BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY: THE AGONY OF THE FAMILY OF THE MISSING PERSONS IN GWOZA BORNO STATE NIGERIA

DR. HABIBU H. BABAJO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
FCT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ZUBA ABUJA-NIGERIA
INTRODUCTION

• The inception and sprouts of the deadly terrorist organization Boko Haram started in the Borno state Nigeria, after the killing of its spiritual leader, Mohammed Yusuf by the Nigerian police in 2009. Prior to the killing of the leader, the group were on missionary rampage from one village to another selling their ideas of Jihad (Holy war) against the established political system of Nigeria (Democracy).
Their rebellious nature started with disobeying some rules and regulations governing the country, such as the traffic rules, like wearing the safety helmet by the motorcycle riders, jumping the traffic red lights and committing other civil offences. Boko Haram endorses a kind of Islam (dissimilar to all Islamic sects) which makes it "haram", or illegal, for Muslims to take part in any activity related with Western society. This includes participation in electoral activities, partaking in a secular education and any other religious event that they did not subscribed. Boko Haram regards the Nigerian state as being run by infidels, regardless of whether the leader is Muslim or Christian.
Location of the Study

• Gwoza is one of the local government areas of Borno State. It is 135 km away from the capital city (Maiduguri). Borno is the second largest Nigerian state after Sokoto, covering 70,898Km2. The landmass and forests gave the people high advantage in their farming activities, where they produce most of the needed grains in the state.

• However, the mass land also provided the Boko haram insurgence a hiding place around the Sambisa forest. Gwoza has rocky and hilly topography. Gwoza Hills, with heights of about 1300m above sea level provides scenery and is made up of the Mandara Mountains, which form a natural barrier between Nigeria and Cameroon, starting from Pulka village.
LITERATURE REVIEW

• The study gathered that, the smaller children cry bitterly and continuously in the first week their parents disappeared. Also, the findings of this research indicated the trauma of parental disappearance as it affects the lives of their siblings. Scholars like Jamaluddin (2013), Tabbaa, Lei, Liu & Wang (2017) emphasized the importance of parents to live with their children more especially in their early life period. Teenagers that were accorded closer ties and good supervision from their biological parents were found less involved in delinquent behaviours (Jamaluddin, 2013).
RESULTS

• CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS ARE MISSING
• During the in-depth interview it was discovered that children whose parents vanished misses their parents so much. All the three children disclosed the way they are missing their parents. CPM-1 revealed that: “I’m really missing my mother, there was bomb blast near our house and everybody ran out to different destinations, and till now nobody has any information about her”
The agony of women who lost their husbands in this part of the World is a trifold. First the trauma of missing someone so dear like a husband is very terrible. The women permanently live with a mix feeling of hope and fear. Everyday they keep watching the roads and streets in hope of seeing their husbands.

Secondly, absence of a husband is the same with absence of food, because the men in this area provide the whole meal for their family.

Another issue is the question of social status. In Gwoza, Women who are living on their own without a husband are not respected and it doesn’t matter process of the absence of the husband.
• WHM-1 stated that “since the disappearance of my husband, I lost everything in this life. Even the family of my husband abandoned me, their attention is focused on their family. Although, I don’t blame them because everybody is trying to survive.

• WHM-3 narrated that “It was around 2.30am one fateful day in August, 2016 a loud a terrifying blast woke everybody in Gwoza and sporadic gun shits makes families to flee to different destinations, and that is the last day I saw my husband.
HUSBANDS WHOSE WIVES ARE MISSING

- The research discovered that many husbands lost their wives to the Boko Haram terrorist group. HWM-2 stated that “I lost my wife to the Boko Haram group. They abducted her in a bush around our village where the women fetch firewood. It was 5pm and we were all disturbed, because Hulera normally comes back around 12 noon. I took my first son and two men and searched for her till night but no trace until now”
POLICY IMPLICATION/RECOMMENDATIONS

• This research is of the view that Boko Haram Insurgency has gone beyond Nigeria or African problem, therefore there is a need for the developed countries to give a second look at the problem before it escalates.

• African countries such as Niger Republic, Cameroun, Chad and Benin should put more efforts in fighting this insurgency.

• United Nation Organization should consider military support for Nigeria in the fight against insurgency.
CONCLUSION

• It is pathetic the way many villages are ransacked, abducted, humiliated and killed by the terrorist group without any effort by the authorities to arrest the situation. Many people went missing without a trace ranging from children and adults. Until governments at all levels come together with the sole aim of arresting the problem, people will continue to get lost and the society will be at great disadvantage.
• THANK YOU FOR LISTENING