

## AN APPRAISAL OF THE IMPACT OF INSURGENCY ON THE CHANGING PATTERN OF NIGERIA FOREIGN POLICY

**Suleiman Mohammed Evuti.**

smevuti@ibbu.edu.ng

Department of History and International studies,  
Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Lapai.

### **Abstract**

*Insurgency is spreading in every part of the world in different forms particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and its impact has deteriorated the political landscape, thereby shaping the politics and government and by extension the foreign policy posture of the victim countries in a global scale. Thus, the growing incidence of insurgency in form of religious fundamentalism remains a serious and an on-going international threat. No region in the world has been spared and Africa is one of the hardest hit regions partly due to the other developmental issues that help to intensify the consequences of terrorism. The emergence of terrorism in Nigeria owing to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Northern Nigeria has greatly undermined the country's foreign policy drive and as such, their activities in Nigeria have called to question bases for Nigerian foreign policy relation particularly with the affected neighboring countries This research therefore aim to appraised critically the impact of the activities of Islamic/religious fundamentalism on Nigeria foreign policy Relation. It adopts political Economy approach as a theoretical framework to unearth the interrelationship between politics, fundamentalism, economy and Foreign Relation. The research will use a qualitative method of data collection where both primary and secondary sources of data will be used to obtain qualitative data that can be interpreted within a given context of the study. A Research conclusion and recommendation will be provided for policy formulation and further academic research purposes.*

**Keywords:** Foreign Policy-Fundamentalism-Terrorism-Religion

### **Introduction**

Insurgency has continued to spread unabatedly across the globe and its impact has gone beyond the location of the actual incident. Thus, the growing incidence of terrorism remains a serious and on-going threat to global peace. No region in the world has been spared and Africa is one of the hardest hit regions partly due to the other developmental issues that help to intensify the consequences of terrorism. (Adele B, 2013)

Security is among the core areas of focus in the internal and external development of states affairs. A closer look at the political history and external relations of Nigeria would only make one realize that Nigeria is passing through a phase that seems the most challenging for the country's foreign policy experts, observers and average Nigerians since the main focus of all architects of foreign policy is to distinctly marked off in clear terms country's national interest which serves as a guide in their relations with other nations. The efficient administration of foreign policy objectives is therefore based on

credible and widely accepted principles that help shape a country's image in the international system. (Marc A., Verjee N., & Mogaka S., 2015)

The emergence of terrorism in Nigeria owing to the rise of radicalization of some Islamic fundamentals in Northern Nigeria has greatly undermined the country's foreign policy drive and as such the activities of this group in Nigeria have led to negative reactions from groups and nations that have been affected by its activities in the country, thereby leading to determination of foreign relations of these countries with Nigeria. The manifold attacks and activities of this group have made the Nigerian state to be ungracefully popular among the comity of nations. Boko Haram is a home grown terrorist group in Nigeria that has become a threat that everyone dreads and fears because of the dimensions its activities have taken from just an ordinary religious sect to notorious terrorist group. (James J. and Olusola E., 2014)

Shola (2015), opines that Boko Haram is a reflection of the Nigerian society. It pictures the paradox of a country so wealthy yet so poor, and so endowed yet so deprived. Its citizens wallow in abject poverty. This state of affairs manures the prosperity of the sect. The youth who are now instruments of manipulations in the hands of the leaders of the sect are among the teeming unemployed and deprived ones the Nigerian state has abandoned. Boko Haram's activities have included recurrent attacks, killing of persons and wanton destruction of property, population displacements and other forms of aggression. The activities of this terrorist group in recent time have had excessive influence in creating instability and insecurity in the country and has contributed to the diminution of the country's image among the country of nations. Also, economic development most especially in the North-East is nothing to write home about while Nigeria's foreign policy is being determined by this internal crisis.

Subsequently, the nefarious activities of the insurgency and other groups have generated so much interests from the international community thereby raising questions as to the potentiality of government strategy to deal with the threat constituted by the terrorist group. This is because the audacity of the group has continued at intense rate amidst government claims of winning the war, everyday casualty's increase at alarming rates after each attack, making the general public to lose confidence in the system. As a result, the activities of the insurgency group have extended beyond the Nigerian territories to her immediate neighbors (Shola O. J. 2015).

