The State and Challenges of Protecting Vulnerable People: A Study of Boko Haram

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Abstract

The activities of Boko Haram/ISWAP in the northeast Nigeria have impact not only on the nation’s security and economy; but particularly on vulnerable people like women and children as many of them were abducted, sexually abused, forcefully conscripted, used as explosive device transporters and detonators; and several of them became out of school. These activities of the sect are detrimental to the lives and socioeconomic development of women and children and other people in the region at large. The state and security operatives are called upon to protect such groups of people from being attacked and abducted; those in the refugee camps should be well catered for; authorities should encourage women and female children to go to school and religious leaders should teach correctly to debunk the wrong philosophy bequeathed to some of these people by their captors and other irrational teachers in the faith.

Keywords: Women, Children, Abductions, Vulnerable, Boko Haram and Northeast

Introduction

Since the signing of the treaty of Westphalia in 1648, which gave the state it unique features like having definite territory, functional government, sovereignty, population and the custodian of instruments of coercion; Government of various states became the driver of the state. State according to Appadorai (2004) and corroborated by Anyaele (1999); is ‘a politically organized body of people occupying a definite geopolitical territory with an organized government’. Some major functions of the state includes but not limited to: ensuring peace and security within and across their borders, by defending the citizen and others on its territory from being attacked or molested by individual or groups of persons; recruiting and equipping of security operatives to protect the Government, territory and the population from all forms of attacks; provide social amenities to the citizen; provides or create job opportunities; facilitate and engage in international relations with other nations and non-states actors (Hamidu, 2017). The population or citizens of the states have certain rights and privileges from the state to include, but not limited to: right to life, right to dignity of human person, right to personal liberty, right to freedom of thought, conscious and religion, among others rights. These universal human rights are to be observed and protected by each state that signed the United Nations charter (Okoli and Okoli, 2003). Besides, the citizens are to support the state, engage in socioeconomic activities, pay taxes; recognize and support the institutions of the state in providing and ensuring security of lives and properties and socioeconomic development. These are the nexus between the state and its citizen/population which should...
not be compromised or taken for granted by both parties.

As having population is one of the attributes of any sovereign state; the populations of people in most states are in categories of male or female, adult or teenagers, married or singles, civilian or military personnel, the rich or poor, the slave or freed, the ruler and the ruled etc. The male are naturally stronger and can bear certain level of hardship than the female counterpart. Biologically and spiritually, the male is seen as stronger and can protect themselves than the female folks. In the state also, there are people that are well protected or more fortified than others. For example, the rulers, or political/public office holders are more secured and protected than other civilians or the masses. The security operatives in the state are ideally for the protections of lives and properties of all the citizens and to ensure peaceful co-existence between and among the population on the territory. However, the political leaders and cities have more security operatives for protection than the remote or rural areas. These disparities make some human being or people to be more secured than others. The citizens that are residing far from the cities or where the government is sited lack such privileges and are therefore vulnerable of being attacked or hurt anytime.

Vulnerability is described as the state of being unprotected, weakly secured and easily hurt or harmed physically and emotionally. In several religions, women and children, especially the teenagers are considered the most vulnerable. They are prone or susceptible to manipulation, emotional abuses and physical injuries. They have less resisting abilities and may not be strong to endure hardship in comparism to their male folks.

Nigeria as a sovereign nation-state has and exhibits all the attributes of the states. Nigeria is made up of thirty six states; that are clustered into six geo-political zones. Northeast is one of the geopolitical zones, with states like Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. The states were peaceful, calm and economically buoyant in the past years. God has blessed the northeast region with ample arable land and population; with active population of women and children. Women and children in and from the region were playing great role in the economy in terms of farming and other commercial activities. Borno state for instance was called ‘Home of Peace’; where women and children were producing traditional and well embroiled caps for commercial purposes; some of them were catching or smoking fish from Lake Chad and other Dams/rivers around for both local and international commercial activities; both women and children were going to Islamic schools for personal and religious development and the women folk were real mothers and care givers for their husbands, children and other visitors or business associates. Besides going to school, the children learn vocation; some of them assist their parents through hawking. The people were industrious. This was the scenario in several states in northeast Nigeria.

