

Nigeria Security Challenges and the Role of Non-Conventional Security Outfit in the War against Terrorism: A Study of The Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) on the war Against Boko Haram in North East of Nigeria

Eze Raphael C. (Ph.D)¹, Agena James E. (Ph.D)²

¹Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria.

²Department of Political Science, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria.

***Corresponding Author:**

Eze Raphael C.

Email: ezeraphaelc@yahoo.com

Abstract: It is an indubitable reality that the primacy of government is the protection of the lives and properties of the citizenry. In carrying out this fundamental responsibility, governments the world over rely solely on the conventional or regular security agencies such as the police and the military. However, contemporary security challenges especially as it concerns Nigeria have seen the government engage the services of non-regular security outfit in the war against insurgency. This paper therefore interrogates on the desirability or otherwise of the engagement of the non-conventional security outfit in the war on terrorism. The paper attempted to x-ray the prominent role of the Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) side by side the Nigerian military and their pre-eminent impact on the war on Boko Haram terrorism. The paper exposed the limited but complimentary role of the Civilian JTF to the military due largely to limited knowledge on warfare. Utilizing the theory of State Failure as a framework, the paper opined that the Civilian JTF should either be enlisted into the military or given a special training and its activities brought under the jurisdiction of the military. Equally the need for better welfare and military hardware to aid her activities should not be compromised.

Keywords: Security challenges, Civilian JTF, Boko Haram, Insurgency and State Failure.

INTRODUCTION

Security challenges is as old as human history, hence no society had ever existed without its presence. Classical philosophers see insecurity as the major challenge to humanity which invariably led to the formation of state-society and the coming on board of government vested with the fundamental responsibility of protecting the lives and properties of the citizens. This lends credence to our earlier position that every human society is laden with one form of insecurity or the other.

In contemporary society as we have today, despite the advancement in technology and knowledge, no continent globally is immune to insecurity. However, the magnitude of security challenges in Africa and other third world countries leaves much to be desired. Ranging from inter-ethnic to political disturbances, the atmosphere in Africa has not been palatable due to security challenges. Nigeria as a major player in Africa and the world has had her fair share of security challenges. It can be argued that the chequered political history of Nigeria bedevilled the first republic (1960-1966) heralding in a military takeover of the political sphere, through the avoidable but calamitous civil war (1967-1970) that nearly marred the continuous

existence of the country, to the Niger-Delta militancy are all pointer to the obvious insecurity in the country.

Today, the security situation in Nigeria has taken a more dangerous dimension and what makes it even more disturbing is the unique nature of the security challenges in the various parts of the country. For instance, in the south eastern part of the country, crimes ranging from armed robbery, kidnapping and oil pipeline vandalism are prominent, in the south-south we have pipeline vandalism, cultism and kidnapping, in the south-west armed robbery, hostage-taking and vandalism while in the north there is avalanche of religious fundamentalism and terrorism perpetuated by the Boko Haram sect. While all these security challenges across the country are with its attendant loss of lives and properties, no security challenge had witnessed high intensity in loss of lives and properties of Nigerians as the current Boko Haram terrorist activities in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria especially in the three states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. Playing host to a delegation of Bishops of Anglican Church, ex-president Jonathan opines that Boko Haram war is worse than the civil war waged against the people of Eastern Nigeria because unlike the Biafran war, enemies and their territories are known but Boko

Harams are faceless insurgents living among the people [1]. Boko Haram is devoid of reason and logic as they target Mosques, Churches, schools, government establishments, etc. and burn, kidnap, kill everyone, behead their captives, and use women, children and homeless mendicants as purveyors of their suicide bombing raids.

The Nigerian state through the deployment of her security agencies have unsuccessfully fought to contain and subdue the activities of the Boko Haram militants in the north-east part of the country especially in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states where their inglorious acts are very prominent. However, as the military continue in their push against the Boko Haram, the preponderance of their senseless activities continue to grow by the day. The militants now not only wage their war against defenceless civilians in the market places, the mosques and churches, they boldly took their onslaught to the doorstep of the security agencies. The bombing of police Headquarters in Abuja, the decapitation of the Nigerian Air force planes and the attack on military barracks are all pointer to the realities that all was not well with the nation's security outfits. The confidence which the citizenry have in the security agencies to protect their lives and properties especially in the north-eastern part of Nigeria is rapidly waning judging from the bold nature that the Boko Haram militants take the battle to the domain of the security agencies. It was in the wake of this increased aggression of the Boko Haram sect and the helplessness of the military in confronting them head-on that a troubled governor Shettima of Borno state where incidentally the militants have their headquarters attributed the continued massacre of civilians in the state to the lack of adequate weapons and poor motivation of the Nigerian army. He contended that in all fairness to the officers and men of the Nigerian army and police, they are doing their best, given the circumstances they have found themselves in, that Boko Haram terrorists are better armed and are better motivated than our own troops, and that given the present state of affairs, it is absolutely impossible for us to defeat Boko Haram [2].

