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**THE ANALYSIS OF POSSIBLE WAYS OF THE DESTRUCTION  
OF BOKO HARAM RADICAL ISLAMIST ACTIVITIES  
ON FAMILIES IN NORTH-EASTERN NIGERIA**

The vicious cycle of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria since 2009 tend to have created worst ever security situation since independence in 1960. This paper examined psychological effects of Boko Haram activities on families in the North Eastern Nigeria. It argued that the devastating impacts of Boko Haram activities on families in the North East will likely inculcate revulsion among the people and religious organizations. The paper observed that the disillusionment arising from such distaste perhaps will sustain a long period of insecurity even if Boko Haram is defeated in the nearest future. It observed that in spite of efforts made so far by government agencies, government needs to redouble her efforts to reduce hardship arising from the present insecurity in the North East as a measure to tackle psychological impacts of insecurity. The study adopted qualitative descriptive analytical methods and relied on the social bond theory as its theoretical compass. It recommended among others a paradigm shift from the hitherto government poor approaches to solving problems of national importance to a more responsive strategy, sufficient enough to counter or rather address the security crisis in the North Eastern Nigeria.

**Key words:** Psychological attacks, Boko Haram, devastating impacts, islam, paradigm shift, responsive strategy.

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**«Боко Харам» радикалды исламдық топтың  
Нигерияның солтүстік-шығысында орналасқан халқына  
психологиялық шабуылын жоюдың ықтимал жолдарын талдау**

Нигериядағы «Боко Харам» радикалды исламдық топтың 2009 жылдан бастап жасаған лаңкестік іс-әрекеттері елдің қауіпсіздік саласына үлкен нұқсан келтірді. Бұл ел тәуелсіздік алған 1960 жылдан бергі кезеңде орын алған үлкен қауіп-қатер болатын. Бұл мақалада елдің Шығыс бөлігінің солтүстігіне қарай орналасқан тұрғындарына «Боко Хараммен» көрсетілген психологиялық қысымдылықтың әсерлерін зерттеуге талпыныс жасалды. Автор осы экстремистік ұйымның ықпалының талқандаушы сипаты қоғамда діни бірлестіктерге деген жиіркену сезімін тудырғанын баса айтады. Зерттеуде «Боко Харам» жақын арада жеңіліс тапса да, көрсеткен қысымына деген ашу-ыза одан әрі арта түсіп, ұзақ уақытқа созылады деген болжам жасалады. Автор сонымен қатар, мемлекеттік қызметтердің салған барлық күш-жігерінің әрекеттеріне қарамастан, қоғамда жоғары тұрақсыздықты тудырып тұрған психологиялық шабуылдарға қарсы әсерін екі есеге арттыру қажет деп қорытынды жасайды. Негізінде, бұл мақалада әлеуметтік байланыстар теориясы шеңберінде сапалы талдау әдістерді қолданады. Автор сондай-ақ, ұлттық мәселелерін шеше алатын «кедей» мемлекеттен Нигерияның солтүстік-шығысындағы қауіпсіздік дағдарысына бақылауды орната алатын, аса жауапты және қайырымды әлеуметтік-экономикалық саясаты бар мемлекетке ауыстыру парадигмасын ұсынады.

**Түйін сөздер:** психологиялық шабуыл, бұзушы ықпал, парадигма өзгерісі, жауапкершілік бағыты.

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**Анализ возможных путей устранения психологических атак  
радикально-исламистской группировки «Боко Харам»  
на население северо-востока Нигерии**

Порочный круговорот террористических действий радикально-исламистской группировки «Боко Харам» в Нигерии, начавшийся в 2009 г., создал наихудшую ситуацию в области безопасности за весь период обретения страной независимости в 1960 г. В этой статье делается попытка изучения психологических эффектов давления «Боко Харам» на семьи, населяющие северный Восток страны. Автор утверждает, что разрушительный характер влияния данной экстремистской организации прививает обществу отвращение к религиозным объединениям. В исследовании предполагается, что разочарованность от подобного долгоиграющего давления будет возрастать еще больше, даже если «Боко Харам» будет побеждена в скором будущем. Автор также приходит к выводу, что, несмотря на все усилия, предпринимаемые государственными службами, необходимо удвоить их эффект в противовес психологическим атакам, вызывающим высокую нестабильность в обществе. Как основополагающие, в статье применяются качественные аналитические методы в рамках теории социальных связей. Также автор предлагает осуществить сдвиг парадигмы с «бедного» государства, решающего националистические проблемы, до государства с более ответственной и отзывчивой социально-экономической политикой, которое может установить контроль над кризисом безопасности на северо-востоке Нигерии.

