



FALLACY: A MAJOR CAUSE FOR THE UNENDING BOKO HARAM TERRORISM IN NORTH-EASTERN NIGERIA

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Abstract: Jama'atual Alhi-sunna Lid Da'awat Wal-Jihad (Boko Haram) started as a normal Islamic religious movement but later transformed itself into radical and militant organization after the 2009 upheaval in Maiduguri. The activities of this group has consumed several lives and properties, affected national and regional security as well as socioeconomic developments. The effort by the Nigerian authorities to halt the advances of the group seems to be fruitless; but instead, the group has become a terrorist organization, operating even beyond the shores of Nigeria. This paper formulates and adopted fallacy theory as a major cause for the unending or lingering terrorism in North-east Nigeria. The paper recommends that speaking the truth by individual and institution; boosting positive chain of communication vertically and horizontally, as well as making pragmatic resolutions base on the factual knowledge acquired are panacea for preventing or ending the Boko Haram terrorism.

Keywords: Fallacy; Boko Haram; Terrorism; North-east and Communication

INTRODUCTION

In the quest to understand the rationale for the unending of the armed conflict, cum terrorism in Nigeria orchestrated by Boko Haram for over ten years now, this study formulates and adopts the fallacy theory; which reveals to us that the fight against Boko Haram is characterized and sustained by several fallacies across the board. The paper is therefore divided into the meaning, features, advantages and disadvantages of fallacy theory; historical antecedent of Boko Haram;

manifestations and the effects of fallacy theory in the fight against terrorism; conclusion and recommendations.

Theoretical Framework

Theory to Folger, Pool and Stutman (1997) is an explanation of the relationship between elements or variables. Some theories are more universal while others are domestic or confined to localities owing to some dynamics and peculiarities. This study is anchored on fallacy theory. Fallacy is a word that upholds false idea that many people believe or are made to believe as true. It is a false way of thinking about something base on unrealistic information available or given. Fallacious words are a wrong statement, false idea that is spoken or presented to the people, hiding the real facts.

Figure of speeches like Hyperbole and Litotes are vital in the fallacy theory. Hyperbole which is an overstatement or exaggeration of something beyond the normal or actual incident; and Litotes, which is the opposites of hyperbole, is an understatement that is used to present something in a lesser form than what is in real life situation. Both of these figures of speeches are components and imperatives to the Fallacy theory. There are both overstatement and understatement in the fallacy system to favour one side and keep the other side either debased or non-functional which in reality may not be the obvious; but it is propagated for specific vested interest or security purposes. Flow of command and chain of communication in an organization or institution is another base of this theory. Where at the apex of the organization/institutions are the topmost management/managers that make and take final decisions; give approval for actions to be implemented or release of funds base on the reports they received from their subordinates' officers.

The intermediary officers, middle cadre staffs are appointed by the topmost officers; they are to ensure staffers of the organization/institutions carry out their day to day activities. The intermediary staff takes directives/instructions from the topmost

management directly; they oversee the junior staff and are the ones who directly reports to the topmost officers in return.

The lower cadre staffers are the primary executors of the organizational/institutional policies and directives. They are to obey the directives as they understand or as given to them by their immediate boss in spite of all odds. They do not or may not have direct contact with the topmost officers; hence their views/suggestions are carried to the topmost management by their immediate officers/boss or superior officers.

The organization/institutions do not exist in isolation, they are within a macro society and the members of the society watch things clearly as they unfold within or around the organization. Members of the society have it own system of acquiring information, hence they are aware of certain truth which may or may not be in congruent with that of the organization/institutions. The institution/organizational opinion or views sometimes are meant or forced to be believed more than that of the society because the organization/institutions are entities and have special medium of communication for their interest and image in the large society to be intact/respected.

The fallacy theory is anchored on the above philosophy and organizational/institutional hierarchical arrangements.

