

# **BOKO HARAM AND THE SECURITY CHALLENGES OF THE NATION; THE WAY FORWARD**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study focuses on the insurgency of Boko-Haram and the security challenges of the Nation. A thorough analysis and examination revealed that the gruesome murder, incessant killing and wanton destruction of lives and property by the Boko-Haram in the North Eastern part of the country is capable of balkanizing the Nation. Socio-economic activities had been adversely affected and people constantly live in fear. All efforts by the government to put an end to this ugly scenario had been stalled as the Boko Haram are not ready for negotiation, and are sponsored by Islamic groups outside and inside the country. The porosity of the Northern borders, which paved way for illegal importation of arms and migration of neighboring Arabs nations into the country are also responsible why the government find it difficult to curb this menace. It was strongly recommended that the Northern borders should be properly secured, as well as engaging foreign securities.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Terrorism is a global phenomenon that threatened the peaceful co-existence of the entire world. Terrorism and insecurity penetrated into this country (Nigeria) few years ago, when the Niger Delta militants engaged in kidnapping of both the expatriates and the peaceful citizens of Nigeria. But the ascendancy or emergence of Boko-Haram has intensified tension, fear of death and the unknown, paralyzed investment and other business transactions in the country as well as threatening the unity of the country

Boko-Haram is an Islamic sect terrorist group operating in the North Eastern part of Nigeria notably Borno, Bauchi, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Taraba State. Her terrorist activities and victims have extended to Abuja, the federal capital of Nigeria and her fears extended to all parts of Nigeria. In addition, University students in some universities, in the western and southern parts of Nigeria such as; university of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo university, Osun state, University of Benin, Edo state and University of Port Harcourt, Rivers state among many others, were stampeded out of their campuses for fear of Boko Haram attack (Tell, September 26, 2011). In late 2011, the two chambers of the National Assembly had to be horridly evacuated following reported threats of attack by Boko Haram (Tell, October 3, 2011).

The violent activities of Boko Haram in the North eastern part of the country unleashed terror and claimed the death of many, while property and infrastructures worth millions of naira had been destroyed. In addition, most people had been displaced from their homes and presently, National Youths Service Corps members are not *ready* to serve in this part of the

country because of the hostile nature of the area. In reaction to the above, the Federal government camped the youth corpsers that were posted to Borno and Yobe states in Nasarawa and Benue states.

Boko Haram has attacked so many churches, police headquarters, United Nation building in Abuja, markets schools etc. it is generally believe by all Nigeria that the Boko-Haram sect are ready and willing to balkanize the country against the constitutional provision, that specifies, the indivisibility of Nigeria. The Ibos of Eastern Nigeria declared Biafra Republic in 1967, and it led to a civil war that ended in 1970, In similar view, the south-south (Niger Delta) protested for injustice, neglect, environmental degradation and they were granted Amnesty, Ministry of Niger Delta and the Niger Delta Development commission (NDDC), as panacea to their problems and also to stop the insecurity challenges that crippled the nation's economy.

Presently, the indivisibility and oneness of the nation is under threat, as Christians including Moslems cannot travel to that part of the country freely. Again, the Christians (Church) had experienced violent attacks than the (mosques) Moslems. This lopsided attacks, made people to believe that it is a religious war. It is also viewed as a political war, aimed at destabilizing the federal government under the leadership of Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, (a minority from the south —south region)

This paper focuses on the origin of Boko Haram, its impacts on development and its security implications on the peaceful coexistence of the people of Nigeria. This paper will also offer reasonable suggestions that will help to avert this violence situation.

### **Definition of Concepts**

**Boko Haram:** Is an Hausa phrase which means, western education is forbidden or a sin. It is also seen as a Nigerian Islamic Group which seeks the imposition of sharia Law in the Northern States of Nigeria. This phrase was used and adopted by the Borno based Islamic sect called, Jama Atu Ahlis Suna Lidda' awaitiwal Jihad, which in Arabic means people committed to the propagation of the prophets teachings and jihad, (social and Economic Rights Action Centre Report, [www.serac.org](http://www.serac.org);4).

Uranta (2012) asserts that presently, it has an undefined structure and chain of command, it was popularized internationally following the sectarian violence in Nigeria in 2009. Boko Haram is totally against western Education including western culture.