### **Insurgency**

Insurgency, term historically refers to rebellious acts that did not reach the proportions of an organized revolution. It has subsequently been applied to any such armed uprising, typically guerrilla in character, against the recognized government of a state or country.

In traditional international law, insurgency was not recognized as belligerency, and insurgents lacked the protection customarily extended to belligerents. Herbert W. Briggs in *The Law of Nations* (1952) described the traditional point of view as follows:

The existence of civil war or insurrection is a fact. Traditionally, the fact of armed rebellion has not been regarded as involving rights and obligations under international law. Recognition of the belligerency of the insurgents by the parent State or of the contestants by foreign States changes the legal situation under international law. Prior to

such recognition, foreign States have a legal right to aid the parent State put down a revolt, but are under a legal obligation not to aid insurgents against the established government. (Herbert W. Briggs, 1952)

The status of the faction opposing a government was usually determined by what Charles Cheney Hyde described as “the nature and extent of the insurrectionary achievement.” If the government was able to suppress the hostile faction rapidly, the event was described as a “rebellion.” In such cases recognition of the insurgents by a third party was regarded as “premature recognition,” a form of illegal intervention. If the insurgents became a serious challenge to the government and achieved formal recognition as “belligerents,” then the struggle between the two factions became in international law the equivalent of war. Support given to the insurgents by a third party amounted to that foreign government's participation in the war. (Charles Cheney Hyde 1994)

After World War II the emergence of a number of Communist states and of new nations in Asia and Africa changed the established international legal doctrine on insurgency. Communist states claimed the right to support insurgents engaged in “just wars of national liberation.” The new nations resulting from decolonization in Asia and Africa after World War II supported in most cases insurgents who invoked the principle of “national self-determination.” The United States and other Western countries in turn rejected such intervention as “indirect aggression” or “subversion.” International legal consensus regarding insurgency thus broke down as the result of regional and ideological pressures (Gurr TR, 1994).

### **Causes of Insurgency**

Poverty, political, social, and economic inequalities between groups predispose to conflict; policies to tackle them will reduce this risk. Eight out of 10 of the world's poorest countries are suffering, or have recently suffered, from large scale violent conflict. Wars in developing countries have heavy human, economic, and social costs and are a major cause of poverty and underdevelopment. The extra infant deaths caused by the war in Cambodia, for example, were estimated to be 3% of the country's 1990 population. Most current conflicts, such as in the Sudan or the Congo, are within states, although there is often considerable outside intervention, as in Afghanistan. In the past 30 years Africa has been especially badly affected by war. Major root causes include political, economic, and social inequalities; extreme poverty; economic stagnation; poor government services; high unemployment; environmental degradation; and individual (economic) incentives to fight.

In wars, political leaders may deliberately “rework historical memories” to engender or strengthen this identity in the competition for power and resources. For example, in the conflict in Matebe land in post-independence Zimbabwe, Ndebele identity was used to advance political objectives. Other well-known examples include the Nazis in Germany, the Hutus in Rwanda and, today, the emphasis on Muslim consciousness by the Taliban and others (Alexander J, Ranger T, 2000).

### **Economic Factors Which Predispose to War**

Four economic hypotheses have been put forward to explain intra-state wars, based on

factors related to group motivation, private motivation, failure of the social contract, and environmental degradation.

**Failure of the Social Contract:** This derives from the view that social stability is based on a hypothetical social contract between the people and the government. People accept state authority so long as the state delivers services and provides reasonable economic conditions (employment and incomes). With economic stagnation or decline, and worsening state services, the social contract breaks down, and violence results. Hence high and rising levels of poverty and a decline in state services would be expected to cause conflict. (Stewart F., 2001)

**Group Inequality:** There is consistent evidence of sharp horizontal inequalities between groups in conflict. Group inequalities in political access are invariably observed—hence the resort to violence rather than seeking to resolve differences through political negotiation. Group inequalities in economic dimensions are common, although not invariably large (such as in Bosnia18). Horizontal inequalities are most likely to lead to conflict where they are substantial, consistent, and increasing over time. Although systematic cross country evidence is rare, one study classified 233 politicized communal groups in 93 countries according to political, economic, and ecological differences and found that most groups suffering horizontal inequalities had taken some action to assert group interests, ranging from non-violent protest to rebellion.