Judging the unabated attacks of the Boko Haram sect on the civilian population and the military and also taking cognizance of the fact that the military run short of the needed weapons and above all, recognizing the asymmetrical nature of the war against Boko Haram sect, there was the dire need for a change in strategy in confronting the terrorists. It was on the strength of this that the idea of using some bold local volunteers to fight the insurgents came on board.

The Civilian JTF was at first muted when established to be a go-between the military and the Boko Haram militants. It was reasoned that since they are all volunteers that live within the population, they can easily identify the militants that live among them

and inform the military appropriately which invariably see their role as that of intelligence gathering. As stated by Adamu Buba the commander of the Civilian JTF in Borno state, the group came into existence to identify the real Boko Haram since the military more often than not kill a lot of innocent civilians especially in the wake of the Boko Haram attack on Giwa Barracks in Maiduguri [3].

The changed role of the Civilian JTF from intelligence gathering for the military to combat duties, started in the wake of Boko Haram militants attack in Giwa Barracks in Maiduguri, where troops killed hundreds of people, most of whom were unarmed, where residents barricade streets with logs and tried to keep outsiders away. Most youths seeing this pitiable state of their people decided to frontally confront the Boko Haram insurgency damming all consequences of this action.

THEORETICAL EXPLANATION

Terrorism is not a new word in insecurity lexicon globally. However, the impact of the current Boko Haram terrorists' activities in Nigeria has led scholars, diplomats and statesmen to develop an avalanche of theories in an attempt to properly situate the causes or otherwise of the security challenges in Nigeria. This is because unlike the civil war (1967-1970) where the war was between a particular region (eastern region) and the rest of Nigeria and where the enemy and theatre of battle is known, the Boko Haram insurgency presents a different scenario. In this work, we adopted the theory of 'Failed State' as a more appropriate theoretical framework even though the Conspiracy Theory has more often than not been used by scholars as a good explanatory tool for looking at the Boko Haram activities.

The interest of scholars in utilizing the Conspiracy Theory as analytical framework in explaining the Boko Haram insurgency is based on the realities that the Northern political elites having been short-changed in coming into power especially after the demise of late president Umaru Yar' Adua believe that the best way to tackle the government of ex-president Goodluck Jonathan is to create crisis and make the state ungovernable. This was hinged on statements made by some northern political elites. For instance, in an interview granted to the Daily Sun [4], Buhari predicted the outbreak of violence if the 2011 general elections were perceived to be far from free and fair and that there may be no Nigeria but a Somalia. Also Mohammed Junaid in an interview he granted to the Guardian, when asked what would happen if Jonathan was selected by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as their candidate for the 2011 presidential election, angrily asserts that there would be violence, the PDP would never be the same again, people would desert the

party in droves and that the north is not going to take it hands down [5].

The consequent post election violence which heralds the 2011 presidential election especially in the northern part as a result of the loss of the election by Muhammadu Buhari has been attributed to the inflammatory statements by these eminent northern politicians. Also among statements by northern political elites that have made the Conspiracy Theory very popular in explaining the Boko Haram insurgency is that made by a former governor of old Kaduna state, Alhaji Lawan Kaita when he vowed that the north would make the country ungovernable if President Goodluck Jonathan wins the 2011 presidential polls. Kaita opines that the replacement of Service Chiefs is part of president Jonathan's plan to use state apparatus to scale the 2011 presidential hurdle, that anything short of a northern president is tantamount to stealing our presidency, that even if he (Jonathan) uses the incumbency power to get his nomination on the platform of the PDP, he would be frustrated out and that the north is determined to make the country ungovernable for president Jonathan or any other Southerner who finds his way to the seat of power on the platform of the PD/P against the principles of the party zoning policy [6].