**Ключевые слова:** психологические атаки, Боко Харам, разрушительное влияние, ислам, сдвиг парадигмы, ответственная стратегия.

Humanity is historically replete with incidences of violent conflicts. Nigerian state since independence in 1960 has gyrated in uncertainty and confusion following persistent crisis of different dimensions and magnitude. Thus, over three decades since the Maitatsine uprising in the 1980s, Nigeria is again confronted with the challenge of taming the tide of Boko Haram violence in the Northern Nigeria. The outbreak of the Boko Haram uprising with increasing violent confrontations since 2009 obviously marked another phase in the incorrigible pattern that violent uprisings, riots and disturbances have become in Nigeria. Boko Haram uprising tends to have multiplied the burden of prevailing insecurity in the face of Nigeria's search for democratization and development.

Essentially, since the return to democratic governance, conflict situations seem to have remained a permanent feature in many states in Nigeria. However, the Northern Nigeria appears to have witnessed high number of devastating conflicts. Prominent among these crises include the recurrent Jos crises of 2001, 2002, 2004 and 2008 (Akaeze, 2009: 5-6). The Jukun/Tiv crisis of 2001, the Wukari crisis of 2013/2014 (Nwanegbo, 2014: 8-14; Nnorom, Odigbo, 2015: 18-24). Also, the Boko Haram kamikaze attacks and the growing shocking attacks of the Fulani herdsmen in various parts of the North have deteriorated the security condition in the North and Nigeria in general.

More specifically, in States like Jos, Benue, Nasarawa, Bauchi, Adamawa, Kaduna, Taraba e.t.c manifest ethno-religious and communal conflicts have engendered poor socio-economic relations. The emergence of Boko Haram insurgence does not only increase insecurity, it has led to wanton destruction of lives and property and threatened the very foundation of Nigeria's cooperate existence. For instance, Danjibo explained that at the beginning of Boko Haram crisis, more than 500 members of the sect were killed by government security forces in Borno. He further stated that in Bauchi state, 41 persons including a soldier and a police officer lost their lives while in Yobe state 43 persons lost their lives with greater casualty on the sect and by the time the violence was contained, between 1,000 and 1, 400 people have lost their lives with inestimable damages to properties (Danjibo, 2010). Thus, between 2011 and 2014 the menace of Boko Haram has increased from a brush fire to an all-consuming conflagration. The bombing of the Police Headquarters Abuja, the attack on the United Nations secretariat Abuja, the abduction of over two and fifty Chibok secondary school girls, the present escalating incidences of suicide bombings are indications that Nigeria seems to be close to a near security collapsed society. As can be seen, the evolving operational strategies of the Boko Haram such as suicide bombing means that concerted effort are needed in combating the trend. This will include government

institutions, commitment of the security forces, the civil society and individuals.

Interestingly, while the government has battled over the years to nib the problems in bud, it appears that achieving durable peace in the North remains a herculean task. It is against this background that this paper seeks to examine the psychological challenges posed by Boko Haram in light of the present onslaught. More specifically, the paper looks at the extent Boko Haram activities have affected family relations and lives in the Northern Nigeria.

### Theoretical Explication

The study adopts the social bond theory in the analysis of psychological effects of Boko Haram activities to families in the North Eastern Nigeria. Our choice of the theory is predicated on the fact that the theory demonstrates the underlining dynamics of social relations and the extent lack or weak social connections can undermine peace in a society. The theory was originally developed by Travis Hirschi. According to Hirschi «we are moral beings to the extent we are social beings» (Hirschi, 1969). This tries to establish the link between our state of being and the society we inhabit. Shoemaker argued that the social bond theory is basically «refers to the connection between the individual and society» (Gardner, Shoemaker, 1989: 481-SIX). The theory has received considerable empirical support, and its explanatory value is typically described as good or moderate.

The theory explained that deviant behaviour occurs when the social bond appeared to be weak or lacking. In this perspective and with regards to the prevailing security condition in the North Eastern Nigeria, it may be stated that the emergence and subsequent upsurge of terrorist activities of Boko Haram is inextricably tied to the fact that Nigerian society is challenged with inadequate, poor and weak social bond. As a result, many families tend to have failed to provide the necessary guide for the children. Secondly and perhaps more importantly is the debilitating impacts of poor leadership in Nigeria over several decades of her independence. In fact, Nigerian government has existed on its own, differently from the people with both oblivious of need for symbiotic state-institutional and state-people relationship.

