International Law and Terrorism: An Assessment of the Impact of Some Selested Terorist Groups in the International System

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Abstract

The paper explored international law and terrorism with emphasis on Boko Haram and Bandit in northern Nigeria. Boko Haram and banditry posed a serious threat to Nigeria's socio-economic development. Millions of people have lost their lives as a result of attacks by the deadly groups. Also, millions of people have been displaced from their homes which have led to the loss of economic livelihood which is basically agriculture. The objectives of the study are; examine the impact of Boko Haram and bandit on lives, properties and social displacement of people; analyze how terrorism contravenes international law. The realist theory propounded by Morgenthau was adopted as our theoretical framework. Secondary source of data was deployed for the study; it involves the collection of data from textbooks, magazines and conference papers amongst others. The study finds out that Boko Haram is the major threat to the socio-economic development in the northeast region. Meaningful development cannot thrive in an atmosphere of insecurity. Socio-economic activities in the north east region of Nigeria have been crippled due to attacks arising from Boko Haram insurgent. The study recommends that the Nigeria security agencies coordinating the war against Boko Haram should live- up to their responsibilities particularly in the area of intelligence gathering to enable them bring to an end the activities of the deadly Islamist sect in the northeast. When there is no synergy between the various security agencies, it can compromise the war against terrorism in Nigeria.

Keywords: International law, Terrorism, Boko Haram Banditry, Socio-economic Development

Introduction

Every society makes laws to regulate the behavior and conduct of its member. Again, it is important to note that every society, irrespective of its population, makes a legal framework (law) under which it functions and develops. Santos (1995) noted that it is permissive in nature as it allows individuals to form legal relations with rights and duties and restrictive in nature as it punishes the wrong-doers. These laws are referred to as Municipal laws. International law refers to a set of rules, agreements, and treaties that are binding between countries. It governs the relations and interactions between states and other international actors, such as international organizations and, in some cases, individuals. The primary sources of international law include treaties, customary international law (practices that have become accepted as legal obligations), general principles of law recognized by civilized nations, and the decisions of international courts and tribunals.

Terrorism has become a key policy issue among countries at both the national and international front. The United States department of defense (2011:56), refer to terrorism as "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". Goldstein and Pavehouse (2008:46) stated that "terrorist targets civilians deliberately and indiscriminately. It uses extreme brutality yet, remains faceless and shadowy in its irregular tactics of pursuing political objectives". Regular suicide bomb attacks especially in public places, seems to have become the key defining feature of terrorism and this has resulted in the death of numerous people. In 2006 alone Paris, Brussels, Pakistan, and Mali etc where victims of terrorist attacks. For instance, on 26 March 2016, a suicide bomb released in a Christian community in Pakistan, killed at least some seventy two (72) persons. The September 11 attack popularly known as 9/11 Attacks (2001) that occurred in the United States perpetrated by Al-Qaeda, led to the death of nearly 3,000 people.

Similar terrorist attacks in the global system includes the London bombings in 2005 carried out by Islamist extremists that resulted to the death of 52 people and over 700 injured. Similar terrorist attacks occurred in Madrid in 2004 in a train bombing that resulted to the death of 193 people and over 2,000 injured. The attack

was carried out by Islamist extremists linked to Al-Qaeda. Similar attacks have been carried out by Boko Haram and bandit. With regards to Boko Haram, Ndahi (2017: 98) noted that "in 2014, a remarkable number of local government areas in the three states in the northeast region (Yobe, Adamawa and Boronu) were overran and taken over by the insurgent". This level of incursion has by no small measure eroded the territorial sovereignty of the Nigerian state. According to Amnesty International report (2021: 4), "between 2014-2021, over three thousands lives and properties worth over ten billion naira in the northeast region were lost as a result of the deadly attacks by Boko Haram''. With regards to banditry, Olaniyan and Yahaya, (2016: 96) noted that "the prevalent banditry which have enclosed the northern region especially northwest region of Nigeria, mainly, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Sokoto States, have become a threat to national security". Tauna (2016:31), reported that "between October, 2013 and March, 2014, 7,000 cattle were rustled from commercial livestock farms in northern Nigeria". These attacks by terrorist groups have led to the loss of lives, destruction of properties and undermine international laws and conventions.

