

# **The Boko Haram Crisis and Nigeria's External Relations**

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## **Abstract**

Since May 29, 1999, Nigeria has been plagued by many violent uprisings from ethnic militias. The insurgency from *Boko Haram*, a fundamentalist Islamic sect in North-eastern Nigeria has, no doubt heightened Nigeria's insecurity. This paper considers *Boko Haram* as an internal crisis that has become externalized as a result of its finance and activities being linked with Al-Qaeda. The paper concludes that the country has decided to solve externalization of *Boko Haram* through bilateral and multilateral cooperations.

## Introduction

Events very often (if not always) such as domestic policies and actions of sovereign governments, routine exercise of power on matters which border on day –to-day governance, can snow ball into foreign policy controversies that are likely to attract global attention. When this situation arises, the issues or matters upon which governments have acted within the domestic jurisdiction of states or governments become objects of international concern. The operation of the *Boko Haram* has moved from the sphere of domestic or internal politics to international domain. Albert Tanimu Sam Tsokwa, the chairman of the House of Representatives on Rules and Business realized the interconnections between the *Boko Haram* which started in Nigeria as a domestic issue and the external dimension of this same phenomenon especially when he was asked whether the National Assembly could intervene

Terrorism and trans-border crime pose a serious security threat to all our countries, so we will strengthen border patrols and other area of cooperation with our neighbours, to ensure the safety of our citizens.<sup>3</sup>

and come up with a lasting solution on Boko Haram menace. He was quick to point out that:

The *Boko Haram* issue is beyond mere legislation by parliament. The issue has outgrown council boundaries, and has now become an international problem. The security agencies claim that they have evidence that these people are linked with Al-Qaeda, and if they are truly linked with Al-Qaeda it is not something we can resolve through legislation in National Assembly. They will be dealt with in the same manner Al-Qaeda is being tackled<sup>1</sup>.

Such issues (like the case of the *Boko Haram*) may provoke favourable or negative reactions from other nations that are touched by policies emanating there from and this can invariably lead to the enhancement or deterioration of bilateral or multilateral relations. For instance, the state of emergency declared by President Jonathan on Borno, Yobe, Plateau and Niger states<sup>2</sup> have been reacted against negatively. Thus following this action by the President, the United States of America warned her nationals not to travel to such problematic areas in Nigeria. The widespread insecurity following the terrorist acts in Nigeria prompted President Jonathan wanting to boost security ties with other West African Countries. Jonathan declared thus while meeting his Niger Republic counterpart, Mahamadou Issoufou:

Touched by the degree of insecurity that overwhelmed the country, the Federal Government had recently deported 7000 illegal immigrants from Chad and Niger Republics.<sup>4</sup> In another development, the wanton destruction to lives and properties prompted the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, Ban ki-moon to ask the Federal Government to mobilize needed forces to quell the *Boko Haram* terror attacks.<sup>5</sup> Also, the United Nations suspended travels to Nigeria over Abuja blast<sup>6</sup> and simultaneously became worried over the death toll necessitated by *Boko Haram*<sup>7</sup>. Closely related to this incidence of *Boko Haram* was the 1960 Sharpsville Massacre during which peaceful protesters were callously mowed down by apartheid police. This incident haunted apartheid South Africa for several decades and

provoked increased international outrage that led to the denunciation of apartheid as a crime against humanity.

This paper examines *Boko Haram* episode pointing out that domestic events within sovereign territory can snowball into matters of external consideration. The paper is divided into four parts beginning with the theoretical framework, previous domestic crises snowballing into external crises, the *Boko Haram* and external connections and finally the *Boko Haram* and Nigeria's external relations.

### **The Theoretical Framework**

Our theoretical in this work is 'linkage politics'. To start with, Linkage Politics stresses the interdependence of domestic and international systems. It peeps into the perennial problems relating to the connection between domestic politics and foreign policy by taking the spheres of national and international politics as interacting system.