Some major characteristics of this assumption are on the prism that:

1. Every organization/institution have image maker/spokesman/woman;
2. The speaker or image maker of the institutions/organization may or may not know that what he/she is talking or releasing to the general audience is half truth or fabricated fallacy;
3. The speaker can or may use the media and other outlets like WhatsApp, Histogram, Face book etc to pacify tension or calm any turbulent situation; while some outsiders may not totally

- believe in the statements/ positions of the speaker/organization;
4. Owing to fear of losing his/her position or to face sanction from the superior officers, the fallacy speaker concoct lies or lie in hypocrisy to the superior or topmost officers; giving them false/wrong information on vital issues;
 5. The topmost superior officer (those in the political/security offices) relied on their immediate subordinate's officers who heads/leads those rank and file on the field as in the chain of communication for vital information. This hierarchical arrangement therefore makes it a bit difficult or uncommon for the topmost officer to directly get to the lower cadre, who is either on the field or far from the hierarchical structure for the accurate primary /raw data;
 6. The information before the topmost /superior officer is the secondary one, the refined or coded ones, organized and arranged by the intermediate officers/staffers at the field, to either hide something or present their defensive views; and,
 7. The lower cadre staff that has the factual information is far from the topmost officers by the reason of chain of communication in the institution/organization. Hence, the factual and truthful knowledge and views of the lower categories of staffers does not get to the topmost officers or they are tempered with in the chain of communication processes.

The aforementioned have significant impacts on decision-making and action plans of any given situation in organizations/institutions. This theory is use in our daily interactions at home, in marriages, in school system, ministry, parastatals, and in formalized organization as well as in international system either consciously or not. States and Military, Media house/organizations, company uses this theory for propaganda or other vested interest reasons. Fallacies were used and can be used as a basis for intra and inter-ethnic, state and

organizational conflicts as vital information are either hidden or reported fallaciously.

Advantages of this theory includes

Fallacy theory whenever used records some success like:

1. Because it follows the normal channel of communication, it is accepted as reliable by the topmost officers, hence there is little or no questioning.
2. It has the ability of cooling down of tension or fears in conflict time as the fallacy came from the mouth of reasonable person or organization, as such it is easily believed or accepted.
3. Fallacy is used to cover the weakness or failures of the immediate boss before the superior officer, hence its difficult for the immediate officers' weakness/failures that could fetched him/her removal or other sanctions to be noticed by the topmost/ superior officers.
4. Fallacy has elements of truth and falsehood going together; and they are aired or release to the large society electronically or using other means widely.
5. Fallacy theory is use in our daily individual, national and international interaction levels consciously or unconsciously as a normal way of life or operation.
6. People with vested or for vested interest employ and use this theory to achieve their aims/objectives.

Disadvantages of fallacy theory

Among the numerous disadvantages of fallacy theory are:

1. This theory stops/prevents the superior officers from getting the real situation reports from lower cadre officers/workers on the field.
2. In terms of accident, war and other losses, the actual figures/costs of the losses are not reported/recorded or made public just to calm the situation or for security purposes.
3. This theory affects good record keeping and encourages absence of genuine statistics in the organization, social system and in the country for proper planning/legislation.

4. This theory gives room for having and presenting two different and sometimes many more conflicting figures, information on similar or single case, whereby the distorted is made public and the real one is hidden for security purposes. This gives room for discrepancy in determining the actual figure of casualties or losses.
5. Professionalism is compromised for security reasons, because when the truth is said or made available, it creates more tension or generates reprisal attacks; hence the actual figures in term of causality are hidden or minimized for security reasons.
6. This theory creates suspicion and tension between the immediate boss and the lower cadre or the field workers who wants their plights to be known, but their bosses are tactically manipulating it.

Wrong decisions and non-pragmatic decisions that would or could correct the challenges base on the reports before the topmost officers/mangers is either delayed or mildly treated; hence, no tangible actions are taken on vital issues.

Synopsis on 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 north-eastern Nigeria called Jama'atun 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.