The objectives of the study are: examine the impact of some selected terrorist groups in the global system: and analyze how terrorism contravene international law.

In addition to this introduction, the paper is structure into four sections; section one; methodology and theoretical framework, section two; literature review, section three results and discussion and the last section focuses on conclusion and recommendations.

Methodology

According to Bhattacherjee (2012), a research design has to do with creating a blue print of the events to be carried out so as to satisfactorily answer the research questions identified in the study. In the view of Asika (2009: 13), "it is the structuring of investigation aimed at identifying variables and relationships to one another". The historical research design was adopted for this study. It has to do with studying past event so as to understand present event in other to predict future event.

The secondary source of data was utilized for the study. Secondary source of data refer to the set of data collated or authored by another person, archives, in the form of documents collected for a purpose other than the present one in which it is being used (Asika, 2006). Selltiz et al (2008), has declared that the usefulness of secondary sources of data lies in the fact that information of this sort is collected periodically. Also, gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought. The sources of data for this study include; magazines, textbooks, journals and seminar papers among others. The content analysis was adopted as our method of data analysis

Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework adopted for this paper is the realist theory. The theory of realism offers an alternative explanation on the failure of idealism to curtail problems posited by terrorism on international peace and security. Realists consider the principal actors in the international arena to be states, which are concerned with their own security, act in pursuit of their own national interests, and struggle for power. The negative side of the realists' emphasis on power and self-interest is their skepticism regarding the relevance of ethical norms to relations among states. Korab-Karpowicz (2011: 6) states that "national politics is the realm of authority and law, whereas international politics, they sometimes claim, is a sphere without justice, characterized by active or potential conflict among states". This realist perception underscores the very nature and behaviour of states. Ganor (2000: 134) states that "the national goals, values, interest and international commitments compete with the demands of collective security for action…national security takes precedence over collective security, cultural, traditional, trade and investment, military alliances and ideology are balanced against a general commitment to world peace".

Korab-Karpowicz (2011: 7) quoting Thomas Hobbes in Leviathan XI 2 argued that "human beings are subject to perpetual and restless desire of power after power that they inevitably struggle for power….independent states, like individuals are enemies by nature, asocial and selfish, and that there is no moral limitation on their behavior". This is a great challenge to the idealist political vision base on collective security formula to solve problems posed by wars and terrorism.

According to Ogonor (2007: 28-29), realism is predicated on the following assumptions.

1. The realist theory assume that there is no essential harmony of interest among nations and that nation-state often has conflicting national objective, some of which lead to war.
2. Realism posits that the capabilities of state are crucial for the outcome of international conflict and for the ability of one state to influence another state behavior.
3. Power, they believe has a military and non-military component which include not just military force but also the levels of technology, population, national resources, geographical factors, forms of government, political leadership and ideology.
4. Realists posit that there are severe limitations to the extent to which political reforms or education can alter human nature. Man is evil, sinful and power seeking. According to the realist, human nature is not innately good or perfectible. The task of the statesman lies in fashioning a political system or framework within which the human propensity to engage in conflict can be minimized.
5. Realists assumed that moral principles in their abstract formulation cannot be applied to political actions.
6. Realists further believe that the balance of power framework can furnish an important regulation devise to prevent any one nation from achieving total hegemony within the comity of nations.

Relating and applying the realist theory in understanding international law and terrorism, it becomes imperative to state that terrorist activity is predicated on certain interest. The interest of terrorist groups varies. In the case of Boko Haram, the group is against Western education which is the interest of the group. In other to actualize this interest, the group has wage war against the Nigerian state. The realist theory is appropriate for the study as it explain the rationale terrorism in the global system.