Rosenau in his work defined Linkage Politics as the recurrent sequence of behavior that originates in one system and is reacted to in another.<sup>8</sup> The *Boko Haram* activities in Nigeria continued to attract reactions beyond Nigeria. Touched by the degree of monumental destruction of lives and properties perpetrated by the *Boko Haram*, the world religious bodies comprising the World Council of Churches (WCC) from Geneva and Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic thought (RAABIT) from Jordan with many religious leaders from many parts of the world came to Nigeria to find solution to the problem of *Boko Haram*.<sup>9</sup> Again, both the United States of America (USA) and the Chief Prosecutor of International Criminal Court (ICC), Mrs Fatou Bensouda had expressed deep concern about the activities of the sect in Nigeria<sup>10</sup>.

The description of what we have given above shows that there is causal relationship between what happens in a policy and its environments. The use of Linkage Politics in international politics is significant in understanding any event in our global system. For examples, the internal political process of a Latin American country cannot be understood properly without putting into consideration the role of the United States of America (USA). Also, the *coup d'état* in Liberia which brought late Samuel Doe to power sparked off reactions worldwide.

Three types of linkage forms can be identified. These are penetrative, reactive and emulative. The penetrative linkage occurs when members of one polity serve as participants in the political process of another. There are many instances of penetrative linkage politics in the international scene. Examples include the activities of the Cuban forces in Angola and that of Libyan soldiers in Chad. Others are staff of international organisations, the diplomatic agents, foreign aid missions and also representatives on multinational corporations getting involved in domestic political process.

Penetrative linkage is followed by reactive linkage which involves response and adjustment to polity output emanating from elsewhere. Thus during the June 12 annulment of election in Nigeria, the United States reacted by suspending non-humanitarian assistance to Nigeria. In the same vein, during the Middle East War in 1973, the Arab Oil States imposed embargo on supply of oil to the United States, and the Netherlands also decreased their production. This development prompted the European Community to issue a declaration that recognized the rights of the Palestinians. Many Western Countries adopted multiparty democracy today as a condition for granting aid to African Countries.

The third is the emulative linkage which is established when the input takes the same form as the output. For instance, it is observed that most of the things done by developing countries relating to political, social and economic are the same with what exist in developed polities. For examples, the Nigeria's cabinet system of Government was fashioned after the

British System of Government and likewise, the Nigerian Presidential System of Government was fashioned after that of the United States of America (USA).

### **Previous domestic crises snowballing into external crises**

In this section, we shall present the cases of domestic crises that resulted into external crises. We shall limit this to three case studies.

#### **Case Study i**

##### *The expulsion of Illegal aliens from Nigeria in 1983*

On 17 January 1983, the Federal Government of Nigeria through the then Minister of Internal Affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba announced that all illegal immigrants numbering between 2 million and 3 million should leave Nigeria within 14 days<sup>11</sup>. While appealing to private employers to ensure the departure of illegal immigrants in their various establishments, the then Minister added that after 31 January 1983, government agents would commence inspecting commercial, industrial and household establishments with a view to flushing out the aliens from the country.

Although many aliens had been coming to Nigeria since the oil boom in the early seventies, it was not until the ratification of the ECOWAS protocol of Free Movement of person signed in May 1979 that thousands of aliens mostly from ECOWAS states flocked to Nigeria. Even though, the Nigerian Government ultimatum of fourteen days appeared superficially to be sudden, a close study of this incidence revealed that it was not. Thus as late as 1979, the Federal Government had advised all the diplomatic Missions in Lagos to ensure the proper registration of all their nationals in the country with the warning that aliens without valid documents would be deported. Following this instruction, some mission made some attempts to register their nationals while some did not. However, as early as 1980, these foreign Missions stopped doing anything about it. The Nigerian Government for some reasons relaxed this policy and did not do anything against the aliens without valid entry and residence permits and work permits<sup>12</sup>

The Government changed its position later following some incidents that took place in Nigeria. One of which was the Kano violent religious disturbances in December, 1980 in which thousands of civilians, and about 100 policemen and military personnel died, and in which a fairly large part of Kano city was destroyed. The Anigolu Tribunal of Inquiry was set up by the Federal Government to probe the causes of the disturbances after identifying that the nationals of some neighbouring African Countries such as Cameroon, Chad, Niger Republic, Mali and Upper Volta were involved. The Federal Government accepted the recommendations of the Anigolu's Tribunal of Inquiry that there must be strict control of their influx into Nigeria through the establishment of properly equipped Border Patrol Units.