Hirschi outlined and explained the four elements of the social bond, which according to him are: attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief. Generally, these elements stimulate individual's engagement or disengagement in

deviant behaviour. Again, Hirschi further posited that *attachment* involves the degree to which the individual has affectional or emotional ties to these people, identifies with them, and cares about their expectations (Hirschi, Op.cit.). Evidently, this could be seen as the bonding or strong ties that exist among family members. Indeed, it explained social bond theory, as a condition in which individuals with strong attachments are less likely to engage in deviant behaviour and vice versa. Secondly, the element of *commitment* essentially looks at the totality of effort devoted for conventional and positively needed activities. It is measured by the aggregate investment of energy, resources and time in conventional activities such as sports, farm work and even education. According to Akers these investments represent stakes in conformity (Akers, 1997).

More succinctly, social bond theorists posited that individuals with strong commitments will not want to jeopardize them by engaging in deviant behaviour. Among families in North East, this commitment will be in terms of quality jobs and ability to meet basic needs of daily living such as food, shelter, education etc. These are obviously lacking or in short supply hence many in camps are dependent on agencies and individuals for food and shelter.

Thirdly, *involvement* is concerned with the amount of time a person, persons, group or individuals spend engaging in conventional activities, such as doing office work, community services, administration or participating in clubs or recreational activities. The last component of the social bond theory is the *belief*. This is the acceptance of a conventional value system. Social bond theory maintained that any weakening of these conventional beliefs increases the likelihood that an individual will engage in violent confrontations and deviant behavior (Shoemaker, 1996).

Following from the above, it is pertinent to note that the challenge in the North East appears enormous. With many families already dislocated, peace perforated and the horror witness on daily bases by the young and old may likely sustained long acrimonious relations among people especially those that have lost their loved ones.

Beyond this, children born in this challenging period may not understand the importance of peace. Secondly, children conceived violently (maybe through rape) in the quest by the terrorists and miscreants to satiate their sexual desires may typically represent the gene that produces them. In such condition, peace may continue to elude

families, the region and in general the Nigerian state that is in dire need for peace.

**Catalogues of boko haram attacks since 2009**

Boko Haram insurgence in the Northern part of Nigeria since July 2009 typified yet another phase in the ever recurring pattern of violent situations in Nigeria. Prior to Boko Haram terrorist acts, violent confrontations, riots and disturbances of several dimensions have become rampant in the North and Nigeria in general. Following the diverse nature of Nigerian society, especially the challenges of religion, ethnicity, the colonial legacy of divide and rule, poor governance and the entrenched prebendalism, patrimonial politics that accentuated during the prolonged military rule, the present situation may not have been unanticipated.

Thus, since 2009 the Boko Haram has evolved from a mere religious fundamentalist group to an insurgent gang and indeed a global terrorist network. It (Boko Haram) has linked its activities with other international terrorist group. Recently, Boko Haram pledged allegiance with Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Undoubtedly, these links and connections perhaps have contributed to the sustenance of Boko

Haram and their cronies especially, in their recent attack in paris – France. In Nigeria for instance, the initial attacks on government institutions tend to have reduced, but attacks on public places such as market, church, schools and motor parks have remained on the increase.

School participation remains a challenge across Nigeria and obstacles are particularly severe in northern states. In addition to issues of school access, family and school resources, and attitudes towards education, school attendance in northern Nigeria is impeded by the increasingly brazen extremism of Boko Haram an Islamist militant group, and it’s targeting of girls’ education. The group opposes the Western – style education associated with formal schools in Nigeria and seeks to relegate women exclusively to the household. As a result, risks associated with school-going are compounded for girls and young women in a context where female education attainment is persistently low. Indeed, in many northern states more than 50% of young women ages 15 – 24 have no experience with formal education (EPDC extraction of MICS 2011). Also, alarming is the increasing incidence of suicide bombings. In all, Nigerians and indeed Nigeria appeared devastated.