Literature Review

The Concept of International Law

International law can be defined as a body of principles, customs, and rules recognized as effectively binding obligations by sovereign states in their mutual relations. What distinguishes law from other types of social ordering is not form, but adherence to specific rules of legality; generality, promulgation, non-retroactivity, clarity, non-contradiction, not asking the impossible, constancy, and congruence between rules and official action (Brunnée & Toope, 2010). Shaw (2021) noted that international law distinguishing feature – that which sets it apart from an institution, practice, or political agreement – is its acceptance in principle as binding.

International law is found not only in treaties but in the body of custom that has developed over time among states. Customary international law is based on state practice, combined with an understanding that such practice has developed into an obligatory norm (opinio juris). When a stable practice develops among a sufficiently broad number of states, and when a large number of them view the practice as legally binding, it becomes recognized as a binding principle of international law (Shaw, 2021).

Cassese (2005) noted that in principle, international law operates only at the international level and not within domestic legal systems; a perspective consistent with positivism, which recognizes international law and municipal law as distinct and independent systems. Conversely, advocates of natural law maintain that municipal and international law form a single legal system, an approach sometimes referred to as monism. Such a system, according to monists, may arise either out of a unified ethical approach emphasizing universal human rights or out of a formalistic, hierarchical approach positing the existence of one fundamental norm underpinning both international law and municipal law (Cassese, 2005).

The Concept of Terrorism

Terrorism as a concept has been variously used in literature, but the major fact about the concept is that, it lacks generally acceptable definition as there is no intellectual agreement on what constitutes the concept. The concept 'terrorism'

became a major concern in Philosophy and Social Sciences following the early writings of Auguste Comte, Emile Durkhiem, Karl Marx and other philosophers during the enlightenment epoch and the qualitative effects of French revolution of 1789 on the European society. Though, none of the above mentioned Philosophers singled out terrorism as a study but each commented on it in the course of explaining other pertinent social problems at the time (Ogunrotifa, 2013, P. 27). However, the complexities and ambiguity of the concept occurred from the fact that it is fond of political and emotional interpretation.

Al-Thagafi (2008) conceptualizes terrorism as the use of either organized violence against innocent people in order to intimidate them for political reasons. This position can be questioned as it failed to explain the nature of the instigators of these violent acts and also, whether the acts of terrorism is only for political reasons as portrayed in the definition. Put differently, Enders and Sandler, cited in Antimbom (2016, P. 11), posited that "terrorism is the premeditated use of violence by individuals or sub-national groups to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience beyond that of immediate victims" from this assertion, the scholars are of the opinion that violence is an emblem of terrorism, to the extent that some terrorist groups do engage in grisly violent behaviour to create extensive tension or revolt. Subsequently, Newman (2006) argued that while defining terrorism, it is important to consider it from the visible effects of terrorism on societies to the unexpressed motivations for committing the acts of terror. The above assertions of scholars suggest that a reasonable definition of terrorism must encompasses the effect of terrorism on the people affected, its implications on human society, and the major causes that ignite terrorists group to inflict attacks on the people that result to large destruction.

Results and Discussions

Impact of Some Selected Terrorist Groups in the Global System

The terrorist groups discuss in this paper are Boko Haram and Bandit. The focus here is on the impact of the attacks on lives, properties and social displacement

With regards to Boko Haram, the menace of Boko Haram has grave impact on socio-economic development in the northeast region and indeed in Nigeria. For instance, agriculture remains the life wire of any society. Frequent attacks orchestrated by Boko Haram affect negatively agricultural activities in the

northeast region. Boko Haram attacks has made many farmers relocate to other places where there is peace in other to save their lives, causing them to leave their farmlands behind as it is not mobile. FAO (2018: 8) reported that "nomadic cattle rearers who have been taking their cattle out for grazing have abandoned their business, as the environment is no longer safe for them". The report further noted that 'the lives of those that are still involved in the business are also at stake, because an attack of Boko Haram can occur at any moment. This has led to decreases in milk production, meat production and by extension an increase in the price of the cattle" (FAO, 2018: 9). Poultry farmers also do not find their business lucrative anymore, as the people purchasing the goods have been displaced.