The introduction of austerity measures called 'The Stabilization of the Economy Act' of April 1982 resulted into a wave of crimes especially of armed robbery in which many jobless aliens participated freely, this was followed by tragic religious disturbances in Maiduguri, Kaduna, Sokoto, Bauchi and Kano in which some aliens participated. The last straw which precipitated the expulsion of the aliens was the violent attempts made by armed robbers to break into the residence of the then Vice-President, Dr Alex Ekwueme in which police apprehended some of the Ghanaians with Ghanaian's identity papers. It was this that made the Federal Government to authorize the Ministry of Internal Affairs to expel these illegal aliens.

Even though, the expulsion order was given by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the incident provoked spirited attack and even outright denunciation of the Shagari Government as inhumane, callous and irresponsible regime<sup>13</sup> from outside the country. The concept of

Linkage Politics as adopted in our theoretical framework in this piece demonstrated its outright appearance here between what happened within Nigeria and her external environment. It was reported that Nigeria lost her seat to become the Chairman of the Economic Commission to Nicaragua.

Within the West African sub-region, there were mixed negative reactions. To start with, the Heads of State within this sub-region asked the then Chairman of the ECOWAS, President Matthew Kerekou of Benin Republic to visit Lagos to discuss their concern with the Nigerian leaders. Even though, it was revealed that, both Presidents Kerekou and Shagari felt that the expulsion order would not affect the development of ECOWAS, other West African leaders reacted negatively. The Liberian Leader, General Samuel Doe, issued a statement denouncing the quit order, and offered \$100,000 to the Ghanaian government to cope with the returnees. The Government of Hissene Habre of Chad which the Federal Government has assisted on many occasion, condemned the alien law as sudden and brutal while the government of General Kountche of Niger Republic deplored the alien law as contrary to the spirit of African unity.

The quit order strained Nigerian-Ghanaian relations because Ghanaians were most affected. The announcements of 17 January came as a complete surprise to the Ghanaian authorities. Ghanaians in Nigeria did not wait for the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January to leave. Many left as soon as they heard the announcement. In addition, not only those who did not have papers left; many who were legally in Nigeria also chose to return to Ghana fearing reprisals from the local people.

Many of these Ghanaians suffered untold hardship as many of them travelling back home faced diverse kind of problems. The Ghanaians government set up a National Emergency Relief Committee (NERC)<sup>14</sup> to cope with the problems. In sympathy with these people, the Nigerian Transport Owner's Association provided 200 trailers to the Nigerian Government to convey the aliens to Ghana free of charge. It was estimated that the trailers succeeded in transporting 20,000 stranded illegal aliens to Ghana. The *Ghanaian Times* declared the quit order as an electoral gimmick by the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN) to divert attention from its failures so that it could return to power later in August/ September 1983. It was in this manner that Nigeria externalized the expulsion order.

