

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN NORTHEASTERN NIGERIA: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND REMEDIES BY

AMOKE, EMMANUEL IKECHUKWU (PhD)

ikechiamoke@gmail.com

emmanuel.amoke@ccu.edu.ng

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME
COAL CITY UNIVERSITY, ENUGU

ABSTRACT

For over a decade now, residents of North Eastern Nigeria have been sleeping with one eye open and at times with two eyes open. The activities of the Jama'atu Ahlu s-Sunnati Lil Da'wa wal-Jihad, otherwise known as Boko Haram, have unleashed terror and untold hardship on the people to the extent that over three million persons have been displaced across Nigeria and about three hundred thousand becoming refugees in neighbouring countries. Efforts by both the Federal and state Governments to bring the situation under control and restore peace and normalcy have always been met with more attacks by the insurgents. Thus, thousands of people are displaced from their homes each year due to conflicts and Boko Haram insurgency. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) are sometimes subjected to physical attacks, sexual or gender-based violence and run the risk of being separated from family members and means of livelihood. They are also deprived of adequate shelter, food and health services leading to severe sufferings and subsequent death. Government's efforts at providing succour to the IDPs are grossly inadequate. The objective of this paper is to find out the causes-both remote and immediate-of the Boko Haram insurgency that gave rise to IDPs. The Dispersed Aggression Theory was adopted as its theoretical framework. Useful recommendations were made here towards bringing the situation under control and both the Federal Government and the affected state governments are advised to ensure strict enforcement of the 1998 guiding principles on internal displacement.

Keywords: Internal, Displacement, Insurgency, Consequences, Remedies.

Introduction

"Internal displacement is the great tragedy of our time. The internally displaced people are among the most vulnerable of the human family". -Kofi Annan. Former UN Secretary-General.

For over a decade now, most residents of North-eastern Nigeria have experienced and are still experiencing traumatic situations as a result of the activities of the Jama'atu Ahlis Suunati Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, otherwise known as the Boko haram. This Boko Haram sect has unleashed terror, mayhem and hardship on the North-eastern residents that over three million people have been displaced across Nigeria. The Islamists, which have run riot for over a decade in the Northeast stronghold have equally rendered over 300,000 people refugees in

the neighbouring countries of West African sub region. In 2012, while most parts of the country embarked on street protests against fuel subsidy removal by the federal government, residents of the Northeast and even Northwest remained indoors due to the sect's traumatic activities. Their activities were targeted mostly against the southern Christians who had been directed by the sect group to vacate the region. Following the three-day ultimatum to vacate the region and their call on their Moslem Northern brothers in the south to return home, the southerners who could afford their transport fare vacated the north immediately. As a result, many shops and residences belonging to the southerners became closed in most towns in Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa and Gombe. The Boko Haram was carrying out its threat to attack Christians and southerners who failed to leave the north. In Gombe, a church was attacked during the worship and six people were killed. In Maiduguri, over eight people lost their lives in explosions targeted at Christians, and men of the Joint Military Task Force, (JTF). In Mubi, Adamawa State, the Boko Haram group killed sixteen people confirmed to be Igbo. This killing prompted many Igbo traders to close shops and run for their lives. (Suleiman, 2012:18).

[Because of this, millions of people have been forced and are still being forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence each year in the context of armed conflict and violence and remain displaced within their country of residence. Millions more live in situations of protracted displacement or face chronic displacement risk. As at the end of 2018, 41.3 million people were living in internal displacement because of conflict and violence which shows that internal displacement is a crisis of enormous proportion.

This research work is carried out to trace the remote and immediate causes of internal displacement in the northeast and to proffer some useful solutions. The work is discussed under the following sub-headings: what is internal displacement; who are the internally displaced persons, findings, challenges faced by the internally displaced persons, recommendations and conclusion.

Objective of the study

The main objective of this paper is to find out the causes of internal displacement in North-eastern Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

1. To find out how the activities of Boko Haram insurgency lead to the cause of internal displacement in the northeast.
2. To find out who the internally displaced persons are.
3. To find out the challenges the internally displaced persons face in their different camps.
4. To proffer solutions to the identified causes and challenges.

Research Methodology

The methodology adopted for this study is secondary sources and documentary evidences, including oral interviews. Data were generated through a careful review of relevant literature. The relevant literatures were drawn from textbooks, journals, magazines, internal sources and documentary evidences. Face to face interviews were conducted with some literate, semiliterate and even illiterate members of the internally displaced persons (IDPs). The data generated were analysed using analytical discourse method.