**National Security:** Orok, (2000) asserts that National security should ideally be defined as the ability of the Nigerian state to successfully pursue her national interests, being able to protect the core values of the state and be able to maintain same through victory in case of war.

Arnold (1960) also defined National security as the capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believe necessary to enjoy its own sect determination or autonomy, prosperity and wellbeing. National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomacy, power projection and political-power.

**Peace:** Peace refers to a condition of social harmony in which there are no social antagonisms. In other words, peace is a condition in which there is no social conflict and individuals and groups are able to meet their needs and expectations. Peace is a process, involving activities

that are directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict, both within specific societies and in the wider international community (Ibeanu, 2007).

According to Francis (2007) peace is generally defined as absence of war, fear, conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence, and about peaceful coexistence. It is primarily concerned with creating and maintaining a just order in society and, the resolution of conflict by non-violent means.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The theoretical framework in which this work is situated is the conflict theory.

### **Conflict Theory**

There are many proponents of conflict theory such as Karl Marx, Lester F. Ward, Ludwig Gumplowicz, Marx Weber etc. but this paper will concentrate or lay emphasis on the conflict theory propagated by Karl Marx. He sees the society as being constantly in conflict. Karl Marx recognized two main classes in all the various modes of production, except in communism and communalism. The classes are the upper class (Bourgeois) and the Lower class (proletariat).

Conflict in the society is based upon the view that the fundamental causes of crime are the social and economic forces operating within the society. The criminal justice system and criminal law protects the elites and upper class, and controls the peasants (have not) who have nothing but their labour power. The proletariats becomes impoverished, alienated and marginalized by the upper class. He advocated that this constant conflict and struggle for survival will not cease except the proletariats embark on revolution to change the present status-quo.

The federal government including all the state governments in the north operates a capitalist system which favoured the capitalists and the few at the helms of affairs. Infrastructures are inadequate, standard of living is high and high rate of unemployment. This made it impossible for the poor to have access to basic infrastructures. This high level of inequality and deprivation enhances conflict between the two classes in the North. Boko Haram reared its ugly head to change the status-quo.

### **Frustration-Aggression Theory**

The frustration-Aggression theory of John Dollard shall be used in this work. He carefully asserts that aggression is caused by frustration. This occurs when somebody or group of people are prevented from actualizing their aims, they become frustrated, and therefore, employed aggressive behaviour to satisfy their anger, anxiety or desire.

Since the inception of democratic rule in Nigeria, the government at all levels failed to provide basic and fundamental needs (amenities) such as portable water, electricity, good roads, and well equipped schools, standard hospitals etc, that would have enhanced the standard of living of the common man. Instead, the few people in government takes pleasure in embezzling public funds, investing it in foreign countries and left the people in abject poverty and high rate of unemployment.

This frustrated condition triggers the anger of the common man (Talakawas) in the north, who had no other option than to rebel violently.

### **The Origin of Boko Haram**

In 1995, the group was said to be operating under the name shabaab, muslim Youth Organisation with Lawal as the Leader. When Lawal left for his education, Mohammed Yusuf took over leadership of the group. Yusuf allegedly opened the group to political influence and popularity. [Chothia Farouk 2012]. Boko Haram is an Islamic sect operating in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria. It was officially founded in 2002 in Maiduguri by Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf. His teaching centered on the fact that western Education is a sin.

Beside their protest against western education, the group is agitating for the imposition of sharia law in the Northern states of Nigeria.

Yusuf Tuggar, a former member house of Representative, from Bauchi state opined that historically in Bauchi there is the violent youth group known as Sara-suka, the Kalare Militia in Gombe, as well as a number of similar militia group in Borno on which the origin of Boko Haram is based. The primary goals of these groups were to use force to deliver power to the politicians that hired them. Now, it is in these same states that the worst violence from Boko Haram is occurring, much more than any other states in Nigeria (Business Day, Tuesday 23, August 2011).

According to Otuya (2012) in 2004, the group moved to Kanamma in Yobe state, where it set up a base called "Afghanistan", used to attack nearby police outposts, killing police officers. Membership of this Islamic sect is not limited to Nigerians alone; people from neighboring Chad, Somalia, Sudan and Afghanistan are also members. Mohammed Yusuf, the founder of Boko Haram in his life time, preached against societal ills perpetrated by the ruling class against the impoverished population. His preaching found favour with the down trodden and unemployed populace who were in the majority. He embarked on deliberate policy of empowering his followers by buying and distributing motorcycles and small golf Volkswagen cars for them, which they used to operate motorcyclist (Okada) and taxi within local routes in the state (socio-Economic Rights Action center's Report). It is obvious that his empowerment schemes attracted many young people to join his group; and they were fanatically loyal to him and his instructions.

