

Forum:	Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)
Issue:	The question of disempowering Boko Haram in West Africa
Student Officer:	Marc Vizcarra Cambrils
Position:	Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Marc Vizcarra Cambrils, I am an American School of Valencia student in the 11th grade and it is my pleasure to be serving as a Student Officer for the 11th PSMUN conference. Model United Nations has been an enriching experience that educated me by allowing me to think critically, develop ideas, and reflect on the present for them to obtain the ability to lead the world into a bright future and to grasp the fundamentals of geopolitics and diplomacy. It has opened my mind to ideas that have helped me develop as a person. I debuted as a delegate in 2017 in my school's local conference, VALMUN and have attended around 11 conferences so far. As you can see, I consider Model UN to be one of my greatest passions, as I try to assist at every possible conference to enlarge my knowledge and my development as a member of the international community. I have served in many conferences, such as ThiMUN (where I'll be serving as Student Officer for the Second Political committee). Additionally, I would like to emphasise that I have served on a plethora of committees, ranging from the Economic Committee to the Security Council Committee, that has allowed me to view every aspect of the world's structure on an international and local level. Secondly, the Disarmament committee is dear to my heart as it reminds me of my first ever conference, where I served as the delegate of India for ValMUN 2017.

Furthermore, the UN General Assembly's First Committee addresses some of the world's most critical topics, regarding its international security and disarmament. As a result, the committee's operations will focus on peacekeeping and dealing with situations that jeopardise international security.

The Report regards the issue of "The disempowerment of Boko Haram in West Africa". This study covers a wide range of topics, including an in-depth analysis of the issue's historical context and evolution, the driving forces, the consequences of a lack of cooperation in the international geopolitical sector, and an examination of specific conflict and disagreement cases. As a result, when coming up with solutions to the problem, a number of factors must be addressed. Despite the fact that this study guide covers a wide range of topics, it should not be utilized as the sole source of information. As a result, you are strongly advised to perform considerable research on

the subject in order to get a comprehensive grasp. If you have any questions or need any further clarifications to feel free to contact me at the following email: marcvizcarra@studentasvalencia.org

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Boko Haram is a terrorist organization centred in north-eastern Nigeria that is also active in Chad, Niger, and northern Cameroon, its official name being Jam 'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihd ("Group of the People of Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad"). Suicide bombers and conventional armed assaults on civilian and military targets are among Boko Haram's tactics. Following the kidnapping of Chibok girls in 2014, the majority of Boko Haram's suicide bombers are women; many are teens, and the youngest was only seven years old. Jihadists affiliated with Boko Haram rely on stealth, blending in with local communities or hiding in the vast countryside. The Nigerian military is widely accused of not properly equipping its men to battle Boko Haram.

The organisation has caused a threat to West African peace. The United Nations seeks to eradicate groups or organizations that cause a threat to citizens. According to Stephane Dujarric, the UN Secretary-Spokesperson, "which approved his proposal to establish a new UN Office of Counter-Terrorism." General's "Counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism are among the Secretary-highest General's objectives in addressing a growing threat to world peace and security," Dujarric said. "As a result," he continued, "he believes that this redesign of the UN Counter-Terrorism architecture will aid the UN's greater efforts to promote conflict prevention, sustainable peace, and development." Furthermore, terrorism not only kills innocent people, but it also destabilizes democratic regimes, even in developed democracies like the United States and much of Europe. Terrorism can distort public debates, undermine moderates, elevate political extremists, and polarize nations by instilling fear. Terrorist violence can be reduced in scale and scope, and its most destructive political impacts can be mitigated, thanks to a variety of factors including governments, international organizations, and civil society.

Furthermore, regarding this conference's general theme ('Redefining Solidarity'), it is important to understand the need to alter the perception of world solidarity and add certain elements to consider as many international backgrounds and situations as possible. The process of establishing new foundations and prerequisites for a new relationship, which will be discerned by cooperation and mutual readiness to help, is referred to as the reinterpretation of it. Hence, it is vital to understand it, as the issue asks for it on a global scale to find possible solutions for the ones in need. Therefore, when trying to establish parameters to secure cooperative relations in the region and

the right to international solidarity for the peoples of Western Africa- as a human right that entitles individuals and peoples to meaningfully participate in, contribute to, and enjoy a social and international order in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized, on the basis of equality and non-discrimination- the long-term and the utmost goal is the redefinition of solidarity between and among the nations.

