

JoMUN XV

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The Situation of the Boko Haram Insurgency

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INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, an estimated 14 million people have been affected by the civil war between the government and Boko Haram. During this conflict, many human rights violations have occurred, and the issue of civilian security increases daily, leaving some forcibly evicted from their homes. The continued war of religion within the country has stemmed from extremist groups, such as Boko Haram. The nearly even split of the population in terms of major religions – Nigeria's population is 50% Christian and 40% Muslim – has led to religious tension and widespread related violence. Much of this violence has been from the extremist group, Boko Haram.

The Nigerian government has been criticised for their inability to effectively eradicate Boko Haram, and as a result, international pressure to do so has increased. The economic disparity within the country has led to multiple issues, including large scale poverty, high death rates, and high infant mortality – all of which contribute to larger scale security issues like Boko Haram.

In 2012, after rumoured peace talks with the Nigerian government, Boko Haram spokesman Abu Qa Qa warned the media against making any more claims, mentioning that, "[Boko Haram is] telling the government to understand that if it is not ready to embrace Shariah and the Quran as the guiding book from which the laws of the land derive, there shall be no peace... [and media agencies] should understand that for us there is no difference between those fighting with guns and with the pen." (CNN). Boko Haram is pushing for a Shariah-based government, and will continue increasing the violence of their attacks and rallies until one is implemented.

Boko Haram has been spotlighted in mainstream news, mainly for their violent shows of power, including the kidnapping of approximately 276 teenage girls from a boarding school in Borno. A deputy of Mohammed Yusuf, the founder of Boko Haram, named Abubakar Shekau, released a viral video statement claiming to sell the girls in the name of God (Allah). This led to social media outrage, while the hashtag #BringBackOurGirls led to multiple campaigns pressuring the Nigerian government to take action.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Boko Haram

In the local Hausa dialect, Boko Haram means "western education is forbidden".

Sharia Law

It is the religious law forming part of the Islamic tradition. It is derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the Hadith.

Insurgery

An active revolt or uprising.

Wahhabism

Wahhabism is an Islamic doctrine and religious movement founded by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab.

Salafism

It advocated a return to the traditions of the "devout ancestors" (the salaf).

Islamic Fundamentalism

Islamic fundamentalism has been defined variously as a movement of Muslims who harken back to earlier times and seek to return to the fundamentals of the religion and live similarly to how the prophet Muhammad and his companions lived.

Sunni Islam

Sunni Islam the largest denomination of Islam. Its name comes from the word Sunnah, referring to the exemplary behaviour of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

Shia Islam

Shia Muslims believe that God chose Ali to be Muhammed's successor to be the head of state.

BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE

Founded in 2002, when an Islamic School in Maiduguri, Nigeria attracted may impoverished Muslim children was opened by Mohammad Yusuf (Cassman). This was used to convert and recruit future jihads. When Boko Haram expanded prior to the 2009, their initial goals were preaching a doctrine of withdrawal within the school. They did not want to overthrow the Nigerian Government and instead establish the teachings of Islam in violently established territories.

After 2009, Boko Haram went from progressively radical to vicious uprising after their alleged execution of their leader by the Nigerian police. They have a resurgence with a mass prison breaks, suicide bombings in UN offices in Abuja, Nigeria. Due to the conflict between the government and Boko Hara, nearly 2.3 million people have been displaced, some fled to Cameroon, Chad or Niger (Nicholas).

Boko Haram has carried out several hundred attacks against civilians and civilian structures in schools, marketplaces, and places of worship in villages, towns and even cities (HRW) in military like formations. Often, during attacks there are convoys of trucks, motorbikes and armored personnel funded by the illegal trade and prostitution of abducted women.

The rebellion of Boko Haram has exposed the extreme gulf between rich and poor in one of Africa's most unequal countries. And this widening gap has fueled the anger and alienation that makes it easy for Boko Haram to find recruits for its murderous militia (York). In one of the gunfights between international militaries and Nigerian policemen, nearly 700 of Boko Haram foot soldiers were killed in the fight. In a country where half the states are under Sharia Law where many of the population is under the poverty line, the recruitment process is minimal effort especially many conforming to Wahhabism, Salafism and Islamic Fundamentalism.

In 2012, two days after the state of emergency was declared, Boko Haram released an ultimatum to southern Nigerians living in the north, giving them three days to leave. Thereafter, began small scale attacks on Christians and Igbo people. Then carried forth an assault on police buildings killing 190

people in the process. Reports published by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch criticized the Nigerian government for the loss of life, poverty and destruction of property (Press).

The Peace and Security Council and African Union(AU) have sent in representatives to meet with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to discuss Boko Haram. Foreign intervention in the wars have been halted by the militants of Boko Haram, specifically when the Chadian troops entered Nigeria from Cameroon where engaged in warfare with the militants after the meeting between MNJTF and the representatives. There was an agreement that the MNJTF will not be engaged in the fight in the country but on Nigerian borders and with the surrounding countries. The resultant goal of such actions will minimize chances of Boko Haram spreading to other countries, and contain them within Nigeria.

In 2015, President Buhari had attempted to defeat Boko Haram in a span of 3 months. The strategy was to isolate the murderous militia in the Sambisa forest and block escape routes and safe zones until they ultimately defeat Boko Haram. The idea appeared to be plausible until logistical problems such as the size and terrain of the forest, the military morale of the troops and lack of expertise in fighting in that environment. The plan involved skill sets of non-Nigerian troops and on the commitment of the surrounding countries.