### **Foreign Policy**

Foreign policy, general objectives that guide the activities and relationships of one state in its interactions with other states. The development of foreign policy is influenced by domestic considerations, the policies or behavior of other states, or plans to advance specific geopolitical designs. Leopold von Ranke emphasized the primacy of geography and external threats in shaping foreign policy, but later writers emphasized domestic factors. Diplomacy is the tool of foreign policy, and war, alliances, and international trade may all be manifestations of it. (Von Ranke, 1975)

### **Factors that Influence Foreign Policy**

In the modern world, no single state can survive on its own. Each state is bound by interdependence. This is why every state has to dream of good relations with other states. As a member of the international society, the relations of the states are determined and controlled by foreign policy. Several things also determine foreign policy and those things are called determinants of foreign policy.

### **Determinants of Foreign Policy**

#### **1. Geographical Location**

There are two aspects of the influence of geography on foreign policy; the geographical environment of the state and the political importance of its geographical location. The state's geographical environment refers to its size, area, and climate.

The ideal geographical environments of the state are:

The size of the state will be such that it will help the residents to maintain a decent living standard.

The climate needs to be favorable to hard labor.

Terrain needs to be supportive of national resistance. Mountains, Rivers, sea-borne countries enjoy the advantage of being free from foreign invasions for natural reasons.

The shape of the state needs to be such that one can easily fast during the war period.

In nature, it is not possible to achieve the favorable geographical environment of a country. The geographical location of each country is particularly influenced by its foreign policy. Its insular position in Great Britain helps spread connectivity with other countries. Again the United States has succeeded in pursuing a policy of separation from Europe for its geographical location.

## **2. Population**

The population is considered one of the important determinants of foreign policy. For a long time, the population has been regarded as an important criterion for measuring state power. In the past war, the massive infantry of the People's Republic of China helped to resist the US forces.

The relation between population and foreign policy gains importance in terms of the capability of a state. The importance of the population to determine the policies of solidarity among all parts of the citizens, the development of political organizations, the quality of the public, the promotion of political consciousness, the spread of the political participation, the pressure of public opinion, the type of government etc.

However, its quality is particularly important with respect to population size. Citizens' skills, abilities, and quality money help to spread national influence.

## **3. History**

Each nation's history is influenced by its foreign policy. The outline of the history of each nation is formed through the special circumstances of the chips and events. It is possible to identify its identity.

The geographical boundaries of each nation are determined through the constraints of historical events. Through the history of the development of a nation, many basic features of foreign policy are developed. In light of historical experience, each nation forms the basis of its foreign policy.

## **4. Economic Resources**

The nature and style of foreign policy is largely determined by economic resources. The economic strength of a state is an indicator of its affordability. The effect of that ability is reflected in relations with other states.

The main objective of the economic structure is to utilize the country's land, labor, capital and enterprises for production. Distribution of economic wealth produced, consumption, public welfare, improvement of living standard of the citizens etc. are also included in the economic activities of the state.

A country rich in natural resources can easily achieve its economic prosperity. For example, mineral oil has become one of the most important political hubs of Middle East international politics.

Natural resources and industrial development are the basis of the international status of a country. In the present world, each country's resistance depends on the rate of industrialization and natural resources.

### **5. Ideology**

Each state-system is governed by specific political ideologies. The values, policies, programs, objectives, and goals of a state are governed by that ideology. Ideology does not simply determine the internal policies and values of a state; it is also governed by foreign policy and those ideologies. So it can be considered one of the most important determinants of foreign policy.

