Boko Haram

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**Introduction**

Despite all the various agencies formed against criminal acts, criminal syndicates continue to thrive. The criminal justice system and the court systems together with law enforcement, are driven towards eradicating any criminal acts, syndicates, and criminals. There are various categories of crimes, for instance, we have the white-collar crimes which in most cases involves monetary factors and finances in organizations, terrorism among others. Terrorism is rampant around the globe, and every criminal handling agency has dealt with terrorism acts either directly or indirectly. One of the major terrorist groups around the globe is the Boko Haram. It was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 where their main aim and reason for formation was to cleanse the practice of Islam, especially in northern Nigeria.

**Annotated Bibliography 1**

Walker, A. (2012). *What is Boko Haram?* (Vol. 17). Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace.

The article discusses about the terrorist group which was started in 2002 as a radical Islamic group which aimed at cleansing the Muslim practice in Nigeria. They believed that the Muslims in leadership positions among others were false Muslims who had no considerations on what Muslim involves and their practices. At the beginning the group was nonviolent and posed no danger to the population. However, in 2003, due to fishing right in a local compound, the members of their group were in altercations with the police. According to Walker (2012) when the police tried to stabilize the situation and regain peace, the youths in Boko Haram retaliated with violence. In the process, the members managed to overpower some of the police and seized their weapons. As a result of this, the army in Nigeria seized their mosque ad by the end of it a large number of the members of the group were killed. The remaining members went back and joined their leader and other members. After this event, the US embassy concluded that the group did not pose an international threat and thus they were left alone. In 2007, a sheik was assassinated and later on the group was considered responsible. This marked their journey on the violence and terroristic events. In 2009 they collided with the authority again, and a battle ensured where many of them lost their lives and their leader Mohammed Yusuf was arrested by the military. When he was handed to the police, it was only a matter of hours before he was killed. After the attack, the remaining members of book haram fled and were not heard off till 2012 as their properties were seized. It was later to be discovered that they were training in Mali and some in Algeria in rebel camps. Upon their return in Nigeria, in 2012, they started a series of assassinations at police checkpoints, those who refused to leave their previously owned homes and properties and the homes of the local leaders who had cooperated with the police before. It was declared a foreign terrorist organization on November 14th, 2013.

**Annotated Bibliography 2**

Chothia, F. (2012). Who are Nigeria’s Boko Haram Islamists? *BBC News*, *11*.

After they lost Mohammed Yusuf in 2009, a new leader rose by the name Abubakar Shekau, and his reign has been marked by radical events and a lot of evidence. According to Chothia (2012) in 2014, a group of 200 schoolgirls was abducted in Nigeria. This caused a lot of outcry for the parents, relatives, and people of Nigeria. The government was trying their best to trace where the girls were or rather where they had been taken to. The article further discusses how Abubakar took to the internet and released a video of him laughing while he declares show he had abducted the schoolgirls and was going to sell hem and marry the other off. There was even a bounty placed on his location, but still no one knew of his whereabouts especially since he was considered dead till he appeared in the videos. The girls were abducted from the school that they attended. One of the girls managed to call her father while in transit, but the call was cut short as she was discovered the particular hit greatly affected the town Chibouk as it later lost all its business as people lived in fear and sadness of their loss. With time, it reduced in population as most young guys went to other towns in search of jobs. In a series of two years, the abducted girls came back to either bomb or killed people in different parts of northern Nigeria, especially near chibouk.

**Annotated Bibliography 3**

Leithead, A. (2016). Boko Haram abductions: Freed ‘bride’tells of stigma ordeal. *BBC News*.

