

Counterterrorism and Human Rights Violations in Northeast Nigeria

Ravichandran Moorthy^a, Gabriel Tyoyila Akwen^b, Sity Daud^c, Sarjit S. Gill^d, ^{a,b,c}Research Centre for History, Politics and International Affairs, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia, ^dFaculty of Human Ecology, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Email: ^adrravi@ukm.edu.my, ^bakwengab123@gmail.com, ^csitydaud@ukm.edu.my, ^dsarjit@upm.edu.my

This research investigates counterterrorism and human rights violations in Nigeria. It examines the types and the contributing factors of human rights abuses, as a result of Boko Haram activities and the Nigerian counterterrorism initiatives undertaken by security agencies. Employing both secondary and primary data, this study adopts the qualitative research approach. Semi-structured interview questions were used on a total number of 29 informants, selected purposively. This study reveals evidence of human rights violations in the conduct of the Nigerian counterterrorism operatives, which also breaches the United Nation's counterterrorism standards. The findings also show that the lack of human security conditions, corruption, inadequate training, and attitudes of the local communities have contributed to violations of human rights. This research postulates that to reduce human rights violations during counterterrorism activities, there is a need to incorporate non-military approaches and confident building measures to gain the support of the people.

Key words: *Boko Haram, Counterterrorism, Human rights, Human security, Terrorism.*

Introduction

Terrorism is not new to mankind and neither are its impacts on human rights. Over the years various forms of terrorism have claimed the lives of innocent people, threatened fundamental freedoms and lessened human dignity (Von Schorlemer, 2003). Naturally, states are expected to protect their citizens and other persons from all forms of attacks, including the violation of their rights by terrorist groups. This is done to avert the direct impact of terrorist activities on human rights (Dyrenforth, 2018). Saddled with the responsibility of preventing terrorist activities, most democratic states, under the guise of national security have justified their

abuses of the basic rights and liberties of the people within their domain. The post 9/11 era is characterised by the adoption of draconian counterterrorism strategies by many states. These measures are alleged to constitute human rights violations. The UN and some sub-global organisations like the European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) in their disenchantment with the harsh measures have drafted sets of rules guiding counterterrorism and respecting human rights (Sampson, 2015).

Despite the attempt by global concerned actors to strike an equilibrium between adherence to human rights principles and national security, many states like Nigeria have sustained their disregard for regulatory procedures of the numerous regional and international treaties concerning the observance of human rights during counterterrorism operations. State reaction to terrorism should protect and uphold those fundamental human rights that terrorism is bent on destroying (Kielsingard, 2005). The return of democratic governance in 1999 instead of improving the human rights situation in Nigeria, brought an upsurge in the activities of Boko Haram terrorism. This is a terrorist group based in northeast Nigeria. The Nigerian police who are constitutionally responsible for rule implementation and domestic security were overwhelmed by the sophistication of the terrorist activities (Odomovo, 2014).

Following this development, the military was drafted in, to help tackle the effect of terror campaigns on the rights of Nigerians. This was not the first time the government relied on the military to quell an internal uprising. Whenever this is done, it usually harms the human rights of Nigerians. The November 1999 military bombardment of innocent civilians at Odi a community in Niger Delta is one such example (Human Rights Watch, 1999; Akwen & Gever, 2012). Like many other military operations, the war against Boko Haram is not free of human rights violation allegations. The military is one and Nigeria's most famous counterterrorism options. There is no doubt that the military has recorded huge success in their counterterrorism effort. Notwithstanding the success, their hard handedness approach came under heavy criticism by Nigerians and international actors. They are alleged to have committed human rights abuses. Worried by the wide allegations levied on the Nigerian state that owned the responsibility to protect, this research investigates the impact of Nigeria's military counterterrorism on human rights in order to ascertain to extent of the brunt that the masses bear, as a result of the activities of counterterrorism operatives who are supposed to protect their rights.