They began to have problem with the law enforcement agencies, as they deliberately disobey and disregard state laws as well as constituted authorities. Mohammed Yusuf was arrested in one of their clashes in 2009, and he died in detention.

This reactivated the group to re-organized, recruit and mobilize to unleash terror and to waste innocent blood so as to achieve their aims. Its political goal is to create an Islamic state and to change the pattern of government, and values like voting in elections, wearing shirts and trousers or receiving secular education. When Governor Ali Modu Sherriff was a senator in 2002, he built a religious complex, which included a mosque and an Islamic school where many poor families from across Nigeria and from neighboring countries enrolled their children. This school had ulterior political goal srid served'as a'fertile ground for recruitment and indoctrination centre.

"Former USA Ambassador Campbell said that Boko Haram is a symptom of not only extreme poverty in the North, but also a sense of alienation from the central government in Abuja". (Tell, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011)

According to Emmanuel Chukwuma, Bishop of Anglican communion, Enugu Diocese, "there is a dose of politics in the motive of Boko Haram. Some politicians threatened to make this country ungovernable and they are living up to their words, making the number one citizen look as if he does not know what he is doing" (Tell, October 3, 2011).

Utuya (2012) asserts that "another school of thought has it that Boko Haram insurgency intensified and became deadlier than ever following the refusal of President Goodluck Jonathan to respect the Zoning arrangement of the Peoples Democratic Party. As such, the perpetrator of the current insecurity has long ago, planned and arranged how to thoroughly make the country ungovernable should he eventually become the president of the country".

"In 2011, Boko Haram was responsible for at least 450 killings in Nigeria. It was also reported that they had been responsible for over 620 deaths over the first six months of 2012. In the first few years of operation 10,000 people are reported to have died". [Brock 2012]

### **Measures Taken "By Government to Curb Boko-Haram in Nigeria**

As the rate of killing and insecurity in the country increases, especially the North-eastern States, the federal government resolved to form the Joint Task Force (JTF) which comprises of the Nigerian Army, Airforce, immigration, Navy, police, State security services, customs and the Defense intelligence Agency for the purpose of fighting these vagabonds, hoodlums, unscrupulous elements and intellectuals, assembled by some religious fanatics and selfish politicians to kill and to destabilize the country. The JTF has succeeded in arresting over 200 members of the group and recovered several ammunitions including locally made bombs from Boko Haram members.

The National Emergency management Agency (NEMA) established four (4) resettlements centers in Borno and Yobe States respectively to ameliorate the sufferings of the displaced people. The centers include Gwoza, Njimitilo, Kukareta and Boarding primary school in Yobe state.

The federal government also formed the council of state to look into possible ways to solve this rudeness killing and wanton destruction of property. The advisory body is made up of previous Head of states and presidents of the federal Republic of Nigeria. This body advised the government to use dialogue and not force to settle this problem. The council of state also recommended that the federal government should devise means of creating jobs for the teeming youths, initiate and implement development projects that will have direct bearing on the common man.

The federal government also constituted a presidential committee on security challenges in the North-East headed by Usman Galtimati. This committee was mandated to initiate negotiation with Boko Haram. (Tell, September 26, 2011). This committee failed to discharge its duties as the Boko Haram sect is not ready to negotiate or dialogue with government.

The federal government declared state of emergency in fifteen local government areas across five states in the northern part of the country (Tell, February 6, 2012). More recently, the government also declared state of emergency in some local government areas in Plateau state owing to the attack on innocent civilians. The mass burial of some of the attackers or victims in Plateau state led to the death" of the Plateau State House-of Assembly Speaker and a member of the House of Senate.

The federal government also liaised with American security agents and the Israelites security agents to train the state security service (SSS) and police on information gathering, bomb handling and other tactics that could help them overcome this problem.

The federal government also appointed new Minister of Defense and National Security Adviser to the President. According to Good luck Jonathan, in his national broadcast and interview with pressmen, he said, the changes and appointment was necessary so as to meet up the security challenges in the country.

