

**THE MEDIA AND COUNTERINSURGENCY
OPERATIONS: INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF
MEDIA SURVEILLANCE ON BOKO HARAM
TERRORIST ATTACKS, 2009-2015**

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THE MEDIA AND COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS: INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF MEDIA SURVEILLANCE ON BOKO HARAM TERRORIST ATTACKS, 2009-2015

ABSTRACT

Boko Haram is ranked the world most deadliest terrorist group, killing more people than the dreaded Islamic State (Vincent, 2016). The group has killed over 30,000 civilians since 2009 and displaced over 2,152,000 people in Nigeria, Chad and neighbouring Cameroon (IDMC, 2016). The Nigerian government adopted different counterinsurgency strategies to curb the terrorist activities of the Boko Haram group. However, media reports on spate of terrorist attacks and reports on advanced plan of the Joint Task Force were exploited by insurgents. This occurs when the media leak classified counterinsurgency operations thereby putting at risk the lives of soldiers and other security forces. This thesis investigates the impact of media surveillance on Boko Haram terrorist attacks from 2009 to 2015.

RESEARCH OVERVIEW:

Complete Project: 105 Pages

Research Method: History Research Method

Data Collection: Oral interview, Newspapers, Archival Materials, Journals and Books

Analysis: Content Analysis

References: Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition (2010).

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

General Overview

Boko Haram is ranked the world most deadliest terrorist group, killing more people than the dreaded Islamic State (Vincent, 2016). The group has killed over 30,000 civilians since 2009 and displaced over 2,152,000 people in Nigeria, Chad and neighbouring Cameroon (IDMC, 2016). Boko Haram pride itself as *Jama'a Abl as-Sunna Li-da'wa wa-al Jihad* (People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad), and fights to enforce strict *Sharia* on Nigerians (START, 2014). This thesis analyses government response to Boko Haram terrorist attacks within the framework of counterinsurgency operation.

Nigeria's political landscape is complex. It is divided into six geo-political zones which comprises of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states. The northeast zone is home to Boko Haram terrorist group. Yoruba and Igbos dominate the south most of whom are Christians while the north is predominantly Muslim. Since 1960 when Nigeria gained independence from Britain, the north has remained poor and impoverished. Also, the corrupt nature of the government officials and politicians paved way for the rise of condemnations and the spread of emergence of extremist ideas.

By 2002, Abubakar Shekau emerged as the de facto leader of Boko Haram group. Under Shekau's leadership, Boko Haram carried out massive attacks mainly on churches but later spread it to barracks, police stations, motor parks, mosques, markets, schools, and banks killing people irrespective of ethnicity and religious affiliation (CrisisGroup 2014, p. 2).

From 2009 onward, the group became more violent in its spate of attacks. It carried out insurgency operations aimed at replacing the structure of government with Islamic principles. In essence, Boko Haram fought to take over the Federal Government of Nigeria (Campbell, 2013). This, they tried by taking over 20 local government areas in the northeast (Yusufu and Joel, 2015). This attempt has forced Nigeria to defend her territory with series of counterinsurgency operations.

Counterinsurgency operations has been well researched in the military circle. Counterinsurgency (COIN) is primarily a political struggle and incorporates a wide range of activities by the host nation (HN) government of which security is only one, albeit an important one. The HN government in coordination with the chief of mission (COM) should lead the COIN efforts. When the operational environment (OE) is not conducive to a civilian agency lead for the COIN effort within a specific area, the joint force commander (JFC) must be cognizant of and able to lead the unified action required for effective COIN (JP 3-24, 2013).

However, the media – both local and international – have shaped the ways and manners Boko Haram insurgents operate by reporting live events or leaking highly classified counterinsurgency operation. This area of counterinsurgency is under-researched. It is the intent of this study therefore to find out the role of the media (electronic, print and social media) in information management and national security using selected events in Nigeria as case study.

CHAPTERISATION

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- 1.1 Background to the Study
- 1.2 Statement of the Study
- 1.3 Objectives of the Study
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 - 2.2.3 Counterinsurgency approaches in Nigeria
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- 3.1 Historical Background to Terrorist Activities in Nigeria
- 3.2 Dimensions of the Terrorism in Nigeria
 - 3.2.1 Targets/Opponents
 - 3.2.2 Group Affiliations/Training
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CHAPTER FOUR CONTENT ANALYSIS

CHAPTER FIVE SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

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REFERENCES APPENDICES

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