For example, socialist states are convinced of the principles of international peace, friendship, mutual cooperation, refusal to interfere in the internal affairs of other states, etc.

In the end, capitalism maintains its existence through exploitation and oppression of home and abroad. It is for this reason that capitalist countries follow aggressive policies in economic, political, and cultural fields.

### **6. Efficiency of Government and Nature of Political Leadership**

Government leaders are the main source and strength of foreign policy. The role of the state at any given time and the type of foreign policy to be followed depends on the quality of the decision makers.

On the basis of practical experience, it can be said that foreign policy cannot be separated from the nature of government leadership under any circumstances.

Foreign policy decisions are bound to be influenced by the leadership of the government, including psychological structure, political experience and foresight, personality, realization of world-politics. For this reason, it is possible to notice differences in political issues between leaders of the same political party.

### **7. Quality of Diplomacy**

Quality of diplomacy is one of the most important determinants of foreign policy. The success or failure of a state in international Politics depends on its diplomatic tactics and excellence. Each of the goals and objectives of the state is determined by the diplomatic ingenuity of the government.

All the goals of foreign policy are determined by the people involved in diplomatic activity. It is through diplomatic activity that the main linkages and differences with other states are resolved. Diplomats determine the mechanism for combining different interests.

### **Conflict Theory**

Conflict theory, first developed by Karl Marx, is a theory that society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources.

Conflict theory holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than by consensus and conformity. According to conflict theory, those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and powerless. A basic premise of conflict theory is that individuals and groups within society will work to try to maximize their own wealth and power.

Conflict theory focuses on the competition among groups within society over limited resources.

Conflict theory views social and economic institutions as tools of the struggle among groups or classes, used to maintain inequality and the dominance of the ruling class.

Marxist conflict theory sees society as divided along lines of economic class between the proletarian working class and the bourgeois ruling class. (Marx and Engels, 1885)

Later versions of conflict theory look at other dimensions of conflict among capitalist factions and among various social, religious, and other types of groups.

Conflict theory has sought to explain a wide range of social phenomena, including wars, revolutions, poverty, discrimination, and domestic violence. It ascribes most of the fundamental developments in human history, such as democracy and civil rights, to capitalistic attempts to control the masses (as opposed to a desire for social order). Central tenets of conflict theory are the concepts of social inequality, the division of resources, and the conflicts that exist among different socioeconomic classes.

The central tenets of conflict theory can explain many types of societal conflicts throughout history. Some theorists believe, as Marx did, that societal conflict is the force that ultimately drives change and development in society.

Marx's version of conflict theory focused on the conflict between two primary classes. Each class consists of a group of people bound by mutual interests and a certain degree of property ownership. Marx theorized about the bourgeoisie, a group that represented members of society who hold the majority of the wealth and means. The proletariat is the other group: It includes those considered working-class or poor.

With the rise of capitalism, Marx theorized that the bourgeoisie, a minority within the population, would use their influence to oppress the proletariat, the majority class. This way of thinking is tied to a common image associated with conflict theory-based models of society; adherents to this philosophy tend to believe in a pyramid arrangement in terms of how goods and services are distributed in society. At the top of the pyramid is a small group of elites that dictate terms and conditions to the larger portion of society because they have an outsized amount of control over resources and power. (Marx and Engels, 1885)

Uneven distribution within society was predicted to be maintained through ideological coercion; the bourgeoisie would force acceptance of the current conditions by the proletariat. Conflict theory assumes that the elite will set up systems of laws, traditions, and other societal structures in order to further support their own dominance while preventing others from joining their ranks.

Marx theorized that, as the working class and poor were subjected to worsening conditions, a collective consciousness would raise more awareness about inequality, and this would potentially result in revolt. If, after the revolt, conditions were adjusted to favor the concerns of the proletariat, the conflict circle would eventually repeat but in the opposite direction. The bourgeoisie would eventually become the aggressor and revolter, grasping for the return of the structures that formerly maintained their dominance.