## **Case Study ii**

### *The annulment of June 12 presidential election of 1993.*

The political crisis that culminated in the collapse of the Third Republic was precipitated by General Babaginda's cancellation of Chief Moshood Abiola's decisive victory in the virtually flawless presidential elections of 12 June 1993.<sup>15</sup> Two days before the election, a group known as the Association for Better Nigeria (ABN), petitioned the courts for an order to stop the election from proceeding as scheduled. The ABN was created after the primaries by a military front-group sponsored by security agencies. No sooner was the ABN established than it started its own "Babaginda Must Stay" campaign. In response to its request for an order to stop the election from proceeding, a court was hurriedly created in Abuja. The Presiding judge, Bassey Ikpeme on June 9, 1993, several of Babaginda's loyalists within the Army met in Minna to consider the implications of an Abiola's victory in the election. In attendance were Colonel Abdul-Mumuni Aminu, Commander of the National Guard; Colonel Abubakar Umar, Commandant, Army Armoured Corps, Centre and School, Bauchi, Colonel Chris Abutu Garba, Colonel John Madaki and Brigadier John Inienger.<sup>16</sup> It was during this meeting that the idea of annulling the election was conceived. The National Electoral Commission (NEC) Chairman, Humphrey Nwosu was brought into the

arrangement. The main objective was to ensure that either the election did not occur or if it did, the results would be questionable.

On June 11, 1993, as the nation looked forward to voting the next day, Justice Ikpeme granted the injunction sought by the ABN to stop the election from proceeding. But by Sunday June 13, the election results had started coming in and on the same day, the NEC declared the election results in 12 states and Abiola won in seven of them. In fact, the BBC announced the result of 27 of the 30 states with Abiola as the clear winner. On June 14, the NEC headed for the Court of Appeal in Kaduna to raise objections to the case brought by the ABN. Its main point was that the association had no jurisdiction for the action it filed. By June 15, the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja, Justice Dahiru Saleh instructed the NEC to suspend the release of the election results. On June 16, Nwosu of the NEC announced the suspension of the election results, reportedly after he was summoned to the Presidency in Abuja to explain why he did not cause a stalemate in the election.

The entire country was however plunged into a state of latent crisis, waiting for official word from Abuja. It was on June 23, 1993 that Babangida annulled the election. In his national address leading to the annulment, he said:

There can never be any doubt that the quashing of the June presidential poll provoked turbulent reactions from the international community. The United States of America (USA) predictably played the pre-eminent role in the international community's opposition to Nigeria's apparent backsliding from the worldwide trend towards democracy. The US role was precipitated by the previous action of Nigeria against her. Thus on the eve of the election, the Nigerian Government had issued an expulsion order on Mr. Mike O'Brien of the United States Information Service in Nigeria and had withdrawn accreditation to US election

“Lasting democracy is not a temporary show of excitement and manipulation by an over-articulate section of the elite and its captive audience.... As an administration, we cannot afford to lead Nigeria into a Third Republic with epileptic convulsions in its democratic health....Even before the presidential election, and indeed at the party conventions, we had full knowledge of the bad signals pertaining to the enormous breaches of rules and regulations of democratic election.... The use of money was again the major source of undermining the electoral process.... It is true that the presidential election was generally seen to be free, fair and peaceful. However, there was in fact a huge array of election malpractices virtually in all the states of the Federation before the actual voting began.... Our need is for peace, stability and continuity of policies in the interest of all our people”<sup>17</sup>.

monitors, in apparent pique at O'Briens declaration of America's opposition to any postponement of the election following the 10 June Abuja High Court injunction against the conduct of the poll.

When the election was annulled, the United States of America (U.S.A) reacted by suspending non-humanitarian assistance to Nigeria, reduced the level of military personnel exchange between the two countries, reviewed all new application for exports of defence

articles and services to Nigeria, imposed restrictions on the issuance of American diplomatic visas to Nigerian officials, and advised prospective American visitors to avoid Nigeria.

On the side of Britain, it suspended all its military courses for Nigerian officers, withdrew a British military advisory team, cut down on new aid, and suspended visa opportunities for members of the Nigerian armed forces and their families as well as federal and state government officials.

Canada suspended Nigeria's eligibility for Canadian-sponsored military and police training, cancelled an upcoming visit to the country by a delegation from the Nigerian Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, and advised Canadians to defer all travels to Nigeria.

The European Community (EC) reacted to the annulment of Abiola's victory by suspending all military aid and training programmes and counselling visas to Nigerian military personnel and their families. This was how the annulment of the election became externalised.