In a variety of ways, combating this problem is critical. To begin, given the provisions of the 2030 UN Agenda, which includes the aforementioned Sustainable Development Goals, it is critical to redefine cooperation and solid connections, especially while recovering from a multidimensional disaster like the COVID-19 epidemic and especially in an era full of civilian endangerment. The United Nations seek to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature, and to promote a global society that is devoid of fear and violence that is peaceful, just, and inclusive. The Issue tries to tackle groups that threaten the world and local peace and tries to redefine global solidarity to consider other issues apart from the mainstream ones. Bringing to the spotlight issues like these from different territories allows for it to reduce inequality between the varied victims of terrorism.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Jihadism

Jihadism is a neologism that is used in reference to "militant Islamic movements that are perceived as existentially threatening to the West" and "rooted in political Islam."

Abduction

The action of forcibly taking someone away against their will.

Westernisation

The adoption of the practises and culture of western Europe by societies and countries in other parts of the world, whether through compulsion or influence.

Takfir

Term for a Muslim who excommunicates one of his or her fellow Muslims i.e. accuses another Muslim of apostasy.¹ Neither the Quran nor the hadiths contain the word. The names kufr and kafir, as well as others that use the same trilateral root k-f-r, occur. According to J. E. Campo, "the word takfir was introduced in the post-Quranic period

¹ McAuliffe, Jane Dammen. *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'Ān: EQ*. Brill, 2006.

and was first done by the Khawarij." Mukaffir is the act that causes takfir to occur. A takfiri is a Muslim who deems another Muslim to be an unbeliever or apostate. ²

Salafi Jihadism

A transnational, hybrid religious-political ideology based on the Sunni sect of Islamism, seeking a global caliphate, advocacy for "physical" jihadist and Salafist concepts of returning to what adherents believe to be the "true Islam".

ISIL

Islamic State, at times known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or by its Arabic acronym, Daesh, is a militant Sunni Islamist group. It is a former unrecognized quasi-state that follows a Salafi jihadist doctrine.

National Security

National Security is the prevention of government repression, systematic violation of human rights and threats of militarization through acts of cooperation and partnership.

International Cooperation

International cooperation is defined as the process of interaction through which the policies of the nations are coordinated, according to which states adjust their behaviours and actions, aiming to achieve a mutual and common goal.

Operational Security

Operational security, also known as procedural security, is a risk management process that aims to combat incidents of risk towards national and international security. The 5 gradual steps of this process are the following: identification of the sensitive data, evaluation of the possible threats, analysis of the vulnerabilities, assessment of the threat level, deviation of a plan to mitigate the threats.

Solidarity

Solidarity is the feeling of unification and fellowship that arises between and among nations through common purposes, responsibilities and interests, leading to cooperation and coordination in actions.

² Esposito, John L. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction is the authority and responsibility of a sovereign power to govern and legislate through the interpretation and application of the law through judicial institutions, aiming to administer justice.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before the Creation of Boko Haram

The Bornu Empire dominated the land where Boko Haram is currently active before being conquered and eventually absorbed into the British Empire as Colonial Nigeria in 1900. With a mainly Kanuri Muslim population, it was a sovereign sultanate ruled according to the ideas of the Medina Constitution. Both the Bornu Emirate and the Sokoto Caliphate were ruled by the British in 1903. Christian missionaries disseminated the Christian word throughout the region at this time, converting a huge portion of the Nigerian population. When Nigeria gained independence in 1960, British rule came to an end. Nigeria was governed by a series of military dictatorships from 1966 until the introduction of democracy in 1999, with the exception of a brief period of civilian government between 1979 and 1983.

Religious violence hit a new high in 1980 in Kano, the country's main city in the north when the Muslim extremist sect Yan Tatsine ("followers of Maitatsine") organized riots that resulted in four or five thousand deaths. Maitatsine was killed in the ensuing military crackdown, sparking a wave of increasing violence that extended over other northern cities over the next two decades. Both the Maitatsine and Boko Haram movements were fueled by social injustice and poverty.