Date and Founder of Boko Haram

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 moves to Borno state (Yakubu, 2014:15). 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'atul 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 its 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 (2014:115) 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, 2014:115). 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, 2014:115). 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 its members and the demolition of its properties in Markas, its base in Maiduguri according to Ibrahim (2013) and Maiangwa (2014:116) was the last straw which broke the Camel'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 therefore went underground and relocated to the outskirts 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 seems 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, (2018:114) 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 kilometres south-east of Maiduguri. It occupies parts of the states of Borno, Yobe, Gombe and Bauch states along the corridor of Darazo, reaching other states (Bodurin, 2014) and (Mbaya and Malgwi, 2010:133). By 2013, the sect has established its 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 (2018:107) 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 Abubakar 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 confirmed affiliation/nexus between Boko Haram and ISIL, gave or metamorphosed and upgraded Jama'atual Alhi-sunna 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 based in north-eastern 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 (2015 & 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 (BBC News 4/8/2016). Today, there are two different factions of the terrorists group. Al-Barnawi, that is backed and connected to ISIL leads ISWAP, while 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 mission of establishing caliphate in Nigeria and beyond.

Some slight difference between the groups however are: 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 population, 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 Sharibu, 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 North-eastern Nigeria.

Activities of the Group

The aggressive activities of Boko Haram in north-eastern Nigeria have not only affected the security system in Nigeria, but also the insecurity it constitutes to government and people of or in Niger, Chad and Cameroon in the Lake Chad basin. Some activities of the group within and across the border include but not limited to: abduction of both local and foreign nationals; breaking of prisons to either free their members or collect arms and ammunitions of the

security operatives there; attacking/ambushing of security operatives to kill and collect their arms; ransacking villages to get food stuff; making and detonating of explosives; radicalizing innocent young boys and girls they caught etc.

Consequent upon the activities of the terrorists, there were displacements of persons within and across the Nigerian states. 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. Boko Haram killed over 6,600 in 2014. In mid-2014, the militants gained control of several territories in and around Adamawa, Borno Yobe estimated at 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 sq mi) in January 2015, but did not capture any state capital before they were dislodged by national and international forces. The group has carried out mass abductions including the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in April 2014 and 110 Dapachi school girls in 2018. The United Nations, through its Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon says Boko Haram insurgency killed 27,000 civilians in ten years (Ajayi, 2019:8).

Manifestation of Fallacy in the fighting Boko Haram in Northeastern Nigeria

The Fallacy theory has application and manifestations in the lingering war against terrorism in Northeastern Nigeria in ways like:

The true strength, ability and capability of the sect were underestimated by the political and security authorities of Nigeria; especially following the military crackdown and subsequent dislodgement of the sect out of Maiduguri in the first instance. Authorities see this victory as total crackdown and humiliation of the sect's prowess. This under estimation enabled the group to re-strategize and come out with full force. Some threats issued by the terrorist group leaders were seen as Litotes or insignificant, hence not taken too serious by the security and political authorities, until the terrorists come up strongly with explosive devices, suicide bombers, kidnapping of persons, capturing of some local governments in

Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states, taking some people hostage etc. The subsequent military offensive that recovered most of the territories initially captured by the militants, also made the authorities to be celebrating *uhuru*. This made the authorities to authoritatively declare that the terrorist group is “technically defeated or degraded”. Such view as expressed and exported by the authorities is seen as Hyperbole. In spite of this view or propaganda, the group is still wrecking havoc in north-eastern Nigeria and beyond.

The news and report of the kidnap of the 211 Chibok school girls in April 2014 was not pragmatically approached or responded to by the topmost political and military leaders then in spite of the cry of the parents and people directly involved. This was because, there was fear of losing their job/position as this was unimaginable; those military officers tried to hide the truth and presented the issue passively and subtly to the political class. But later, the truth cannot be hidden, it was exposed and many people became defensive. Supposing the hostage and kidnap of the school girls was genuinely reported and the topmost military and political officers promptly responded, the terrorists would have been apprehended or engaged in fierce battle, but due to some laxity and Litotes approaches, the terrorists escaped without confrontation from Nigerian armed forces (Fineman, 2018). The independent report on the figures/numbers of the military personnel killed in several Boko Haram attacks are severally denied by the authorities and when they eventually agreed, they give lesser figures and claimed that the military also killed the terrorists in greater numbers or repealed the insurgence attacks. Security operatives have resorted to defensive instead of offensive approach. This has made some civil society and civilian population to have mixed feelings on the capability and strategies of the nation's security operatives and their sincerity to end terrorist activities in the north-east.