### **The Impact of Insurgency on Nigeria's Foreign Policy**

Based on the prevailing cordial diplomatic relations between the two states, Nigeria and U. S of America; decided to purchase lethal weapons from the US, the decision to buy weapons became urgent, given several reports blaming the government for inadequate weapons for the Nigerian soldiers in the war fronts, (Udo, B. (2014) certainly, inadequate sophisticated arms and government ineptitude among other factors were critical to the failed military counterterrorist operation, In his statement to the military tribunal, a soldier, whose unit could not dislodge the terrorist from their hideout in the Borno state's section of the dreaded Sambisa forest, provides insight into the decadence within the Nigerian Armed forces.

The dismissed soldier stated that the troops were only armed with five bullets each and expired bombs made in 1964, whereas the Boko Haram enemies were armed with sophisticated arms such as anti-aircraft with a range of over 1,000 meters, (Vanguard, 2015) convinced therefore that acquisition of more offensive arms was pivotal to defeating the sect; the Nigerian government opted to buy weapons from the US. Specifically, Nigeria wanted to buy Cobra Attack Helicopters and other sophisticated military hardware, McGregor, A. (2015) even though US had pledged its readiness to help Nigeria decimate the sect and had since 2013 declared the group a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO), it nonetheless refused Nigeria's request for weapons, citing human rights record of the Nigerian soldiers fighting the terrorists, Obaji, P. (2015) It only supplied defensive weapons such as landmine-resistant vehicles to the Nigerian military, but declined to supply offensive weapons to the country. Of a truth, the military operation against Boko Haram under the umbrella of the Joint Task Force had grave consequences for the human rights of the people in the region, the security outfit has been variously accused of extra-judicial and summary executions of the suspected terrorists, detention of innocent citizens for years without trial, arbitrary arrest of individuals suspected of being members of the outlawed sect, intimidation and harassment of the residents of the place (Amnesty International, 2014; Amnesty International, 2015), Washington hinged its refusal to sell the weapons based on the implementation of the Leahy Law against Nigeria, the Law was specially enacted within the US external relations to deny the US military assistance to foreign military units involved in the violations of human right. (Foreign affairs, 2017)

Commenting on the outrageous human rights profile of the Nigerian fighting force, Nigeria and the Great Powers: maintains that human rights abuses of the military especially its summary and extra-judicial executions played a major role in the radicalization of many members of the sect who were known to be pacifists. Accordingly, the Leahy Law states that: 'No assistance shall be furnished under this Act... to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country if the Secretary of State has credible information that such unit has committed a gross violation of human rights' (Legal Information Institute, ND), over the years, Leahy Law has been implemented to block military assistance to some countries whose military units involved in the abuses of human rights of the civilians. Such countries include Turkey, Columbia, Bolivia, and Mexico, also, the Pakistani military has equally come under the hammer of the Law for its extra-judicial killings and other forms of gross human rights abuses. While justifying the US's refusal to

sell deadly arms to Nigeria, American ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador James Entwistle stated that Washington would not sell arms to Nigeria because 'the US government is against human rights abuses by any country in the world'.

He maintains that the 'Nigerian military had been massively involved in human rights violations in its war against the terrorists, Guardian, (2014) Israel and Brazil also declined to supply offensive weapons to Nigeria due to the US's pressure. Elaborating on the 'No Objection' request from these two countries to sell arms to Nigeria, Entwistle declares that: The US Department of State and Defense review all potential arms transfers for their consistency with US policy and interests, as detailed in the US Conventional Arms Transfer policy, this includes any requests from a country that we have sold or donated weapons to resell or donate those same weapons to another country, such as Nigeria. We examine whether an arms transfer makes sense for the needs of the prospective country, Part of our review considers whether equipment may be used in a way that could adversely affect human rights. The United States believes that we bear a certain responsibility for how equipment is ultimately used. We take this responsibility very seriously, and our laws require strict accountability for all sales, Entwistle, F. J. (2014) expectedly, the US's global arms embargo imposed on Nigeria was largely interpreted by Nigerians as a betrayal by a friend that failed to help Nigeria in its moment of crisis, Siollum, M. (2018) the President Barak Obama's Nigerian policy during the administration of the President Goodluck Jonathan especially the regime's refusal to supply the Nigerian air force with Cobra attack aircraft, all helped to wreak serious damage to the US-Nigerian relations, the diplomatic furor generated by the US's action made Jonathan's government to sever Nigeria's security partnership with Washington (Tukur, 2014) to protest the US's 'betrayal'.