The National Executive Council; has met several times to discuss the security challenges of the country. All the governors from the northern states under the leadership of Aliyu Babangida had been told to meet with religious leaders, influential Emirs and other stakeholders so as to stop this blood thirsty youths from committing more havoc.

Following these resolutions and the crises in the North-Eastern part of the country, the northern leaders have held several meetings, conferences, but had not yielded any success.

The federal government had taken a bold step by building so many primary schools for the Almajiri's in the north. Every facility has been provided for the takeoff of the school. The aim is~ to reduce illiteracy, religiois<sup>1</sup> fanaticism and poverty." ""

### **CAUSES OF INSECURITY AND INSURGENCE OF BOKO HARAM**

**1. Poor notion of the Nigerian state:** The problem with Nigeria is, try as she might, after so many years of being patched together, the idea of the Nigerian state has not been firmly planted to the minds of her citizens, this then constitute the greatest threat to her national security. (Wabah 2012).

**2. Unemployment:** More than 85% of the Boko Haram members are unemployed youths. Most of them were easily recruited as members of the sect because they bought motor cycles for them and cars for transportation. Again, some of them were also assured that, if they eventually succeed, by dethroning the government of their states and the nation that they will be provided with a means of livelihood.

**3. Religious Fanatism:** The level of insecurity in the north is high because the founder of Boko Haram hides under the cover or umbrella of Islamic religion to perpetuate and unleash attacks on the Christians and other Moslems who are not members of their group. They are strict to their teachings and the ideologies of their founders, and therefore see others as enemies that must be killed for them to Islamized the entire northern states. The level of religious intolerance is so high to the extent that they are ready to eliminate all non-members of Boko Haram. It is general belief that anyone who dies in the process of carrying out their action (jihad) will have a sure ticket or passport to heaven, so they do not see anything bad in their actions.

**4. Poverty:** A careful examination or study of some of the people arrested or killed by the Joint Task Force or police indicated that they are very poor people, who had been brainwashed by religious fanatics and greedy politicians to become member of Boko Haram. They are compelled by hunger and misery which is associated with anger and frustration to take laws into their hands, and commit crimes that led to the breakdown of law and order as well as threatening the unity of the country, the poverty of the northern youths is on the increase because most of them are not educated (western education) and do not also acquire the basic skills that will enhance their standard of living.

**5. Corruption:** The wealth of the nation is concentrated in the hands of the privileged few that are found at the helms of affairs, while greater number of the people wallows in abject poverty and perpetual bondage. Many youths who could no longer endure resolved to seek for alternatives means of survival. Such illegitimate and unconstitutional means of survival include, arm robbery, assassination, stealing, kidnapping, thuggery, 419, embezzlement of public fund, bribery and belonging to cult groups, religious groups, such as Boko Haram. The teaching of Boko Haram is against bad leaders who are only concerned about themselves and allowed the poor masses to die.

**6. Lack of political will:** The unwillingness and lack of political will on the part of the leaders to rise to their responsibilities by providing basic infrastructures as well as embarking on developmental projects that can transform the living standard of the people also pave way for insecurity and the insurgence of Boko Haram in Nigeria. The militants of Niger Delta regions also emerged as a result of the neglect and deprivation meted on them by both the government and the multinational companies operating in the area.

**7. Struggle to Islamized Nigeria:** "The ongoing sectarian "war" by the Boko Haram Islamic sects to among others Islamize Nigeria, is a threat to the security of the nation, if not checkmated, will eventually lead to the cancellation of the unsolicited amalgamation of Northern and southern regions in 1914. Boko Haram insurgency is the most post civil war disturbing crisis that Nigeria has ever witnessed. As a new kind of violence, both the rulers and the ruled are helpless about it at the moment", (Wabah 2012).

**8. Ethnicity:** The security of the country is not guaranteed as the minorities are not comfortable with the dominant nature of the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria. Hausa, Yoruba and Ibo). The minorities of the south-south felt insecure and decided to protest and agitate against bad governance, domination, injustice and marginalization. The northerners came up with Boko Haram so that they can also draw the attention of the federal government who granted amnesty to the militants of the Niger Delta.