This article discusses how over the years, Boko Haram group has been abducting children especially girls. As the military in Nigeria is committed to trying to save the girls, sometimes they manage it, and other times they do not. For instance, a 17year old girl by the name Zara was saved from sambisa forest and brought back to her family. She had been married to one of the members of book haram and had become accustomed to staying with them. Upon her arrival, she was discovered to be pregnant, and this caused thrift within her family. First, her family was half Muslim and the other part Muslim (Leithead, 2016). Before her abduction, she had been a Christian, but upon abduction and marriage, she turned into Muslim. When she was discovered to be pregnant, some of her relatives wanted her to abort the pregnancy, but luckily, she gave birth to a boy. Despite her coming her back home, she never felt welcomed as she was always sad and stigmatized. People in the village insulted her saying she was part of the Boko Haram and neglected her even when her son got sick. She even lost her son to a snake bite, and no one was willing to help her. In this story we get to see the problems that the group has caused to their locals. Zara even stated that at times she wishes she was back in sambisa forest as there she was accepted and treated nicely in comparison to her current home. This is just among the different experiences of the saved victims from Boko Haram. Their lives are never the same.

**Annotated Bibliography 4**

Mohammed, K. (2014). The message and methods of Boko Haram. *Boko Haram: Islamism, politics, security, and the state in Nigeria*, 9-32.

The article discusses how their methods of attack are through bombing when they want to cause havoc and assassinations while in other cases for disruption, they abduct children especially school girls below 20 years old. For instance when they attacked the police after their resurfacing, they used bombs which were dispersed by their members on motorcycles after they abducted children in chibouk. They sent some of them back as suicide bombers. A town like Maiduguri was abandoned as the group set several IEDs around the town causing death to many. With such aspects, we can conclude that they invest their weapons in bombs and rifles to use them, for different attacks. According to Mohammed (2014) with such knowledge, we as the government can start by tracing every armory that is brought into Nigeria and out of Nigeria as well as within Nigeria. This way they can confiscate the illegal arms in the country and prevent the group from acquiring them. Granted the activity will be difficult but with the right planning, we can even uncover the illegal ways in which arms are brought into the country among other illegal kinds of stuff.

**Annotated Bibliography 5**

Evans, O., &Kelikume, I. (2019). The impact of poverty, unemployment, inequality, corruption, and poor governance on Niger Delta militancy, Boko Haram terrorism, and Fulani Herdsmen attacks in Nigeria. *International Journal of Management, Economics and Social Sciences*, *8*(2).

In the last decade, Boko Haram has caused havoc and inconsistencies, especially around Nigeria and other states like Cameroon and Mali. For instance, in 2011, they bombed a United Nations office in Abuja; in 2014 they kidnapped girls from chibok girl’s high school among other terrorist attacks. Almost 2.3 million IDPs have been displaced in their bid to escape the Boko Haram attacks and abductions (Evans &Kelikume, 2019). A city like Maiduguri there is a great aspect of unemployment and most of the businesses if not all are non-functional in the place. As a result of this the people here barely survive and are very poor, and at times this leads the young boys to join Boko Haram as they see it as their only way out of the states they are living in. Another aspect that continues to encourage Boko Haram is the fact theta in Nigeria there is poor governance. In fact, at times some of the leaders only work against Boko Haram when they realize that the group will not act as per their wishes. Therefore, we as the government should also work to push the government and other agencies in the country to invest in their economy thereby increasing jobs for the youths and creating awareness on the nature of terrorism so that they do not opt to join the group. The government should establish strict and viable rules against these terrorist attacks and groups to ensure that we are walking towards a peaceful state. We should also work to empower the law enforcers as they have to deal with the cruelty of the Boko Haram members. There was a period that the counter-terrorism agency had to terminate around 100 police officers as they were reluctant to fight one on one with the group. The Nigerian soldiers have also complained of being given inadequate resources to fight the terrorists given the number of killings that they have caused.

**Conclusion**

Terrorism has caused a lot of deaths and losses around the globe, and with time it seems like it only gets worse. One of the worst discoveries is that the terrorists are financed by prominent people in the society and even in the governments which make it hard to eradicate it. As a result, we should ensure that we vet al the government officials so that we can ensure that we are all on the same page which is to eradicate terrorism and wipe out Boko Haram.

**References**

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