What is internal displacement?

Internal displacement refers to forced movement of people within the country they live in. It describes a situation of people who have been forced to leave their homes, but have not left their country. Internal displacement can also be referred to as Human displacement (<https://www.internal-displacement.org>). Human displacement refers to forced movement of people from their homes or countries of origin. Displacement is also interchangeable with the term forced migration. Human displacement can be as a result of many different factors. These usually fall under the three broader categories of

1. Disaster-induced Displacement
2. Conflict-induced Displacement
3. Development-induced Displacement.

Displacement can happen to anything that is living. However, it is the most prevalent when applied to human population, with a seemingly endless list of causes. Disaster-induced displacement results in population moving due to significant damage on the changing environment, not allowing continued support network needed for a human population to survive. Development-induced displacement results from individuals being displaced due to the continued development taking place on earth. Conflict-induced displacement results in displacement of one group due to conflict with another group. Generally, all forms of displacement fall under these three headlines.

Who are internally displaced persons?

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998) by the United Nations, “internally displaced persons (IDPs) are persons or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence in particular, as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violation of human rights, or natural or man-made disaster, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state boarder.” The key elements of this definition, which is descriptive rather than providing for a legal status, are:

1. The involuntary character of the movement which shows that the person(s) movement is coerced (to distinguish them from economic and other voluntary migrants; and
2. The fact that such movement takes place within national borders, which means that the persons stay within internationally recognized state boarders (to distinguish them from refugees).

A person does not need to be a citizen of his or her country to be considered an IDP, habitual residence is enough. Non citizen, foreigners, and stateless people may also qualify as IDP, if they fled their habitual residence, a place where they had lived for a significant amount of time, and had the intention of remaining. Former refugees who have returned to their countries of origin, but are unable to find a durable solution to their displacement-related vulnerabilities should also be considered IDPs.

As the Guiding Principles postulate further, the IDPS include, but are not limited to:

1. Families caught between warring parties and having to flee their homes under relentless bombardments, or the threat of armed attacks whose own governments may be responsible for displacing them.
2. Residents of poor neighbourhoods rendered unsafe and uninhabitable, at least temporarily, by the impacts of weather-related, geographical or technological hazards.
3. Indigenous communities forced from their ancestral lands to make way for the construction of dams and other infrastructural projects.
4. Families pushed to leave their homes by constant harassment by local criminal gangs.
5. Rural communities, whose livelihoods are decimated by drought, leaving them unable to feed their families, and forced to seek external help elsewhere.
6. Communities from coastal, mountainous, or arid areas whose land and livelihoods are irrevocably lost because of gradual environmental degradation linked to the impacts of climate change.

These categories of people, as identified by the United Nation's Guiding Principles (1998) are generally classified as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

It is pertinent here to distinguish between an internally displaced person and a refugee. This is because, in most cases, the IDPs are regarded and classified as refugees in their different camps of residence. According to the 1951 refugee convention,

a refugee is a person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.
(<https://www.researchgate.net> 3075).

A precondition of being considered a refugee is that a person crosses an international border. People, who are forcibly displaced from their homes that cannot or choose not to leave the country, therefore are not considered refugees, even if they share many of the same risks and vulnerabilities as those who do. Because their protection and assistance are ultimately the responsibility of their national government, in some cases the perpetrator of their displacement, internally displaced persons are often in an even more precarious position than refugees.

Unlike refugees, internally displaced persons are not the subject of any international convention, they do not have a dedicated United Nations Agency working for them, nor do they have a special status in international law. The term 'internally displaced person' is a description rather than a legal status which could be granted and therefore revoked. Instead, the definition of IDPs found in the Guiding Principles and mirrored in regional and national frameworks, is used to help identify a category of people with specific vulnerabilities related to the fact that they have been internally displaced.