Conceptual Clarification

Boko Haram is an alias for *Jama'atu Ahlis Suna Lidda'awati Wal Jihad* (People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad) (Amusan & Oyewale, 2014; Akwen, Jooji & Moorthy, 2018). As a terrorist group, they are based in northeastern Nigeria and weigh much influence around the Lake Chad Basin (Duruji et al, 2018). Boko Haram



means detest for Western education and culture. Its meaning is derived from a combination of a Hausa word 'Boko' which connotes western education and an Arabic word 'Haram' which means forbidden. The year 2015 marked the split of Boko Haram. While Abubakar Shekau remains the successor of Mohammed Yusuf and the current leader of the original group known for northern Islamic puritanism promotion, the second faction known by the name Wilāyat al-Islāmiyya Gharb Afrīqiyah (the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) is headed by Abu Musab al-Barnawi (Duruji et al., 2018). Boko Haram agitation is for the establishment of a Sharia state in Nigeria that would be governed strictly by the sharia legal system. There is hope that such success will lead to the expansion that would cover the Lake Chad Basin and West African sub-region (Onuoha & Oyewale, 2018).

Terrorism stemmed from the Latin verb 'terrere', which signifies 'to cause to shiver' or 'to cause to tremble' (Aworawo, 2017). Judging from the etymological meaning of terrorism, it means that great fear, violence, and dread are the crucial elements in comprehending the meaning of terrorism. Based on these major features, terrorism is defined as the meditative use of aggression or force to cause fear and panic in pursuit of political, ideological, ethnic, economic, or religious goals (Aliyu, Moorthy, Abdullah, & Sity, 2015; Aworawo, 2017).

Counterterrorism is a combination of initiatives targeted at fighting terrorism. They include defeating terrorism and their organisations, thwarting their sponsorship routes, reducing the conditions that breed terrorism and protecting the interest of citizens wherever they are (Bakker, 2015). More so counterterrorism could mean, "Provision of sound economic and political condition where at least the majority of the people have access to minimum basic requirements of life and could turn out their productive capacity for national development instead of destruction" (Maiangwa, 2014). Based on the hard power view, counterterrorism is also defined as offensive approaches taken in response to terrorist exploitation (Sloan, 1986). From this military context, counterterrorism is perceived as a military doctrine, created by developed states to combat terrorism at home and abroad (Miller & Rizwaan, 2012). Counterterrorism also comprises laws, tactics, and procedures used in engaging terrorism at all levels (Benvenisti, 2008). From another viewpoint, counterterrorism entails both defensive methods used by states to lessen the exposure to terrorist attacks, and offensive approach to edge put off, and retort violently to terrorism (Steven & Gunaratna, 2004).

Rights are ethical claims owned by people because of who they are or what they have done (Mansbach & Rafferty, 2008). Human rights are rights that individuals enjoy because of their humanness (Akwen, Moorthy & Sity, 2018). Human rights can also be viewed as the basic ethical rights of people, which are crucial for a life with human nobility (Donnelly, 1999). Human rights are not subject to court decisions but influence extra-judicial rulemaking. Influential treaties are good examples (Forsythe, 2012). More so, human rights can be perceived as a collection of inalienable individual rights, which include civil liberty and



political rights, as well as economic rights and cultural rights (D'Anieri, 2012). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 has itemized some inalienable rights that all people should have or enjoy. They include rights to "life, liberty, and security of persons"(Article 3), right to fair trial and hearing is contained in (Article 10 and 11), right to discretion, freedom from torture, right to political asylum and right to work are contained in Articles 12, 5, 14 and 23 respectively (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2015).” Any action or inaction by any actor that prevents anybody from enjoying the above-mentioned rights is tantamount to the human rights violation. When states as major actors fail in their duties of creating enabling environment for the individual to enjoy the aforementioned rights, they are said to covertly violate the rights of the citizens concerned.

Research Methods

The design of the research was based on qualitative research approaches. With the intention of an in-depth analysis of the impact of counterterrorism activities on human rights in northeast Nigeria, a case study design was adopted to achieve the needed result. Both primary and secondary data were obtained for this research. The primary sources of data include key informant, expert and community informants. The first category is made up of nine (9) individuals who were purposively selected from the various security agencies that constitute the counterterrorism force. They constitute the Key Informants (KI). Their selection is informed by their official designations and direct involvement in the fight against terrorism in Northeast Nigeria.

