

Terrorism: an Albatross to Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria's Fourth Republic

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Abstract

Terrorism has become a common feature of the Nigerian political system. The current posture of terrorism in Nigeria has become a serious threat to the peace, security and development of Nigeria. The political implication of terrorism has been deadly in Nigerian democratic governance. Many lives and property have been destroyed in Nigeria, especially in the Northern Nigeria by the Boko Haram deadly attacks while the Nigerian political environment continue to produce social insecurity and enduring political diaphragm. The political dimension of terrorism and insecurity has been examined in this study. The study argued that strategic intelligence is a vital instrument to fight terrorism in Nigeria. The study suggest, among others, that a special unit of counterterrorism should be created in the military, devoted entirely to book Haram and other terrorist group that may rear their ugly head in future.

Keywords: Terrorism, Democratic Consolidation, Strategic Intelligence and Boko Haram.

Introduction

Terrorism which has become a global phenomenon is a deliberate and systematic use of violence to destroy, kill, maim and intimidate the innocent in order to achieve a goal or draw national/international attention or demands which ordinarily may be impossible or difficult to achieve under normal political negotiation or on the battle field against a government army (Chukwurah, Eme & Igbeje, 2015:371). Terrorism whether internationalized or localized is always politically motivated. Though it may also show other auxiliary motives include religion, economic and social reasons. These motives constitute the ideology of a case for which terrorism seeks solution or sympathy of all terrorist groups that have ravaged Nigeria.

Terrorism has become a common feature of the Nigerian political system. It would be recalled that in September 12, 2007, the Australian government issued a travel advisory advising its citizens to re-consider their needs in travelling to Nigeria due to the high threat of terrorist attack, high risk of kidnapping, unprecedented security situation and the heightened risk of violent civil unrest (Chinwokwu, 2013). This was sequel to an earlier warning issued on September 6, 2007 by the US Mission in Lagos to her citizens against travelling to Nigeria due to high risk of terrorist threat and attack against the west (Ojiabor, 2007). The current posture of terrorism in Nigeria has become a serious threat to the peace, security and development of Nigeria. Presently, act of terrorism in Nigeria is being perpetrated by a group known as Boko Haram. These terrorists have graduated from attacking innocent citizens at night to bombing and kidnapping at will including the law enforcement agents at gun points in broad day light. The approach adopted by the Nigerian government in fighting terrorism solely depends on the deployment of troops to areas under attack. This has not helped the situation as the major terrorist group (Boko Haram) in Nigeria has continued to hold many towns in the North-East of the country captive.

The Boko Haram is undoubtedly the most blood thirsty and destructive both in terms of its demonic brutality, mindless savagery and increasingly in scope of operation (Obioma, 2009). According to Wilkman (1992) “fighting terrorism is like being a goal keeper. You can make a hundred brilliant saves but the only shot that people remember is the one that gets past you”. Thus, there is the need to adopt effective security strategies that will make it very difficult for terrorist groups to operate in Nigeria, as well as detect their plans on time and destabilize them. This study will generally look into the issues of terrorism and democratic consolidation in Nigeria with Boko Haram terrorist group as our specific area of concern. Thus, this present study aims to provide security agencies and other bodies saddled with the task of fighting terrorism the need to employ strategic intelligence to effectively fight against terrorism in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

Terrorism:

Terrorism is increasingly understood as a political act meant to inflict dramatic and deadly injury on civilians and to create an atmosphere of acute fear and despair (generally for a political or ideological, whether secular or religious, purpose), but the term is notoriously difficult to define. The use of violence to create fear, often through the targeting of third parties and with the elements of surprise and the undermining of very personal security, is a tool used by a variety of historical and contemporary actors (large, 2005). Terrorism is a term used to describe violence or other harmful acts. According to Chukwurah et al (2015:373), terrorism “is a special crime associated with violent, victimization, threatening, frightening, and disruption of socio-political atmosphere in a particular society. It is an act of bombing, killing, kidnapping, maiming and destruction thereby creating socio-political tension, extremely fear, and destabilizing existing government or political opposition”. It implies deadly attack on government agency and functionary, international organization, military and civilian in order to gain international recognition.

