also abducted by terrorists with solid links to Boko Haram.

According to Human Right Watch,[31]Boko Haram attacks have destroyed more than 910 schools and forced a minimum of 1,500 more to close. At least 611 teachers have been deliberately killed, and another 19,000 have been forced to flee from northern Nigeria.

Due to the high rate of deteriorated internal security in Northern Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Education directed the immediate closure of all colleges (public and private) in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja and ordered the speedy vacation of all students in the FCT due to insecurity on the 25th July 2022. Three days later, the Nasarawa State Government followed suit by closing primary and secondary (public and private) schools in the state. In a memo signed on July 27, 2022, by Hajiya FatuJimaita Sabo,[32]the Honourable Commissioner of Education of Nasarawa State,noted that following the recurring incidences of security breaches and threats in parts of the country, including some neighbouring states, His Excellency Engineer Abdullahi, A. Sule, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, has directed the immediate closure of both public and private primary and secondary schools operating in the state as a precautionary measure. Accordingly, all principals and head teachers of secondary and primary schools are directed to release their students and pupils to their parents and guardians. However, it is noteworthy that students currently undertaking the NECO/SSCE examinations are to remain as the government has implemented measures to ensure their safety during the examinations.

Higher institutions, military formations, and barracks were not left out as Boko Haram rained heavily on them, leaving many dead and injured. In July 2022, Veritas University, Abuja, was forced to shut down an academic session due to insecurity in Abuja. The Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Adamawa State, is still

[30]Kola Olarewaju. Africa (AA): Nigerian, Kaduna State Shuts 13 Schools……
[31]Human Right Watch. They set the Classroom on Fire: Attacks on Education in Northeast Nigeria, USA, 2016.
[32]. Sabo, Fatu, J. Ministry of Education Nasarawa State Government. Public Announcement, 27th July 2022.

recovering from the educational activities suspended in the 2014/2015 academic year due to Boko Haram's heavy attacks on the institution and students. Also, 20 students of Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, were killed by Boko Haram in 2021.

The University of Maiduguri, Borno State, is not left out; the institution has witnessed heavy Boko Haram attacks and activities within and outside the school premises. Many staff and students of the institution has been killed and abducted by Boko Haram. Professor Aliyu Mani, Director of Veterinary Teaching Hospital, University of Maiduguri, Borno State, is prominent among the staff killed by the sect. About 20 students and two staff were abducted by a terrorist group strongly linked to the Boko Haram sect at Greenfield University, Kaduna State on the 20th April, 2021.Also, a staff of the institution was killed on the day of the abduction, and a few days later, five students under the captivity of the terrorists were killed by the terrorists.

According to Kaduna State Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr. Samuel Aruwan,[33]while reacting to the Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic attacked, the commissioner noted that one student identified as Ahmed Mohammed died of gunshot wounds; a bullet hit another student by the name Haruna Isyaku Dunniya, and he is receiving medical attention at an undisclosed hospital in the area. The armed terrorists kidnapped two lecturers and eight students at Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, Zaria, on June 10th, 2021. The Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Afaka, Kaduna State, was attacked by an armed group believed to be heavily linked to Boko Haram on August 24, 2021, which resulted in the deaths of two officers and the abduction of one officer. As if that was not enough in the same year, Boko Haram attacked the Nigerian Army University (NAU), Biu, Borno State, leaving the military universities (NDA and NAU) and training grounds completely naked, which exposed the weak, poor intelligence and security within and outside their premises.

Sadly, the Nigerian Army Battalion at Metele, Borno State, was left to mourn on November 20th, 2018 as the Boko Haram sect killed more than 90 soldiers, including officers. This is believed to be one of the highest casualties the military has received since the insurgency started. At Jelli, Yobe State, Boko Haram killed three officers and 28 soldiers at the 81 Division of Task Brigade on 20th July 2018. While at Bauchi and Maiduguri, Boko Haram attacked military barracks leaving about 15 military personnel dead in their operation on the 29th and 31st May 2011.[34]

---

[33]Isenyi, G. The Punch, Extracted from https://punchng.com/updated, and https://www.thecable.ng/kaduna-two-lecturers-8-students-kidnapped-from-nuhu-bamali-polytechnic/amp, on the 4th August 2022.

[34]John, S. Globalization of Terrorism: A case study of Boko Haram in Nigeria, *International Journal of Politics and Good Governance*. VI. (6), 2015. And https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/timeline_of_the_Boko_Haram_Insurgency, Extracted on the 4TH August 2022.

[35]Htpps://guardian.ng/news/boko-haram-attacks-military-base-in-borno-state, Extracted on the 4th August, 2022.

The military formation or base at Tawisukawu in the Kaga local government of Borno State was attacked by Boko Haram in November 2021, resulting in casualties from the Boko Haram sect and the military.[35]In another sad development, the Nigerian Army Mainok camp and base in Borno State was attacked in April 2021 by Boko Haram, leaving one officer and six soldiers dead.[36]

Due to the wrecked internal security, the people in their respective states formed local vigilantes and guards to support the military and paramilitary in securing their lands. Thus, reacting to wrecked internal security in Zamfara State in June 2022, the Governor of Zamfara State, Alhaji Bello Matawalle, urges residents and people of Zamfara State to carry licensed firearms to defend themselves against attacks from Boko Haram or any armed groups in the state.
Be that as it may, Nigerians woke up on the 24thJuly, 2022 to a video posted online by ISWAP, a splinter group of the Boko Haram sect. In the video, the armed group threatened to abduct the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, and the Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai. The terrorist group cemented their threat by attacking the troops and guards of the brigade of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria a few days after posting their threat video online, thereby leading to injuries and the deaths of many security personnel. Many Nigerians thought that the President would immediately rise to the occasion to tackle insecurity once and for all since he had been declared wanted by the terrorists after the deaths of his security personnel. This didn't happen, as wrecked internal security in Northern Nigeria has become a recurrent decimal leading to several death, destructions of properties, peace, security and development in the region.

The silence of President Muhammadu Buhari in actions and not ordinary talks has intensified the attacks and activities of the Boko Haram sect in northern Nigeria. Northern Nigeria is under siege by the Boko Haram sect and other heavily armed terrorists groups linked to the sect. Boko Haram terrorists have continually robbed the people of Northern Nigeria of their destinies and security, stunting and denying the region massive developmental growth in all sectors of life.

Conclusion

The study investigated how Boko Haram wrecked the internal security and development of northern Nigeria. Internal security in northern Nigeria has become a lucrative business for Boko Haram, which has given birth to other terrorist groups operating massively in the region.

---

[36]Nasir, A. The Premium Times, Extracted from www.premiumng.com/religional/northeast/457664-Boko-haram-attacked-mainok-camp-Nigeria-army-HTML on the 4th August 2022.

ISSN: 2756-5831 (ONLINE)

It is imperative to note that Boko Haram attacks and activities have wrecked internal security of northern Nigeria, led to the withdrawal of domestic and foreign investors, destroyed properties and terminated lives, shortage of food, stunted development, increase child marriage, rape and abuse, early female pregnancy, an abysmal turnout of school (precisely female) enrolment, the closing down of schools, a brain drain, and a shortage of medical personnel and dispensaries in Northern Nigeria.

Northern Nigeria is under siege, and the President must not be passive and prove that he is the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Also, local, state, and federal governments should make security paramount, as there is no development without internal security, and there is no security without development. As a result, their relationship is unbreakable.