**Table 1 – Boko Haram Attacks in Nigeria between 2009 and 2014**

Year	Date & Month	Nature of Attack	Location	Number of people killed	Number of People Injured	Number of People Displaced & Property Destroyed
2004						
2009	26 <sup>th</sup> July	5 days up-rising	Dutsen-Tanshi Maiduguri	41		Over 30 people
	27 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed attack	Potiskum DV HQ, Yobe	4		
	29 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed attack	Potiskum/Damaturu, Yobe	33		Over 160 people
	29 <sup>th</sup> July	All night armed battle	Railway terminus Maiduguri , Yobe	40		Over 250 people
2010	January	Gun runner battle	Jos	326	183	Over 120 people
	March	Midnight armed attack	Dogo Nahawa, Zot & Ratsat Jos	300	129	Over 90 people
	7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Jailbreak	Attack on Prisons in Bauch	5		Freeing 721 Innmates
	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Assassination	Awana Ngala in Maiduguri	3		
	9 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Assassination	Maiduguri	3		
	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Bombing/ Gun attack	Maiduguri Police Station		3	

	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Bombing/Armed attack	Jos metropolis	80	23	Over 230 people
	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Assassination	Senior police officer & two others	3		
	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Bombing/Armed attack	Christmas eve bombing in Maiduguri	38	87	Over 120 people
	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec.	Armed Attack	Abuja Market blast killing many people	168	210	Over 250 people
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan.	Assination/killin gs	Boko Haram Murders Deeper Life Pastor & others	4	45	Over 60 people
	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Assasination/killi ngs	Boko Haram kills ANPP Guber Candidate & other	7	34	
	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	Bombing/Gun attack	Boko Haram & Military in fight to finish in Borno			Over 250 people
	17 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Bombing/Gun attack	Boko Haram/Military Bloody clash in Borno	2	23	30 people & 25 houses raised
	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Assasination/killi ngs	Boko Haram Assassinated Muslem Cleric	5	12	
	27 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Assasination/killi ngs	Boko Haram kills ANPP Stalwart & other	2		
	5 <sup>th</sup> April	Assasination/killi ngs	Boko Haram free for all rampage	2	7	Over 110 people
	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Jailbreak	Boko Haram frees prisoners in Yola			14 prisoners freed
	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Bombing/Gun attack	Bombing/Blast	3	14	Over 150 people
	29 <sup>th</sup> May	Bombing/Gun attack	Boko Haram Bombed Northern Nigeria			
2011	31 <sup>st</sup> May	Bombing/Gun Attack	Bomb explosion & killings	1	23	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Bombing/Gun Attack	Bokites Attacked Catholic & Epidemiological center			
	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Bombing/Gun Attack	Boko Haram Attacked Catholic church in Maiduguri	10	68	23 people & 3 buildings raised
	17 <sup>th</sup> Jun.	Bombing/Explois ion	Boko Haram Hit Police HQR in Abuja	2	20	38 cars & 140 others damaged
	21 <sup>st</sup> Jun.	Bombing/Explois ion	Blast/Explosion in Borno	4		
	26 <sup>th</sup> June	Bombing/Explois ion	Bombing attack on bear garden in maiduguri	25	12	
	27 <sup>th</sup> Jun.	Bombing/Explois ion	Blast/Explosion and Gun attacks in Borno	30	66	75 people & several Houses raised
	28 <sup>th</sup> Jun.	Bombing/Explois ion	Boko Haram Bombed Custom House	3	9	Several cars and 3 buildings raised
	7 <sup>th</sup> July	Bombing/Explois ion	Boko Haram Bomed JTF Patrol Van	3	3	1 car destroyed
	10 <sup>th</sup> July	Bombing/Explois ion	Bombing at the All Christian Fellowship Church in Suleja			