In 2018, 28 million new displacements associated with conflict, generalized violence and disasters were recorded across the world. In 2019, the Nigerian refugees' crisis got into its 6th year. Since violent attacks of the Islamic group-Boko Haram- started to spill over Nigeria's North-eastern frontier in 2014, Cameroon, Chad and Niger have been drawn into what has become a devastating regional conflict. (www.unhcr.org). To date, the Lake Chad Basin region is grappling with a complex humanitarian emergency. Over 3.3 million people have been displaced, including over 2.5 million IDPs in North-eastern Nigeria, over 550,000 IDPs in Cameroon, Chad and Niger, and 240,000 refugees in the four countries (<https://www.unhcr.org>). The crises have been exacerbated by conflict-induced food insecurity and severe malnutrition which have risen to critical levels in all the four countries. Despite the efforts of governments and humanitarian aid in 2019, some 3.5 million people remain food insecure in the Lake Chad Basin region. The challenges of protecting the displaced are compounded by the deteriorating security situations as well as socio-economic fragility with communities in the Sahel region facing chronic poverty, a harsh climatic conditions, recurrent epidemic, poor infrastructure and limited access to basic services.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Displaced Aggression Theory as its framework of analysis. Displaced aggression is a neo-Freudian hypothesis of the frustration-aggression theory which attained scientific prominence with the publication of Dollard, Dods, Miller, Mowrer and Slars, in their publication in 1939. The displaced aggression theory holds that aggression comes to play as a result of triggered frustration by extraneous factors. Displaced aggression is expressed when aggrieved people cannot retaliate directly against the source of provocation and, instead, subsequently aggresses against a seemingly innocent target (Peterson, Gonzales and Miller, 2000) cited in Mbah (2014:129-133). Miller (1948) cited in Mbah, op cit suggested three factors that aggression targets, which include:

1. Strength of instigation to aggression
2. Strength of inhibition to aggression, and
3. 3.The stimulus similarity of each potential victim to the ability to get to provocateur due to unavailability of the provoking individual, intangible instigators and the fear of retaliation from the provocateur(Vasequez, Lickel, Heunigran, 2010) (<https://www.internal-displacement.org>), the aggression is then transferred to selected people considered to be the most vulnerable targets without the capacity of retaliation.

Applying this theory to this work, Gurr (1970) explained this situation through his relative deprivation theory. He argued that the larger the people perceived discrepancy between expectations, and actual satisfaction, creating human insecurity, the greater the potential for the insurgency (<https://www.internal-displacement.org>). The insurgents redirect their grievances to other targets given the impossibility or the lack of capacity to effectively direct the aggression toward the source of the provocation or frustrations. In this context, the displaced persons in the northeast Nigeria are people who became victims as a result of their vulnerability due to the absence of the requisite capacity of processing the monopoly of the use of force to defend themselves. The implication of the displaced aggression theory by the Boko Haram insurgents has suggested the destruction of lives and property, including government institutions, forcing men and women and children out of their homes, and their

means of livelihood, the massacre of people based on their belief system, particularly non-Moslems who do not share their ideological principles, crumbling of the economy of the northeast region, rendering the region poor. Their principal aim is to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region and to return Northern Nigeria to full Islamic state. The consequences of this displaced aggression have given rise to the displacement of over three hundred thousand people internally and forced several thousands of others into refugee camps within the West African sub region.

Findings

Causes of Internal Displacement in the Northeast

Internal displacement takes place in a wide range of contexts, with multiple, and sometimes overlapping drivers. According to the Guiding Principles (1998) a non-exhaustive list of the causes of internal displacement includes armed conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, and natural-and man-made disasters, either sudden-or slow-onset. Development investments such as large infrastructure or urban renewal projects can also cause displacement and human rights violations on a large scale.

Remote Causes: Establishment of Islamic State

In the Nigerian context, the causes of internal displacement, especially in the Northeast is found to be attributed to armed conflict occasioned by the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, otherwise known as the "Boko Haram", which means "Western Education is a Taboo" (Suleiman, 2012:18). This research work discovered that the Boko Haram sect is an offshoot of private militias in Borno State hired by politicians who set them up in the run-up to the 2003 general elections. It is evident that in Nigeria, politicians use to recruit and train thugs who they use to harass, fight and maim their political opponents, and after each election, the thugs are abandoned by the politicians who have used them to achieve their selfish aim. As Agbaegbu(2012:19) posited, the politicians who allegedly armed and used the militias extensively as political thugs were found to have left them to their fate after the elections, as they could not continue funding and keeping them. With no visible means of sustenance, therefore, some of the militias gravitated towards religious extremism, the type offered by Mohammed Yusuf, leader of the Boko Haram sect, who was killed under controversial circumstances in 2009.