The second group comprises of eight (8) individuals, selected from various universities within Nigeria based on their knowledge in terrorism and human security, particularly human rights. They constitute Expert Informants (EI). The third group is a selection of twelve (12) people, four each from three local government areas-Bade, Damaturu, and Potiskum. These local governments represent the three senatorial districts of Yobe state. They represent Community Informants (CI). Their selection is based on their firsthand information about the activities of the counterterrorism agents. Put together, a total number of twenty-nine (29) informants were purposively selected and interviewed. The names of the informants cannot be displayed to avoid security implications. The secondary data for this study were gathered from various sources, which include published academic materials for example journals and textbooks. Other secondary data were obtained from Magazines, Newspapers, and online materials like e-books, e-journals, reports, and publications of specialised agencies like the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The oral data technique of one-on-one interviews with the selected informant was conducted and documented records were also used to obtain data for this study. This investigation espouses the qualitative approach of data analysis. This comprised the descriptive,



explanatory, and content analysis. The descriptive and explanatory approaches were utilised for the analysis of data from the primary source. While the content analysis method was utilised for the evaluation of secondary data. Following the rules of qualitative analysis, the audio records were transcribed and appraised. Data transcription was followed by coding in order to obtain themes. This was done with the help excel spreadsheet.

Result and Discussion

In Nigeria, few pieces of research emphasised the inhuman activities of the Nigerian counterterrorist operatives, especially the extra-judicial killings and illegal detention without trial. Most of the investigations on human rights abuses in northeast Nigeria focused largely on the violations caused by the Boko Haram terrorist group. It is difficult to believe that the activities of state counterterrorism operatives can constitute human rights violations. More so, the lack of knowledge on human security has led to the thinking that adherent to rights and freedoms are impediments in the quest for 'national security'.

States confronted with terrorism are expected to carry out counterterrorism operations in conformity with the provisions of international human rights and humanitarian law, as required by the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288 (Isokpan & Ebenezer, 2016). In Nigeria, it seems this rule is not observed. Instead of averting human rights violations by Boko Haram, the counterterrorism operatives are accused of heightening the anxiety of the residents of northeast Nigeria. Many innocent children have been murdered, bereaved and exiled by the activities of counterterrorist operatives. Alarmed by the situation the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights admonished the Nigerian government to conduct counterterrorism procedures following universal and regional human rights principles (Isokpan & Ebenezer, 2016).

Apart from the African Union (AU), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, United States of America and other concerned global actors have raised alarm over illegal incarcerations without hearing and other violations due to military counterterrorism operations. Based on this perception an interviewee posits that "in the worst situation, whenever the soldiers are invited to quell any uprising they declare such areas military zones and operate Marshal Law" (EI-2 personal interview, 2018). According to key informant KI-1, the military is not supposed to be involved in the war against Boko Haram. This is a police affair, but unfortunately in Nigeria, the military is deployed at every slightest provocation. He argued further that when the military goes extreme in an attempt to do the job that they are not trained for, they are accused of human rights violations (KI-1 personal interview, 2018). Below is an analysis of specific incidences of human rights breaches in Northeast Nigeria emanating from counterterrorism operations.



The Killing of Innocent People

Section 33 of the 1999 Federal constitution of Nigeria affirms that all humans have the right to life and should not be dispossessed of their lives deliberately, except if found culpable by a court that has jurisdiction after due trial (the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). The aforementioned provision of the Nigerian constitution only permits the taking of another person's life at the instance of a court ruling in respect of a crime committed. Indirectly, it also entails that counterterrorist operatives have no legal justification to deprive innocent citizens of their lives. No doubt, the promotion, and protection of people's rights during counterterrorism operations is the responsibility of the states.

The confrontation against terrorism in Nigeria is alleged to have caused the untimely death of innocent people. There are instances whereby innocent civilians became the victims of circumstance in the skirmish to curb Boko Haram. For example, on April 21st 2013 military operations on Baga town in Borno state resulted in the killing of many civilians. It is purported that the counterterrorist agents were hunting for terrorist suspects, but ended up killing above 200 non-combatant residents in one day (Wisdom, 2013). The Baga military operation by the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) was condemned by the global community. The then UN Secretary General-Ban Ki-moon was astonished and traumatised by the indiscriminate killing of unarmed residents at Baga (UN News, 2013). The activities of MNJTF at Baga were against the code of 'targeting intelligence', which entails that terrorists be distinguished from unarmed civilians in such operations (Odomovo, 2014). In defence, the headship of the MNJTF declared that all the people killed during their operation remained either Boko Haram terrorists or their acquaintances (UN News, 2013).