Mohammed Yusuf

Mohammed Yusuf, Boko Haram's founder and leader until his murder in 2009, was schooled by the Kano Salafi Izala Sheik Ja'afar Mahmud Adamu, a Nigerian Salafist Scholar, according to the Borno Sufi Imam Sheik Fatahi; the two split somewhere between 2002 and 2004. They both preached at Maiduguri's Indimi Mosque, where the deputy governor of Borno was present. Mohammed Marwa, also known as Maitatsine ("He who curses others"), a self-proclaimed prophet (annabi, a Hausa word typically used only to identify the creator of Islam) born in Northern Cameroon who banned the study of texts other than the Quran, is said to have influenced many of the organization. Yusuf reiterated similar pre-modern notions about evolution, a flat world, and rain provided straight from God rather than evaporation in a 2009 BBC interview. From 1980 to 1985, Maitatsine's followers "wreaked havoc" in Nigeria's northern cities.

Organisation

The organisation was founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf and led by Abubakar Shekau from 2009 until his death in 2021, however, it fractured following Yusuf's murder and again in 2015. The group's major purpose when it was initially established was to "purify" Islam in northern Nigeria, believing that jihad should be postponed until the group was powerful enough to overturn Nigeria's government. Previously, the organisation was affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Boko Haram has a reputation for cruelty, and since the conflict began in 2009, the group has killed tens of thousands of people in attacks on police, armed personnel, and civilians. According to the Global Terrorism Index, it has killed over 300,000 children and forced 2.3 million people to flee their homes. It was the world's worst terror group in the mid-2010s. Boko Haram has had a role in regional food shortages and famines.

Boko Haram's growing radicalization led to a military campaign in Nigeria and the assassination of its leader, Mohammed Yusuf, in July 2009. Following a large prison break in Bauchi in September 2010, the group's surprising rebirth was accompanied by increasingly sophisticated attacks, beginning with soft targets and expanding in 2011 to include suicide bombings of police headquarters and the United Nations office in Abuja. The government's declaration of a state of emergency in early 2012, which was later expanded to cover the whole northeast of Nigeria the following year, resulted in an increase in both security force cases of abuse and terrorist attacks.

Regarding the individuals displaced, at least 250,000 individuals have fled Nigeria to Cameroon, Chad, or Niger as a result of the fighting, since May 2013. In 2014, Boko Haram killed approximately 6,600 individuals. The kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria, in April 2014 was the group's first mass abduction. Efforts to quell the uprising have been impeded by security service corruption and human rights violations.

The militants took control of areas of land in and around their native state of Borno in mid-2014, believed to be 50,000 square kilometres in January 2015, but not the state capital, Maiduguri, where the group was founded. Boko Haram's leader, Abubakar Shekau, declared allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant on March 7, 2015. Hundreds of terrorists left Boko Haram and founded their own organization, "Islamic State's West Africa Province," according to the BBC, due to internal problems between the two groups. The Director of Information of Nigeria's Defense Headquarters declared in September 2015 that all Boko Haram camps had been destroyed, yet the group's attacks continue. President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria stated in 2019 that Boko Haram had been "technically defeated." However, Boko Haram's activities have intensified, and the group remains a severe danger in 2021. Nigerian officials, as well as a second investigation by The Wall Street Journal, confirmed Shekau's death in May 2021.

Causes

Some analysts have attributed Boko Haram's success to economic factors. In Nigeria, wealth has been concentrated among members of a small political elite, primarily in the country's Christian south. Nigeria has Africa's largest economy, but 60% of its 173 million people live on less than \$1 a day (as of 2013). Local authorities' imposition of sharia law, which began in Zamfara in January 2000 and spread to 12 northern states by late 2002, may have facilitated relations between Boko Haram and political figures, but the organization believes it was corrupted. Academic Atta Barkindo attributes the group's "amazing" ability to "maintain momentum" to "accumulated and unaddressed grievances" against colonialism in the region, such as the colonial boundaries (of Nigeria, Ghana, etc.) established by Europeans that bear no resemblance to "pre-colonial empires, ethnic or cultural territories," and the group's use of the Islamic Kanem–Bornu Empire's "historical narrative "Our land was an Islamic state before it (sic) was changed into a land of kafir (infidel), the current system is opposed to authentic Muslim values," Mohammad Yusuf lectured.