President Muhammadu Buhari, who succeeded Jonathan, heaped the blame of lingering Boko Haram crisis on the US decision, pointing out that the arms denial amounts to 'aiding and abetting Boko Haram terrorists in the country' BBC, (2015) In its desperation, Nigeria was forced to turn to the South African black market to procure weapons, however, the weapons sales were blocked by the South African government who described the botched deal as illegal, Ibekwe, N. (2014) reprieve only came the way of Nigeria when Russia was approached for the much-needed arms. Moscow's prompt response Campbell, J. (2014) in the delivery of the weapons to Nigeria severely shattered the aura of invincibility with which Boko Haram had been carrying out its attacks, the deployment of the Russian weapons as well as the regional military alliance; the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) degraded the terrorists and dislodged them from their Gworza caliphate and other dreaded camps in the northeast, the weakening of the sect prompted President Buhari to publicly proclaim that the Boko Haram terrorist group has been technically defeated, Onapajo, H (2017) the implications of Boko Haram on Nigeria's Foreign policy are enormous especially as it manifested in the diminishing image of Nigeria in the comity of nations.

The US's visa ban imposed on individuals alleged to have compromised the integrity of the 2019 General elections in Nigeria (Leadership 2019) has further complicated efforts at normalizing the ruptured diplomatic relations. President Buhari, who was declared the

winner of the 'rigged' poll, has not reacted formerly to the visa ban. While the US declined to reveal the identity of the affected persons, it is believed that the list contains the names of the President's 'big boys' and members of the ruling All Progressive Party (APC)

The policy to stonewall arms delivery to Nigeria underscores the growing irrelevance of Nigeria in the US's geo-economic and strategic calculations. The upsurge in Shale oil production, making the US the largest oil-producing states in the world (Global Terrorism Index, 2014) means that Nigeria is no longer crucial in the American energy sector. Ditching Abuja's efforts to get arms, therefore, brings no consequence to Washington. Although President Buhari has declared that Nigeria had paid for the delivery of lethal arms from the US, however, as of writing, the weapons are still being awaited in the country.

Barrack Hussein Obama's first visit to the Sub Saharan Africa, in which he chooses Ghana, in place of Nigeria and in his all exciting speech to a large crowd of Ghanaian in Accra, including top government functionaries of the host country and Nigeria. The erudite president simply advised all the states in the sub-Saharan Africa to learn from Ghana, that is Nigeria inclusive, the choice of President Obama's visit to Ghana instead of Nigeria was considered as a major diplomatic failure for the Nigerian state, particularly judging by its size, resource endowments and its laudable leadership roles, over time, on the continent of Africa (Siobhan, O. 2015).

Boko Haram's trans-border terrorism in the Chad basin region set this Jihadi group in opposition to Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad and by extension, France, the incursion of Boko Haram into the French speaking countries constitutes an unacceptable threat to French interests in West and Central Africa. This is more so given the several attacks by Boko Haram against France's interests in the region. The Boko Haram attack in Waza Park, in northern Cameroon where the terrorists abducted seven French tourists on February 19, 2013, was one of the classic examples of the sect's direct threat to France's core national interest. Commenting about the abduction, former French foreign affairs Minister noted that: 'it (abduction) shows that the fight against terrorist groups is a necessity...', therefore, both France's and Nigeria's interests converge on the Boko Haram crisis. France's active participation in the counter-terrorist effort 'was informed by the fear that the escalation of terrorism in Nigeria poses a threat to French geostrategic interests in its former colonies', the burden of fighting the group's terrorism ultimately falls on all the regional countries in the Basin, including France, this is more so given the French policy of dealing with the threat posed by many Islamic terrorist gangs that seek to further destabilize the already structurally weak states in the unstable region. France's regional agenda is succinctly captured by the assertion of the country's ex-law makers; Andre Dulait, saying, 'the African continent is our neighbors and when it is shaken by conflicts, we are shaken as the crisis triggered by Boko Haram had shaken the African continent particularly when it was rated the deadliest terrorist group in 2014 (GTI, 2014)

