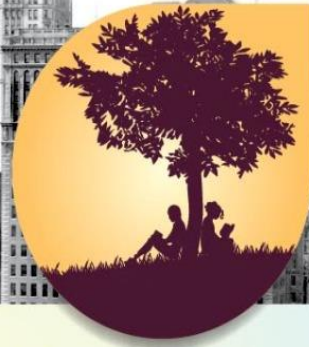


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Neg- Med Model; A Special Tool for Resolving Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

*By: Prof. Adesina Temitayo Bello**

Abstract

Terrorism is a deadly act that spreads like hurricane if not curtailed. The inception of and the persistent criminal activity of the dreaded group known as Boko Haram has become a concern to the Nigerian government and its citizenry. This article examined the incessant evolution of the dreaded sect, its activities, and the techniques used by the Nigerian government to totally annihilate this canker worm. More so, it revealed that the approaches adopted by Government to tackle this issue have brought little or no success because crucial elements like conflict resolution have not been given optimum attention. This article recommends that the government of Nigeria should, in the quest to mitigate and finally resolve the Boko Haram insurgency, initiate a conflict resolution mechanism other than the use of the military which signifies the application of force against the sect. Negotiation and Mediation will serve as ample solutions to the crisis.

Keywords: *Terrorism, Insurgency, Conflict, Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Negotiation, Boko Haram.*

Introduction

The world of today has become branded with the incessant rise in violent activities which has caused several hazards to different countries and its citizenry.¹ A form of such violent activity is terrorism, which has been known over the years to take a center-stage in global unrests. In certain

* *Prof Ngozi .G. E., Nwankwo, I.U., & Alichie, B.O., “Curbing Boko Haram Terrorist Insurgency in Nigeria: Imperatives of Quadruple Action Package of Limited Military Response, Improved Social Services, Conflict Resolution Initiatives and Modified Pacifism”, British Journal of Arts and Social Sciences (2015) Vol.20 No.1. <http://www.bjournal.co.uk/BJASS.aspx>. Accessed October 18, 2020.*

situations, violent crimes such as terrorism can take a domestic or international form, however, in some other situation, this violent crime transit. That is, it develops as a domestic violence, and later evolves into an international concern.

Nigeria has become more famous all over the world for the dreaded activities of a terrorist sect known as the Boko Haram. Terrorism has become a global menace, wherein no country whatsoever is completely absolved from its effect, however unfortunate, terrorism events in one part of the globe has direct or an indirect effect on others. Kydd and Walter² have defined terrorism as actions focusing on harming some people in order to create fear in others by targeting civilians and facilities or system on which civilians rely. Certainly, this definition gives a little insight on the scope of the sect's operation. However, the scope of the operation of the Boko-Haram sect has gone beyond civilian targets including Police and Military establishments.

Boko-Haram sect as a domestic terrorist organization. The challenges posed by Boko-Haram sect on the security of lives and property in Nigeria and the implications on corporate existence of Nigeria as well as its image internationally motivate this study. Nonetheless, what is more important is to seek ways to resolve this conflict between the Nigerian government cum its citizenry as against this terrorist sect. hence, a scheme for conflict resolution that will take into cognizance the interest of both parties and the amicable resolution of disputes.

Conflict resolution can be defined as the informal or formal process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their dispute.³

² Kydd A.H., and Walter B.F., "The Strategies of Terrorism", *International Security* (2006) , Vol. 31, No. 1. Pp. 49-80. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4137539>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

³Katie Shonk, 'What is Conflict Resolution, and How Does It Work? How to manage conflict at work through conflict resolution' (DECEMBER 28TH, 2021) <<https://www.pon.harvard.edu/daily/conflict-resolution/what-is-conflict-resolution-and-how-does-it-work/>> Accessed October 20, 2020.

