Women, Security, and Gender-Based Violence in the Northeast, Nigeria

Abidemi Abiola Isola
Babcock University

Adeogun Tolulope
Durban University of Technology, Durban

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By Abidemi Abiola Isola[1] and Tolulope Adeogun[2]

Abstract

Gender-based violence is inevitable in every armed conflict zone. To survive, every human being, including women and girls, requires security. In armed conflict zones, however, women and girls are more vulnerable to the dangers of insecurity. These difficulties may influence them physically, psychologically, economically, and educationally. They may also have to live with the effects of their trauma for the rest of their lives. The effects of the Boko Haram insurgency on women's security in Nigeria's northeast are the subject of this study. This investigation relied on structural violence theory. It's a meta-analytical study based on secondary sources like books, journals, papers, documented data, and online sources. The study examines the security of women during the insurgency in Northeast Nigeria, which resulted in gender-based violence and the displacement of many people, making Nigeria one of the countries with the largest number of internally displaced persons. The kidnapping of the Chibok girls, which gained international attention, was the peak of the north-eastern insurgency, Thus, this research underscores the government's failure to maintain maximum security and combat impunity by investigating and prosecuting militants' as well as political leaders' and security officers' crimes. Hence, the study suggests a course of action that may serve as a catalyst for ending violent confrontations and protecting the vulnerable from all sorts of gender-based violence.

Keywords: Women, Security, Gender based violence, Insurgency, Nigeria

Introduction

Nigeria was dubbed the "African Giant" on several occasions. Terrorism, among other things, has had a negative impact on this high standing. Since 2002, Boko Haram, which literally means 'western education is sin/forbidden,' has waged sectarian warfare in the Northeast, led by an extremist Islamic group known as 'Jama'atu Ahlis-Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad' (Odo, 2015). As a result of the insecurity and violence, the property was destroyed and men, women, and children were displaced. Women and children have always valued wartime because they are shielded from the aftermath of battles and rumours of war. As a result, women are often regarded as sacred beings, and as a result, they should not be subjected to any type of violence resulting from warfare. While men go to war, women stay at home to care for younger children and possessions left behind with no threat of any kind. Nevertheless, in Nigeria, 79% of women and children are internally displaced by the conflict between the government and the Boko Haram Movement (Ajayi, 2020). The insurgency has added to the unrelenting list of the nation's distresses. This has given rise to gender-based violence (GBV). Gender-Based Violence, according to the United Nations (2000), is the "physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women indicating threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life". The definition of GBV

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[1] Abidemi Abiola Isola (PhD) is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Babcock University, Nigeria. Her teaching, research interests, and areas of specialization include Public Administration, Sociology, Women and Gender Studies. She has several publications to her credit, some of which have appeared in respected international journals such as the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Feminist Thought* and the *Journal of Gender, Information and Development in Africa (JGIDA)*, among others. Email: abidemiisola@gmail.com

[2] Adeogun Tolulope (PhD) is a senior researcher, who writes on women's inclusion in decision making, peace building in Africa. Adeogun, Tolulope's degrees are in Political Science. Email: tfor9@yahoo.com

encompasses the experiences of women in armed conflict zones in the Northeast of Nigeria. While women, girls, men, and boys suffer from GBV, the focus of this study is on women and girls.

In Northeast Nigeria, Borno State is the headquarter for the State Basic Education Programme for some neighbouring countries (such as Cameroon, the southern part of Chad and the Republic of Niger), and, in states like Adamawa, Gombe, and Yobe. Regardless of Borno State's interest in farming, fishing, and herding, the education of their wards, male or female, is paramount (Olowoselu, 2015), which has turned out to be a nightmare for women and girls living there.

The first attack by Boko haram at the Federal Government College, Buni Yadi Yobe state, on the 25th of February 2014, was gruesome as many were massacred and school buildings were burnt. Based on the oral account of teachers in Buni Yadi school, the gunmen gathered female students together before asking them to go away and get married. This implies that Boko Haram's definition of gender is that a male should be cherished more than a female child and that a female child is purely for marriage and childbearing. During this encounter, it was recorded that there were no cases of sexual molestation of girls (Oriola, 2016). However, on April 14, 2014, the approach changed towards women and children when Boko Haram approached Federal College, Chibok, Borno with killings and gender-based violence against women and girls, putting Boko Haram at the epicentre of global concern over the rise of GBV against women (Oriola, 2016).