Paradoxically however, Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states in northeastern Nigeria has now become a household name in Nigerian Government and politics due to Boko Haram/ISWAP activities in and across the region. Women and children that were friendly, calm and peace loving and peace makers have become vulnerable and victim of abuses, attacks and suffered all forms of molestations from both terrorists as well as security operatives and other public officials because of their peculiarities, biological and physiological dispositions. Unfortunately still, they are exploited and used negatively by the terrorists because they seem to be less protected; they are readily available and simple to be convinced/threatened, mobilized and
deployed for multifarious purposes. It is in light of the foregoing that this study examined the background of Boko Haram/ISWAP activities and how it affected women and children in the northeastern Nigeria and gives some recommendations.

**Historical Background of Boko Haram**

One of the most unfortunate developments since the return of Nigeria to democratic rule in 1999 after several years of military rule was the emergence of an alien religious movement in some states in northeastern Nigeria called Jama’atual Alhi-sunna Lid Da’awat Wal-Jihad, popularly called ‘Boko Haram’. This religious sect’s name according to Katsina (2011) is a combination of Hausa and Arabic language which is literally translated to mean ‘western education is forbidden’. They are Sunni Islamic fundamentalist sect, which advocates a strict form of adherence to the Sharia (Islamic law) and its implementation in Nigeria (David, 2001).

Originally, the intention or objective of this group was to preach and teach how to practice Islam in the way the prophet handed it over to his disciples. To this effect, they had a School and Mosque in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital as the medium of carrying out their mission.

The actual date and the initial founder of the group seem to be in disputes by some scholars and personalities. For instance, Governor Moudu Sharriff of Borno (2003-2011), under whose regime the sects came to prominence, and Onuoha (2010) asserted that this group seem to be in existence since 1995 with Mallam Abubakar Lawal as the leader, operating under various names like Ahlul Sunnah Wal Jama’ah Hijira; later Shabbaab, Muslim Youth Organization; Nigerian Taliban; to Yusufiyyah sect, to Boko Haram. The advocates of this theory disclosed that that the first major activity of Boko Haram was in Kanama, in Yobe State before it later moved to Borno state (Yakubu, 2014). Trying to establish who that Mallam Abubakar Lawal was proves difficult. The surrounding allegation however was that when Mallam Abubakar Lawal left to continue his education, Mohammed Yusuf took over the leadership of the group.

According to another theory, Mohammed Yusuf is said to officially form the group called Jama’atual Alhi-sunna Lid Da’awat Wal-Jihad, popularly called ‘Boko Haram in 2002 in the city of Maiduguri where he established a religious complex that included a Mosque and a School where many poor families from within and across Nigeria enrolled their children. Yusuf’s leadership allegedly opened the group to political influence and popularity. The group continued it activities such as preaching Islam in a more radical way; vehemently speaking against bribery, corruption, injustices in the social or political system. Such teachings gave the group more adherents. Corroborating with the above, Maiangwa (2014, p.115) states:

The movement was critical of government inefficiency, lack of accountability and corrupt practices which has resulted into unemployment and increase in poverty in Borno state in particular and Northern Nigeria as a whole... On several occasions, the group leader (Mohammed Yusuf) had spoken against Western liberal democracy and the ills it has brought to his own community which according to him, encouraged corrupt leaders to relegate the religion of Islam and perverse justice.

In a juxtaposed however, the political class saw this group and its teachings as a threat to political stability of Borno state and the nation at large, as Mohammed Yusuf’s popularity and his teachings got him more adherents among the less privileged population (Maiangwa, 2014). Some people perceived his aim and teachings was the establishing a Sharia government in Borno State.
Such kind of teachings gradually brought suspicion and tension in the metropolis between the politicians/ruling elites and the ruled, especially the masses over the group’s advances. Borno and northern Nigeria being religious sensitive, made the authorities cautious on the immediate crackdown; but there were some cases of underground arrest since 2008 (Maiangwa, 2014). The group clash with security operatives in Maiduguri from 26th to 30th July 2009 which led to its leader, Mohammed Yusuf being killed in questionable circumstance while in police custody; death of about three hundred and fifteen of its members; arrest of some of its members and the demolition of its properties in Markas, its base in Maiduguri according to Ibrahim (2014) and Maiangwa (2014) was the last straw which broke the Carmel’s back. This was the circumstance that warranted the group to take to violence in the states. Nigerian security operatives were able to silence and halt the excesses of the group then especially in the township and manhunt was mounted on other members.