In another incident, which occurred on March 14, 2014, the Boko Haram raid on Giwa military base in Maiduguri resulted in the military indiscriminate killing of over 640 people, mostly unarmed recaptured detainees (Ewulum & Mbanugo, 2015). One of the Giwa Barracks prompted killings was captured in a video and it showed how the Civilian-JTF and the military were slitting the throats of five detainees (Amnesty International, 2014). Figure 1 shows part of the killing.

Figure 1. Killing of recaptured captives by Civilian-JTF and JTF after the Giwa Barracks jailbreak



Source: (Amnesty International 2014)

Figure 1 shows how some recaptured detainees of the Giwa Military Barracks were killed. The two men in non-combatant clothes are members of the Civilian-JTF. Figure 1 revealed how they pinned the legs and head of a recapture detainee while the JTF member in the army uniform is about to slice the throat of the unemotional young man.

In a related development, an interviewee gave an account of how in April 2013 some soldiers who lost their comrades in a shootout with Boko Haram, engaged in extrajudicial killings. He stresses that angry operatives came to a detention centre called presidential lodge in Damaturu the Yobe state capital and killed an undisclosed number of detainees (EI-6 personal interview, 2018). Amnesty international is more accurate on this report as they gave 18th April 2013 as the date of the event and they also put the number of the detainees killed at 64. Figure 2, showed the lifeless bodies of the detainees in the mortuary at the General Sani Abacha specialist hospital in Damaturu Yobe state.

Figure 2. Corpse of the 64 detainees killed from the ‘presidential lodge’ in Damaturu



Source: (Amnesty international 2014).

From Figure 2, it is glaring that the JTF has imbibed the culture of instant execution of people suspected to be Boko Haram members. Innocent citizens are killed during JTF operations and tag as Boko Haram terrorists killed in combat.

The Civilian-JTF is accused of killing innocent civilians suspected to be Boko Haram members. In their attempts to fish out Boko Haram terrorists in their localities, they are alleged to have extra-judicially executed countless presumed Boko Haram terrorists and other civilians suspected to have a link with the group. The U. S Department of State accounts that members of the C-JTF executed four alleged associates of Boko Haram and a police officer who was accused of killing their colleague on the 14th September 2013 (US Department of State, 2013).

Aside from the violation of the right to life analysed above, there are many other violations which are contained in Table 1.

Table 1: Some illegal killings and other human rights violations by counterterrorism operatives

S/N	Date	Location	Fatality	Motivation
1	9 July 2011	Kaleri in Maiduguri, Borno State	18 Killed	JTF killed in retaliation for their dead colleagues
2	27 Dec. 2011	Kawar Maila area of Maiduguri	9 killed	Boko Haram Suspects
3	25 April 2012	Kawar Maila	1 killed & 4 houses burnt	A provoked bomb planted by BH
4	1 May 2012	Kawar Maila	2 killed and many houses burnt	Triggered by BH explosion
5	22 May 2012	Lawan Bukar	1 killed, 13 shops & 5 households razed	Alleged BH bomb blast
6	8 Oct. 2012	Gwange Borno state	Over 70 people killed, 50 houses and 50 vehicles burnt	Indiscriminate shooting by JTF
7	17 Oct. 2012	Gamboru Borno state	About 6 youths killed	Attack on a patrol Van
8	21 Oct. 2012	Maiduguri	15 youths killed	Suspected BH members

Source: Author's compilation with data from (Sampson, 2015; Magaji, 2018)

From Table 1, it can be deduced that most of the human rights abuses melted on the civilians were triggered by alleged Boko Haram strikes on the counterterrorist's operatives. For example, the July 9th, 2011 was retaliation for the death of a counterterrorist member who was killed in a car explosion, allegedly masterminded by Boko Haram. In the same vein, the incident of Gwange indiscriminate shooting that resulted in the dead of over 70 people, burning of about 50 vehicles and destruction of 50 houses was not spontaneous. It was retaliation for the killing of a platoon commander by an IED thought to be planted by Boko Haram.

Correspondingly, Human Rights Watch narrates the January 17 2017 event, when a bombardment of one IDPs camp in Rann Borno state by the Air Component of the JTF. The incident is alleged to have claimed the lives of about 234 people (Human Rights Watch, 2017). An interviewee, who was a member of the air component at the time the incident occurred, admitted that it was a mistake due to distortion in intelligence information relay. In his words he captures the situation thus:

Rann was a place where we in-ardently dropped bombs based on some misinformation that we heard. Unfortunately, it was some form of NGOs sharing food to IDPs. It was a mistake.... It was a United States' imagery drone that saw an unusual gathering, and unfortunately, they communicated to the Nigerian officer working with them. They reported

that a large gathering of people seen around. That was what they wrote. This young man transmitted large gathering of people to large gathering of Boko Haram...the theatre commander, sent that same message to the air component commander... saying take it out immediately. Under that footage, that was how he sent in two fighter jets (KI-1 personal interview, 2018).