In the foregoing boorishness and ruthlessness experience women in armed conflict zones are subjected to, in Borno and its environs, this research sheds light on different subsections which include introduction, methodology, theoretical framework, conceptual clarification on Women, Conflict and Security; Boko Haram insurgency on women's security; Chibok Girls'; conclusion, and recommendations.

The study relied on secondary sources of information such as books, journals, articles, documented data, and online sources for its findings. It is a qualitative research project that includes a conceptual and historical examination.

Theoretical framework

Johan Galtung introduced the theory of Structural Violence in 1969. Violence, according to Galtung, goes beyond its outward expression. It has invisible characteristics that are woven into society's structures, such as discriminatory institutions, ideas, and histories. Because of systemic violence, some groups of people don't get the chance to reach their full potential. Two types of structural violence exist: personal/direct violence and structural/indirect violence. As Galtung opines, "personal violence will be detected in a static society, whereas structural violence may be deemed as natural as the air" (1967, p. 45). Galtung disagrees with the idea that violence should be limited to just physical suffering, health deprivation, or death in severe instances. He contends that other indicators of a lack of social order are not reflected by this. Individuals, like the Northeast women discussed later in this study, experience structural violence when they are unable to realize their full physical and mental potential despite having access to resources.

Roselyn Oyengbula (2018) proposed six levels of structural violence to properly capture violence. The distinctions between physical and psychological violence are included in the first dimension. Violence affects both the body and the soul through activities like brainwashing, social indoctrination, deception, and psychological threats. The third level focuses on physical or biological violence, which is a sort of abbreviated violence. This can be harmful if a gunman promises to look after a woman or girl so that she can marry her. If the girl rejects this, it could lead to gang rape or rape, and it could also lead to an unplanned pregnancy.

The fourth dimension of violence is seen to be the most important, whether there is an acting subject (human). When there is no actor present, structural or indirect violence occurs, and when there is an actor present, direct or personal violence occurs, with both supporting one another. The victim of indirect violence is not immediately injured by another person; rather, the violence is embedded in society's structure, resulting in unequal resource distribution. The social position of specific groups or regions is determined by the unequal distribution of resources such as wealth, income, education, and medical treatment. The fifth component in evaluating culpability is the distinction between purposeful and unintended injury. Guilt is tied to intentions rather than consequences. If she marries a security officer or an armed man, for example, she is guilty of the intent to provide for her, rather than the consequences of being left to cope with psychological trauma. The sixth and final component distinguishes between levels of violence that are visible and levels of violence that are hidden. Manifest violence is visible and might be direct, indirect, personal, or structural. On the other hand, latent violence implies the possibility of violence even if it does not materialize. Patriarchy and culture aid personal and structural violence against women in northeast Nigeria. They are subjected to the six components of structural violence theory because of Boko Haram's degraded security. As a result, security personnel who are supposed to provide the highest level of protection are sexually exploited. Gender-based violence is common both inside and outside of the camp. Women are abused physically and mentally by both intentional and unintentional mistreatments.

Women, Conflict, and Security

Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Liberia, and Uganda, among other African countries, have for a long time endured extreme violence. Civilians (including women and girls) have made up a significant share of the casualties in armed conflict zones. These have resulted in wrongful incarceration, kidnappings, sexual abuse, and displacement, as well as a lack of access to food, water, and medicine, as well as humanitarian aid (Panda, 2016). As a result, citizens in armed conflict zones face increased pressure, causing panic among the population. Galtang (1967) presented this scenario as the sixth and final dimension of structural violence theory, which distinguishes between violent and latent levels of violence (Oyenegbu, 2018). In Nigeria, for example, up until the death of Yusuf, the sect's former head, in 2009, the Boko Haram sect's commandment was violence towards security officers rather than civilians.

However, religious factions' intentions have shifted to violence against women and girls who are not in their interests. In many cases, this war game resulted in the destruction of their homes, schools, hospitals, and religious institutions (Hobbes, 1985). Similar events occurred in Syria, Liberia, Iraq, Pakistan, and other countries (Panda, 2016). This has disproportionately impacted women and girls compared to their male counterparts. Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan believes that contemporary conflicts are rooted in poverty, a competition for few resources, and violations of human rights. He goes on to say that all conflicts have the same heinous characteristics. Even though it affects everyone in areas of armed conflict, it hurts women and girls more than men.