As an organism and living movement, the group went underground and relocated to the out sketch of the metropolis and gather momentum which made her to resurface on a revenge mission. The group went after members, stations and barracks of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) attacking, killing, collecting their weapons and freeing prisoners. At this level, the sects were only after their perceived enemy, the Police and other security operatives. As the situation persist, Borno state, especially Maiduguri became insecure as gun shots can be heard; stray bullets could hit innocent person(s) anytime; more Police Mobile Force were drafted to Borno state.

The year 2010 to 2011 seemed to be the incubation and rebirth period for a radical and fundamentalist or militant Boko Haram to become a geopolitical and subsequently national terrorists group. The group now went wild attacking several institutions of the state like Schools; Churches; Banks, Markets; Motor parks and other government buildings. Corroborating with above, Fineman, (2018, p.114) asserts:

Boko Haram unexpected resurgence, following a mass prison break in September 2010, was accompanied by increasingly sophisticated attacks, initially against soft targets, but progressing in 2011 to include suicide bombings of police buildings and the United Nations office in Abuja. The government’s establishment of a state of emergency at the beginning of 2012, extended in the following year to cover other Adamawa, Borno and Yobe all in northeast of Nigeria, led to an increase in both security force abuses and militant attacks.

To justify their incessant attacks, the successor to Mohammed Yusuf, Imam Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the group in a YouTube video released in the year 2012, mentioned three reasons for their violent attacks on Nigerian Government and State:

a. To avenge the killing of their leader and other members in July 2009 by Nigerian Police;

b. To avenge the ill-treatment the Christians are meting out to Muslims and Islam in Nigeria; and

c. To correct the present secular constitution which he described as un-Islamic.

Many states in northern Nigeria like Kano, Bauchi, Gombe, including the Federal Capital territory, Abuja all had their share of the attacks.

As a result of frequent search and arrest of suspected Boko Haram members by security operatives and local vigilante group known as Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) in their Bulabulin Ganaram area in Maiduguri metropolis and environs, the sect members left Maiduguri Township to Sambisa forest. Sambisa Forest was a Game Reserve that
shares west Sudan savannah and the southern boundary of the Sahel savannah, located 60 kilometers south-east of Maiduguri. It occupies parts of the states of Borno, Yobe, Gombe and Bauchi states along the corridor of Darazo, reaching other states (Bodurin, 2014) and (Mbaya and Malgwi, 2010). By 2013, the sect has established it hegemony in the game reserve and forest. Taking advantage of this isolated and peaceful serene atmosphere, Boko Haram recruited more members, trained them in making and using Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and made itself a formidable force (Aju P.C and Aju J.A (2018).

Boko Haram has graduated from being a local insurrectionary group to a terrorist group with international affiliations according to Fineman (2018) whereby she has established links with various terrorist formations like Ansar Dine, Al-Qaeda of Mali in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO). To practically confirm its association with foreign terrorist group, on 7 March 2015, Boko Haram’s leader Abubakar Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), headed by Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) originated as Jamma’at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad in 1999 and pledged allegiance to Al-Qaeda. She participated in the Iraqi insurgency following the 2003 invasion of Iraq by western forces at the behest of the United States and proclaimed itself as worldwide caliphate, thereby referring to itself as Islamic State. As a Caliphate, it claimed religious, political and military authority over all Muslims and captured many places in Iraq and Syria before it was defeated. This group was also known for its video postage on beheading and other types of executions of both military and civilian population.

The link Boko Haram and ISIL, gave or metamorphosed and upgraded Jama’atul Ahlisunna Lid Da’awat Wal-Jihad, popularly called ‘Boko Haram’to its new status and name as the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP). This implies that Boko Haram is beyond the shores of Nigeria; it is now upgraded to a West African militant group. Boko Haram militant organization base in northeastern Nigeria is also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon republics.

Some of the impacts and evidences of the group’s alliance with more established international terrorist groups were the good quality of snapshots or pictures and video messages the group are posting on Youtube; they now launched several attacks on the military in their bases in Baga, Gubio and Lake Chad axis without much fears and collecting several weapons from the military. Since the current insurgency started in 2009, Boko Haram has killed tens of thousands and displaced 2.3 million from their homes and was ranked as the world's deadliest terror group by the Global Terrorism Index (2017).