#### **History of Some Boko Haram Attacks in Nigeria**

- July 26, 2009: Boko Haram launched mass uprising with attack on a police station in Bauchi, for a five-days uprising that spread to Maiduguri and other places.
- September 7, 2010: Gunmen attacked a prison in Bauchi, killing around five guards and freeing numerous prisoners, including former sect members.
- October 6, 2010; Gunmen assassinated two security guards outside a politician's home and several houses later, assassinated ANPP leader Awana Ngala in Maiduguri.
- October 9, 2010: Gunmen assassinated Muslim cleric Bashir Kashara and one of his students in Maiduguri. Separately, gunmen assassinated a police officer in Maiduguri.
- October 11, 2010: Bombing/gun attack on a police station in Maiduguri, destroyed the station and injured three persons.
- December 28, 2010: Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the Christmas Eve bombing in Jos that killed 38, Boko haram also attacked churches in Maiduguri.
- December 28, 2010: Gunmen assassinated a senior police officer and two others at a hospital in Maiduguri.

- January 3, 2011: Gunmen assassinated a policeman in Maiduguri.
- January 28, 2011: Gunmen assassinated ANPP gubernatorial candidate Modu Fannami Gubio and eight others in Maiduguri.
- November 4, 2011-Major Boko Haram bomb blast killed over 60 people in Damaturu, Yobe State Nigeria.
- January 2010, the group struck again in the Nigeria state of Borno, killing four people in Dala Alemderi ward in Maiduguri metropolis.
- September 7, 2010, Boko Haram freed over 700 inmates from a prison in Bauchi State. December 2010, Boko Haram was blamed for a market bombing, following which 92 of its members were arrested by police.
- Friday January 28, 2011, a gubernatorial candidate was assassinated, along with his brother and four police officer.
- March 29, 2011, Police "thwarted a plot to bomb an (ANPP) election rally" in Maiduguri, Borno State. The threat was blamed on Boko Haram. On April 1 (the day before the original date of Nigeria's legislative elections), suspected Boko Haram members attacked a police station in Bauchi. On April 9, a polling center in Maiduguri was bombed. On April 15, the Maiduguri office of the independent National Electoral commission was bombed, and several people were shot in a separate incident on the same day. On April 20, Boko Haram killed a Muslim cleric and ambushed several police officers in Maiduguri, On April 22, Boko Haram freed 14 prisoners during a jailbreak in Yola, Adamawa State ([www.naijan.com](http://www.naijan.com))
- Tuesday February 8, 2011, Boko Haram gave conditions for peace. The radicals demanded that the Borno State Governor, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff, should step down from office with immediate effect and also allow members to reclaim their mosque in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State. On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 Boko Haram rejected an offer for amnesty made by the governor-elect of Borno state, Kashim Shettima.
- Boko Haram was blamed for a series of bombing in northern Nigeria on May 29, 2011 that left 15 dead.
- June 17, 2011, The group claimed responsibility for a bombing attack on the police force headquarters in Abuja that occurred the previous day. Officials believed that the attack was the first suicide bombing in Nigeria's history and that it specifically targeted police inspector-General Hafiz Ringim. ([www.naijan.com](http://www.naijan.com)).
- January 28, 2012 Nigeria army says it killed 11 Boko Haram insurgents, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012 Boko Haram claims responsibility for a suicide bombing at the army headquarters in Kaduna- .On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012 Another prison break staged in central Nigeria; 119 prisoners were released, one warder killed. On 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2012 during a British hostage rescue attempt to free Italian engineer Franco Lamolinara and Briton Christopher McManus, abducted in 2011 by a splinter group Boko Haram, both hostages were killed. On die 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2012 during a Joint Task Force raid on a Boko Haram den, it was reported that 5 sect members and a German hostage were killed. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2012 15 church-members were killed and several injured in a church bombing in Bauchi state. Boko Haram claimed responsibility through spokesperson Abu Qaqa. On the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 Suicide bombers strike three churches in Kaduna State. At least 50 people were

killed. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, 2012 130 bodies were found in plateau State. It is presumed they were killed by Boko Haram members.

### **Reasons Why Boko Haram is Difficult to Overcome**

Since the inception of Boko Haram in Nigeria, the federal government and all the security agencies had worked tirelessly to avert the gruesome killings of Boko Haram in Nigeria. Their inability to tackle this problem can be attributed to the following lapses.

1. The Porosity of the Northern Border: The people of Chad and Niger moved freely into the northern part of Nigeria with ease. The land mass is vast and the available police, immigration officers and other security agencies are too few to protect the border effectively. Most of the suicides bombers are Arabs that entered the country illegally. Boko Haram suspects and other criminals escaped out of the country through the same routes in the north.