	11 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed Attack Alert	The University of Maiduguri temporarily closed down			Over 400 people flees Maiduguri
	12 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed Attack/Killing	Muslim Cleric Liman Bana shot dead by Boko Haram	1	11	
	24 <sup>th</sup> July	Bombing/Explosion	Explosion Rocks Sheu of Borno's Palace			4 buildings affected
	3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Bombing/Explosion	Explosion & Blast rocks Borno Soldier			
	5 <sup>th</sup> August	Bombing/Explosion	Explosion & Blast rocks Borno	2	2	43
	12 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Bombing/Explosion	Car Bomb hits Nigeria UN in Abuja			
	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Bombing & Explosion	Explosion rocks Shinkafi general Onoja's home			3 building damaged
	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Bombing & Explosion	Gombe Mobile Barracks Blast	4	11	2 buildings affected
	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Assasination/killings	Boko Haram Gun attack on journalist	1		
	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Armed Attacks/Killing	Boko Haram attacks Damaturu	63	108	Over 100 people
	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Assasination/killings	Armed Attack on Police & FRSC stations Borno	2	7	2 cars damaged
	28 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Assasination/killings	Armed attacks on churches in Yobe	4		8 churches burnt down
	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Bombing & Explosion	Explosion rocks Kaduna	7		Several houses & shops raised
	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Bombing & Explosion	Explosion at football viewing center in Borna	3	14	
	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Assasination/killings	Armed attacks in Borno	3		
	19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Armed /Gun Attacks	Army & Boko Haram clash in Kano	8		
	20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Bombing & Explosion	Explosion rock Kaduna		3	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.	Bomb Blast/Explosion	Multiple explosions & Gun shots in Yobe	5		
	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Bomb Blast/Explosion	Boko Haram hits Church during Christmas Prayers	65	46	
		Bombing & Explosion	Mandala Church Christmas explosion, Niger State	35	65	4 buildings & 6 cars damaged
	26 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Assasination /Killings	Boko Haram Gun attacks SSS office in Yobe	3	5	3 cars raised
		Bombing & Explosion	Boko Haram attacks on Churches in Adamawa			4 churches & 5 building raised
		Bombing & Explosion	Boko Haram Bombers invade church in Jos	3	12	2 building damaged
2012	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Armed Attacks	Boko Haram Gunmen attacks in Jigawa Police St	1		Over 600 Christians displaced
	7 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Mass Murder	Boko Haram attacks Christian communities in Gombe	28	46	113 people displaced
	9 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Armed Attacks/Killing	Boko Haram Killings & Assasination in Yobe	6		
	11 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Armed Attacks/Killing	Boko Haram Kills Police in Yobe	5		
	17 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Armed Attacks/Killing	Boko Haram Kills Police in Gombe	5		
	20 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Bombing & Explosion	Boko Haram attacks Kano by blast and explosions	14	42	
	21 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	Bombing & Explosion	Bomb explosion rocks Kano	6	20	
	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan.	Bombing & Explosion	Bomb explosion in Bauch Church	11	22	4 cars damaged
	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	Armed Attacks	Gun attacks at Police station in Yobe	2		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Febr.	Armed Attacks	Boko Haram Kills many in Maiduguri	6	11		

8 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Bombing &Exploision	Boko Haram suicide bombers storm Kaduna Barracks		23	
16 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Jailbreak in Prisons	Boko Haram & jailbreak in central Nigeria	1		119 prisoners freed
20 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Bombing &Exploision	Exploision rocks Suleja church		13	
21 <sup>st</sup> Febr.	Gun Fight	Boko Haram Gun fight in Yobe	30	17	5 vehicles damaged
27 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Bombing &Exploision	Suicide bombers attacks Jang's Church			
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Gun Fight	Boko haram fighters opens fire at a checkpoint in Kano			
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Abduction/Kidne rpping	Boko Haram Killed abducted Brish Engineers	2		
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Armed Attacks	Book Haram Kills scores in Jos Church raid	18		
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Armed Attacks	Boko haram fighters opens fire at a checkpoint in Kano			
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Armed Attacks	Gun attacks in Sounthern Kaduna	10	5	3 buildings & 2 cars raised
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar.	Armed attacks	Boko Haram fighters attacks police Staff College in Jos	2		
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Exploisions	Easter day bombibg in Kaduna	40	65	13 vehicles, & 6 buildinds
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Bombing &Exploision	Boko Haram bombers attacked Media Houses in Abuja			
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Armed Attacks	BUK attacked by Boko Haram fighters	15	43	9 vehicles damaged
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Armed Attacks/Killing	Book Haram killed Church-goers in Bauchi	15	35	
11 <sup>th</sup> Jun.	Armed Attacks	Suicide Attacks on Churches in Biu Jos & Borno	12	65	Over 120 people displaced
17 <sup>th</sup> Jun.	Mass Murder	Book Haram kills many in a suicide attaks in Jos	130		Over 300 people
18 <sup>th</sup> June.	Mass Murder	Suicide attacks on Churches in Kaduna and Zaria	40	110	Over 90 people displaced
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed Attacks	Bokites Gunmen suicide attacks in Barakin-Ladi	34	55	Over 60 people displced
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed Attacks	Boko Haram attacked Gum Arabic Factory in Bayan	5	12	
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Armed Attacks	Gunmen Murders several in Okene, Kogi	25	34	Over 40 people displaced
8 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Armed Attacks	Boko Haram fighters killed Soldiers in Bauch	3	6	
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Mass Murder	Book Haram Murder entire family member in North	4		
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Suicide Attacks	Suicide bombers attacked Bauch church	3		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.	Midnight Suicide Attacks	Book Haram attack Mubi town killing scores	46	150	Over 350 people
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Suicide Attacks	Suicide bomber hit Church during Holy Communion			
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Armed Attacks	Gunmen attacked Abuja Police Detention Facility	40	39	Stampeed