‘Winning the war against the terrorists’ or the terrorists are ‘technically defeated’ was a new concept derived from the military

expedition and dislodging of the terrorists from several of its strongholds in north-eastern Nigeria and the claimed capture of the Sambisa forest by the Buhari's led administration after the 2015 general election. Both the political and military authorities have used such terms since 2016 (<https://punch.com/boko-haram-technically-defeated-buhari-insist> Retrieved 3/10/2019). This obvious victory was either not sustained or it was a Hyperbole cum fallacy. If the security operatives have captured the Sambisa forest, where are the terrorists staying now, re-attacking in Nigeria and abducting of people in the region? People who know the forest believed that Nigeria security operatives only capture out sketch of the forest but not the entire forest. The authorities often use the concepts to proof that she is winning the war. Pundits however see it as another fallacious statement that people were meant to believe and accept while in practical realities, the terrorists still launch attacks on military bases, ambushed and killed several military personnel and even showcase the attacks electronically. This kept people confused as who is speaking the truth in terms of the statement they are 'defeated'; 'technically degraded' or 'the military are on top of the situation' (Fineman, (2018:117).

The junior ranks and those on the field complained of lack of fire-arms, weaponry and other logistics to prosecute the war. But the topmost authorities claimed to be purchasing and supplying the combatants with weapons and inducement to end the terrorism once and for all. Some questions like: were the real weapons bought? Did it get to the military combatants? If we claim that the weapons we have or our military are using is outdated, why should the terrorists be attacking and carrying the weapons away and not destroying the 'supposed outdated weapons', but are still using them as well?

The inability of the local and innocent population to report suspicious movement and association to the security operatives for prompt action; or the cover and denial of unholy alliances between some civilians with the insurgents on one hand; the insurgents with some security operatives on another hand, were also based on

fallacies; to either hide the truth or cover up lies. This made the insurgence to be grouping, moving up and down to carrying out their attacks and hide among the civilian population unnoticed or the terrorists easily escape security strategies against them. All these are within the prism of fallacy theory.

The Impacts of Fallacy on the Northeastern Nigeria

Owing to several fallacies spoken by and in some quota of the military and para-military organizations fighting Boko Haram, that 'the terrorists are degraded or crushed', this has led to the losing of military personnel in the battle field. For instance, the group have ambushed and killed several military personnel in Borno state of Nigeria. For instance, Ali Ndume, the Chairman of Senate Committee on Army, in the Nigerian Upper Chamber revealed that insurgents have led waste to the lives of 847 Nigerian soldiers from 2013 to 2019 that were officially buried in the military cemetery in Maiduguri (Global news, 15/10/2019). This is apart from the numerous unofficial casualty figures of the military personnel killed and others unaccounted for in the fight against terrorism in the region.

Fallacious statements on the demand for weapons and other military wears has promoted bribery and corruption among some top military and paramilitary organizations; where either the needed money are over or under voiced in terms of purchases, distribution of materials and payment of the officers allowances. Owing to such corrupt practices, the state was not able to purchase and provide enough and current fire arms to the combatants. This has cost Nigeria heavily and some officers were arrested and are undergoing trials for corrupt practices. Corroborating with the above, Searcey (2019) reveals that Nigerian government allocates the equivalent of nearly \$80 million dollar each quarter to the war effort and yet Nigerian soldiers lack ample ammunition and medical care. This he claims made some soldiers to fled from the battle field.

In spite of the claims that the terrorist are 'degraded or technically defeated', in February 19th 2018, about 110 Dapchi school girls were kidnapped without the military stopping it or apprehending the terrorists. Boko Haram has severally attacked some villages, killing people, carrying away goods, abducting people etc. For example, on 27th July 2019, Boko Haram killed over forty-four people in Borno villages and forced several people to seek refuge in nearby countries like Chad, Cameroon and Niger republics, while other Nigerians who have served as refugees are being returned home.