There was an agreed 8700 soldiers who will be headquartered in N'Djamena, Chad and would be authorized to exercise pursue militia (Iroegbu). This was an attempt to achieve progress in gaining the United Nation's (UN) legitimization and/or funding for the MNJTF through a Security Council resolution. By doing so, the Task Force can secure the borders and refugees who have fled to Niger, Chad or Northern Cameroon. The militia have begun perpetrating attacks on the trade routes of said countries and highlighting the competence of the Nigerian government.

The MNJTF troops consist of five different nations: Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin Republic. Each country has found difficulty in contributing troops as they are all dealing with their own Boko Haram attacks and Chad has pulled away from their borders and hasn't contributed troops for the MNJTF to increase effectiveness in their operations. During the meeting between the UN and MNJTF, it was further discussed the possibility of intervention and logistics against the level of humanitarian crisis caused by the insurgency and assurance of commitment of MNJTF against Boko Haram.

In 2016, the United States of America (USA) and United States Agency for the International Development (USAID) spent 200 million dollars on intervention programs in countries affected by the Boko Haram Insurgency and have committed to continue intervening if possible. A few months later, the United Nations Security Council released a statement before the Saturday's Regional Security Summit in Abuja hosted by the President Muhammadu Buhari where it condemned the actions of Boko Haram. The council urged the international community to assist humanitarian actions for people who are heavily affected by Boko Haram and that nearly 10 percent of 531 million dollars for them.

The Security Council emphasizes the importance of a holistic approach on defeat Boko Haram which includes, "coordinated security operations, conducted in accordance with applicable international law, as well as enhanced civilian efforts to improve governance and promote economic growth in the affected areas," the presidential statement said.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America

The Obama administration was prepared to sell up to 12 light attack aircrafts to Nigeria against Boko Haram.

France

French President François Hollande announced that Boko Haram’s declaration of allegiance to the Islamic State poses a major threat to West African security and must be taken at face value.

Niger

Niger has joined Chad in approving the deployment of troops to northern Nigeria to fight Boko Haram.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch

Criticize lack of progress made by the Nigerian government and denounce the actions of Boko Haram.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

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| December 2006 | Newly elected Mexican President Felipe Calderon deploys more than 6,500 Mexican soldiers to the state of Michoacán to battle drug traffickers. |
| May 2008 | The commander of Mexico City's investigative police force, Esteban Roble Espinosa, is killed outside his home. |
| December 2009 | Arturo Beltran Leyva, head of the Beltran Leyva cartel, is killed in a shootout with Mexican forces in Cuernavaca. |
| August 2010 | The bodies of 72 migrants from South and Central America are discovered on a ranch in Tamaulipas state. It is believed the 58 men and 14 women were kidnapped by the Los Zetas cartel and killed for refusing to traffic <i>drugs</i> . |
| January 2012 | The office of Mexico's Attorney General releases a statement saying that nearly 13,000 people were killed in drug violence between January and September 2011. |
| February 2014 | A US official tells CNN that Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the boss of one of Mexico's most powerful drug trafficking operations, has been arrested in Mexico. |
| January 2016 | A cross-border raid by US and Mexican law enforcement officials results in the arrest of 24 Sinaloa cartel members. The sting also netted weapons and hundreds of pounds of narcotics. |

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS

1 April 2015 (A/HRC/RES/S-23/1)

This resolution was on the atrocities committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram and its effects on human rights in the affected States.

13 May 2016 (S/PRST/2016/7)

This was a presidential statement welcoming Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's initiative to convene a high-level Regional Security Summit to evaluate the regional response to Boko Haram.

28 July 2015 (S/PRST/2015/14)

This was a presidential statement commending Lake Chad Basin Commission members and Benin for their efforts to operationalize the MNJTF.

19 January 2015 (S/PRST/2015/4)

This was a presidential statement condemning attacks by Boko Haram, highlighting the group's use of children as suicide bombers on 10 and 11 January and Boko Haram's attack on the town of Baga, Nigeria from 3 to 7 January.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Increasing Job Opportunities and Access to the People

This would minimize the appeal to join into Boko Haram. Nigeria has a youthful population where nearly 82% of Nigerian are under 54 years with a male majority. With nearly 70% of the population under the poverty line, this may influence why Boko Haram has managed to take hostage of the country. The mounting desperation of the villagers increases and the culture of crime and petty thief begins.

Minimizing Weapons Distributed to Nigeria and Surrounding Countries

By limiting access to weaponry to the Boko Haram, therefore locking them in themselves until they run out of ammunition. This would weaken them enough to be finally stopped. This sort of sanction would last for if the government would limit their levels of corruption to ultimately succeed.

Areas with High Boko Haram Activities – People Relocation

People living in these areas should be relocated to safer locations with access to housing and education. Boko Haram funds their activities by selling girls to all kinds of people in exchange for weaponry and money. Young girls are often victims of these escapades, as nearly 200 girls had been kidnapped with threats of them being sold. There were also nearly 400 villagers killed during raids by the Boko Haram. By relocating the people/villagers away from the threat to safer locations, casualties could be minimized when gun violence breaks out.

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APPENDIX OR APPENDICES

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