Consequences of its existence in sectors of life

Expansion of Occupied Territory



Boko Haram's onslaught on Gwoza signalled a shift in strategy, as the organization continued to seize territory in Borno's north-eastern and eastern regions, as well as Adamawa and Yobe. Cameroon's troops repelled attacks from across the border. The Nigerian military has officially denied the territorial advances. Shekau stated that Gwoza was now part of an Islamic caliphate in a video released by the news agency AFP on August 24. At the beginning of September, the

town of Bama, 70 kilometres (45 miles) from the state capital Maiduguri, was claimed to have been captured, resulting in thousands of citizens fleeing to Maiduguri, even as residents there attempted to evacuate. Local vigilantes who had managed to flee corroborated Boko Haram's territorial gains, which the military continued to deny.

Effects and impact

Ideology

Boko Haram's founder, Muhammad Yusuf, is said to have been influenced by the notorious Islamic preacher Mohammed Marwa, who forbade the reading of any texts other than the Quran. In a 2009 interview, Yusuf emphasised his objection not only to Western education but also to the notion of evolution, a spherical (rather than flat) Earth, and the idea that rain is caused by "evaporation induced by the sun" rather than being created and brought down directly by God.

They reject Nigerian society's Westernisation/Colonisation, which it blames for "Nigeria's culture of corruption," and calls for the establishment of an Islamic state in the country. In 2009, it morphed into a jihadist organization. As Sunni Salafi Jihadis, the group seeks to restore the Islamic caliphate and subjugate all peoples, eradicating contemporary states and patriotic feelings for them. "It was the rejection of nationalism that drove the mujahidin (jihad fighters) in Nigeria to give bay'ah (fealty) to the Islamic State and wage war against the Nigerian murtaddin (apostates) fighting for the Nigerian taghut (idolatrous tyrant)," an IS statement said after Boko Haram declared its allegiance to the Islamic State. The Salafi doctrine is followed by warriors who are linked with the movement.

Takfir

Takfir or takfeer refers to a Muslim's ex-communication from Islam by another Muslim or accusing another Muslim of being an apostate. Neither the Quran nor the hadiths contain the word. The names kufr and kafir, as well as others that use the same trilateral root k-f-r, occur. According to J. E. Campo, "the word takfir was introduced in the post-Quranic period and was first done by the Khawarij." Mukaffir is the act that causes takfir to occur. A takfiri is a Muslim who deems another Muslim to be an unbeliever or apostate.

An ill-founded takfir charge was serious forbidden conduct (haram) in Islamic jurisprudence, with one hadith claiming that one who erroneously declares a Muslim an unbeliever is himself an apostate, according to the conventional interpretations of sharia law.

In the history of Islam, the Kharijites, a group that dates back to the 7th century CE, practised takfir and were a source of insurgency against the early caliphates for generations. Islamic scholars (Ulema) have traditionally argued that only they have the authority to declare someone a kafir (unbeliever), that all legal measures should be followed before proclaiming takfir, and that individuals who profess the Islamic faith should be excluded.

Members' beliefs tend to be centred on strict adherence to Wahabism. Members of the Sufi and Shiite sects, as well as mainstream Sunni Muslims who refuse to support their struggle, have been labelled as infidels by the organisation. This propensity to takfir – accuse self-declared Muslims of being apostates from Islam and sentence them to death – is a deviation from mainstream Islam, but not from Salafi jihadism.

The mainstream Islamic ideology forbids the slaughter or enslavement of other Muslims, which makes it difficult for an insurgent to overturn a Muslim government. Takfiring – labelling those who resist the jihadis as apostates – has the extra benefit of removing the taboo and making the execution of these Muslims a "religious responsibility".

Sayyid Qutb, an Egyptian Islamist ideologue, preached that the entire Muslim world had fallen into a state of collective apostasy or jahiliyah (pre-Islamic ignorance) several centuries ago. He argued that because Muslim government officials were not Muslims but apostates who were hindering the resurrection of Islam, "physical force" should be employed to remove them.

Islamic State Rivalry

Initially, Boko Haram and ISIL were allies. Due to geographical issues, the two groups became opponents as ISIL attempted to seize Boko Haram-controlled areas.

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau issued a 16-minute video in July 2014. He pledged allegiance to ISIS self-styled caliph Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi in March 2015. In August 2016, he was replaced by Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the son of Muhammad Yusuf. Shekau retaliated against his demotion by disbanding ISIS under the name Jam'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihd (JAS).

The government began the 2015 West African Operation just before it declared allegiance to ISIL, during which Boko Haram lost much of the land it had captured over time. The group then retreated to the Sambisa Forest and began using guerilla warfare methods.