He further explained that coincidentally, their bombing of Boko Haram enclaves had never been precisely on target because of the non-precision nature of the bombs. But on this particular day, the two bombs fell right in the heart of the town. 'Meanwhile, there was an army location there just in the town' (KI-1 personal interview, 2018). The above situation would have been averted only if there was a verification of the report sent before carrying out the bombardment. Even if the original report had read a large gathering of Boko Haram, there was a need for verification.

In another interview, an expert informant postulates that in most cases the military does not intentionally kill civilians. He said in some instances the terrorist do force defenceless civilians and used them as shields. According to the interviewee:

They will put them in front position to be chanting Allahu Akbar (God is great in Arabic) as they approach our position... they don't attack us in broad daylight. They do come early in the morning or late in the evening. Under the guise of the night, it is usually difficult for us to know that they have forced civilians to join them. Once they attack us, we do return fire in defence (KI-3 personal interview, 2018).

In the above circumstance, it is quite difficult to avoid civilian casualties. Despite admitting of erroneously carrying out the above airstrike and killings, there are dozens of other accusations that the military never claimed responsibility for.

Detention without a Fair Trial

The JTF and C-JTF have been alleged of committing detention-related human rights breaches. The majority of the Boko Haram suspects are held in custody for years without trial. This in itself is a breach of their right to a free and fair trial. With their prolonged stay in detention, other abuses are inevitable. For instance, some of the detainees are mishandled by the security operatives in an attempt to extract information from them. They are deprived of contacting their family members or attorneys (Mbah, & Nwangwu, 2014). Amnesty International re-echoed this position when they convey that the counterterrorism operatives are in the habit of illegally arresting and detaining people in their military facilities, without sparing children. Accordingly, from April 2017 to October 2017 the military was said to have released 1,353 overstayed detainees. Over 4,900 suspects were detained at Giwa

Barracks military detention facility. Report of dead detainees was a daily occurrence because of the overcrowded nature of the centres (Amnesty International Report, 2018).

The report also states that close to 200 children less than 6 years old were also confined in such congested and germ-infested centres. Worse still, the report averred that there were cases of women given birth in detention (Amnesty International Report, 2018). Some of these women were sexually harassed by the security men, sometimes in return for foods (Amnesty International, 2018). In this impunity state of affairs, the populaces are vulnerable and hopeless in their own country. Thus, in an attempt to thwart Boko Haram activities, the counterterrorism agents seem to have committed grave crimes in northeast Nigeria akin to the infringements perpetrated by the terrorists.

Abuse of Property Rights

The right to own property is recognised worldwide. In recognition of this fact, Nigeria has codified the right to property under the 1999 constitution. Unfortunately, in the counterterrorism operative a small fraction of the Nigerian state has undermined this right in their efforts to counter Boko Haram terrorism. They violate this right through house-to-house pursuit and forced ejections. Once there is Boko Haram strikes in a town, the JTF will cordon off the town and command all the inhabitants of the area to vacate their homes, without allowing them to collect their personal effects. This strategy of force dislodgment has been regularly used by the JTF in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states. In most instances, after the house-to-house search complaints will surface about corporal assaults, destruction of property as stated in Table 1 or conversion of people's property by members of JTF. Such behaviour is an outright violation of the rights to people's property. The military operations in Baga town were not devoid of such violations.

Apart from the loss of lives in the Baga episode, still in Borno state, the C-JTF were suspected to be responsible for the fire that engulfed the abode of the defunct All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) Chairman on the 13th July 2013. The party chairman- Alhaji Othman was accused of being close to members of Boko Haram (Mamah, 2013; Odomovo, 2014). The Nigerian security forces have destroyed countless property while countering terrorism in northeast Nigeria (The Japan Times, 2016). In the extremely affected areas of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states, the inability to distinguish members of Boko Haram from the general population has generated bad blood between the security operatives and the general public. They see the members of the society as collaborating with the terrorist. With this mindset during operations, the military operatives burn down cars, shops, houses, and other property with impunity (Williams & Guttschuss, 2012).