While these inflammatory statements by some northern political elites can unarguably be linked to the 2011 post elections violence in the northern part of Nigeria in which no fewer than 800 people including 10 youth corps members lost their lives while over 65, 000 people were displaced in the three days riot that took place in about 12 states in the north [7], what is more disturbing is the intensity of Boko Haram attacks when President Jonathan was eventually sworn-in in May 29, 2011. As a consequence of the rise in intensity of Boko Haram attacks and the hostage taking of the over 217 Chibok Secondary School girls in April 2013 and the helplessness on the part of government, one cannot but aligned with the Conspiracy Theorists who see the menace of Boko Haram as executing the talk of the northern political elites to make Jonathan presidency ungovernable.

However, present day realities especially with the eventual coming on board of a northern political elite (President Mohammadu Buhari) as the president of the federal republic of Nigeria and the resilience of the Boko Haram militants in their attacks in Nigeria has exposed the weakness of the Conspiracy Theory as a framework that holistically capture the Boko Haram insurgency in the country. It is in this regard that it is reasoned that the theory of "Failed State" is a better and more comprehensive analytical framework for this study.

The theory of 'Failed State' (or State Failure) is hinged on the realities that when a government in a particular state exhibits manifest incapability in delivering her functions (such as protection of lives and properties, provision of amenities for the populace, etc.) then such a state can be termed a failed state. The concept of Failed State was popularized by Weber (1918) when he states that a state could be said to "succeed" if it maintains a monopoly on the legitimate use of physical force within its borders and when this is broken (eg: through the dominance presence of warlords, paramilitary groups, or terrorism), the very essence of the state becomes dubious, and the state becomes a Failed State.

The position of Weber essentially has to do with the overall inability of the state to perform those basic function for which it was instituted to do and even in the position of the Social contract theorists (like John Locke and J. J. Rousseau), whenever a state is seen to be incapable of living up to the terms of the contracts entered into with the people, such a government has no reason to continue to exist. Also in his elucidation of the concept of state failure, Call, T. C. [8] brought to bear the concept of "gap framework", where he sees state failure as a function of three gaps, which amongst others include; 'Capacity', when state institutions lack the ability to effectively deliver basic goods and services to its population, 'Security', when the state is unable to provide security to its population under the threat of armed groups; and 'Legitimacy', when a significant portion of its political elites and society reject the rules regulating power and the accumulation and distribution of wealth. For Bamidele [9] Nigeria is in the verge of becoming a failed state as she wavered precariously between weakness and total failure and with Goodluck Jonathan leading the party of lootocrats, the report card is that Nigeria is a failed state but hasn't collapsed, yet its collapse is a matter of time if the current trends are sustained.

A cursory examination of the theory of failed state clearly shows that the theory has much relevance to the present day situation in Nigeria and the attendant security challenges. It is no longer a hidden truth that in Nigeria today, there exists the total collapse of infrastructures in all parts of the country; the economic, social and cultural structures have all collapsed. There is outrage in all parts of the country over economic hardship, high rate of unemployment and underemployment, high level of illiteracy, high level of corruption in government places and general insecurity in the land.

While Boko Haram insurgency could be as a result of these factors which are pure indicators of a failed state, the mere fact that the security challenges in Nigeria is not limited to the northern eastern part of the country alone but is prevalent in the South eastern zone

where armed robbery, kidnapping and assassinations are in vogue, the south-south where cultism, kidnapping and pipeline vandalism are prominent and the south-west where pipeline vandalism, political assassinations and robbery are the order of the day. The helplessness of the government to address these socio-economic, cultural and security challenges ravaging the country has placed the country on the verge of a failed state.

BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

Reliable records indicated that Boko Haram was founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf in Maiduguri, Borno state as a popular and peace movement whose outrage was the high level of public corruption and the brutality of the police on the citizens. Mohammed reasoned that the high level of corruption in the polity and the antagonistic behaviour of the police towards the citizens were as a consequence of western education. His establishment of a religious complex and a school where the ideals of Islamic religion are taught saw him win a lot of followers and students mostly from poor Muslim families. His major teaching at that time was the Islamization of all the states within the northern part of Nigeria where the tenets of Islam would be imbibed by all citizens. They saw the ills of the society as a product of western education and the only panacea was the total elimination of western education. The term “Boko Haram” comes from Hausa word Boko meaning “Animist, western or non-Islamic education” and the Arabic word Haram figuratively meaning “sin” (literally, “forbidden”). This shows that the group is not only opposed to western education but equally western culture and modern science. It is the contention of the Islamic group that when the people of the northern part of the country have all done away with everything that has to do with western education the society would be better. According to Ahmad [10], Mohammed Yusuf gave the following reasons for his opposition to western education:

- i. Darwinian Theory of evolution which excluded the divine hands of God in the creation of man and universe as Islam holds God as the omnipotent creator of the universe and all it contains.
- ii. The concept that man originated from monkey as against the Quranic injunction that man was created from clay.
- iii. The concept of a spherical earth and static sun as described in western science books as opposed to Quran which says that the sun, earth and moon, each move on its own.
- iv. Banking is unislamic since it forbids financial transaction.
- v. Growing immorality of the modern secular world like mixing of the sexes, semi naked dressing, fornication, alcoholism as product of westernization.
- vi. Sees democracy as haram and therefore unislamic as democracy has increased the level of poverty, hunger, unemployment and prostitution among the citizens.

Muhammed was however confronted with his belief that western education was bad but he still wear cloths, drives a personal car and has communication gadgets like phone which were all products of western education but he replied that such things are not products of western education but products of knowledge which could be learned from any source possible and disseminated accordingly.

Be that as it may, the Boko Haram sect under the leadership of Mohammed was not as violent as presently experienced. It could be stated that campaign of violence by the sect started in 2009 when a clash between the police and the sect led to the killing of 700 people mostly Boko Haram members. Mohammed, the Boko Haram leader was alongside other members of the sect arrested by the police. However, the sect leader died in a very controversial circumstance whilst in police custody.

The death of Mohammed Yusuf, the sect leader, his father in-law and other sect members while in police custody in what human rights group called “extra-judicial killings” foresaw to the extremist posture of the group, the worst case scenario being the display of the lifeless body of Mohammed Yusuf on national television and the security forces declaring that Boko Haram had been eradicated [11].

The Boko Haram sect as a way of demonstrating their anger over the death of their leader and the disgraceful display of his lifeless body on national television and to tell Nigerians and the world that they have the capabilities to engage the nations security agencies while keeping the citizenry in a perpetual state of fear decided to launch a violent and bloody campaign against the state. The group went on a killing spree from 2010 targeting government officials, security agents and religious leaders. This morphed into the large scale indiscriminate mass murders seen in recent years. The bombing by the sect on high profile places like the United Nations building in Abuja, the bombing of the Nation’s Police Headquarters housing the chief police officer of Nigeria and military bases are pointers to the combatant prowess and capabilities of the Boko Haram sect. The invincibility of the sect in the face of the Nigerian military campaign against it was further demonstrated in the popular kidnap of over two hundred (200) secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno state on 11th April, 2013. Despite the global outcry and the efforts of the Nigerian military with their foreign collaborators, the sect had hold on to the girls till date while making more kidnappings.

Also in the determined efforts of the sect to ensure that they Islamize the northern part of the country, they overran the military in most local government within the north eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, took over the area and hoisted their flag, declaring their caliphate. Today, it is estimated that the Boko Haram insurgency in the north eastern Nigeria “had claimed more than seventeen thousand (17, 000) lives in Nigeria while over 2.5 million Nigerians have been displaced and are presently in Internally Displaced Persons’ (IDP) Camps” [12]. In the words of Nwakali [13], “the boldness and invincibility of the Boko Haram sect in taking over territories in Nigeria and in certain circumstances making the military to cowardly withdraw in areas of combat despite the declaration of state of emergency in the affected states in the North East spell doom for the nation and except something drastic is done, the country may be heading for disintegration”.

Corroborating the views of Nwakali especially in the helplessness of the military in the face of the Boko Haram activities, Nwoye [14] opines that there have been more deserters in the military in recent years more than any time in the history of Nigeria and see it as a disgrace to the image of Nigerians the hiring of South African mercenaries. Also agreeing over the damage the Boko Haram militants have done to the nation, the Chief Police officer of Nigeria, Solomon Arase opines that the police force had lost about 90,000 police officers to the insurgency over the past four years [15].

If the revelations of the Inspector General of Police regarding the casualty figure of his men in the Boko Haram conflict, a more disturbing figure may sure be underway should the military who are in the theatre of war disclose the number of her personnel the war had claimed. Whatever be the case, the war must be fought and won by the Nigerian state.