Having been established as religious extremists, their main objective became to establish Islamic state in Northern Nigeria, by flushing out Christians who they regard as "infidels", government functionaries and security agents. According to Obasi(2012:24), the statement credited to Abu Qaqa, the sect's spokesman said, "All praises go to Almighty Allah. This is a very important message from the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad. We wish to extend our profound gratitude to Almighty Allah for giving us the opportunity to fulfil the promise we made on launching spontaneous attacks in Sokoto. We have reasons for all our activities and we only kill those who wronged us. We attacked Sokoto because many of our brothers have been incarcerated there. We are gladdened by the successes we recorded at the office of the AIG in Marina and the police divisional office at Unguwan Rogo as well as the police station at Arkila". The statement further said:

We wish to reiterate that our crusade is not for personal gain, it is meant to ensure the establishment of an Islamic state by liberating all Muslims from the excess of the infidels. We strongly believe that Almighty Allah will reward us with his famous paradise in the hereafter as he rightly said in Chapter 9 verse 111 of the holy Qur'an.

It is no longer in doubt that the remote cause of the Boko Haram sect is the establishment of an Islamic state in the North, that is why their major attacks were /are directed to Christians and their churches in the North. They warned Christians and other informants to the security agencies, saying its members would attack any government functionaries, security agents, Christians and anyone who pretended to be a Muslim.

In their words, as Obasi (2012:24) asserted.

we wish to stress that in our struggle, we only kill government functionaries, security agents, Christians and anyone who pretends to be a Muslim but engage in assisting security agents to arrest us.

In Yobe State, the Boko Haram engaged the Joint Task Force (JTF) in a battle for the control of the state capital. Close to hundred of their fighters had descended on Damaturu, capital of Yobe state from Maiduguri, dressed in military combat uniforms, all had bullet proof vests on them. They were armed with sophisticated weapons ranging from AK47 to hand grenades. They are highly skilled in the art of warfare. They knew when to shoot, when to retreat and when to flank their enemies. In spite of the JTF intervention, they still managed to bomb two schools and three churches. The churches are the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Sabon Pegi, COCIN Church, Shagari Low Cost and Unity Chapel, also in Shagari Low Cost. Reacting to these bombings, Ibrahim and Enyiocha (2012:16), quoting the chairman of the Kaduna state chapter of the Christian Association Nigeria, CAN, posited that:

the incessant killings of Christians in the state by Islamic fundamentalists was no longer acceptable. The agenda of the sect is to Islamize the whole of the North by driving out all Christians from the region.

Again, Ibrahim and Enyiocha (2012:17), quoting Ayo Oritsejafor, president of CAN, asserted that:

the bombings are clear indications that the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, otherwise known as Boko Haram has declared war on Christians and Christianity in Nigeria. Infact the pattern of bombings and gun attacks suggest to us a systematic religious cleansing, which reminds Christians of the genesis of a Jihad.

Again, the statement went further to assert that:

what is happening to Christians in the Northern parts of this country is an inescapable invitation to jungle justice and anarchy. Since July 26,2009 when the sect members had their first clash with security agencies in Bauchi till today, Nigerians, particularly Christians have been subjected to a kind of surrealistic existence.

To justify the Islamization agenda, Suleiman (2012:18), pointed out that Boko Haram had issued a three-day ultimatum to Southerners to vacate the North. The group also called on its Northern brothers in the south to return home. Many non-indigenes, especially Southern Christians vacated the North enmasse, many shops and residences belonging to Southerners were closed in most towns of Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Adamawa and Gombe- all states in the Northeast where Boko Haram is carrying out its threat to attack Christians and southerners who failed to leave the north. The real reason the Boko Haram sect always attack churches were revealed by Ahmed Salkida, a journalist with huge access to Boko Haram's intelligence and its former member before they metamorphosed into a deadly sect. He said that the group which has since established links with al-Queda, based its doctrines on the works of Ibn Taymiyya, a 13th century Islamic scholar who had also influenced other modern radical Islamist movements. Ibn Taymiyya believed in the strict adherence to the Koran and the principles of the prophet Mohammed and was devoted to the concept of holy war. He added that the recent attacks on Christian churches were designed to provoke retaliation against Muslims which could drive more people into Boko Haram's arms (Ibrahim and Enyiocha, 2012:18). In the same vein, Matthew Hassan Kukah, Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, said that "those who are pushing the country to the precipice are determined to start a war that will be irreversible-a war between Christians and Muslims.

Immediate cause: Extra-Judicial Killing of their Leader

On the other hand, the immediate cause of the escalation of the sects violent activities is the extra-judicial killing of the sect's leader and his followers in 2009, and the failure of police authorities to bring the culprit to justice. The killing of Mohammed Yusuf was horrific, barbaric and unprofessional (Agbaegbu, 2012:18). In the same way, Suleiman (2012:20) also asserted that their grievances include the extra-judicial killing of their leader, Mohammed Yusuf, and other members by the police in 2009. The sect members had wanted a round table dialogue with the federal government to address this issue, but the government applied military tactics which infuriated the sect members and escalated the bombings, destructions and killings.