The incessant attacks by the deadly sect has increase the level of poverty in the northeast region owing to the inability of farmers to go to farm as agriculture is the chief source of livelihood of the people in the region. Data obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS, 2023) revealed the level of poverty among the six geo-political zones in Nigeria; "north central (42.7 percent), north east (71.86 percent), north west (64.84 percent), south Eeast (42.44 percent), south south (21.28 percent), and south west (12.12 percent)". The report further describes the north east region "as characterized by low human capital, and poor access to key services. It further noted that in the last three decades, economic activity and household incomes have been decreasing due to devastating impact of Boko Haram (NBS, 2022:). The northeast ranked lowest on the poverty index owing to over decade of insurgency experience by the people of the region which has crippled the economic livelihood of the people in the region. Below is a table that depict the various incidents of Boko Haram attacks in the northeast

Table one: Violent attacks by Boko Haram in Northeast from 2009-2022

S/N	DATE OF ATTACK	STATE	LOCATION OF ATTACK	IMPACT
1.	July 27, 2009	Yobe	Attack on Potiskum, Yobe State divisional headquarters	4 people killed
2.	March 13, 2009	Adamawa	Mubi town in Mubi North	11 people killed
4.	Dec. 24, 2010	Yobe	A bomb attack, in Damaturu, YobeState	8 people killed
5.	Jan. 21, 2011	Borno	Attack on Borno State Governorship Candidate of all Nigerian People Party (ANPP), Alhaji Modu Gubio	7 people killed
6.	March 30, 2012	Yobe	Bomb planted by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe exploded and injured police officer	1 injured
7.	July 12, 2012	Borno	Boko Haram threw an explosive device on moving military vehicle in Maiduguri	5 people killed
8.	Feb. 4, 2012	Yobe	Attacks in Geri dam	7 people killed
9.	Oct. 3, 2013	Borno	Boko Haram attack Baga market in Maiduguri	3 people killed
10.	Jan. 15, 2013	Yobe	Attacks by Boko Haram in Damaturu, Yobe State	150 people killed
11.	July 10, 2014	Borno	Explosion in Maiduguri	5 people killed
12.	Nov. 12, 2014	Bauchi	Bomb explosion in police station Misau	7 people killed
13	April 14, 2014	Borno	Boko Haram attacked Chibok	Kidnapping of school children
14.	Dec. 10, 2014	Bauchi	Bombing of Mubi	37 people killed
15.	March 14, 2015	Yobe	Multiple attacks in churches in Damboa	12 people were injured injure

16.	Sept. 12, 2015	Borno	bombing of viewing center in Maiduguri	45 killed, several people injured.
17.	Oct. 14, 2015	Yobe	Bombing of Damaturu Central Mosque	Several people injured
18.	Jan. 8, 2015	Borno	Bombing of Miami market	45 people killed and several injured.
19.	Jan. 18, 2017	Yobe	Attack on bus station in Potiskum, Yobe State	4 killed many injured.
20	March 15, 2020	Yobe	Abduction of government college school girls	Several injured
21	May 20, 2020	Zamfara	Boko Haram attacked three communities in Isafe, LGA of Zamfara state	12 people were killed

Source: (Erezi 2020).