The regionalization of the Boko Haram violence has ensured that France works closely with its African partners through the provision of right arms and specialized training on effective counterterrorism. More importantly, Boko Haram's allegiance to ISIS in 2014

and the subsequent change of name to Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) suggests that the group can only be tamed by superior firepower similar to what was unleashed on ISIS in the Middle East, commenting on the allegiance, Francois Hollande, French President maintains that the pledge of allegiance by the Nigerian terror organization to Islamic State group poses a major threat to West Africa security and must be taken at face value, He further emphasizes that: “We know Boko Haram is linked to Daesh (ISIS) and so receives help (and) support from this group, the fight against Boko Haram is the fight against Daesh... Boko Haram is largely seen as IS' Caliphate in West Africa province” (Siobhan, O. 2015) the crisis in the North East region, has continued to attract negative attention globally, especially by international right groups and humanitarian bodies like Amnesty International (AI), Human Rights Watch (HURIWA), who have all written at various times damaging reports on the activities of the Nigerian state, especially as it concerns the North East region this barrage of criticism to a very large extent has the potentials of reducing Nigeria to a pariah state among the comity of nations.

The kidnap of 300 Chibok school girls to Sambisa forest, opened a new vista in the activities of Boko Haram and its implication on Nigeria's external image, as the kidnap draw the attention of the whole world and this led to the famous global campaign of “ # Bring Back our Girls”, the kidnap of the school girls and the crisis within the Armed forces that led to the dismissal of some officers from the frontline exposed the weaknesses of the counter terrorist measures of the Nigerian government before the world, the above made analysts, the world over, to begin to see Nigeria as a 'failed state, a state which lacks the potential of providing security of live and prosperity as well as inability to meet its constitutional mandate of providing basic amenities of life to its citizens.

Furthermore, Nigeria's status in Africa and international organizations continued to be menaced. The activities of the rebellious sect have negative implications on the big brother's role Nigeria play to other African nations; preaching, upholding and advocating for peace, equity, justice and ethnic terrorism have sent a wrong signal. Therefore, her status as the 'giant' of Africa is at stake. This situation, (Bariledum, K. 2013), observes made some countries in Africa to contest the leadership position with the country. For every available position in which Nigeria has an interest on, there are wontly some other countries which compete with her and in some instance overcoming the nation due to the image problem. The activities of Boko Haram have contrary affected the inflow of foreign investment into Nigeria's solid mineral sector in the northern part of Nigeria as oil serving companies, Julius Berger construction giant, among others have pulled out their operations from the region and prefer other African neighboring countries as a result of the insecurity situation.

### **Conclusion**

Nonetheless, scholars, politicians and human rights organizations point out that not only Boko Haram is to blame for the escalation of violence in Nigeria, the government gradually intensified its repressive response, especially under the administration of the newly elected president Muhammadu Buhari ,amnesty International estimates that some 7,000 people have died of starvation, suffocation or torture while being held in military

detention since March 2011 and at least 1,200 men and boys are thought to have been executed by the military since February 2012 (Amnesty International, 2015c), Largely, three main reasons for the outbreak of violence in 2009 are put forward: religious radicalization and the quest for a Sharia state, the socio-economic state of the country in general and the relative deprivation of the Northern region in specific, and failed governance and weak institutions. Furthermore, some studies have criticized that escalatory counter-terrorism approaches have taken preference to dialogue and conciliatory measures an in-depth analysis on Boko Haram insurgency and Nigeria's foreign policy, it submits that issues of terrorism in Nigeria have been caused by governance failure which is indexed by the inability of government to provide the basic needs of its citizens which include job creation, health care services, education, maintenance of the rule of law and non the least security.

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