As a result, citizen protection should be a top priority in the government's programs, ensuring that people, particularly women and girls, are protected, and this has been mentioned in the Resolution 1325 (United Nations Security Council Resolution, 2000) of the United Nations Security Council on women, conflict, and security. The importance of protecting women and girls in armed conflict zones was emphasized in the resolution, which should not be misconstrued. Effective institutional measures to ensure women's safety and full involvement in the peace process will also contribute greatly to international peace and security. Furthermore, Resolution 2000 of the United Nations Security Council said that every

country should address the gender elements of armed conflict and encourage the full participation of women in peace processes (Shephard, 2008).

This resolution and its implementation have been adopted by countries such as Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Nonetheless, other countries have yet to implement the resolution, including Belgium, Ghana, Jordan, Liberia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. On the other hand, Croatia, and Fiji, on the other hand, have included the implementation of Resolution 1325 in their national gender equality action plans. The following were considered: women's and girls' protection from sexual violence; gender considerations in policies and development programmes; women's access to essential social infrastructures and participation in reconstruction and reintegration processes; and women's engagement in political decision-making (Tadjbakhsh, 2005).

Nonetheless, progress is hampered by the lack of domestication of international and regional resolutions and conventions into national legal frameworks (Mayen, 2013); as most of these resolutions and protocols have been criticized for not imposing sanctions on countries that do not execute them (Shephard, 2008). As a result, women's participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping is essential to safeguard women from insurgents' sex tools. The Tigray, an Ethiopian region, is an unusual example of men seeking to safeguard women by incorporating them into the peace-building process.

"No sex please, we're fighting!"- a notable exception to the exclusion of and discrimination against female combatants occurred in Tigray, a province of Ethiopia. The Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) was formed in 1975 to fight for a democratic Ethiopian state. They actively encouraged women to join the fight. Education for women and child-care were provided to facilitate their participation. Sexual relations were banned with the aim of concentrating energy on the struggle. Exceptions were later made to allow for marriage and children. One woman recounts: "The no-marriage law had a positive role: between men and women there was talk, not sexual activity. A man would look at a woman in relation to her job, not in relation to whom she goes with" (EL Jack, 2003, p. 28).

Boko Haram's insurgent plan has never praised women's roles as contributors to positive things in life. The recruitment of women and girls was not predicated on their ability to play a beneficial role in an Islamic society. They were exposed to kidnapping, forced marriages, and rape, among other things, by both Christians and Muslims. Some women have been sexually abused by peacekeepers in the presence of their husbands, some have been taken away as emergency wives or sexual slaves by rebel armies. According to George and Iyanda (2015), sexual assault against women and their daughters is a by-product of conflict.

Whether black or white, the anguish of losing one's dignity is the same. A woman who has experienced sexual assault in a crisis says, "it doesn't matter whether she comes from Boston, Colombia, Syria, or Central Africa, that a woman believes she has been raped is the same" (EL Jack, 2003, p. 32). In armed situations, women are subjected to criminal, cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment, and acts by their captors. This is due to insecurity prior to, during, and after the battle or war.

The impact of conflict on women has acquired international acknowledgement. This has prompted an examination of women's security in conflict and post-conflict settings. Previously, the issue was examined via a "traditional lens," with a focus on state-to-state ties. The new concept of security encompasses both safety that goes beyond "physical security" in the classic sense and "social security" concerned with ensuring people's livelihoods. It is founded on the social contract between the state and its citizens, in which citizens have exchanged their rights for the promise of protection from acts of war by their Leviathan (Maina, 2012).

Security also alludes to one's livelihood's stability and regularity, the predictability of one's daily life (knowing what to expect), protection from crime (feeling safe), and freedom from psychological trauma. Knowing or feeling that one is wanted, accepted, loved, and protected in one's community or neighbourhood and by others provides safety or protection from emotional stress. A sense of belonging to a social group is what this is characterized as (Adeogun & Isola, 2016). Most of these important security traits are missing from the way Nigerian security workers keep property safe and protect war victims, especially women and children, from violence during and after the war.

Women and female children gain immensely from safety or freedom from danger, as well as protection from foreign attack or infiltration, before, during, and after conflicts. As a result, "a state's security encompasses not just the military forces, but also the police, customs, immigration, prisons, and even community mobilization" (Adeogun & Isola, 2016, p. 590). To ensure security, the government, and citizens (both men and women) should collaborate. However, as noted in the theoretical framework employed in this study, just because security is in place within a social group does not mean there are no risks or security concerns. Rather, it is the ability to respond quickly and expertly to the threats posed by these threats that necessitates the inclusion of women in peace-building efforts (Adeogun & Isola, 2016).