2. Proliferation of arms into the country: The Boko Haram members have sophisticated weapons and ammunitions that are capable of killing so many people at a time. Arms are imported into the country through the ports and other unsecured borders in Nigeria. In some cases, the security agencies had been accused of aiding the criminals, militants and Boko Haram to import arms into the country after collecting bribe from them.

Another crucial barrier or obstacle facing the federal government to fight Boko Haram is the poor information gathering of the police and other law enforcement agencies. Again, they also have poor public relation. Members of the public are not friendly with the police, and are not also ready to give information that will help the security agencies to overcome the Boko Haram.

The police do not have sufficient information about their hide-outs where they stay, who their leaders are and their sponsors. The numbers of security agencies deployed to fight Boko Haram are still very small compared with the large area to cover.

In another hand, religious affiliations (Islamic religion) are a serious impediment in tackling Boko Haram. The northern leaders are sympathetic and the various northern states governments have not come out with any decisive action that could help to end the mayhem, rather they emphasized -in persuasion, moral- teaching and the teaching of Islam. They could not do anything because they belonged to the same religion, and they are also brothers. They constantly persuade the federal government not to take drastic action that can lead to the destruction of lives and property. But in an attempt to stop militancy and the environmental degradation in the Niger Delta, Umuechem community in Rivers State, Udi community in Bayelsa state, the Ogonis etc were massacred while properties worth millions were destroyed.

More importantly, Boko Haram has no recognized leadership structure; hence it becomes very difficult to negotiate with them. Again, they are interested in taking control of the government so that Islamic religion will be the only recognized religion in the country.

The insurgents are adequately trained, some of them are trained abroad and possesses sophisticated weapons that scared the law enforcement agencies.

Their activities indicated that they are sponsored by very influential political and religious leaders and are also affiliated to some terrorist groups outside the country, that is why the government is finding it difficult to apprehend them.

## **CONCLUSION**

The present level of insecurity in the country is so alarming, to the extent that people are living in constant fear and anxiety. The insurgence of Boko Haram threatened the peaceful coexistence of the various ethnic groups that were merged together by Lord Lugard in 1914. So many churches, schools, markets and other public places had been attacked. This resulted to the death of so many people and property worth million had been destroyed.

This has equally affected socio-economic activities and bilateral relationships between other countries and Nigeria. Both the government of Nigeria and the entire people of Nigeria seems to be helpless as the level of insecurity increases on daily basis. The situation presently, can be compared to the high level of hostility and insecurity that was in place in the state of nature, enunciated by Thomas Hobbes. The Boko Haram sect is operating without any official leadership structure, hence, it becomes very difficult to negotiate or dialogue with them one of their primary motive is to Islamized the country, also to deal decisively on those who do not have the same religions ideologies with them.

## **Way Forward**

- Dialogue: one of the best ways to achieve peace and national security is to dialogue with stakeholders and aggrieved parties in discussion. This will enable the aggrieve parties to unveil their anger and make some demands.
- Engaging foreign securities that will help to ascertain their mode of operation and also embark on intelligence gathering that will enable them to tackle the problem. Training and refraining of our security agencies is a sure key to success.
- The government at all levels should be able to provide basic infrastructures and employment to the masses. Most members of Boko Haram are illiterates and unemployed who are already frustrated and lost hope in the Nigerian state.
- The government should provide sophisticated and modern equipment for the security agencies, as it will go a long way to help them fight Boko Haram and restore peace.
- The religious leaders, Emirs and government officials in the North-Eastern states should be held responsible for the destruction of lives and property. This is because the Boko Haram sects are ready to Islamizes the country, and throw over board the freedom of worship entrenched in the constitution.
- State of emergency should be declared in all the affected states in the North-Eastern part of the country. This will enable the security agents to properly search and combat crime in the area.
- The porosity of the border should be properly checked to stop the infiltration or importation of arms into the country. Again, this will also help to check illegal migration of Chadian, Somalias and other Arab nations.
- Anybody and groups that are connected to the activities of Boko Haram should be arrested, tried publicly and executed if found guilty.
- National conference should be held so that all the ethnic groups can willingly decide whether to remain part of Nigeria or not. This is the way the federation of the United States of America and Canada were formed.

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