### **Case Study iii**

#### *The Ogoni Crisis*

The Ogoni people in Nigeria have been protesting against environmental degradation caused by oil exploration and to effectively pursue this struggle ensuring that, it has both national and international focus. The Ogoni People formed the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) in 1990. Mr Ken Saro -Wiwa was the leader of this movement. Through the activities of this movement, international attention had been brought to the environmental catastrophes caused by oil exploration, and the years of political, economic and social neglect of the oil-producing communities by the Nigerian State.

Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa who was at the forefront of the struggle gained considerable international reputation as an environmental activist. He had presented their case before the United Nations (UN), and had received recognition from the Unrepresented Nations and People's Organization (UNPO) in Geneva. General Abacha therefore saw him as a threat. The regime framed him for murder of four prominent Ogoni leaders in 1994. He was subsequently arrested with several others, detained for months, arraigned before a tribunal on charges of criminal disturbance, and eventually sentenced to death by hanging by November 10, 1995 along with eight others.<sup>18</sup>

The Ogoni crisis changed from internal to external dimension as the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other eight Ogoni leaders attracted international sympathy. First, Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth of Nations. The suspension of Nigeria from the commonwealth denied her of the commonwealth fund for Technical Co-operation, Commonwealth Foundation for Socio- Economic Assistance, Commonwealth Science Council Assistance, Student and Youth Programmes, Consular Relations, Employment and Labour and Technological Schemes, and Commonwealth Women Development Programmes.<sup>19</sup>

The Commonwealth further established a ministerial action to oversee Nigeria's towards democracy. Unsatisfied with the improvement of human right condition in Nigeria, the Commonwealth ministerial action recommended additional sanctions. The eight member ministerial Commonwealth made up of Canada, Malaysia, Britain, South Africa, Jamaica, New Zealand, Ghana and Zimbabwe recommended that member states should freeze foreign assets of Nigerian leaders, ban the country from all sporting contests and severe air travels with her.

Besides, the 15-member European Union (EU) countries showed their displeasure over the November 10 execution of nine Ogoni leaders and consequently had their ambassadors withdrawn from Nigeria. These fifteen members included Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Australia, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, Greece, Portugal, and Luxembourg.<sup>20</sup> The foreign ministers of these fifteen countries met on November 16, 1995 and approved a string of sanctions against Nigeria which included arms embargo and denial of visas to military and civilian members of Abacha administration and their families as well as freezing of overseas assets of military officers. The foreign ministers of these countries further pointed out that the ban on arms sales applied only to future contract and not those already agreed upon.

### **The Boko Haram and its External Connections**

The world is fast changing today. Every society is now associated with one terrorist group or the other. The ugly phenomenon of terrorism became known in the world in the 1970s, especially with the 1972 Black septembist kidnapping of Jews athletes during the Munich Olympic, and plane hijacking that led to the Israeli raid on Entebbe Airport in 1976 to free Jewish hostages<sup>21</sup>. However with the end of the cold war and the collapse of the soviet power and other communist party regimes in the Eastern Europe, a new set of terrorism has come to be added to those old ones. Islamic fundamentalist is now been talked about as the source of the terrorist menace troubling today's world, and deliberately aimed at filling the void created by the collapse of internal communism<sup>22</sup>.

In Nigeria, terrorist organizations can generally be described to have been created as a result of the perceived constant marginalization of a certain group of people. Numerous of these organizations in Nigeria include *OOdua* People's Congress(OPC), The Anambra Vigilance Service(Bakassi Boys),Egbesu Boys of Africa,*Arewa* People's Congress(ACP), Operation Zaki- Zaki and Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra(MASSOB) among others. Of recent, there is the *Boko Haram*. The name "Boko" was derived from "Boka" or sorcerer-a character associated with shirk which is an automatic act of disbelief and the most repugnant act of Islam. With the foregoing analysis, we have established the fact that terrorism exists in Nigeria. Besides, recently, the United States of America (USA) classified Nigeria along other countries as Yemen, Iran, Pakistan among others as terrorist countries<sup>23</sup>.