The table above revealed incidences of Boko Haram attacks and their debilitating effects on people in the region. As revealed in the table, on March 15, 2020, Boko Haram abducted government college school girls, Yobe state and several students were kidnapped and injured. Also, Jan. 8, 2015, Boko Haram bombed Miami market, Borno state and 45 people were killed and several injured. On July 10, 2014, Boko Haram detonated explosive device in Maiduguri Borno state and 5 people were killed more detail on the incidents of Boko Haram attacks can be seen in table one

Hunger, poverty, disease are the cardinal features of human security according to United Nation Development Programme. According to the United Nation Development Programme (1994:10), "human security could be defined as protection from hidden and hurtful disruption in the daily activities, at homes, offices or communities. That is, security is the state of being safe and secure from danger, it could also be protection from chromic threat such as hunger, diseases and repression". Security is commonly associated with the alleviation of threat to the survival of individuals or groups. Thus, security can be equated with freedom from present and future danger, harm or anxiety (UNDP, 1994).

Aside from detonation of explosive devices, kidnapping is another tactic employed by the deadly group which has further constrained socio-economic activities in the region. Several incidence of kidnapping have been recorded in the northeast region especially in the education sector. Many students, university lecturers, school proprietors and principals have been kidnapped at one point or the other. The greatest among them were the kidnap of the Chibok girls in 2014 and the abduction of Government College School Girls in Yobe state in 2020. These incidences and many more force many schools in the northeast to shut down. For instance, data obtained from UNICEF revealed that between 2013-2014, many schools in Yobe, Borno and some part of Adamawa were shut down owing to kidnapping (UNICEF, 2015). Also, data from the same source revealed that between 2019-2020, the surge in kidnapping in Borno and Yobe led to the closure of public and private schools in those affected States (UNICEF, 2015). This perhaps accounted for the low ranking of the northeast in the area of education by UNESCO.

With regards to banditry, Slatta (2017: 92), defined banditry "as the taking away of property by vigor or the danger of force, frequently by a group, typically of men". the negative impact of banditry on socio-economic development are numerous; impact on social dislocation and internal displacements, impact on livelihoods and food security and impact on wider economic costs amongst others. With regards to social dislocation and internal displacements, the activities of bandit have led to social dislocation and internal displacement in many states in northwest region. Between 2018 and 2020, at least 4,900 deaths were caused by armed banditry, which also generated hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the north-west. For instance, between January 6 and 8, 2022, armed bandits attacked several villages in Zamfara state, killing more than 200 people and leaving 10,000 displaced. These among other events have claimed several lives and caused significant economic destruction. Table one revealed data for internally displace persons in the northwest orchestrated by the activities of banditry.

Table two: Internal displacement by armed bandit in Northwest Nigeria

S/No.	Region	States	Figures of internally displaced persons	Period
1	Northwest	Zamfara	144,996.	2018-2021
2	Northwest	Sokoto	35,941	2018-2021
3	Northwest	Katsina	29,417	2018-2021
4	Northwest	Kaduna	43,786	2018-2021
5	Northwest	Kebbi	23,987	2018-2021
6	Northwest	Kano	28,432	2018-2021
7	Northwest	Jigawa	25,675	2019-2021

Source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the National Commission for

Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (2021).

With regards to impact on livelihoods and food security, the activities of banditry have impacted negatively on food security owing to the killing of farmers. Thousands of farmers lost their lives in southern Kaduna, Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara states etc. Table below show selected bandit activities/attacks and their impacts on food security in northwest region**.**

Table three: Selected bandit activities/attacks and their impacts on food security in Northwest region

S/No.	Date and location	Nature of activity or attack	Impacts on food security
1	2nd – 5th November, 2019 at Chambala and Shekewa villages, Batsari LGA, Sokoto State	Bandits chased out farmers out of their farmlands when they went to harvest crops.	Farm crops lie un-harvested leading to wastage.
2	17th December 2019 around Jibia dam, Jibia LGA, Kaduna State	Bandits moved on motorcycles on cattle routes passing around Jibia dam.	Some irrigation farmers whose farms are located close to the routes