As of 2017, three Boko Haram-affiliated factions existed, all attempting to build an Islamic state based on sharia law. The "West African Province," which is part of ISIL, Jam'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihd, is controlled by Sheaku; and Ansaru, which is loyal to al-Qaeda and rejects al-caliphate, Bagdadi's but shares his criticism of its interpretation of takfir.

Boko Haram and Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP) have been enemies since 2021, or even a year earlier, when ISWAP attacked the headquarters of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau. It was the first significant confrontation between the two groups, and both sides are still at large. Several Boko Haram militants were killed in the raid

on May 20, 2021, and their whereabouts are unknown but believed to be gravely injured.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

China

The People's Republic of China firmly stands with the Nigerian government and has offered help in May 2014, including satellite data and military hardware. Furthermore, the breadth of Chinese involvement in Africa has grown dramatically, from the provision of armaments and deployment in peacekeeping missions to conflict mediation and military training. Subsequently, China is expertly employing anti-piracy measures and participation in peacekeeping missions to portray itself as a responsible force while also advancing its broader strategic goals in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Although China's arms producers have primarily sold small and light weaponry to African countries until now, they have begun to sell more advanced and complex weapon systems, such as the CH-3 unmanned ariel vehicle and battle tank, to help Nigeria's anti-Boko Haram operations. Due to their simple availability and low cost, these purchases of defence equipment and military hardware are profitable for African governments.

Colombia

Colombia seeks to help the Nigerian government as it sent a delegation of security professionals to Nigeria in October 2015 to help the Nigerian authorities and share security and counter-terrorism experience. A group led by Lieutenant General Tukur Yusuf Buratai visited Colombia in January 2016 to exchange information about the Boko Haram insurgency.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom implemented a \$259 million emergency assistance package in 2017. Nigeria has also received military assistance and counter-terrorism training from the United Kingdom. To aid in the fight against Boko Haram, the British government has supplied training to 28,000 Nigerian military personnel. Over 40 British soldiers have also been deployed to Nigeria for an extended period of time.

On August 28, 2018, the British government issued a press release outlining the terms of a newly created collaboration between the UK and Nigeria aimed at reducing the threat presented by Boko Haram to residents in both countries. The news release details the various ways for preventing and mitigating the effects of Boko Haram

attacks in Nigeria, including community participation and direct intervention by the Nigerian government.

USA

The US Department of State debated whether or not to include Boko Haram on its list of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) in 2012. (Foreign Terrorist Organizations). While the Bureau of Counterterrorism favours designation, the Bureau of African Affairs advises caution. Officials from the Justice Department, the FBI, the CIA, and many members of Congress have pushed the State Department to identify Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO). The Nigerian government has spoken out against an FTO designation, citing worries that it would elevate Boko Haram's profile and have ramifications for humanitarian help in the region where the terrorist group operates. Twenty academic experts on Nigeria signed a letter to the State Department urging it not to designate Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), claiming that doing so would stymie NGO efforts in the region and legitimize the Nigerian Army's human rights violations in the fight against Boko Haram.

European Union

Two European Union-funded projects have assisted over 150,000 students and 2,500 teachers in Nigeria's Borno State, which is located in the northeast of the country and is frequently targeted by Boko Haram attacks. They were unveiled in Maiduguri, Borno State's capital, on Friday, June 28 2019. They have helped reestablish access to safe, inclusive, and high-quality primary and secondary education for boys and girls, as well as strengthen the education system, with a total value of €20 million.

The European Union stands to act upon resolving the Humanitarian aspect of the conflict as it is not a military organization and does not have the power to focus on such matters, NATO does such.

African Union

The Chairperson urgently appeals for continental and international solidarity with the countries of the Lake Chad basin and the G5 Sahel region who are at the forefront of the fight against terrorism. Therefore, the African Union has deployed regional security forces to address the threat of Boko Haram after its acceptance by the UN Special Envoy for West Africa. The African Union approved the formation of a regional force of over 8,000 troops to confront Boko Haram on March 6, 2015.

UNICEF

Since 2017, UNICEF has aided the social and economic reintegration of over 8,700 children who have been released from armed groups by assisting in the identification

of their families, reuniting them with their communities, and providing psychosocial support, education, vocational training and informal apprenticeships, as well as opportunities to improve livelihoods.