2013	20 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Abduction/Kidnaping	Boko Haram abducted seven French Tourist in Cameroon			
	25 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Armed Attacks	Gunmen Killed several in Kaduna	11	9	Raised shops and buildings
	26 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Abduction/Kidnaping	Boko Haram releases video of kidnapped French family			
	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Suicide Attacks	Boko Haram attacked Military base	20		5 building raised
	13 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Suicide Attacks	Boko Haram fighters stormed Kano School	13	55	
	19 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Bombing &Exploision	Bomb blast and exploision at Motor Part in Kano	30	65	Not less than 50
	12 <sup>th</sup> April	Terror Attacks	Boko Haram & JTF clash in Kano	9	12	
	24 <sup>th</sup> April	Mass Murder	Massacre at Baga Borno state	105	210	Over 150 people lost their homes
	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Terror Attacks	Boko Haram terror attack in Yobe	25	38	Over 90 people
	8 <sup>th</sup> May	Jailbreak	Boko Haram Attacked Army barrack in Bama, Yobe	55	45	Over 105 iimates freed
	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Abduction/Kidnaping	Boko Haram abducts women & children	55	67	Over 65 people
	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Abduction/Kidnaping	Boko Haram abducts women & children	55	67	Over 65 people
	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Terror Attacks	Mass/exodus of men & women to Niger from Borno			Over 2,000 flee Borno to Niger
	6 <sup>th</sup> July	Armed Attack	Boko Haram attack school in Yobe killed many students	42	55	
	19 <sup>th</sup> sept.	Terror Attacks	Boko Haram attack in Borno State	142		
	29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Armed Attack	Boko Haram attack College of Agric. in Gujba Kkilled many	40		
2014	14 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Bombing/Exploision	Boko Haram Bombed Maiduguri, Borno killed many	31	50	
	16 <sup>th</sup> febr.	Mass Murder	Izghe massacre by Boko Haram terrorists	105		
	24 <sup>th</sup> Febr.	Mass Murder	Mass murder of College student in Yobe	43		
	27 <sup>th</sup> Febr	Armed Attack	Boko Haram raid village in Borno	74	54	Over 200 displaced, 34 buildings raised
	2 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Bombing/Exploision	Boko haram bomb Maiduguri, raid village	300	250	Over 350 displaced, 45 buildinds raised

Source: Adopted from Akinfala, Akinbode and Kemmer.<sup>10</sup>

The totality of these attacks coupled with the increasing violence since the 2014 tend to have triggered massive displacement especially in the North Eastern part of Nigeria. Interestingly, many communities and public places in the North East have been designated by government for IDPs camps while others were created by the people in response to the exigencies of their situation. For instance, the total number of internally displaced persons identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe,

Taraba and Yobe as of February 2015 is 1,188,018 IDPs with 149,357 households (Displacement Tracking Matrix, Report II, 2015). In this, the three most affected states by Boko Haram activities have the highest number of IDPs. For instance, Borno state has 672,714 IDPs which is the highest number among the three most affected states, followed by Adamawa who has 220,159 IDPs and Yobe with a total of 135,810 IDPs. Below is the total number of IDPs in the North East as of February 2015.



**Table 2** – Total IDPs Population by Current Location (State)

Current Location	IDP Individuals	IDP Households	Average HHs size
ADAMAWA	220,159	25,807	8.5
BAUCHI	60,555	9,881	6.1
BORNO	672,714	76,842	8.8
GOMBE	24,655	3,335	7.4
TARABA	74,125	11,599	6.4
YOBE	135,810	21,893	6.2
Grand Total	1,188,018	149,357	8.0

