

TRANSNATIONAL INSURGENCY AND ITS IMPLCATIONS ON NIGERIA'S STATE SOVEREIGNTY

¹Harriet Omokiniovo Efanodor-Obeten and ²Chibuike Victor Obikaeze

¹Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Edo State University, Uzairue, Edo State

²Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's email: efanodor.harriet@edouniversity.edu.ng



Abstract

Boko Haram insurgency has taken a transnational dimension with its members, activities and recruitment efforts cutting-across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Mali. The transnational nature and activities of Boko Haram has implications for the Nigerian state since its response in the form of co-counterterrorism coordination with other states has the propensity to affect the sovereignty of Nigeria. Literature on Boko Haram is replete with the narratives of the origin, activities as well as the impact of the insurgent group on Nigeria's security and economy. The implication of the transnational nature of the insurgent group on Nigeria's sovereignty is one area that is yet to get much attention. The study therefore highlights the implications of the transnational nature of Boko Haram insurgency on the Nigerian state sovereignty. The study adopted the historical method employing the use of a wide range of secondary source of information. The study revealed that the implications of transnational activities of Boko Haram on Nigeria's sovereignty are multifaceted because the coordinated counterterrorism efforts of affected states have led to violation of mandates in multinational operations and influx of troops under the guise of co-combating insurgency in Nigeria's territories without the knowledge or approval of the Nigerian government. Furthermore, the transnational activities of Boko haram have loosened important cultural and psychological sovereignty of the Nigerian state because some Nigerians have acquired loyalties as well as sympathy for Boko Haram that supplement and override feelings on national solidarity. Hence, their sympathies have manifested in the insurgent group eroding state solvencies through the instruments of corruption and subtle co-option of state officials. The paper recommended that the Nigerian government and other affected states should intensify their internal counter insurgency strategy in order to bring an end to the menace as well as eradicate the Boko Haram insurgent group.

Keywords: Boko Haram, Nigeria, Sovereignty, Security, Insurgency, Transnational, Implication.