CIVILIAN JOINT TASK FORCE (C.JTF) AND THE BOKO HARAM WAR

The accidental but courageous beginning of the Civilian JTF could be traced to 2013, when Lawal Jafar, a youth in Hausari ward of Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, saw an armed Boko Haram member and decided to accost him. The scene created by this singular but courageous act of Lawal Jafar attracted other youths who promptly came out to assist Jafar to apprehend the insurgent. This incredible feat of Jafar and the few youths with him sent a joyful and courageous message to many youths within Maiduguri and its environs, a development which saw hundreds of youths volunteer to join the group in the fight against the insurgency. Imam [16] sees the emergence of the Civilian JTF as a child of necessity. He states that when the need for something becomes essential, you are forced to find ways of getting or achieving it. That’s our situation when it comes to the emergence of the now

popular volunteer group in the North East, the Civilian Joint Task Force, or Civilian JTF for short.

While agreeing with Imam that the Civilian JTF was actually a child of necessity, it could however be stated that certain realities may have informed the formation and the mass support the Civilian JTF group got from the people and they amongst others include:

- i. The death of innocent citizens at the hands of the military who whenever the Boko Haram sect attacks any part of the state regards everybody within that vicinity as Boko Haram member since the asymmetric nature of the conflict could not allow identify who is a terrorist or not.
- ii. The need to disabuse the minds of many citizens within the northern part of the country that the sect enjoys the support of the people especially because of the religious posture of their campaign.
- iii. The need to identify the real Boko Haram sect members, their hideouts and relay same to the military (intelligence and information gathering).
- iv. The courage to protect their various community by working in unionism with the military especially taking cognizance of the increasing number of deaths among the people as a result of the activities of the sect.

It is instructive to note that these aforementioned objectives for coming on board of the Civilian Joint Task Force (C-JTF) bring to bear the role/contributions of the Civilian JTF in the war against insurgency in the north eastern part of Nigeria. It is evident that there are divergent views among scholars, security experts, politicians and even the average citizens over the role/contributions of the Civilian JTF in the war against Boko Haram menace in the north eastern part of Nigeria. While some x-rayed the positive contributions of the Civilian JTF in the fight against Boko Haram, others especially the Amnesty International succinctly captured the atrocities committed by the C-JTF and other security implications of the group to the north east Nigeria and the country at large.

In an interview, Hyeladzira Malgwi, a school teacher in Maiduguri wondered how life would have been without the Civilian JTF and thanked God for their rise. She averred that the Civilian JTF are God-sent, especially since they are complementing the efforts of soldiers. Between 2009 and 2013 when Boko Haram became venomous, the sect mingled with regular citizens and therefore had a field day, killing at will and sneaking out but when the youth rose against them, the era of shoot and run ended. The youth also inspired others to refuse to tolerate the choking, violence, to the extent that it will be very difficult for insurgents to come back to Maiduguri and do what they did before [17].

Also in his remarks, Barr Kaka Shehu, the Borno state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice opines that the state government has recognized the role being played by the Civilian JTF. According to him, the Civilian JTF armed with machetes, clubs, bows and arrows and confronting the dreaded Boko Haram with modern sophisticated weapons have performed creditably well. In spite of challenges bordering on youthful exuberance, anger, etc which make them behave in a certain way, they have proven to the world that they are eager to help in sustaining peace. And most importantly they are not corrupt [18].

For Jubril [19] the youths in the Civilian JTF needed much commendation from Nigerians of all walks of life for their gallantry despite the shortcomings being experienced by the group in the area of weaponry and experience in modern warfare. He states inter-alia that in spite of their inexperience in modern warfare coupled with fighting with bows and arrows, they have contributed in sending Boko Haram sect out of Maiduguri metropolis. He further stated that, though, Boko Haram militants have so far killed six hundred and three (603) Civilian JTF members in Borno state, the dead Civilian JTF were attempting to prevent bomb strapped Boko Haram insurgents from detonating their bombs in large crowds.

Ahmad Salkida, a top journalist equally gave an insight as to the desirability of the Civilian JTF. He opines that the topography and climate in the north east Nigeria vary considerably; as there is a sahara, a savannah, mountains and valleys that are surrounded by dense vegetation and that some of these areas are impenetrable to most of the visiting Nigerian Army personnel. As a consequence of this, he averred that there are very few soldiers with good knowledge of the environment prosecuting this war, hence the need for the Civilian Joint Task Force (C-JTF) or vigilantes who mediated the shortcomings of the Nigerian Army. Added to the haphazard military and law enforcement institutions in Nigeria, the role of the C-JTF became critical. These are young men and women, who could no longer go to the farms or local markets but found a whole job in protecting their communities [20].