However, *Boko Haram* does not exist in isolation. Evidence exists to suggest that there are links between international Terrorist organization such as Al-Qaeda and *Boko Haram*. Recently, the American Government declared three leaders of *Boko Haram*-Abubakar Shekau, Abubakar Kambar and Khalid Al-Barmawi global terrorist for their role within the *Boko Haram* group and close links with Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb. Middle men connect the groups in the country with the members of Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda is fast establishing its presence in non-Arab of West Africa countries<sup>24</sup>. Evidence also exist that there is a link between *Boko Haram* and Al Shahab in the Arabian Peninsula and Somalia<sup>25</sup>. As of March 2010, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb confessed of helping Nigerian extremists with training and weapons to confront the Nigerian state. The group was reputed to have said that "We are ready to train your people in weapons and give you whatever support we can in men, arms and munitions to enable defend our people in Nigeria"<sup>26</sup>. This was corroborated when about 100 foreigners in custody in Nigeria were linked with *Boko Haram* activities in Nigeria. Most of these people were from Niger Republic, Chad, Mali and some North African countries<sup>27</sup>. In another development, the foreign affairs minister of the Niger Republic, Bazoum stated that sufficient link existed between *Boko Haram* and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, stating further that the *Boko Haram* got weapons and training from abroad<sup>28</sup>. Information also revealed that the group also known as *Al- Muntada* Trust Fund

with headquarters in the United Kingdom is financially assisting the sect. Besides, the sect is also receiving funds from Islamic World Society with headquarters in Saudi Arabia<sup>29</sup>. Associated with funding and the training perspective, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Azubuike Ihejirika during the Army Headquarters Command Mess at Abuja pointed out that from all indications, the type of weapon and communication equipment captured from the insurgents showed that there was a foreign involvement in the terrorism in Nigeria.

### **The *Boko Haram* and Nigeria's External Relations**

The *Boko Haram* without any shadow of doubt is linked to Al-Qaeda. Armed with the mission to subvert democracy in Nigeria, the sect started to unleash terror on Nigerians beginning with July 26, 2009 which was the first clash with security agencies in Bauchi state after an all night attack on Dutsen- Tanshi Police station in which 39 members, 2 policemen and one soldier were killed. Terrorist attacks through *Boko Haram* have much impact on foreign countries' policy and foreign relations. Many Nigerian nationals and foreign nationals had lost their lives due to the attack of this sect. The sect has added another dimension to its attack which is the bombing of strategic areas<sup>30</sup>.

The Federal Capital City, Abuja had a taste of this bombing by October 1 2010. This was followed by the bomb blast that occurred at Louis Edet House, Headquarters of the Nigerian Police. In a similar occurrence, there was the Mogadishu Barracks Bomb blast and to climax it all, there was the United Nations Office bombing that took the lives of at least 23 persons. Also recently, a British hostage Chris McManus and his Italian counterpart, Franco Lamolinara were killed by the Nigerian terrorists. The latter event prompted President Goodluck Jonathan to formally write to both the Prime Ministers of Britain and Italy, David Cameron and Mario to express sympathy with them on the death of these nationals<sup>31</sup>.

Touched by the monumental destructions of the *Boko Haram*, the Nigerian Government had decided to tackle the activities of Boko- Haram through *bilateral* and *multilateral* relations.

### **The Bilateral Relations**

On Tuesday February 28, 2012, the Nigerian Government and the republic of Cameroon signed an agreement of Trans-border security team with Cameroon. Sources disclosed that the pact was part of the measures to curb the surge in the activities of *Boko Haram*. The sources added that the text of the agreement between the two countries would fight terrorism jointly<sup>32</sup>. The Nigeria foreign affairs Minister, Ambassador Olusegun Ashiru stated that Nigeria was committed to the pact, full implementation, and realization of its objectives in the interest of progress, peace and security of the people of the two countries believing that Cameroon would also demonstrate the same commitment<sup>33</sup>. Speaking on the pact, Alhaji Amadou Ali of Cameroun said the agreement showed that confidence had been restored through permanent dialogue, consultation and reinforcement of cooperation between both countries.