UNICEF observed an increase in the number of child suicide bombers in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, and Chad in the first three months of 2017, compared to 30 in the previous year, 56 in 2015, and 4 in 2014. Kidnapped children who manage to flee Boko Haram are frequently detained or shunned by their towns and family. "They are imprisoned in military barracks, apart from their parents, without medical follow-up, without psychological support, without education, under conditions and for periods that are unknown," said Patrick Rose, a UNICEF regional coordinator. "Society's rejection of these children, as well as their sense of loneliness and desperation," according to the NGO, "maybe make them more open to promises of martyrdom through acceptance of perilous and lethal missions."

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of Event	Description of event
Sep 7th 2010	Boko Haram, having regrouped under its new leader, broke 105 of its members out of prison in Bauchi on September 7, together with nearly 600 other inmates. The gang went on to ramp up their insurgency, carrying out numerous attacks across Nigeria, especially in the north.
December 24th, 2010	Boko Haram detonates four bombs in Jos and attacked two churches in Maiduguri.
December 31st, 2010	Bombing of barracks in Abuja, four civilians killed
February 2013	Boko Haram kidnaps seven French tourists in the far north of Cameroon.
8th February 2013	Nine polio vaccinators killed in shootings at two clinics in Kano
April 16th/17th, 2013	A massacre of dozens of civilians as well as the destruction of hundreds of homes and businesses occurred in Baga, Borno, during a battle between Boko Haram and the Nigerian Army.
August 11th, 2013	On 11 August, Boko Haram killed 44 people in a mass shooting at a mosque in Konduga, Borno.
Jan 14th, 2014	A car bombing in Maiduguri killed at least 17 persons.

April 14th/15th 2014	Boko Haram abducted 276 schoolgirls from Chibok, Borno, on the 14th and 15th of April. Shekau stated that he intended to sell them into slavery. The tragedy drew widespread international media attention to Boko Haram.
May 16th 2014	Boko Haram's position in northern Cameroon has grown. Ten Chinese employees were kidnapped on May 16 in a raid on a construction firm site. In July, the deputy prime minister's home hamlet was besieged by roughly 200 militants. The raid claimed the lives of at least 15 persons, including troops and police officers.
Jan 3rd, 2015	Boko Haram stormed Baga on 3 January, taking the city and the multinational joint task force military camp.
Jan 30th, 2016	Boko Haram militants attacked Dalori Village in Borno State killing at least 86 people and injuring at least 62 others.
January 17th 2017	On 17 January, the Nigerian Air Force carried out an airstrike on an IDP camp in Rann, Borno. They had mistaken it for a Boko Haram camp; the bombing killed dozens of civilians.
March 22nd 2017	On 22 March, suicide bombers attacked an IDP camp in Maidiguri, killing four people and wounding 18 others.
Feb 19th, 2018	On February 19, 2018, Boko Haram abducted 110 schoolgirls from the Government Technical Girls College in Dapchi, Yobe State, killing five of them the same day. They freed all but one of the surviving girls on March 21, after the Nigerian government paid a huge ransom.
March 23rd, 2019	Boko Haram militants attacked soldiers in Boma, Chad, on March 23. Chadian army claimed to have killed roughly 1,000 Boko Haram insurgents during their eight-day counter-offensive.
May 18th, 2020	The group invaded the Nigerian community of Gajigana, Borno, 29 miles north of the state capital Maiduguri. At least 20 people were killed, and another 25 were injured.
May 20th, 2021	Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau died on May 20, according to Nigerian intelligence sources. Sources say he detonated a suicide vest to avoid capture by rival Islamist militants

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

African Coalition Force

Cameroon's foreign minister declared on November 30, 2014, that a coalition force to combat terrorism, including Boko Haram, would be operating soon after months of negotiations. A total of 3,500 soldiers from Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria would make up the army. In January 2015, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held talks about forming a larger armed force.

Early in February 2015, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger tentatively agreed to provide 7,500 African Union troops. Following a concerted weekend operation by Nigerian, Chadian, and Cameroonian forces, the Nigerian Army said on February 2, 2015, that it had regained Gamboru from Boko Haram, as well as the surrounding towns of Mafa, Mallam Fatori, Abadam, and Marte. Chadian and Nigerian airstrikes and ground soldiers had forced Boko Haram militants to flee roughly a dozen towns and villages by February 6, 2015.