Personal interviews with some of the internally displaced persons reveal that weak and inefficient governance are one of the causes of displacement. Respondents believe that weak governance brings about unaccountable bureaucracies, unenforced or unjust legal systems, abuse of executive power and widespread corruption. This encouraged insurgency which led to the displacement of a large number of people. Again, illiteracy among the population of the Northeastern part of Nigeria brought about insurgency which subsequently triggered internal displacement. One of the respondents states that majority of the Boko Haram insurgents lack

religious and western education. Their leaders misguided them and used them to fight for their selfish interests. Similarly, unemployment among the youths, especially from Borno and Yobe States instigates the youths to join Boko Haram insurgency to fight against legitimate government. Because of unemployment; there is no steady income and no productive social existence. Due to this, the youths were compelled to join the sect to fight for Almighty Allah so as to inherit his paradise. These are some of the major causes of internal displacement in the North eastern Nigeria.

Challenges Faced by the Internally Displaced Persons in the Northeast

People forced to flee or leave their houses-- particularly in situations of armed conflict-- are generally subjected to heightened vulnerability in a number of ways. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) live under threat of physical attacks, sexual or gender-based violence, and run the risk of being separated from family members. They are frequently deprived of adequate shelter, food and health services, and often lose their property land or their access to livelihood. They suffer high rate of mortality than the general population. IDPs are discriminated against for being displaced or for coming from a faraway place. They often lack identity cards, which makes it more difficult for them to access basic services and prevents them from exercising their political and civil rights. They can struggle for years or even decades with psychological trauma experienced during displacement.

Based on the perception of the respondents during the interview session, the effects of the displacement include lack of peace and stability, family disintegration, loss of economic opportunities, breakdown of cultural identity, loosening of social and family structure, interruption of children's schooling and increased poverty. Lack of peace and stability constitutes major effects of the IDPs. One of the respondents says that "we face physical and psychological effects. Our health has deteriorated. We get frightened at any moment and we live in an uncertain situation about our relatives since we are unaware whether they are alive or dead".

This study found out that families have continued to disintegrate due to the Boko Haram insurgency. According to one of the respondents, "the insurgency was a terrible and horrendous situation I have ever experienced in my life. All my family members were killed, with the exception of me and my wife. I run for my life but my wife was spared because they don't normally kill women. My house was completely burnt and some of my relatives are hiding in the forest. Life has not been comfortable ever since and my family is totally disintegrated".

The IDPs experience loss of economic opportunities. This is the inability to engage in any profitable venture or any money-yielding activity. One of the respondents said that the majority of the displaced persons do not have anything that can help them to earn a living. The insurgency was life-taking as it saw an end to various lives and properties. It reduced great destinies and cut short the economic opportunities of the people

The IDPs lose their social and family structure and experience breakdown of cultural identity due to the Boko Haram insurgency. A man interviewed on this responded "the structure of our family is devastated. Everybody is scattered and we cannot trace their location, and we don't know whether they are still surviving or killed". This study also found out that many schools both primary and secondary, public or private have been razed by the Boko Haram

sects. Due to this, children of the affected families no longer go to school. One of the respondents confirmed thus “all our schools in the area, both government and private are closed down; that is those which were not burnt. The majority of our private school proprietors are non-indigenes; they have closed their schools permanently and run for their lives. Majority of them have relocated to the Southeast with a vow never to come back. This increases illiteracy in our area”.

Poverty is another traumatic experience of the IDPs. Poverty causes lack of opportunities, lack of adequate means of subsistence, inadequate income, limited household possession, hunger, malnutrition and all kinds of diseases as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency. One of the respondents said that “we are very poor; we lack everything in life; all our belongings are completely destroyed by the insurgents; we have no place to stay and no food to eat and no money to buy some essential commodities. We are only surviving through the assistance from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)”.

These and more of these are the trauma, the effects, the challenges that the internally displaced persons face in their different camps in different areas they are taking refuge.

Recommendations

In addition to our recommendations in this work, this paper also considers the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement created in 1998. The Guiding Principles set forth thirty (30) principles that outline the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the responsibilities of the national governments to protect and assist them during displacement until their achievement of durable solutions through return, reintegration, or settlement elsewhere in the country.