Paradoxically however, after the allegiance to ISIL, there was perhaps internal friction among the Boko Haram Commanders/fighters and the ISIL leadership on another hand which prompted one faction to break away. On 3rd August 2016, the Islamic State reported in the 41st issue of its newspaper, al-Naba, that Abu Musah al-Barnawi had been appointed as the new leader of their West African branch (B.B.C News, 6:30am 4/8/2016). Today, there are two different factions of the terrorists groups. Al-Barnawi, that is backed and connected to ISIL leads ISWAP, whiles the initial and most popular one in Nigeria and across the region, Boko Haram is still headed by Abubakar Shekau. Whichever of the group attacks, it is labeled as Boko Haram. Both of them have the same mission of establishing caliphate in Nigeria and beyond; however with some slight differences between the groups as outlined by Hamidu, (2020, p.11 &12) thus:
Shekau’s faction (Boko Haram) take harder lines on who is an apostate Muslim and therefore deserving death while the ISWAP headed by Al-Barnawi seems to be moderate. Secondly, Al-Barnawi considers the population in particularly Borno and Yobe states to be Muslims while Shekau conclude the populations, who don’t belong to their sect, are non-believers. Thirdly, Boko Haram in 2014 abducted 276 Chibok school girls in Borno state and release few in exchange with some of its forces/foot soldiers; while, ISWAP in 2018 abducted 110 school girls in Dapchi, Yobe state and returned all, except Leah Shuaribu, who refused to renounced her faith in Christ Jesus (this may attest to their radical and moderate stands of the two different groups). Fourthly, Boko Haram attack indiscriminately, while ISWAP target security forces. Fifthly, Boko Haram seems to be more proactive in Sambisa/Adamawa axis, while ISWAP is along the Lake Chad axis. Both of them are however deadly and had their stronghold in Northeastern Nigeria.

The Impact Boko Haram Terrorism on Vulnerable People in Northeast Nigeria

The inability of the sovereign Nigerian states, with instruments and security apparatus to protect and defend the people domiciled in it from the aggressive activities of Boko Haram/ISWAP in northeastern Nigeria have not only affected the security and unity of Nigeria, but it constitutes or poses insecurity to women and children in the northeast and to the same categories of people in the republics of Niger, Chad and Cameroon in the Lake Chad basin. Some activities of Boko Haram/ISWAP within and across the borders have effects or impacts on the identified vulnerable people in the northeast region/states in the under mentioned ways:

Abduction of People: Boko Haram/ISWAP are known to have use abduction of people of both local and foreign nationalities, of both gender to either get finance as payment for ransom; carrying the ladies to satisfy their sexual urges/instincts or to negotiate in exchange for their arrested members to be released. Among their abductees on the high ways or in villages are the defenseless and vulnerable people: women and children. Such groups or categories of person have been abducted in many villages since the insurgency started. This was not known by the general public and members of the international community, until the mass abductions or the kidnapping of 276 school girls from Chibok in April 2014 and 110 Dapchi school girls in 2018 respectively (Noah, Abubakar & Ikwuba, 2017). These two instances were the ones that exposed the evil deeds of the terrorists groups and also confirmed the vulnerability of the women and children in the Nigeria sociological setting. It was unimaginable, but it actually occurred in the said northeastern states, in Nigeria. Beside these that were well known, there were other abductions of women and children in some remote areas in the northeast according to Onuoha (2010).

Ambushing/attacking of Commuters: Several travelers, business men and women, students, security officials, humanitarian workers, among others; have been ambushed and attacked by the terrorists on their way to legitimate duties or businesses. Women and children are always among those ambushed, where some of their goods were collected by force, some were beaten and others killed. For instance, Boko Haram/ISWAP have abducted and killed some women aid workers in Borno state; some women police officers on Maiduguri–Bama road which were shown or showcased in videos/YouTube by the terrorists themselves. Similarly, before or during the festive period in December 2019 to January 2020, Boko Haram/ISWAP killed several armed less and defenseless people in the out sketch of Maiduguri and several vehicles and other properties burnt.
Ransacking of Villages: Villages in Nigeria are remote from the seat of government. Most if not all villages have little or no security operatives at all when compared to the urban areas. The terrorists therefore exploited such vulnerability to attack villages and hamlets to carry away their food stuffs, livestock and other essential commodities and even set some of the houses ablaze (Idowu, 2015). When that is done, the women and children that escaped with their lives are left without food, shelters and other essential commodities for daily uses. This leads to hunger, starvation, malnutrition in and among the people in the northeast and several families become homeless.