Democracy:

Democracy, adequately understood, is a theory that sets some basic principles according to which a good governance, whatever its form, must be run (Oluwole, 2003). Such principles include those of justice, equity, freedom, liberty, accountability, openness and transparency in government (Adagbabiri & Okolie, 2015: 158). Indeed, effective democratic forms of governance rely on public participation, accountability and transparency. In most countries today, it is these principles that are used as criteria for distinguishing between good and bad governments. It will be observed that Nigeria democracy has been under the heavy threat of terrorism especially by the Book-Haram group (Okpala & Isonah, 2016:441).

Democratic Consolidation:

Diamond (1999) sees democratic consolidation as the process of achieving broad and deep legitimation such that all significant political actors believe that popular rule is better for their society than any other realistic alternative they can imagine. It also connects the act of reducing the probability of the breakdown of the system to the point where democracy can be said that it will Persist. Kwasau (2013:182) sees democratic consolidation as regime maintenance and about regarding the key political institutions as the only legitimate framework for political contestation and adherence to the democratic rules of the game. It manifest under enhanced economic development, developed democratic culture, stable party system, suffice to assert that this cannot be attained in Nigeria until stability is attained. This therefore shows that though under democratic regime, Nigeria is striving for consolidation.

Boko Haram:

This is an Islamic sect of terrorist in the Northern parts of Nigeria with dastardly activities against the democratic governance and processes of government in Nigeria. Their activities has manifest greatly in the various bombs/guns attacks on police station, barracks, prisons, churches, as well as other public institutions and prominent personalities. Boko haram is also a Hausa term for “Western Education is forbidden” (Okpala & Isonah, 2016:442). Boko Haram has created widespread tension across Northern Nigeria and between various ethnic communities, interrupted commercial activities, frightens investors and generated concerns among Nigerians Northern neighbours. This unprecedented state of terrorism by the by Boko Harama sect in Nigeria has ruined the tranquility of the Northern atmosphere and high rate of insecurity pervading Northern region in particular and the nation in general is alarming and is a cause for serious concern to well meaning Nigerians.

Strategic Intelligence

Strategic Intelligence simply means secret information necessary to the battlefield. This is a pretty logical definition and does not totally express the essence. The pentagon also defined strategic intelligence simply as “the information required for stating/planning strategies, policies and military operations nationally and in the theater of operations”. However, strategic intelligence means the information needed to create and implement a strategy, usually a great strategy which bureaucrats call a national strategy (Marcau & Ciorei, 2013). Strategic intelligence process integrates economic, political, military, environmental, technological and social information for use in assessments and forecasts (Anegbode & Alonge, 2016: 268). Strategic intelligence is very necessary since we live in a world where new kind of threats with varying characteristics are beginning to emerge; making the fight against terrorism very difficult. Thus, the concern of strategic intelligence is to monitor internal security situation and acquire intelligence on developments within the country having a bearing on national security.

Literature Review

Terrorism

Terrorism, in the most widely accepted contemporary usage of the term, is fundamentally and inherently political. It is also ineluctably about power: the pursuit of power, the acquisition of power, and the use of power to achieve political change (Chukwurah et al., 2015:373). Terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation to achieve political ends. Terrorists want to change the way governments and politicians behave. They do not do this by voting or by trying to convince people of their arguments. They do it by frightening people into behaving the way the terrorists want (BBC, Monday July 11 2015). Eke (2013 cited in Chukwurah et al. 2015) define terrorism as actions focusing on harming some people in order to create fear by targeting civilians and facilities or system on which civilians rely. The United States Department of Defence quoted in (Nkwede, 2013) conceptualized terrorism thus;

“The calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological”.

From the above definition, it is obvious that terrorism is the calculated use of violence, or threat of violence to induce fear in order to intimidate governments or members of societies, so as to achieve some political, religious or ideological goals. Nigeria has in recent times been witnessing an upsurge in terror related attacks. Even though, the country is not new to attacks, but the dimension it has taken and the nature of weapons being used by the terror groups have heightened the fears in the mind of the people. It is no longer an assumption that Nigeria has now graduated from a nation with minor act of terrorism into the anachronic league of Nations affected by terrorism (Salawu & Adeoti, 2015).