In another related development, Nigeria and Niger Republic signed an agreement for the immediate commencement of joint border patrols along the borders between the two neighbouring countries to curb the activities of the Islamic Religious sect, *Boko Haram*. The agreement was signed in Niamey the capital of Niger Republic<sup>34</sup>. Similarly another bilateral agreement existed between Nigeria and Britain. The British foreign Secretary, Mr Williams Hague pledged the assistance of Britain to Nigeria to fight the terrorist attacks following the bombing of United Nations (UN) headquarters at Abuja. In his words "The UK stands ready to provide any assistance we can to the UN and Nigerian authorities to bring those responsible to justice<sup>35</sup>.

Other countries of the world that had bilateral relations with Nigeria on the menace of *Boko Haram* include Italy, Germany and Israel. Italy government had offered to provide security services to the federal government. A special envoy of the Italian Minister of foreign Affairs, Hon. Margherita Boniver while meeting with the Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu stated that Italy would strengthen bilateral relations with Nigeria to help tackle terrorism, human trafficking and poverty. In the same vein, President Jonathan had equally called on German government to deploy German technology to track down the terror group<sup>36</sup>. The state of Israel had also pledged to Nigeria to combat the terrorist group. This was disclosed by Israel's Ambassador to Nigeria, Moshe Ram<sup>37</sup>.

### **The Multilateral Relations**

Continued destruction of lives and properties perpetrated by the *Boko- Haram* in Nigeria has attracted much sympathy. Many countries of the world had expressed their willingness to assist Nigeria to curb the menace of the sect. The enthusiasm on the part of these countries stems from the fact that, the nationals from different countries of the world come to Nigeria. These nationals live in Nigeria and some are doing business or just as tourists to Nigeria.

However, at the multilateral level, President Jonathan attended an international conference in the United Kingdom in which some members of the international communities debated measures and steps to be effectively adopted to check the unprecedented growth of terrorism and violence in some African nations like Somalia and Nigeria.

At the sub-regional level members of the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) unanimously agreed at waging a relentless war against terrorists who migrate from neighbouring nations to launch attack on Nigerian soil. Two countries of this community (ECOWAS) recently reiterated this support for the country<sup>38</sup>.

Worried by the continued disturbance of *Boko Haram* activities in Nigeria, the World Council of Churches (WCC) from Geneva and the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought (RAABIT) from Jordan, with many religious leaders from many parts of the world. These bodies arrived at Abuja on May 22, 2012 with the aim of finding solution to the Boko Haram menace. The delegation visited different places including Kaduna and Jos, and in concluding their tour, the body stated that:

## Conclusion

Nigeria is no doubt confronted with a new dimension of security problem as that of *Boko Haram* looms large on the horizon. Several lives had been claimed including those of foreign nationals. Rather than the ferocity of *Boko Haram* to decrease, it has unabatedly worsened. The reason for this is not farfetched, Osama Bin Laden had in a recorded statement identified Nigeria as an important arena for Al-Qaeda<sup>40</sup>. Laden's statement was confirmed by Farouk Abdulmutallab, a young Nigerian who tried to ignite an explosive device in his underwear as the aircraft approached Detroit in December 2009.

Seeing that the threat posed by *Boko Haram* cannot be solved by sovereign State of

We now need to digest what we have seen, heard, and experienced, and we are committed to writing a detailed report of our experience within the coming month. In this, we will make some recommendations as well as specific suggestions relating to our continued commitment to the welfare of Nigeria and Nigerian people<sup>39</sup>.

Nigeria alone, she had decided to solve this through both bilateral and multilateral moves. These efforts are designed to bring co-operation between Nigeria and her counterpart country at one hand and between Nigeria and among other nations of the world at the other hand. It is strongly believed that these efforts will go a long way if adequately utilized to remove the insecurity posed by *Boko Haram*.

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