The Guiding Principles note that arbitrary displacement is prohibited (Principles 5-7). Once persons have been displaced, they retain a broad range of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, including the rights to basic humanitarian assistance (such as food, medicine, shelter), the right to be protected from physical violence, the right to education, freedom of movement and residence, political rights such as the rights to participate in public affairs, and the right to participate in economic activities (Principles 10-23).

Displaced persons also have the right to assistance from competent authorities in voluntary, dignified and safe return, resettlement or local integration, including help in recovering lost property and possessions. When restitution is not possible, the Guiding Principles call for compensation or reparation (Principles 28-30).

In addition to the above stipulations by the Guiding Principles, we recommend as follows;

The World Health Organization (WHO) shall be made to assist the IDPs with quality drugs so as to improve their deteriorating health condition. There is need for adequate supply of food to the IDPs in their camps to improve nutrition and good health. Both the WHO and the NEMA should tackle this.

There is need to revisit the recommendations of the 2014 National Conference in Nigeria to determine the continued coexistence of the different tribal nations in Nigeria, and the political method that will best suit the country. Along this line, there is need for proper political

restructuring of the Nigerian polity to strengthen the economic base of each region for progressive regional existence.

Weapons used by the Boko Haram sect are imported into the country through existing transportation routes in Nigeria via Cramboru/Ngala Chad border with Nigeria. Other routes identified as sources of the weapons include Tetewa, from Cameroun through Bosso and Tudun Mota into Saga; the Banki border in Chad; Duji and Gashigar in Mobbar, New Marte and Mafa, all of which link up in Maiduguri (Agbaegbu, 2012:18). There is need therefore for more and effective border patrols. There is need to improve border security to degrade the efficiency of terrorist groups and curb the smuggling of illegal weapons into the country.

There is need to engage the Boko Haram insurgents in serious dialogue to find out their grievances and settle them. Both federal and state governments should engage in this so as to restore peace and harmony in the Northeast. Constant wastage of human lives and property cannot bring solutions to their agitations. Therefore, there is need for round table discussion for solution.

Through the National Orientation Agency, the sect should be made to understand that Nigeria as a multi-ethnic country with freedom of religion enshrined in our constitution, people are free to practice any religion of their choice. Attempting to Islamize the Northeast is going contrary to the constitution and depriving other people of choosing their religions.

Conclusion

The Boko Haram insurgency has caused untold hardship on the people of North-eastern Nigeria by their incessant killings, bombings, demolition of houses and government institutions and by displacing several thousands of people internally and chasing others into refugees in some West African sub regions. In an attempt to establish an Islamic state in the Northeast, they issued an ultimatum to all Southerners resident in the Northeast to vacate. This order caused ripples within government circles as it made the officials uncomfortable. But true to their words, the sect carried out massive killing, looting, bombing and destruction of properties. Attempts by the Joint Task Force to confront them yielded little or no result as the sects are still in control of some cities in the Northeast, unleashing mayhem on the people at will. This paper found out the remote and immediate causes of the sect's insurgency in the Northeast and proffered solutions that will engender peace and harmony within the troubled region and ensure harmonious coexistence of all the people there. Confronting Boko Haram militarily will continue to worsen the situation, rather, let there be dialogue where the flayed nerves would be calmed and peace and tranquillity restored.

References

- Agbaebgu, T. (2012). "Boko Haram's Sources of Arms" *Newswatch Magazines*. 56(2) July. 18-20.
- Baloch, B. (2019). "Brutal Violence in Northern Nigeria forces thousands into Niger" <http://www.unher.org> retrieved January 18.
- Dollard, Dods, Miller, Mowrer, Slars (1939). *The Frustration-Aggressive Hypothesis*. New Haven: Yale University Press
- Ibrahim, I. And C. Enyiocha (2012). "Northern Cities under Siege". *Newswatch Magazine*. 55(25) July. 12-18
- Internet Source. <http://www.internal-displacement.org>
- Internet Source, www.globalprotectioncluster.org
- Internet Source, <https://reliefwebint>report>intent>.
- Mbah, P.O. (2014). "Political Science Theories and their Application in Political Science Research" in Ikeanyibe, M.O and P.O Mbah (eds) *An Anthology of Theories for Social Research*. Nsukka: University of Nigeria Press Ltd.
- Suleiman, T. (2012). "Boko Haram Defies State of Emergency". *Tell Magazine*. January 18-21.
- The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 1998.
- Obasi, S. (2012). "Boko Haram in Sokoto" *Newswatch Magazine*. 56(6) August. 22-24.