Wilkinson (2006:328) suggests that terrorism can be distinguished from other forms of violence in the following way:

- It is premeditated and designed to create a climate of extreme fear.
- It is directed at a wider target than the immediate victims.
- It is considered by the society in which it occurs as ‘extra-normal’, that is, it violates the norms regulating disputes, protest and dissent.
- It is used primarily, though not exclusively to influence the political behaviour of governments, communities or specific social groups.

Wilkinson further provides typologies of terrorist movements or groups: Ethno-nationalist groups, that is, those identified by ethnicity and political motivation; ideological terrorist groups this includes terrorist groups that want to create a state based on an ideology (e.g. A communist state); the other categories are the religious-political groups-such as the Boko Haram sect in Nigeria, which aims to create an Islamic republic (Zumve, Ingyoroko & Akuva, 2013: 126). Political terrorism is the deliberate use or threats of violence against non combatants, calculated to instill fear in an audience beyond the immediate victims. He says that because perpetrators of terrorism often strike symbolic targets in a horrific manner, the psychological impact of an attack can exceed the physical damage. He concluded that terrorism is a mixture of drama and dread. Despite the fact that terrorism could not be said to be a senseless violence, rather it is a premeditated political cum social strategy that threaten people with a coming danger that seem ubiquitous, unavoidable and sometimes unpreventable (Kegley, 2011 cited in Raji, 2013).

Weapons used by terrorist groups in Nigeria include; bombs, grenades, arms, ammunitions of various degree of lethal capacity and explosive device of various lethal capacity. The major target of terrorist group (Boko Haram) in Nigeria include; churches, mosque, government agencies, military installations, residential buildings of security official (barracks) and commercial hot-spots like markets, parks, and even banks, in one of which they harvested N41 million, as revealed by the sect's top shot, Abu Qada (Okeroecha, 2012 cited in Anegbode & Alonge, 2016:268).

Eight Signs of Terrorism

The New Hampshire Department of Safety quoted in (Chukwurah et al., 2015:274) Suggest 8 Signs of terrorism which include the following:

- **Surveillance-** Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras, note taking, drawing, diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision- enhancing devices.
- **Elicitation-** People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, e-mail, telephone, or in person. This could also include eavesdropping or friendly conversation.
- **Tests of Security-** Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches, attempts to penetrate physical security barriers, or monitor procedures in order to assess strengths and weakness.
- **Funding-** Suspicious transaction involving large cash payments, deposits, or withdrawals are common signs of terrorist funding. Collections of donations, the solicitation for money and criminal activity are also warning signs.
- **Supplies-** Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunitions, etc. this also includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) and any other controlled items.
- **Impersonation** – People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else. This includes suspicious border crossings; the impersonation of law enforcement, military personnel, or company employees is also a sign.
- **Rehearsal-** Putting people in position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.
- **Deployment** – People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is the person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

Theoretical Framework

The theories guiding this study are: Relative deprivation theory and causality theory. The relative deprivation theory popularized by Claire (2011) is adopted as a theoretical approach underpinning the study. The relative deprivation is the experience of being deprived of something one believes to be entitled. It refers to the discontent people feel when they compare their positions to others and realize that they have less of what they believe themselves to be entitled than those around them (Davis, 2011 cited in Chukwurah, Eme & Ogebe, 2015).

Relative deprivation theory holds that instead of an absolute standard of deprivation, a gap between expected and achieved welfare leads men to violence (Claire, 2011). Claire went further to provide a psychological approach to explain how collective discontent is manifested in violence.

According to him, the primary source of human capacity for violence appears to be the frustration aggression mechanism. The anger induced by frustration is a motivating force that disposes men to aggression, irrespective of its instrumentalities. In the words of Omer Taspinar (2012), Relative deprivation is the gap between high expectations and missing opportunities. To him, social, cultural, political and economic awareness grows at the heart of relative deprivation and this in turn fuels expectations. When these expectations are not forthcoming, the deprived could resort to violence to seek redress. All the views expressed boils down to the major thrust of the relative deprivation theory which holds that when people are deprived of things which they deem valuable in the society whether money, justice, status or privilege to join social movements with the aim of redressing their grievances (Chukwurah et al., 2015:375). When applied to the Boko Haram insurgency in the North, we submit that the loss of a spiritual leader in the person of Mohammed Yusuf deprived the sect members of a role model, source of inspiration and a spiritual guide whom the sect boldly needed at the formative stage to nurture and grow the new faith.