There is no gainsaying the obvious that many Nigerians including locals within north eastern Nigeria have continued to praise the resilience and courage of the Civilian JTF, there still exist a lot of dissenting voices who have voiced their vituperations over the activities of the Civilian JTF. Amnesty International decried the high rate of extra-judicial killings being carried out by the Army and Civilian JTF. According to a report signed by its Secretary General, the body states that video footage Amnesty International obtained during trips to Borno state revealed multiple war crimes being carried out in Nigeria by the military and Civilian JTF, it includes horrific images of detainees having

their throats slit one by one and dumped in mass graves by men who appear to be members of the Nigerian military and the Civilian Joint Task Force (C-JTF), a state sponsored militias. [21].

Amnesty International is not alone in focusing on the unwarranted and unprofessional activities of the Civilian JTF. In an article in Premium Times of May 19, 2015 titled "Civilian JTF: The Making of a Human Time Bomb", Samuel Malik notes that from their initial offer to help the military deal with the insurgency, the Civilian JTF has been accused of gradually becoming a law unto itself, perpetrating vices like rape, armed robbery, stealing, killings and harassment of innocent people. Many of the youths have become uncontrollable by even government, just as the security forces also find it difficult to rein them in.

More damning activities of the Civilian JTF are the accusation that some members of the group have been aiding Boko Haram insurgents by spying on military operations. The mastermind of the failed attack on a displaced persons camp of 14th March, 2015 was well known member of the Civilian JTF known as Abdulraman. The shock which enveloped the military after the arrest of Abdulraman led a senior member of the group, Mr. Kalli to attribute the noted misdemeanours to illiteracy and a case of bad eggs tarnishing the image of the group [22]. The Civilian JTF have undeniably been involved in a lot of arbitrary arrest and engaged in torture and extrajudicial killings of suspects, both independently and with their military as confirmed by victims and families of victim [23].

From the position of the two schools of thought as regards the Civilian JTF and her operations in the north east Nigeria one is not in doubt that both schools brought to the front burner the positive and negative activities of the Civilian JTF. While we cannot rule out that in all human endeavours, the coming on board of the Civilian JTF poses many challenging and pertinent questions:

- Has the Boko Haram insurgents been greatly decimated by the military with the help of the Civilian JTF?
- Has there been reduction in casualty figure of innocent civilians since the joint operations between the military and the Civilian JTF?
- Has the Nigerian military been more familiar with the terrain in the north east through the assistance of the Civilian JTF?
- Has there been confidence building among the civil populace as a result of the military/civilian JTF operations?

Recent successes recorded by the military in the war against the Boko Haram insurgency especially in the area of taking back local governments and other important areas hitherto occupied by the terrorist group

tends to give answers in the affirmative to the questions raised. A resident of Maiduguri, Mustapha Isah remarked that the Civilian JTF youths have driven away the gunmen from Maiduguri, by sacrificing their lives in confronting the insurgents who are armed with sophisticated weapons, with mere local weapons such as daggers, knives, sticks, machetes, cutlasses and swords among other. There is no doubt these gallant and courageous youths have contributed a lot to the return of relative peace being enjoyed by residents of Maiduguri and environs [24].

Also to governor Shettima of Borno state, the Civilian JTF are heroes especially for the wonderful performance as regards the war on Boko Haram. In his address to the youths while launching the first phase of the Borno Youth Empowerment Scheme (BOYES), the governor showered encomium on the youth when he states as follows: let me start by expressing our very deep appreciation to our youths and our heroes, for their exceptional courage, patriotism and commitment towards a safer and better state. Like I said before, I regard our youth volunteers as the miracles of our time due to their self inspired evolution in defence of the larger population of Borno state. The government and the entire structure of Borno state will ever remain grateful to you for your untiring efforts in surrendering your lives on the streets of Maiduguri and its environs, day and night, in restoring peace and tranquillity to our dear state. We will never forget this great sacrifice [25].