			abandoned their farmlands
3	18th December 2019 around Jibia dam, Jibia LGA Kaduna State	Bandits move on motorcycles on cattle routes passing inside Jibia dam.	Fishermen fishing decide not to stay on the dam site throughout the night to avoid attacks.
4	1st January, 2020 at Mata Mulki village of Batsari LGA, Sokoto State	Bandits kidnapped 6 teenage girls working on the farm but drop them and fled into their forest hideout	Fear of going to the farm to work by the girls and others.
5	18th April 2020 at Makaurachi and Dauna of Safana LGA, Katsina State	Bandits continued reprisal attacks in Safana LGA killing 23 people who were famers.	Loss of heads of households who are bread winners for their families.
6	20th April 2020 at Sabon Layin Galadima Faskari LGA, Zamfara, State	Bandits attacked the village at night burning and stealing some domestic animals.	Loss of cattle rearing, source of income and farm labour.
7	12th July 2020 at Mai Iyali village of Faskari LGA, Zamfara State	Bandits attacked a farm house to rustle 39 cows and 6 sheep from a cattle rearer.	Halt to cattle rearing, source of manure, farm labour and income.
8	4th September 2020 at Daulai village of Safana LGA, Katsina State	Bandits attacked the village, kidnapped 7 persons and bugled shops to steal foodstuffs	Threats to personal security of the villagers and shortage of foodstuffs that the people could buy.

Source: Global Terrorism Index (2020)**.**

The table above revealed the negative impact of banditry on food security in the northwest region. From the table the impact can be seen in the area of; farm crops lying un-harvested leading to wastage; halt to cattle rearing, source of manure, and the abandonment of irrigation by farmers whose farms are located close to the routes of their farmlands due to incessant attacks from bandit. The incessant attacks from bandit compelled most farmers to abandon their farmlands thereby impacting on food security.

How Terrorism Contravene International Law

Terrorism contravenes international law in several ways, violating numerous legal principles, treaties, and customary norms aimed at ensuring global peace, security, and human rights. Below are the primary ways terrorism breaches international law as gleaned from Dinstein (2016), they are;

1. **Violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**

International Humanitarian Law, also known as the laws of war or laws of armed conflict, is designed to limit the effects of armed conflict on civilians and those not directly participating in hostilities. Terrorist acts often violate these principles in various ways:

Targeting Civilians: IHL prohibits deliberate attacks on civilians or civilian infrastructure. Terrorist attacks frequently target civilians, such as bombings in public spaces (e.g., markets, schools, and places of worship), which violates the principle of distinction, a fundamental rule of IHL.

Indiscriminate Attacks: Terrorism often involves attacks that do not distinguish between military targets and civilians, breaching the principle of proportionality in IHL, which requires that any harm to civilians must be minimized.

Hostage taking and Use of Human Shields: Acts of hostage-taking and using civilians as human shields during terrorist operations are strictly prohibited under Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol II, which protect civilians in non-international armed conflicts.

2. **Violations of Human Rights Law**

Terrorism undermines fundamental human rights, many of which are enshrined in international treaties, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and regional human rights instruments. Terrorist acts typically infringe the following:
Right to Life (Article 6 of the ICCPR): Acts of terrorism, particularly attacks resulting in deaths, violate the right to life, a core principle of international human rights law.

Right to Security and Liberty (Article 9 of the ICCPR): Terrorist attacks, kidnappings, and violent threats endanger the security and liberty of individuals, particularly in situations where terrorists take hostages or impose psychological fear.

Right to Freedom from Torture (Article 7 of the ICCPR): Torture and cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment carried out by terrorist organizations or groups constitute a direct violation of this provision.

3. Breaches of the United Nations Charter
Terrorism contravenes the UN Charter, which forms the foundational framework for maintaining international peace and security. The UN Charter explicitly prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of states, as outlined in Article 2(4).

Threats to International Peace and Security (Chapter VII): Terrorist acts destabilize international peace and security, leading to cross-border conflicts, refugee crises, and other humanitarian disasters, triggering the UN Security Council's authority under Chapter VII of the Charter. For example, UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) calls on states to take actions against terrorism, recognizing it as a global threat to peace and security.