Owing to fallacious reporting on the war and socioeconomic challenges, some junior armies/officers became traumatized and felt their top officers are not taking their plights into consideration. This breed suspicion between the lower cadre and the superior officers; it led to some friction and disloyalties by the lower cadre combatants and attempts to attack their superior officers in Maiduguri.

Furthermore, the frequent use of fallacy has made the armed conflicts to be lingering in the north-east. Hiding the truth, giving out distorted or cooked information to the superior officers or general public makes the war unending for over a decade now. In August 2019, the military authorities announced that it is pulling back its troops from far flung outposts in the countryside and gathering them into fortified settlement it call "Super Camps". These Super Camps are inside of a garrison town, ringed by trenches to slow militants' invasions. Security analysts see this statement as fallacious and a trick by the security operatives not to accept defeat or being seen as incapable. Where instead of advancing, the military are retreating, thereby allowing the Boko Haram fighters free reign in the barren countryside. Such 'technical retreat or withdrawal' may not be unconnected with raid of some military brigades by the militants in the Lake Chad axis and carrying away weapons, particularly in 2018 by ISWAP faction, swiping large amount of machinery and weapons (Searcey, 2019). In spite of the above strategy, troops of 123 Special Forces battalion in cross Kauwa, in Kukawa Local Government Area

of Borno state were ambushed at about 8:30am on 16 October, 2019; three soldiers were killed and some sustain injuries with other properties of the forces taken away. The insurgents have demonstrated ability to attack both Civilians and military formation in the frontline states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe; which record over 30,000 lives lost (Editorial, Premium Times 18/10/2019).

Numerous fallacious statements from the authorities made the general public not to see the authorities as doing enough to end the terrorist activities in the sub-region. The general public sees the combatants as incapable of controlling the conflicts or they are deliberately permitting it to linger for socioeconomic gains in terms of allowances they get or are paid; some of the operatives are said to be involve in marketing of some goods and services like fish, animals, grain etc in the region.

International community who have various means of gathering information are seeing the security operatives as incapable or unpatriotic and the political class as not serious in ending the terrorism that is wrecking havoc on the political economy of the state and its citizen.

CONCLUSION

The war against terror in Nigeria obviously reveals fallacious deeds and statements in the country. Nigerian military with international reputation has been reduced to mere defensive as against offensive machinery. Politics and fallacies has manifested against professionalism as even the civilian seems to have lost confidence in the military strength of the nation as it's 'charity did not begin at home' this time around. Hiding the true combatant strength/weakness, weapons available or needed, causality figures, losses of lives and properties of the civil society and propaganda that the terrorist are technically defeated or degraded has kept the war lingering for several years. Knowing and speaking the truth always

should be a remedy for solving the magnitude of crimes and terrorism like the one Nigeria is facing today.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Speaking the truth no matter what, is morally, spiritually and academically good, as false information affects proper record keeping and planning.

People or state giving false information should be cautioned and if they persist, they should be sanctioned appropriately to serve as deterrence to others.

Top ranking officers or political leaders should have or provide avenue to hear/get independent truth from other sources to compare and contrast for decisive action that would promote peace and security.

The interest of the state should be considered, but not at the detriment of security of lives and properties of well meaning citizens.

The military and other authorities should protect their informants to prevent unnecessary reprisal attacks.

Topmost managers of the state and military authorities should face reality and remove erring/weaker officers who are fallaciously defensive at the expense of human lives, state and national security.

Political leaders/decision makers should pragmatically seek foreign assistance and collaboration to end this terrorism for national, international security and socioeconomic development.

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Reference to this paper should be made as follows: Ishaku Hamidu (2020), Fallacy: A Major Cause for the Unending Boko Haram Terrorism in North-Eastern Nigeria. *J. of Social Sciences and Public Policy*, Vol. 12, Number 1, Pp. 1-21