Reasons for Counterterrorism Abuse of Human Rights

The outcry about human rights violations by Nigeria's counterterrorism agents prompted an investigation into the cause of their actions. Inferring into the account of Key informant-1 (KI-1) above who admitted that the military mistakenly violated the right to life of some civilians, it is glaring that lack of required training was responsible for their action. Nigerian security agents need to be trained in the act of combating terrorism because fighting terrorism is quite different from fighting a conventional war (Ogunlana, 2011). Acquisition of intelligence training is required for the identification of Boko Haram gathering (CI-1 personal interview 2018). Adequate training to a large extent can avert some operational challenges that occasionally result in human rights abuses during counterterrorism. One of these challenges is the identification of the target. The terrorist doesn't have a uniform and purposely strive to mingle with the local population. Thus making target identification extremely difficult (Abodurin, 2014; Aliyu, Moorthy & Idris, 2015).

Related to the above is the issue of corruption, which has become endemic in Nigeria. In this context, the resources allocated for counterterrorism measures are diverted for other intentions rather than the original objective. An example of such diversion can be seen in the \$2.1 million 'Dasukigate' (Arms Deal Scandal) which indicted the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (Rtd), some senior military generals and politicians (Maiangwa, 2014; Duke et al., 2016). These resources that were primitively looted are meant to cater for the welfare of the counterterrorism personnel. When the appropriated funds are siphoned by the military top brass, the other ranks are denied their meagre entitlements. By implication it means sometimes the allowances of those combating terrorism are not paid. In other to survive they result in activities that Human rights organisations call human rights violations (EI-5 personal interview 2018; KI-2 personal interview 2018).

Interestingly, these seldom paid allowances were as meagre as N500 per day, as of 2013 (Oyewole, 2013). In this regard, the moral of junior officers will be low, thus exposing the civilians to abuses by the ill-treated field counterterrorism officers. Commenting on the challenge of welfare, an interviewee laments that:

You cannot deploy someone into a war zone, risking his life serving his country faithfully and patriotically, at the end of the day the basic entitlements and allowances are not been addressed... In that case, you have some of the military personnel... also engaging in some forms of corrupt practices in the form of extortion of ordinary citizens (EI-4 personal interview, 2018).

To corroborate the position of EI-4, another key informant who took part in the fight against Boko Haram affirms that "We are not well taken care of" (KI-3 personal interview 2018).



The unfair treatment of the counterterrorism troops was noticed by the local dwellers. One community informant agreed that some of the troops are involved in extortion and looting. She maintains that the non-payment or diversion of their allowances is responsible for all these unethical behaviours (CI-9 personal interview, 2018).

The civilians too are blamed for the violation of their rights. Some locals are sympathetic to Boko Haram's cause. They are accused of refusing to give information about their relatives who are members of Boko Haram. "They protect the members of this sect by hiding them when the soldiers are sighted...That is why when the military come they don't spare anybody" (CI-3 personal interview, 2018). Another point worthy of note is how people in combat operations can adhere to the Geneva Convention on the rules of war. How for instance you can instead of killing a terrorist you pick him as a prisoner of war in face of obvious attack. These things in principle appear logical but in practice, it is usually one of the difficult decisions to take (EI-1 personal interview, 2018).

Conclusion

The Nigerian state is confronted with a lot of security threats. Boko Haram menace is one of such threats, which has wreaked havoc on the human rights of the people of Northeast Nigeria. Attempts by the government through predominantly military counterterrorism initiatives to end the Boko Haram onslaught and reduce its consequences on the masses is also thwarted by a lack of concern for human security in Nigeria. This is manifested in the sharp practices exhibited by some Nigerian counterterrorism agents that further compounds the already shattered human right situation in Northeast Nigeria.

Despite the brilliant performances of the Nigerian counterterrorism agents, the impacts on human rights are an indication that the battle is far from been over. The provision of the necessities of life in which their absence instigated the emergence of Boko Haram is a panacea for sustainable peace in Nigeria. This will also have a snowballing effect on the performances of the counterterrorist operatives. Since the human security-oriented counterterrorism approach is required for peace to be restored and sustained in Nigeria after almost ten years of human rights violations caused by Boko haram, efforts should be made to carry out counterterrorism based on international best practices. More so, those counterterrorist operatives found acting unethically should be held accountable.

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