Making and Detonating of Explosives: Boko Haram/ISWAP are known to make, transport, plant and detonate explosive devices. Owing to suspicion and arrest of many male by security operatives, Boko Haram/ISWAP decided to be using teenagers from both genders. In several attacks of the terrorists in the northeast, particularly in Mosque, Motor parks, schools etc, young women and children were used (Idowu, 2015). This group of people that are least suspected, as they seem to be in need of help; hence, they are not too much scrutinized by the security operatives, until it was discovered that they are used by the terrorists. Many young ladies and children have lost their lives while carrying or planting the explosive devices prepared and sent by the insurgents or terrorists.

Radicalizing innocent young Boys and Girls: Many of the young boys and girls caught or abducted by the terrorists are later radicalized and indoctrinated by the groups, where the minds of these hitherto innocent categories of persons are poisoned against the state and it people ‘as enemies of Allah or as infidel’. For example, one of the Chibook school girl rescued by the security operatives insisted that she preferred to stay with the terrorists than coming to live with her parents and other rational people in the civilized society. Some of the earlier freed young boys and girls are said to have gone back into the bush due the strong influence the group had on them. Strong indoctrination by the terrorists on their victims has tremendous effects on the victim’s psychological and mental well being.

Compulsory Marriage of their Abductees: Several of the girls and other women abducted by the terrorist groups were forced to be married to the Boko Haram/ISWAP fighters against their wish and desire. Some of those teenagers suffered painful sexual harassment, torture and other forms of molestation if they refuse to marry any of their abductors. This is a serious distortion and disarticulation on the freedom of will and choice in and for marriage. Some of such forcefully married ladies were later rescued by the military, when their supposed husbands ran away or were killed and the young ladies confirmed the force marriage issue and other challenges they faced.

Sexual Abuses: Many women and children suffer several levels and dimension of sexual abuses in the Boko Haram/ISWAP camps and those who are in the displaced peoples’ camps too suffered one form of molestation or the other. In the refugee camps, many women are mostly confined in one place. In their quest to get food and other needs, some of them were sexually assaulted by some of security operatives or the refugee camp officials. Some women and children suffer sexual harassment, abuses/molestation from some of their male counterpart in and around the camps. This is in violation of their conscience, rights, interest and human dignity. Consequently, some ladies have become pregnant; some have become mothers at a tender age, while others were forced to abort the pregnancy so as to hide their shame. These are as a result of the terrorists activities in the northeast.

Increase in out of School Children: Terrorism orchestrated by Boko Haram/ISWAP in the northeast has affected
girl-child education and other teenagers. The abduction of the Chibok and Dapchi girls in Borno and Yobe state in 2014 and 2018 respectively have affected school enrolment for girls and women, especially in remote areas for fear of being lynched or abducted as the terrorist groups are critical of western education observe by Okafor, (2015). Some parents withdraw their wards from secular schools completely and left them at home or to learn a vocation; others took theirs to Koranic schools; while others removed them from distance schools and put them in the one closer and others yet gave out their daughters for marriages for security purposes.

Displacement of Families: Consequent upon the activities of the terrorists, there were displacements of persons within and across the Nigerian states. Such displacement affects women and children in terms of trekking on foot, accommodation, social amenities and relations within and outside Nigeria. Of the 2.3 million people displaced by the insurgents since May 2013, at least 250,000 have left Nigeria and fled into Cameroon, Chad or Niger, including women and children (Hamidu, 2017). This is a worrisome situation as it has lot of physiological and security implications on the life, health, sociological and economic wellbeing of the individuals, region and the state at large.

Slavery: In this ‘Jihad war’ according to Boko Haram/ISWAP philosophy, anybody (or non-member) caught during war is a war slave. A slave has no right, as he/she is at the mercy of the master. This applied to the women and children caught by the insurgents. As slaves, the women can be sold to whomever their captors wills, and by this act, the group is involved in human trafficking. This explains why perhaps some of the abducted Chibok schools girls could not be accounted for. Slaves are and can be use for domestic and other purposes. The many ladies/women in the Boko Haram/ISWAP camps are seen and treated as slaves; they are kept in dehumanizing condition, tortured and molested by their captors, since they are war slaves. This is a threat to human dignity and freedom as one does not have his will and freedom in the hands of the captors.

Stigmatization: Most of the young boys and women initially abducted by the insurgency and have spent some days, weeks, months and years with the terrorists; at their eventual rescued by the security operatives and brought home; are stigmatized by their neighbours or members of their community. In some instances they are treated and even called or described as Boko Haram; some of them are not easily accepted or even accommodated in the society. Such treatment make the lives of these returnees miserable; some who could not bear it either go back to the bush or leave their initial home land to other safer places for social and security purposes.