Source: Displacement Tracking Matrix, Report II<sup>11</sup>

It is important to note that in Nigeria, incidences of unaccounted victims in disaster times sometimes surpass the official figures. In this condition, many may have been abandoned uncounted. There is also possibility of unknown existing camps or those neglected because of politics, religious affiliations or the remoteness of these camps. For instance, at the height of violence in 2014 following federal government declaration of state of emergency and

subsequent deployment of troops to most affected areas, only ten camps were identified in state like Adamawa in four local governments in the state. Thus, by 2014, Girei, Yola North, Yola South and Fufore local government areas accommodated eighteen thousand two hundred and fifty eight (18, 258) individuals comprising two thousand six hundred and fifty households. These numbers are stated below as follows:

**Table 3** – Names of Camps Location and Number of People in Adamawa State in 2014

SSID	Name of Camp Location	LGA	Ward	Households	Individuals
AD_S001	NYSC Damare Camp	Girei	Damare	450	4953
AD_S007	Lamido Lawal Pri School	Girei	Girei 1	229	1,626
AD_S008	St Theresas Cathedral	Yola North	Lugere	864	3,675
AD_S002	Deeper Life Camp Ground	Yola South	Namtari	80	428
AD_S003	Malkohi Camp	Yola South	Namtari	127	577
AD_S004	Malkohi Village	Yola South	Namtari	120	602
AD_S009	Runde Killa	Yola South	Namtari	21	165
AD_S010	Kawawan Wapa	Yola South	Namtari	246	2,808
AD_S006	Daware Village	Fufore	Pariya	186	438
AD_S005	Eyn Church Vinikilang	Girei	Vinikilang	327	2,986
<b>Total assessed in 10 Camps in Adamawa State</b>				<b>2,650</b>	<b>18,258</b>

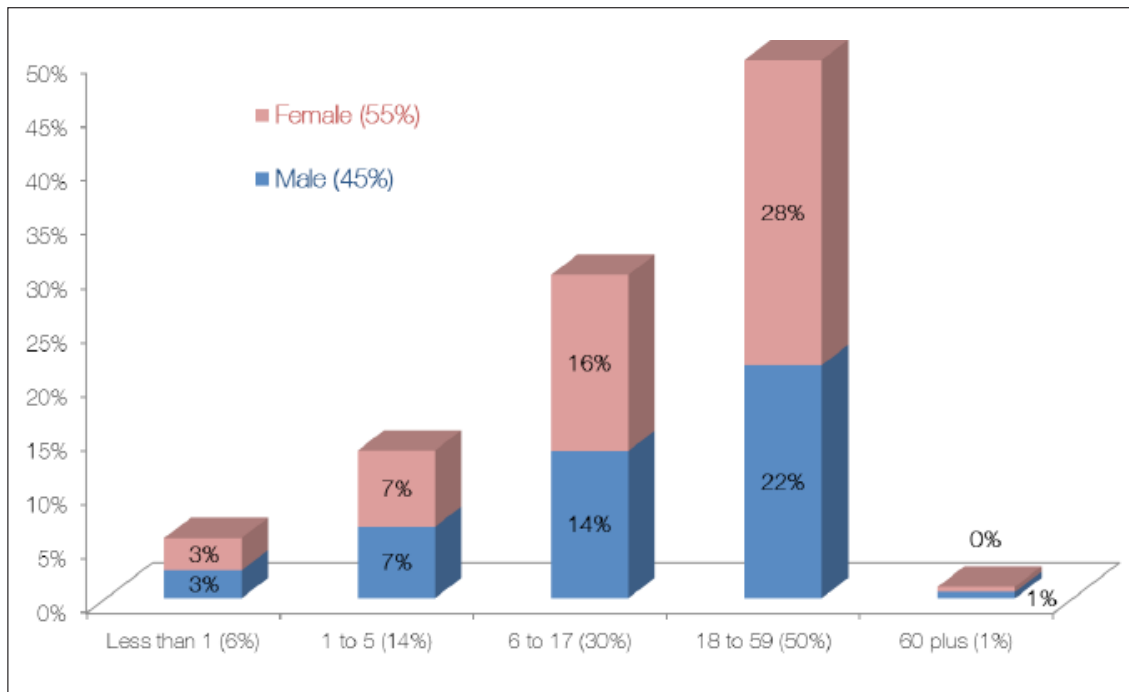
Source: Displacement Tracking Matrix, Report II<sup>12</sup>

Unfortunately, children and women are more vulnerable as they constitute greater number of the victims. According to the displacement tracking matrix report II (2015) the survey show that 53% of the IDP population are female and 47 % are male while Children of less than 18 years constitutes 56% of the IDP population and more than half of them

are 5 years old or younger (Displacement Tracking Matrix Report. 11 Op.cit.). Implicitly, many children especially those within the age range of one to five have seen no moderate or responsible homes than camps. Most of these children do not have access to education. The crisis has also contributed to high level of children malnutrition since the

parents depend mainly on food provided by either government agencies such National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) or other spirited

individuals. The table below shows percentages of demographic profile of the IDPs population in the North-Eastern states between male and female.