The arrest and subsequent death of some sect members in the hands of security agents was to the group, a deprivation of the right to life of their loved ones and brotherly love and affection which those deceased provided while they were still alive (Chukwurah et al., 2015:375). Furthermore, the refusal of the Federal Government to fully abolish Western education and allow for an Islamic model was to the sect, a deprivation of the right to home grown model of education which conforms to the custom and tradition of the Islamic faith. The refusal of the Federal Government to sign and thus make way for the immediate establishment of the Islamic state for the entire north was to them, a deprivation of the right to self- governance/rule as Goodluck Jonathan's presidency was seen by them as an imposition of an unbeliever to rule over the Muslim territory. Also, the refusal of Christian minority to leave the north was to the sect, a deprivation of the right to a territorial integrity devoid of sinful infidels who according to the sect pollute and profane a holy territory of 'Allah' the only God (Chukwurah et al., 2015:375).

The theory of causality attempted to give reasons why individuals commit criminal acts. The theory of causality argues that, crime was a protest or an incipient rebellion by the poor against the social conditions which prevented them from acquiring good, and that in a capitalist society the poor and powerless were forced into crime in order to survive (Quinney, 1980).

Additionally, criminality among the youths especially the lower- class has been attributed to various forms of frustration such as lack of money or failure to achieve respect derived from economic disadvantages (Greenberg, 1977 cited in Zumve et al., 2013:131). This assumption is further reiterated by the frustration aggression theory which argues that:

"Frustration simply means the act of preventing someone from making an advancement, progress or success in life, this blockage likely result to dissatisfaction in an individual or group who turn to react in a violent manner (aggression) as an indication of protest against hindrance to succeed. When these occur, it can produce feelings of anger, which in turn can generate feelings of aggression and aggressive behaviour" (www.Alleydog.com).

Another causal factor of crime causation put forward by (Zumve et al. 2015) is unemployment. Unemployment is considered to be the underlying cause of violence and aggressive criminal acts like terrorism. This is in conformity with what Human Right watch researcher Eric Guttzuschuss observed about the recruitment of Boko Haram foot soldiers by their leader. He said Yusuf successfully attracted followers from unemployed youth by speaking out against police and political corruption. The fact that in most cases the outcome of the elitist imposed policies consist of widespread unemployment, corruption and poverty tend to worsen the peoples' sense of alienation and frustration in the political system, which often translate into disobedience of the state and the resort to violence as a means to change the legitimacy of the state. This explains in part the Boko Haram militancy in the North. It is within this context that the worsening social tensions, economic inequality, poverty and increased spate of insecurity in the country since Goodluck Jonathan's administration till date.

Grievances of the Masses against the Government of Nigeria

There is of course no country in the world in which the citizens are not at least have some forms of complaint about their government. Many kind of grievance can lead to a scheme between the state and its citizens, and sometimes this can result to various forms of political violence including insurgency and terrorism. Throughout Africa, one of the most common areas of a population animosity towards the state has involves bad governance as (William 1996), noted, governance in Africa has often been based on very narrow, parochial interest including tribal clan or family loyalties to which collective interest of general citizenry are subordinated. Nigeria ruling elites have shown their disregard for the general behaviour of the citizenry, furthermore, their actions and policy decisions have contributed to the loss of legitimacy among ordinary Nigeria. For the purpose of this study, the most common and salient grievances includes: corruption among political and Economic Elites. Economic Disparity, Barriers to Social and Educational Opportunity, Energy Supply, Poverty, Environmental Destruction, Human Insecurity and Injustices. All of these are summarized as follows:

1. Corruption in Nigeria Democracy

In Nigeria, corruption has greatly weakened the stands of trust between the state and the citizen. The country represents well, what Islam Sharabi describes as neapotriachy. In Nigeria, the powerful makes decision based on what they believed us required for their political survival and the economic security of their family. During the Sani Abacha regime in 1990s it set an awful standard for plundering the nation's resources, money was stolen openly and with impunity with an estimation of over 8 billion naira and most of those responsible have never be held to account for their crimes.