Women and the Boko Haram Insurgency in Bornu State

When the security of half a country's population, which is made up of women, is jeopardized, the nation's security is weakened, making the community vulnerable to terrorists at any time, resulting in war and the displacement of people, among other things. Women and children, who account for 79% of IDPs, writhe more wildly under the weight of conflict than men (Ajayi, 2020). Haaga writes, "while women and girls face the same trauma as the rest of the population — bombings, famines, epidemics, mass executions, torture, arbitrary imprisonment, forced migration, ethnic cleansing, threats and intimidation" (2015, p. 20), they are also targets of specific forms of violence and abuse in conflict situations, including sexual violence and exploitation. This is the most painful consequence for women not only in Northeast Nigeria, but throughout the world in conflict-affected areas. This section focuses on the difficulties that women face in armed conflict zones. In the Northeast of Nigeria, this includes challenges such as relocation and gender-based violence.

1. Internally Displaced Persons

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who have fled their homes in search of protection elsewhere. They are sometimes called refugees, but their legal status is distinct. The IDPs' hoped-for safety may never come; their precarious status may worsen, leading to conflict-related sexual violence (Sotunsa & Yacob-Haliso, 2012). They (IDPs) are among the world's most vulnerable people, according to the UN Refugee Agency (2016). They have not crossed an international boundary in search of safety, preferring to stay in their home countries. In Nigeria, IDPs are a major effect of Boko Haram on women and their entire families. Since the Boko Haram crisis in the north-eastern Nigerian states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, the Nigerian government has attempted to address the humanitarian crisis produced by the conflict by providing temporary shelters, food, and other essentials of life. (Braimah, 2015). These makeshift social amenities are insufficient. It allows GBV to thrive in displaced persons' camps. An excellent example is the documented facts provided by Human Rights Watch (2016) of a 47-year-old mother of eight from Abadam, a northern Borno town, who said,

> When I initially arrived at the camp in 2014, we used to get food at least twice a day. However, we now occasionally receive nothing. They won't allow us leave the house, so we can't even buy food. My relatives in town have to grovel for hours with camp

officials before they will agree to send us money or food from what little they have. (Ajayi, 2020, p. 171).

This shows that the Nigerian government's humanitarian assistance is woefully insufficient. Its shortcomings were a major factor in the sexual exploitation and rape of women both within and outside the camp. Internally displaced women have been sexually exploited and assaulted in a location that was once thought to be a safe haven. A 30-year-old woman from Walassa, near Bama, fled into a nearby wooded area after Boko Haram fighters killed her husband and kidnapped her daughters. (Our Reporter, 2016). According to the survey carried out by the HRW (2014), 30-year old women said that

few weeks after soldiers transported us to the camp, near Maiduguri, one of the soldiers guarding us approached me for marriage. He used to bring food and clothes for me and my remaining four children, so I allowed him to have sex with me. Two months later he just stopped coming. Then I realized I was pregnant. I feel so angry with him for deceiving me. When he was pretending to woo *me,* he used to provide for me, but as soon as I agreed and we began having sex, his gifts began to *reduce* until he abandoned me. Now my situation is worse as the pregnancy makes me sick, and I have no one to help me care for my children. (p. 14).

Women escaping the Boko Haram conflict are being apprehended by Nigerian government security officials. According to Human Rights Watch (2016), they have been sexually assaulted and exploited. Women became victims of rape and sexual exploitation when they accepted offers of friendship or marriage from men in charge of the camp's administration.

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence takes many forms, the most common of which is sexual violence. Many societies regard it as a blatant violation of women's rights. Women are a part of humanity, and as such, they are entitled to all human rights. Clinton stated in her historic speech, "Let it be that human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights once and for all. Let us not forget that among those rights is the right to free expression and the right to be heard" (Shephard, 2008, p.390). Women do not have the right to speak or be heard in the face of sexual violence during wartime. In situations where they can speak up, they are either stigmatized or nothing is done to help them.