The Nigerian military retook Monguno in a concerted air and ground attack on February 17, 2015. The African Union approved the formation of a regional force of over 8,000 troops to confront Boko Haram on March 6, 2015.

Intervention

Some countries argue that in order to tackle Boko Haram, there must be military intervention. For example, The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) is a combined multinational formation, comprising units, mostly military, from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. It is headquartered in N'Djamena and is mandated to bring an end to the Boko Haram insurgency.

Furthermore, the French Republic, alongside the United States and the United Kingdom, have expressed their interest in directly intervening militarily in the region. Both France and the UK have sent troops to the region. The United States has done so as well and has used military drone airstrikes to attack controlled regions.

Aid

Direct intervention is often seen as not viable for many entities that seek to aid the Nigerian cause. Certain bodies have chosen to aid in many aspects to help the resolution of the conflict. For this Committee, the most important type of aid would be the one that focuses on the military aspect. For example, the African Union has sent regional security troops to combat the threat posed by Boko Haram, after the UN Special Envoy for West Africa's approval. On March 6, 2015, the African Union

approved the formation of a regional force of over 8,000 troops to combat Boko Haram. Governmental bodies like the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) have sent satellite data and military hardware to aid the Nigerian cause. Furthermore, some nations have opted to train division to assist their development as soldiers to help the Nigerian cause. Lastly, to fund military projects, nations like the United Kingdom have donated military packages and money to allow the Government's military to strengthen.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Continuation of Intervention and addition of members

Many consider that international cooperation can effectively combat a threat that cannot be addressed solely on a national level. In this context, the major international organizations have made combating terrorism one of their top priorities. Hence, the continuation of such intervention may be beneficial for the issue. The intervention could be done by more nations than the ones currently present and many new measures may be implemented to tackle and finally eradicate the extremist group.

Enlargement of Aid

Nations could consider aid towards the affected countries, as intervention is not beneficial or even an option for some member-states. Hence, Aid in as many aspects as possible could be necessary for the implementation of measures to stop Boko Haram's terror. For the military aspect, nations could opt to send men, equipment, funding, or other sorts of beneficial resources to Boko Haram's main victims. This would allow them to strengthen their military so the removal of the group is not as complicated or dangerous to human safety.

Coalitions and Funding Programs

To tackle Boko Haram, coalitions to tackle many aspects of the issue could be created. These could be mainly military coalitions. Member-states could consider the idea of creating funding programs for these coalitions or the currently existing ones to fulfil the fund needed to proceed with military endeavours to solve the issue at hand.

Displacement of the population

Boko Haram abducts the population in its occupied territory for their malicious actions. Immediate displacement for the population and the protection of citizens would weaken the terrorist group as it would decrease the number of possible recruitments and victims. Weakening the group to progress into its eradication. But,

most importantly, it would consider many innocent lives that must be protected from a big threat.

Similarly, a solution for displacement and refugee resettlement in the region could be to evacuate all refugees from the region at first, both to protect their lives and to reduce international and domestic tensions on the Nigerian state over resources allocated to their basic needs and wellness. Nonetheless, the displacement issue persists, necessitating international participation, not from separate countries, but from neutral mediator organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which has been working in the region for several years. Despite the fact that the IOM has run many successful projects in the region following displacement, the biggest difficulty they face is a lack of funding from the international community. The ideal solution to be presented to the IOM is to raise awareness of the conflict's urgency and to launch a single global project for funding in West Africa.

UN Involvement

The United Nations Department of Peace Operations is in charge of peacekeeping, which is described as "a unique and dynamic instrument designed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by violence create the conditions for enduring peace." Peacekeepers monitor and watch post-conflict peace processes, as well as assist ex-combatants in implementing peace accords they may have signed. Confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, establishing the rule of law, and economic and social growth are all examples of such aid. As a result, UN peacekeepers (also known as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) might be military, police officers, or civilians. Encouraging the UN to take a higher role in the issue would benefit the resolution of this conflict. It also allows World Solidarity to reach the West African region.