The system that enable such thievery that remained till date, a system in which resources are channeled through a state that control access to jobs and wealth, the list of corruption cases in Nigeria is endless. Corruption is a potential source of insurgency and grievances of the governed in Nigeria which has posed threat to security and peace (Okpala & Isonah, 2016:442).

2. Lack of Infrastructures, Basic Amenities and Equalities

In concert with massive corruption there is high unemployment and unequal provision of basic amenities like clean drinking water. Furthermore an overwhelming majority of Nigerians live below the UN designated poverty threshold, with no access to jobs or decent education and minimum wages in some parts of the country at 50 dollar per month or less. In addition, there is widely-held presentation of “favoured justice” in which some individuals allegedly receive better treatment in the courts than other Nigerians because of their wealth, ethnicity, kinship or connection to the corridor of power. Beyond pervasive inequalities there is also a wide gap between expectation for a better life and daily reality also with no income taxes or social security, the economic system result in ordinary, Nigeria have less interest in fulfilling their obligations in a participatory democracy like holding their government officials accountable (Chukwurah et al., 2015).

Despite billions of naira spent over the decades, Nigerians are in disrepair, its water, energy, health and educational system are in crisis and basic necessities like jobs or credits from banks are in short supply. Electricity in Nigeria is in poor condition, a recent economist article described it Nigeria is the seventh most populated country in the world, but it has as much grid power as Bradford, a post industrial town in the north of England. Over 30 billion dollars has been spent on improving the energy sector in recent years, yet Nigeria is the world leaders in the private demand for generators. Lack of electricity is by one account, the Nigeria economic “single biggest bottleneck” it is somewhat ironic that the country with African’s largest energy resources would be so energy poor, but large region of Nigeria are without electricity (Okpala & Isonah, 2016:443).

As Abdel-Fatan Musa (2012) observed that Nigeria has an uncanny habit of exporting what is in scarce supply in the country (Electricity to Benin, Liberia and Togo) while imparting what it has in abundance, such as petroleum products. The cumulative effect of the above grievance is dejection and marginalization. With the combination of bad governance, centralization of power and wealth, political intrigue, crumbling (or non-existent) infrastructure, regional disparities and many more problems that cannot be mentioned here led to the grievances. It is therefore no wonder that many observers has argued that Nigeria offers the kinds and extremists have found fertile ground for recruiting and launching violent movements. But exacerbating the conditions even further is the prominent role that the system of institutionalized ethnic identity a key factor in many instances of political violence worldwide plays in the political and social lives of Nigeria.

Ethno- Political and Religious Violence in Northern Nigeria

While violence in the South of Nigeria is mainly secular and driven by grievances associated with resources and environmental damages, the north has seen far more ethnic, by politicians for political gain and profit, especially in the areas where neither Muslims nor Christians are majority. Resource scarcity and ethnic identity politics play a preeminent role in the conflicts of this region for example, over the past decades an increasing number of the pastoralist Hausa-Fulani have migrate south ward from the drought-ridden north, bringing with them cattle that are encroaching on more fertile lands, historically conflicts have sometimes been portrayed in the media as being Muslims versus Christians, while infact the violence has frequently been fueled by land use issues and indigenous versus settlers rights.

For example, a major outbreak of violence in February 1992 in the town of Zongo, Kaduna State between Hausa – Fulani and Kataf Christian was largely over land ownership and access to markets. Also in November 2011, what was described by Reuters as religious violence was actually clash over the ownership of cattle and fertile farmland in Barkin Ladi, an area in the city of Jos, plateau State that left many people dead. In essence, the social economic and political routs of the conflicts in northern Nigeria tend to run much deeper than the South. In truth, an understanding of the complex nature of the environment in the north of Nigeria can only be gained through an appreciation of the history of Islamism in the region and specially the polarization of religion and the evolution of the Boko-Harama movement which represent our area of concentration.