It is an indubitable fact that the positive impact of the coming on board of the Civilian JTF has been felt especially considering the realities that the Boko Haram sect had been driven out from the major towns within the north east rightly informed by the reduction in the attacks on churches, mosques and major markets. However, there are dissenting voices over the unwholesome activities of the Civilian JTF but Jafari was quick to dismiss this, when he asserted that those condemning the activities of the group are those sponsoring the Boko Haram sect.

CIVILIAN JTF AND POST BOKO HARAM

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammad Buhari while swearing-in the Service Chiefs gave them mandate to root out Boko Haram by the end of December, 2015. This directive by the Commander-in-Chief of the country has made the military to step up efforts in the war with the objectives of beating this herculean deadline of winning the war against Boko Haram. The Civilian JTF are equally participating actively in this renewed war against the insurgents.

As the Nigerian military and the Civilian JTF continue to fight the battle of their lives to ensure the defeat of Boko haram by December, 2015, Nigerians are all in prayers for the realization of this set target of

eliminating insurgency in Nigeria. Be that as it may, many Nigerians are seriously agitated over the fate of the numerous members of the Civilian JTF when eventually the Boko Haram sect is finally defeated. This development has led to varying opinions and options amongst Nigerians as to the best way to resettle the group and reintegrate them into the larger society and to enable them have a positive means of livelihood.

In an article entitled “Civilian JTF: Unsung Heroes of Boko Haram War” Imam Imam suggest the following strategy:

- Federal and state governments in affected areas carrying out a proper census to know their exact number and the extent of their contributions in emancipating communities in the affected areas from the grip of insurgents.
- Engage their services to be border or frontier protection force or other agencies like the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC).
- Some to be constituted into a state vigilante group with legislative backup form the state legislatures and with a clearly stated functions, powers and responsibilities and be despatched to work largely in partnership with relevant security agencies in the local councils.
- Another group to be sent to schools where they can train in vocational skills and provided soft loans or credit schemes to set up their business [16].

Along the same line, Onwubiko of the Human Rights Writers Association advised that the members of the Civilian JTF be thoroughly screened by a combined team of security agents so that those with the requisite qualifications are recommended for recruitment into the various segments of the security agencies most especially the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) [24].

In his contribution, Omenazu, a security expert suggested that members of the Civilian JTF assisting in the fight against Boko Haram insurgency in the north east of the country, should be encouraged to join the armed forces at the end of insurgency, if they express willingness to do so. He went further to add that some of the Civilian JTF members who lost their lives, their families should be adequately compensated by the government. According to him, they have really worked hard, they have the compass of the area and without them, the success of the Nigerian Army wouldn't have been there, so, the need to be compensated. Those who are willing to join the army, air force or navy should be encouraged to do so [26].

Sharing similar sentiments with the various Nigerians that have suggested on the best way to rehabilitate the Civilian JTF members in post Boko Haram era, the Borno state Deputy Governor, Zanna

Mustapha opined that government will not abandon the Civilian JTF members. While revealing that not all members of the Civilian JTF are unemployed as there exist teachers, businessmen and civil servants among the group, he pointed out that government have already started the training of some of them while some are already engaged in the Borno state government Youth Empowerment Scheme (BOYES) and that government is looking at other areas especially agriculture where majority of the members would be engaged in [27].

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is observed that the asymmetrical nature of the Boko Haram war in the north eastern geopolitical zone of the country left the Nigerian military with a lot of challenges as to the best method to prosecute the war to leave for minimal civilian casualty. The military however leaved a sign of relief with the coming on board of the Civilian Joint Task Force who though ill-equipped and untrained in warfare, are indeed immensely helpful with their familiar knowledge of the geography and difficult terrain in the north east as well as capable of identifying the real Boko Haram terrorists. The synergy between the military and the Civilian JTF has led to tremendous success in the war against the insurgency culminating in the taking back of local governments and major towns hitherto at the hands of the terrorists.