Furthermore, the UN could intervene to tackle the extremist group as it has the power to ask for military assistance in the conflict and to submit solutions and parameters that should be carried out by member-states, hence their involvement could be in the form of UN bodies specialized in this matter, such as the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee that would help with the removal of the terrorist group.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"2nd Session of Nigeria/Cameroon Trans-Border Security Committee Meets in Abuja." *Daily Independent, Nigerian Newspaper*, 6 July 2014, <https://web.archive.org/web/20140809232618/http://dailyindependentnig.com/2014/07/2nd-session-nigeriacameroon-trans-border-security-committee-meets-abuja/>

Agency. "Nigerian Army Retakes Control of Key Boko Haram Town." *The Telegraph*, Telegraph Media Group, 16 Nov. 2014, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/nigeria/11234662/Nigerian-army-retakes-control-of-key-Boko-Haram-town.html>

Ande, Lanre Ola and Imma. "Thousands Flee as Boko Haram Seizes Northeast Nigerian Town." *Reuters*, 30 Oct. 2014, <https://web.archive.org/web/20150924210118/https://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/30/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0IJ21820141030>

Barnes, Julian E. "Boko Haram Has Lost Territory in Nigeria, U.S. General Says." *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 29 Oct. 2015, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/boko-haram-has-lost-territory-in-nigeria-u-s-general-says-1446136475>

"Boko Haram Crisis: Nigeria Fury over Us Arms Refusal." *BBC News*, BBC, 11 Nov. 2014, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30006066>

"Boko Haram Denies It Has Agreed Ceasefire." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 1 Nov. 2014, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/01/boko-haram-nigerian-government-abubakar-shekau-islamist-abducted-schoolgirls>

"Boko Haram Leader Appears in Video Ridiculing Nigerian Government's." *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 1 Nov. 2014, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/boko-haram-leader-appears-video-ridiculing-nigerian-government-s-ceasefire-claims-9833607.html>

"Boko Haram Militants 'Seize Nigerian Town of Chibok'." *BBC News*, BBC, 14 Nov. 2014, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30058879>

"Boko Haram." *BBC News*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c50znx8v435t/boko-haram>

Cocks, Tim. "Cameroon Weakest Link in Fight against Boko Haram: Nigeria." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 30 May 2014, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-boko-haram-idUSKBN0EA1LE20140530>

"Jihadism: Tracking a Month of Deadly Attacks." *BBC News*, BBC, 11 Dec. 2014, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-30080914>

"Letter from the President-- War Powers Resolution Regarding Cameroon." *National Archives and Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/14/letter-from-president-war-powers-resolution-cameroon>

"Nigeria-Cameroon Security Committee Meets." *Nigeria-Cameroon Security Committee Meets* / *News24 Nigeria*,

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140810123040/http://m.news24.com/nigeria/National/News/Nigeria-Cameroon-security-committee-meets-20140707>

Nigeria: FG Inaugurates Nigeria-Cameroon ... - AllAfrica.com.
<https://allafrica.com/stories/201302060270.html>

“One More Step.” Archive.ph,
<https://archive.ph/20141201234012/http://www.navytimes.com/story/military/2014/12/01/nigeria-ends-us-mission-counter-boko-haram/19743581/>

Ross, Will. “Boko Haram Crisis: Among the Vigilantes of North-East Nigeria.” *BBC News*, BBC, 3 Dec. 2014, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30291040>

Ross, Will. “Boko Haram Kano Attack: Loss of Life on Staggering Scale.” *BBC News*, BBC, 30 Nov. 2014, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-30266868>

Schmitt, Eric. “With Schoolgirls Taken by Boko Haram Still Missing, U.s.-Nigeria Ties Falter.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 1 Jan. 2015, <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/01/world/with-schoolgirls-still-missing-fragile-us-nigeria-ties-falter.html>

“Thousands of Nigerian Refugees Fleeing Boko Haram Forced Back by Cameroon.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 19 Jan. 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/19/thousands-of-nigerian-refugees-fleeing-boko-haram-forced-back-by-cameroon>

U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of State, <https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2012humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2012&dclid=204153#wrapper>

“U.S. Directs up to \$45 Million to Support Countries Fighting Boko Haram.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 24 Sept. 2015, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-boko-haram-whitehouse-idUSKCNORO2BY20150924>

“Updated: Nigerian Military, Boko Haram Agree Immediate Ceasefire.” *Premium Times Nigeria*, 17 Oct. 2014, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/169671-breaking-nigerian-military-boko-haram-agree-immediate-ceasefire.html>

Younde. “With Cross-Border Attacks, Boko Haram Threat Widens.” *The New Humanitarian*, 16 Apr. 2019, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2013/11/21/cross-border-attacks-boko-haram-threat-widens>