The United Nations General Assembly defined conflict-related sexual violence as sexual assault committed in war or post-conflict settings, or with a direct or indirect link to conflict, in 2012. According to an International Criminal Court law, 'conflict-related sexual violence encompasses rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual abuse of equivalent gravity against women, men, or children.' This has had a devastating impact, among other things, on the lives of women and their daughters in Borno State, Northeast Nigeria, particularly in internally displaced camps. The story of a 16-year-old girl who fled a deadly Boko Haram raid on Baga in northern Nigeria, near the banks of Lake Chad, is heart-breaking. This 16-year-old girl escaped a Boko Haram raid in Baga, northern Borno, in January 2015. She claimed that in May 2015, a vigilante group member in charge of distributing aid in the camp drugged and raped her.

Women in crisis zones have to deal with all of these things and more. Sexual assault occurs not only among the camp's women and children, but also among females outside the camp. After an eight-hour trip back to her hometown of Bama, a four-months-pregnant mother who had been held captive by Boko Haram in Sambisa and escaped with her three children told what happened next. She said,

Soldiers were already back in Bama when we arrived. They took us to a primary health carecenter near the entrance into Bama to search and question us. We thought they would soon let us go, but they locked us with other women (about 20 people) for more than three months. They bring us out one by one every day to ask whether we joined Boko Haram freely or they forced us. Many of us were naked or in rags […]. (Human Right Watch, 2016, p. 23)

Sexual violence against women stranded in combat zones was not only ongoing, but had also grown so prevalent and systematic that it had reached shockingly inhumane levels of brutality and indifference. Victims testified of savage gang rapes and sexual attacks on wives and daughters that husbands and dads were forced to witness or conduct incest. Some of the passengers were dragged away from their transport cars and raped en masse. Guns, rods, pencils, and other items were discovered in the private areas of several women (Human Rights Watch, 2016). Because of the stigma attached to conflict victims, they are less likely to seek medical help. They will spend the rest of their lives dealing with the anguish, anxiety, and shame. This condition has the potential to result in a mental illness. Some people may not be able to acquire enough medical help. This is a psychological effect that disproportionately affects women. Women's fundamental human rights have been extensively exploited because of conflict-related sexual violence. Whether in peace or war, women's rights are human rights. No exceptions should be made in this regard. Unfortunately, it looks like this law doesn't apply when sexual assaults happen during war.

2. Abduction

The psychological impact of a child's kidnapping, whether male or female, is depressing. Most of the time, from the perspective of the family involved, all hope appears to be lost unless immediate action occurs. Even when the government intervenes, the progress and all other efforts undertaken by the government appear to be delayed, and they question why the authorities do not intervene. This results in decreased memory and concentration, intrusive thoughts and denial, shock, and numbness; dread and anxiety; dissociation; anger (against anyone), anhedonia, depression, and other symptoms (Olomojobi, 2015). Hostages are frequently exposed to traumatic vulnerability, which is amplified in the case of a female child. They are sexually abused, exploited, and create new situations based on a lack of healthy living conditions.

According to Y. Olowoselu (2015), abduction can occur for a variety of reasons and is divided into two kinds. They can either be expressive or functional. The phrase "expressive" refers to an endeavour to air a grievance or express a dissatisfied emotion, whereas "instrumental" refers to achieving a specific objective relating to the issue. Pinpointing the purpose behind such acts, especially when they are terrorist-inspired, is extremely difficult. According to the motive for the kidnapping, the story of the abducted teenagers from a tiny town in Borno State can be divided into two categories. The kidnapping of the Chibok girls demonstrated the rebels' impact on humanity, especially mothers. Between the late hours of May 14 and the early hours of April 15, 2014, the Boko Haram sect, an anti-western education group, abducted over 200 Chibok schoolgirls aged 16 to 18 who were seeking a better future for themselves, their families, and the community through education from a government secondary school (one of the centres for senior secondary school certificate examinations) in Borno state.

Osita-Njoku and Chikere (2015), opined that the insurgents in the northeast have engaged in notorious methods such as the kidnapping of women and children and the use of female suicide bombers. According to Human Rights Watch (2016), the abductions provoked national and international demonstrations, drawing much-needed attention to the vulnerability

of Nigerian women and girls to abduction. During this time, Michelle Obama, the former First Lady of the United States of America, and Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education activist, spoke out on behalf of the girls, in agreement with the 'Bring Back Our Girls Movement,' led by Obiageli Ezekwesili, the former Federal Minister of Education and Vice President of the World Bank's African Division. The kidnapping of the teenagers in this case was not motivated by religion, as it included both Christians and Muslims. The kidnapping of teenagers in this case was not motivated by religion. This was due to the involvement of adolescent girls in activities that they believe are against Allah's will. Some of the girls managed to flee, while others were injured or fractured.

