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**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA INFLICTED BY BOKO HARAM
INSURGENCY IN THE NORTH EASTERN NIGERIA**

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Abstract

Divergent views emerge on the rationale behind Boko Haram Islamic insurgency in Nigeria. Some see it as an attempt to Islamise the secular Nigerian state, while some believe it to be an attempt to change the *status quo* in order to concretise the perceived dominance of the Northerners over the rest of the country. The 2014 invasion of Chibok Girls High School in the north-eastern part of the country, which led to the kidnap of over 250 girls continues to generate public and academic curiosity. The psychological effects of this insurgency on various stakeholders is unquantifiable, which is going to be our departure point because its impacts are still unfolding. The psychological trauma effect will direct our theoretical discussion. Methodically, qualitative and secondary sources of information will dominate our argument.

Keywords: Psychological trauma, Nigeria, Boko Haram, Children

Introduction

Nigeria, like many developing countries in Africa, has been confronted with diverse forms of security challenges since it gained its independence in 1960. Starting from when the military handed over power to a democratically elected government in 1999 till date, the security situation has continued to be a nightmare. Prominent amongst the causes of the deteriorating security condition in the country is the activities of the Boko Haram insurgent sect in the north-eastern part of the country. Boko Haram, a Nigerian jihadist sect, publicly commenced its operation in 2002 and has become a significant security

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