Deaths: Many people have lost their lives in the Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorism in the northeast Nigeria. Boko Haram/ISWAP killed over 6,600 in 2014. The United Nations, through its Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon says Boko Haram insurgency killed 27,000 civilians in ten years (Ajayi, 2019), including women and children. Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, all in the northeast have lost several people, including the vulnerable women and children in the ten years Boko Haram’s terrorism.

Psychological Trauma: Many women and children in the northeast Nigeria, particularly in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states have and are suffering from psychological trauma as a result of the incessant bomb blasts, killing of loved ones like their male children, husband, in-laws, relations and the forceful taking away of their daughters. Women and children have seen dead bodies of people; some is even that of their spouse that was murdered in their presence as noted by Hamidu, (2017). Such
psychological trauma remains in the mind and psyche of the people for long, sometimes causing hallucinations and other apprehensions.

**Halting of Agricultural Activities:** Women and children have been one of the active forces as far as agriculture, especially in farming and fishing is concern. Some families and women have their farms; in addition, some wealthy people use women and children to cultivate their farmland, plant seeds, weed the farm, apply fertilizers and undertake the harvesting, threshing and packaging of the farm products, especially the grains. Because of the activities of Boko Haram/ISWAP however, women and children hardly go to farms that are just few meters away as before. Similarly, women hardly go to the bush to get fire wood; get and prepare locust/grasshoppers or to the rivers/dams to get and prepare fish for local and international consumption along the Lake Chad axis due to fear or threat of the terrorists. This fear becomes obvious because some women were abducted, others sexually harassed/molested and for others, their belongings taken away (Odebode, 2015). This has negatively affected socioeconomic activities and particularly the economies of the women in the three states.

**Increase in Street Begging:** Unemployment, underemployments, out of school children and poverty in Nigeria created room for street begging in northern Nigeria. More importantly however, is the Boko Haram attacks/insurgency, where bread winners are killed, houses and food stuff are burnt and people displaced. This has increased the number of street beggars in the various states in region according to Ibrahim (2014). The street begging is now not limited to the most vulnerable: children and women per se, but including adults who have lost their properties and other belongings, with nothing to keep life going again. Street begging is now an occupation due to Boko Haram insurgency in the region, which should be viewed analytically for possible remedies.

**Conclusion**

From the above discourse, one can clearly see that the inability of the Nigerian state to protect its territory and citizens, especially the vulnerable ones from Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorism in northeast Nigeria, has ample negative impacts on the women folk that constitute a tangible section of the society in the region. Such negative impacts cannot be quantified in monetary terms; and one wonders why such atrocities seems to be neglected by the media, government and nongovernmental organizations. It is the position of this study that women and children in the northeast are not well protected, hence they are vulnerable and consequently greatly affected, as they have suffered molestation, torture psychological trauma, lost of family members and business opportunities which is worrisome, unacceptable and should be condemned by rational minds.

**Recommendations**

In view of the above, Women and children should be well protected by the state and its security apparatus wherever they are;

Women and children in the northeast should be economically empowered to rebuild their lives so as to take care of the orphans and injured people in their respective immediate family;

Women and children should be encouraged and supported to go back to school as it is one of the avenue for social engineering and development in this globalized world;

Government should criminalize and reinforced the law against persons or groups that molest and abuse vulnerable people like women and children in the society, especially in insurgency like this;
Women should be given employment and other opportunities to excel in their careers against the former practices in most northern states; this will boost the academic appetite of the girl-child, as well as not ignoring the educated young men;

People should stop stigmatizing and discriminating against the rescued Boko Haram abductors or ex-Boko Haram/repentant members, but accept them in good faith and assist them to learn something better as victims of circumstance;

Government should register and retrain the non-formal educators to be patriotic in their teachings of the youngsters and those terrorists captured or who claimed to have repented should be de-radicalized to forsake the initial erroneous radical ideologies;

The state should recruit, train more security operatives, fund and equip them to meet the security needs of the population/people both in rural and urban areas;

Nigeria authorities should liaise or collaborate with its neighbours to tackle the insecurity wrecking havoc in this section of the West and Central African sub-region by Boko Haram/ISWAP; and,

International and supra states institutions like the UNICEF, UNESCO etc are to come to the aid of the people and government of northeast to rebuild some of the affected schools, give nutrition to the children/youth for healthy living.

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