Other abductions happened because of the sect's ease in abducting over 200 Chibok girls, including women from Wala, Kummabza, Warabe, and other nearby communities in Borno State, as well as other parts of the Northeast. As a result, the Bring Back Our Girls Movement was formed to secure the release of the adolescent. Because of the selfish mentality of government personnel, the humiliation that these girls and women were expecting to experience eventually occurred. During and after their kidnapping, several of the abducted women and girls were subjected to a variety of abuses, including physical and psychological injury. They are sometimes subjected to forced labour and forced marriage if they refuse to convert to Islam (Human Right Watch, 2014).

Aside from kidnapping, evidence showed that women and girls were raped, forced into early marriage, and used as sex slaves. According to HRW (2014), few of the abducted have been released, with some of the prisoners pregnant because of sexual attacks by the rebels. It was a tragedy for both women and girls. According to Haaga et al. (2015, p. 65), one in every five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime, with the number increasing in conflict-torn areas. In many Nigerian communities, the legal system and the way people think about rape add to the pain of people who have been raped. This is because perpetrators are frequently not brought to justice and, as a result, continue to commit heinous crimes. There is a need for robust security intelligence engagement in conflict situations, as well as the implementation of public policies pertaining to conflict resolution, and, most crucially, the inclusion of women in peacebuilding.

3. Education for Girls

Every person's right to education is unaffected by gender. Education has long been viewed as a catalyst for development since it empowers individuals to improve their well-being and contribute to society. There is a young girl in this group. A child is a gift, an asset, and a priceless gem that should be treasured and nurtured to its full potential. However, a variety of factors, including conflict, have revoked her right to an education and wrecked her hopes. Schools, marketplaces, and shelters are just a few of the infrastructures destroyed by conflict. Both men and women are affected by this, but women are frequently the ones that suffer the most. This is the case in Borno State with the abducted females.

Nonetheless, the prevalence of terrorism by Boko Haram, whose injunction forbids western education, has deterred children from attending school because of the militants' threat of violence. School attendance may suffer when there is a security threat. When there is a security problem, there is a considerable discrepancy in attendance between male and female students. Over 14 schools have burned down in Maiduguri, the state capital of Nigeria. This has forced nearly 7,000 children to move (Ohiwerei, 2014).

Survivors of Boko Haram assaults, regardless of their age, sex, or country of origin, typically dread staying in such regions and may be hesitant to send their children to school, especially if they are unsure of the security measures put in place (McKay, 1998). The girls in Nigeria's Borno State have been subjected to sex slavery, human trafficking, rape, and other forms of sexual abuse. To meet basic needs like food, shelter, and safe passage through war

zones, as well as privileges for themselves and their families, they may be forced into prostitution.

Conclusion

Women's security and the impact of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria's northeast have been explored, with a particular emphasis on Borno and its environs. Women and children have been sexually abused by both government and civilian individuals. Insurgency has emerged as a major security threat, owing to widespread dissatisfaction with poor administration, corruption, and official impunity. Gender-Based Intense violence, illiteracy, and internally displaced people who have been traumatized throughout their lives, in armed conflict zones, have been denied the essential necessities of life. Therefore, the government must intervene immediately and sincerely to prevent war. Also, women need to play a part in making Nigeria more peaceful, especially in the Northeast.

Recommendations

Going forward, the government must devise conflict resolution strategies. It is important for the government to implement comprehensive plans to address both physical security and grievances that lead to insurgency. The protection of the vulnerable from insurgent retaliation attacks must be put in place with the provision of food, shelter, and clothing. Medical treatment should be included.

Furthermore, guilty government officials should be prosecuted without regard to their position. To prevent sexual assault, staff quarters that can accommodate both security agents and their families should be built within the IDP camp. In the same vein, the government sho uld build both primary and secondary schools to discourage idleness.

This will result in job opportunities as well as education. The government should take immed iate action to ensure the renovation of internally displaced persons' communities to reduce th e number of those displaced. Similarly, when international organizations' assistance is requir ed, the government should act immediately. To sum up, both men and women must take part in making and keeping peace in the same way and to the same extent.

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