Politicization of Religion and the Evolution of the Boko-Haram Movement

The Northern region of Nigeria has always been a very fertile ground for religious activities beginning with the Jihad of Uthma Dan Fodio in the early 18th century, partly because of the inability or unwillingness of the ruling elite to separate political from religious. Since they often derived legitimacy from religious and not the people they frequently employ religion as a political weapon for self preservation, mass mobilization perpetuation office and diversion for attention from their ineptitude, corruption and incompetence. This is not peculiar to the north front as Yusuf Bala Usman (2012) has rightly observed. "The intermediary bourgeois (The ruling elite) cannot claim political leadership openly on the grounds that they are or wants to be an exporter, shareholder, renter or rich bureaucrat. The manipulation of religion in Nigeria today is essentially a means of creating the context for this fancy dress ball, for this charade of disguised. This game of marks thus, while the ruling elites in the southern region of Nigeria which is predominantly Christian, have been patronizing Christianity for selfish political gains, their northern counterparts have also been manipulating Islam for the same purpose. But the situation in the north if more manifests, because of its relatively monolithic character; a situation brought about first by the Jihad and later by colonialism. Ever since, many fundamental religious groups, most prominent being the maitatsine sect, evolved to confront the pretention ruling elites (Okpala & Isonah, 2016: 444).

Fighting Terrorism through Strategic Intelligence

Since strategic intelligence is that intelligence required for the formation of national defense policy and military plans at both the national and international levels, its function is to identify security threats that a nation is likely to face in the future. With respect to this, the requirement of timely and accurate intelligence by the armed forces and other security agencies is absolutely essential if they have to carry out their assigned missions efficiently and successfully. Strategic intelligence also enables decision makers to effectively make policy based on the knowledge they have about situations. Intelligence gives the long- range planner the confidence to make the best decisions possible in order to implement national strategy. Intelligence experts are viewed as the primary source of guidance for decision makers in implementing risk assessment processes (Payne, 2009). Thus, it is only a professional and objective officer well versed in intelligence process that can provides such advice and guidance required to make risk assessment. However, any guidance would have limited value if it is not being willingly or openly received. With a proper analysis and knowledge of the strategic situation, intelligence helps to identify an opponent, their mission, who they have employed to carry out the mission for them, their target and the various tactics they have devised to carry out their mission. The knowledge of such information will help to prevent act of terror and also help the security agents to effectively defend the facilities and people to be attacked by the terrorist (Anegbode & Alonge, 2016:269). In addition, the identification of an opponent is absolutely essential for the intelligence services to function. If the identification is not correct, the state may end up countering the wrong opponent or use the wrong tools.

Another major contribution of strategic intelligence is the collection of information about terrorist individual acts, leading terrorists, cells, and the groups that are used in order to be able to disintegrate terrorist organizations. Due to the fact that the terrorists have identities, they meet other persons, move, and communicate present a great quantity of available information that, though fragmentary and incomplete, it can provide tracks on the position, and the terrorist activities. In other words, strategic intelligence discovers potentially hidden facts and/or intentions and following such discovery to analyse information in order to be able to act promptly. It also helps in obtaining information in time. This is very necessary because information not obtained in time is likely to be unhelpful or the interpretation may not be made on time.

For instance, the former inspector general of police, Mr Mike Okiro in 2008 raised alarm over threats by Ai-Qaeda to launch an attack using time bomb on Nigerian soil. In November, 2007, five Islamist militants with suspected links to Ai-Qaeda were arrested by the state security service with three of them charged with training in Algeria with the salafist group for preaching and combat between 2005-2007. These men were held for some months, then released on bail and their case was never heard again in the court. Again, a terrorist suspected to belong to Ai-Qaeda network, Ibrahim Haman Ahmed, accused of trying to recruit young Nigerian Muslims to join the terrorist organization was arrested in Nigeria and latter extradited to the US for trail (Anegbode, Alonge & Okhaide, 2010). These examples and many more not mention here are the various instances that Nigerian government obtained intelligence report about intending threat but refused to act or analyse the information in order to be able to act promptly, hence the security threats were perfectly executed one after the other.