4. Violation of International Conventions on Terrorism
Various international treaties and conventions specifically address terrorism, establishing norms to prevent, combat, and punish terrorist acts. Violations of these conventions constitute breaches of international law:
International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997): This convention prohibits unlawful and intentional use of explosives or other lethal devices in public places with the intent to cause death or serious injury.

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999): This treaty criminalizes the provision of funds, whether directly or indirectly, to individuals or groups committing acts of terrorism.

International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979): Hostage-taking by terrorists violates this convention, which obligates states to take measures to prevent, prosecute, and punish such acts.

5. Violation of State Sovereignty

Terrorist groups frequently operate across borders, sometimes without the consent or knowledge of the state, violating the principle of state sovereignty, which is a core aspect of international law:

Cross-border Terrorism: Acts of terrorism that spill over into other nations, such as cross-border incursions, assassinations, or attacks on foreign embassies, violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, contravening international law principles outlined in the UN Charter.

Use of Foreign Fighters: The deployment of foreign fighters and terrorist groups in third-party countries, as seen in the rise of ISIS and its recruitment of fighters from across the world, undermines the sovereignty of affected states and can contribute to international instability.

6. War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity

Certain terrorist acts may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, which are serious violations of international law.

War Crimes: Under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), acts such as deliberately targeting civilians, taking hostages, and executing people without due process during armed conflicts are considered war crimes.

Crimes against Humanity: Widespread or systematic attacks against civilian populations, such as mass killings, ethnic cleansing, or torture, can constitute crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute. For instance, ISIS's actions in Iraq and Syria, including mass executions and sexual slavery, have been condemned as crimes against humanity.

7. Transnational Organized Crime

Terrorist groups frequently engage in organized crime to fund their operations, such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal mining. These activities violate international conventions and protocols, including:

UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000): Known as the Palermo Convention, this treaty addresses criminal acts that have a cross-border dimension, including the financing of terrorism through illicit activities like smuggling and trafficking.

Findings

Based on the data presented, the following findings are reach

1. The study finds out that Boko Haram is the major threat to the socio-economic development in the northeast region. Meaningful development cannot thrive in an atmosphere of insecurity. Socio-economic activities in the north east region of Nigeria have been crippled due to attacks arising from Boko Haram insurgent.

2. The work finds out that the menace of banditry in northwest region has grave implication for socio-economic development. This correspond with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (2021) report that put the number of displaced persons in Kastina state as 29,417 and Sokoto state; 35,941.

3. The study finds out that the menace of terrorism has contravene international law as it undermine the rights of states and humans as guaranteed under international law

Conclusion

Terrorism is one of the major challenges the global system face today due to the fact that every nation is a potential victim of terrorist attack. In recognition of that fact, the UN, AU and ECOWAS has taken steps to address the menace of terrorism. The UN has a comprehensive counter-terrorism framework aimed at addressing terrorism on a global scale. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 and continues to be the cornerstone of international efforts to combat terrorism. The African Union (AU) has been

actively engaged in addressing terrorism on the continent through its legal frameworks. The key convention for combating terrorism in Africa is the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which was adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and later ratified by the AU when it replaced the OAU in 2001. Despise these measures, the menace of terrorism is still on the increase.

Recommendations

1. Nigeria security agencies coordinating the war against Boko Haram should live-up to their responsibilities particularly in the area of intelligence gathering to enable them bring to an end the activities of the deadly Islamist sect in the northeast. When there is no synergy between the various security agencies, it can compromise the war against terrorism in Nigeria.

2. In order to find a lasting solution to the issue of menace of banditry, government should go beyond the mere formulation of policies and focus on faithful implementation of such policies. Policy formulation without faithful implementation will achieve little or nothing. Thus, government at both levels must show commitment to the realization of their policies.

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