In view of the foregoing, we therefore recommend that:

- Given the patriotic zeal of the Civilian Joint Task Force and the overwhelming confidence which they enjoy within the populace, willing members of the group be converted to community security but with relevant legislative backing by the states Houses of Assembly and adequate remuneration given.
 - Due largely to the various conditions in place in enlisting into the armed services, it is also recommended that some members of the group who are qualified and in line with the principles of federal character be absorbed into the Nigerian military.
 - With land-lock nature of northern Nigeria and poor governance, resulting in the area having the highest poverty ratio in the country, there is need for enthronement of non-corrupt political leadership (via credibly elections) for economic liberation of the population as a way to discouraging young men and women from joining the Boko Haram terrorists group.
 - State governments within the affected areas should be compelled to embark on a robust free educational system, with skill acquisition opportunities to drastically reduce the pool of unemployables advantageous to Boko Haram terrorist recruitment.
- The media and educational institutions should step enlightenment campaigns on the dangers of joining insurgent groups like Boko Haram while government security agencies should embrace peace-oriented 'Rule of Law' devoid of conflict-oriented 'extra-judicial' killings (as was the case with late Boko Haram leader-Mohammed Yusuf), and
 - Members of the Civilian JTF should be encouraged through various incentives to surrender their weapons as failure along this line portends danger to sustainable national security, especially in the North Eastern Nigeria.

REFERENCES

1. Goodluck JE; Boko Haram War Worse than Nigerian Civil War, Vanguard, 18th June, 2014.
2. Shettima; Boko Haram Better Equipped and Motivated than the Nigerian Military, Nigerian Monitor, 18th February, 2014.
3. Adamu B; Civilian Joint Task Force Commander speaks about the Group, Naija.com, culled 12th July, 2015.
4. Muhammed B; There may be no Nigeria, if 2011 Elections are rigged, Sunday Sun, 18th August, 2010.
5. Mohammed J; Violence if Peoples Democratic Party selects Jonathan as Presidential Candidate for 2011 Elections, Guardian, 2nd November, 2010.
6. Lawan K; The North will make Nigeria Ungovernable if Jonathan wins 2011 Presidential Elections, Leadership Newspaper, 5th October, 2010.
7. Ten National Youth Service Corp Members die in 2011 Post Election Violence in Nigeria, Human Rights Watch, 16th May, 2011.
8. Call TC; Beyond the Failed State: Towards Conceptual Alternatives, European Journal of International Relations, US Institute of Peace, Washington DC, USA, 2010.
9. Bamidele AO; From a Failing State to a Failed State, Premium Times Newspaper, 18th November, 2014.
10. Ahmad Z; Mohammed Yusuf's Reasons for Opposition to Western Education, az.column.blogspot.com, culled 16th January, 2012.
11. Boko Haram Leader dies in Police Custody, www.ngex.com of 21 January, 2010.
12. Boko Haram Attacks Claim 17,000 Lives in Nigeria, Leadership Newspaper, 20th November, 2014.
13. Nwakali G; Boko Haram May Lead to Nigeria Disintegration, Punch Newspaper, 22nd May, 2013.
14. Nwoye M; Boko Haram and Increase in Military Deserters, Sahara Reporters, 11th

-
- March, 2015.
15. Arase S; 90,000 Police Officers lost to Insurgency over the Past Four Years, ThisDay Newspaper, 12th November, 2015.
 16. Imam M; Civilian JTF: Unsung Heroes of Boko Haram War, ThisDay Newspaper, 4th October, 2015.
 17. Malgiri H; Civilian JTF are God Sent, Daily Trust Newspaper, 19th November, 2015.
 18. Shehu K; Civilian JTF are Heroes, Punch Newspaper, 12th September, 2015.
 19. Jubril I; Boko Haram kills 603 Civilian JTF, News24Nigeria, 30th June, 2015.
 20. Ahmad S; Civilian JTF Mediating the Shortcomings of the Nigerian Army, Naijanow.com of 5th July, 2015.
 21. Amnesty International; Nigerian Military and Civilian JTF are Committing War Crimes in the North East, Sun Newspaper 5th August, 2015.
 22. Kalli M; Illiteracy and Bad Eggs: reasons for C-JTF Misdemeanour, icirnigeria.com, retrieved 18th November, 2015.
 23. Okeowo L; Inside the Vigilante Fight Against Boko Haram, New York Times, 5th November, 2014.
 24. Mustapha Z; Civilian JTF have Rescued Maiduguri, Leadership Newspaper, 25th April, 2015.
 25. Shettima K; Keynote Address on the Launching of Borno Youths Empowerment Schemes, People's Daily Newspaper, 25th August, 2015.
 26. Omenazu K; Civilian JTF – Are We Going To Have A Problem Here?, Sun Newspaper, 10th May, 2015.
 27. Mustapha Z; Government will not Abandon The Civilian JTF, Daily Trust Newspaper, 15th April, 2015.