Today, it is obvious that Boko Haram is being sponsored by Ai-Qaeda and the international terrorist group is using the local terrorist group (Boko Haram), to launch bombs on Nigeria soil. It is also on record that Boko Haram now recruits young Nigerian Muslims and non-Muslims into the terrorist organization to perpetrate act of terror in the country (Anegbode & Longe, 2016) On the other hand, information obtained in time and acted on promptly helps to check act of terrorism. For instance, the attempt to assassinate the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia was a plot that was foiled on the basis of information, by the Federal Bureau of intelligence (FBI) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). On the basis of the same information it was established that those involved had also planned bomb attacks against the Saudi and Israel Embassy in Washington- the information was processed and used in due time, so that the incident was avoided (Marcau & Ciorei, 2013).

Conclusion and Recommendations

From the foregoing, terrorism is one of the major threats to peace and security in Nigeria today. Terrorist threats are highly topical and won't disappear in Nigeria in the next decade. Most likely they will undergo changes so that diversification will be unstoppable, thus, the fight against terrorism is not, and cannot be easy. This is not necessarily because terrorists would be very powerful, but because they are devoid of any logic and any philosophy. Through patience and vigilance, terrorists continue their cause through an understanding of our society. Thus, it becomes imperative to do the same and to obtain information about those who choose to attack our freedoms and our way of life. The information collection will prove invaluable in this case, but this tool must be used as well as possible at strategic level. The ideology of Boko Haram has spread in part because of many socio-economic grievances that have produced a perceived marginalization and insecurity among northern Muslim communities. Furthermore, it's animosity towards the Nigeria government is shared broadly among Nigerians regardless of faith but particularly in the north and among Muslim communities.

Finally, we assert that economic deprivation, frustration and desperation are the underlying causes of terrorism in Nigeria. The following recommendation is made to address the challenges of terrorism as a threat to democratic consolidation in Nigeria:

1. Fundamentally, government must address the problems of mass unemployment, poverty and illiteracy concretely in order to bring peace to bear.
2. There is urgent need to make leadership in the north to show deeper concern for the problem at hand. They must reach out to Boko Haram leadership who live among them and find ways of talking to them to drop their guns and bombs. This is important because the economy in the north and indeed Nigeria is under great threat and the time to act is now.
3. An improved intelligence gathering is needed to curb future violence. What we are witnessing in Nigeria are the consequences of lack of national intelligence security system that fails to recognize that contemporary system demands more reliable and timely intelligence than guns and armoured personnel carriers.
4. Intelligence service units should be created and strengthened in all the security agencies in Nigeria, as this will automatically make it easier to prevent and fight terrorism. Strengthening of the intelligence retrieval capacity will primarily lead to a harder approach to the fight against terrorism and to less focus on the cause of terrorism and how to prevent it with a more gentle approach.
5. A special unit of counterterrorism should be created in the liminary, devoted entirely to Boko Haram and to subsequent terrorist group that may rear their ugly head in future. Equally, a special trained team should be recruited to implement intelligence work.
6. Law enforcement, security, and intelligence staff need to continually monitor the activities of terrorist gangs because future act of terrorism may be drawn from them.
7. All security agencies in the country must begin to exchange information about terrorist organizations (share intelligence) and work together to foil terrorist plans. The antiterrorist fight must include joint strategic cooperation, common and pragmatic and sincere cooperation among the various security agencies.
8. The government should put in place more precise measures to deal with corrupt bureaucrats and politicians. There should be a shift from rhetoric to practical ways of punishing identified corrupt public officials and sponsors of terrorism.
9. The government should develop a new social compact with its northern citizens and evolve an economic recovery strategy to complements its security strategy.
10. Modern security gargets should be provide to security agencies, as it will help to enhance easy tracking of terrorist and their sponsors.

11. We reject in its totality the call for amnesty for the Boko Haram sect as it will send a bad signal to other militia groups like MOSSOB and OPC to the effect that the government of Nigeria understands only the language of violence and they will want to toe the same line.
12. The security agencies should be honest in their dealing as this will motivate the general public to freely and willingly give out information that will help to detect threats and also prevent their execution by terrorist groups.

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