Source: Displacement Tracking Matrix, Report II (2015:4)

Figure 1 – IDP Population by major age group and sex breakdown

Evidently, the above trend poses a serious challenge to the survival of any nation. It threatens the numerical strength of a Nigeria, reduces socio-economic activities in the North East. Most of the states in the North East are agrarian societies that supply food to other parts of the country. Persistent violence and insecurity is likely to create food scarcity and Nigeria over the last few years tends to have shown poor capacity to curtail the increasing number of Boko Haram’s attacks on defenseless people.

**Boko Haram activities and families in the north-east nigeria**

The activities of the Boko Haram sect has risen to an unbearable level and has brought about undesirable psychological effects on the families especially on women and children in the North Eastern Nigeria. The abduction of 276 school girls from Chibok secondary school was the height of Boko haram senseless activities of abduction. The

abduction attracted global condemnation. Yet, it appears that since then the rise in gender and sexual based violence in the North East has been on the increase due to the increased activities of Boko Haram.

Consequent upon this crisis is the ‘imprisonment’ of many families in camps. Arguably, camps appear to temporarily guarantee safety and offer access to limited food provided by concerned groups, yet that may not underestimate the fact that «gender and sexual based violence is believed to be a widespread phenomenon among female internally displaced persons(IDP’s) both at various camps and in host communities» (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2014). In this regard, the challenge of protecting the girl child, mother and generally the young seems enormous. Thus, several other families who are not privilege to access camps have been maimed, dispersed and dislocated from their relations. Ross explains that there are many children who have lost contact with their parents, as well as mothers and fathers who have no idea

what has happened to their sons and daughters among more than 4,500 displaced people in the North Eastern Nigeria (Ross, 2015). This situation has compelled some to inhabit on top of mountains and some have crossed over into neighboring countries of Cameroon and Chad thereby making communication and reconnection with their families almost very difficult if not totally impossible.

Understandably, the tendency of the present situation conditioning and shaping the character of the youths towards resorting to violent may spear doom for the future generation. For instance, in one of the videos released by Boko Haram in 2014, it showed a man who was buried up to his neck and was seemingly stoned to death for adultery. Many children were among the large crowd watching. The act implicitly may not convey a Jihadist message to the young who witnessed the cruelty; it rather convinced them that such cruelty can be justified.

Beyond the fact that these crimes are committed publicly, Boko Haram seems not to have respect for innocent children. Presently, a lot of children are suffering and many more are being killed or abducted. Indeed, it appears that the air of panic and even helplessness has continued to mount across most parts of North Eastern Nigeria, in tandem with the escalating violence. Unfortunately, women and girls tend to experience the most traumatic and unbearable adversities due to their vulnerability in times of crisis especially when they lose their husbands, guardians or children who are mostly bread winners of the family.

## Conclusion

From the analysis, we have explained that the history of Nigeria since independence and more specifically since her return to democratic governance is replete with myriad of violence of different sort. Obviously, the consequence is instability and increasing insecurity. With the emergence of Boko Haram and its terrorist attacks since 2009 over seventeen thousand (17000) Nigerians were murdered. Nigeria and more specifically the North Eastern Nigeria has become a hotbed of terrorism. The paper noted that Boko Haram kamikaze attacks on defenseless Nigerians have perforated the peace and have negatively impacted on the psyche of the people. It has dislocated many families, compelled people to become refugees in their land and in all, resulted to the death of thousands of Nigerians in a seemingly cruel condition. Following from this, the paper appreciated government efforts in tackling insecurity. However, it suggested the need for government to evolve more realistic and practical measures to ensure that insecurity is urgently addressed. We advocated for more responsive efforts to render assistance to the victims and the internally displaced persons. This will also help to compliment the efforts of NEMA and in general help to reduce the hardship the victims experience on daily bases. With many families presently scattered, government needs to engage a special program that will help to address the psychological impacts on families and strive to provide basic needs in the face of the continues Boko Haram onslaught.

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