Oftentimes, conflict resolution aim at finding the win-win solution, or mutually satisfying standpoint for everyone involved⁴. Nonetheless, achieving such compromise can be very difficult. According to Prof. Ngozi *et all*⁵, there are a series of strategies of conflict resolution which are arbitration, adjudication, mediation, negotiation, conflict suppression, conflict management, traditional approach, realism, and their importance cum effectiveness cannot be overemphasized. In this light, Hayes⁶ contended that those who oppose terrorism should endeavor to engage in a broader set of dispute resolution strategies to ascertain the one workable and thus use it.

Hence, as an objective, this paper examines the use of Neg-Med, a hybrid ADR mechanism which signifies Negotiation and Mediation, and how both mechanisms can be instrumental in the resolution of Boko Haram insurgency.⁷

Concept of Negotiation

The concept of negotiation is a well-known phenomenon, the oldest and possibly the most common of diverse methods of dispute resolution. Often, in any relationship, when it is noticed that deterioration becomes obvious, as long as the parties are still communicating, the circumstance can be mitigated to avoid a full-blown dispute between the parties. However, it should be noted that even in the course of the dispute, often serious efforts can be made

⁴ Ury, F. & Rodger F., “Getting a yes: Negotiating agreement without giving in”, (New York: Penguin Group.1981). Accessed October 18, 2020.

⁵ Prof Ngozi .G. E., Nwankwo, I.U., & Alichie, B.O., “Curbing Boko Haram Terrorist Insurgency in Nigeria:Imperatives of Quadruple Action Package of Limited Military Response, Improved Social Services, Conflict Resolution Initiatives and Modified Pacifism”, *British Journal of Arts and Social Sciences* (2015) Vol.20 No.I. <http://www.bjournal.co.uk/BJASS.aspx>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

⁶ Ben Hayes, ‘Counter-terrorism, ‘policy laundering’ and the FATF: legalising surveillance, regulating civil society’
<<https://www.statewatch.org/media/documents/analyses/no-171-fafp-report.pdf>>
Accessed 10 March 2022.

⁷ Hayes, R.E., Kaminski, S.R., and Beres, S.M., ‘Negotiating the non-negotiable: Dealing with absolute terrorists’, *International Negotiation* (2003), 8, 9-74. <https://books.google.com.ng/books?isbn=1446206599>. Accessed October 24, 2020.

to resolve such disputes. This effort that's the form of negotiation, which involves talking to each other.

Negotiation is an instrumental tool for structural commercial agreement, resolving conflicts, managing operational problems as well as social relationships. In the words of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the former President of the United State of America once stated that:⁸

*“let us negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to negotiate”*⁹

More so, according to Fisher in his broad definition of Negotiation, the term is defined:

*“as including all cases in which two or more parties are communicating, each for the purpose of influencing the other's decision. Nothing seems to be gained by limiting the concept to formal negotiation taking place at a table, and much to be gained by defining the subject broadly”*¹⁰

More so, Black's Law Dictionary¹¹ defines the term as:

“A consensual bargaining process in which the parties attempt to reach agreement on a disputed or potentially disputed matter”

⁸ USA President from 1961-1963

⁹ Fitzgerald Kennedy's inaugural address January 20, 1961, <http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres56.html>.

¹⁰ Roger F., 'Negotiating power: Getting and using influence' in J.W. Breslin J.Z Rubin (Eds.) *Negotiation theory and practice*, the program on negotiation at Harvard Law school, Cambridge, Massachusetts at pp. 127 – 128.

¹¹ Garner, B. *Black's Law Dictionary*, 5th edition, USA: West Publishing (1979).

It is very expedient that one understands that every day of our lives are lived in negotiation, yet, this is hardly realized without conscious attention being paid thereto. However, at a more formal level, the concept of Negotiation as an Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism is more stringent as it is well regulated and formalized.

Furthermore, Negotiation is also described as a voluntary unstructured and usually private process by which parties to a dispute can reach a mutual courteous agreement for the resolution of their divergence. However, it is a non-formal dispute resolution mechanism wherein disputants have firm and total control of the entire arrangement. The success or failure of this process, more often, is dependent entirely on the disputants themselves since the process offers an opportunity for them to talk one on one basis. Under Negotiation, the absence of a third-party facilitator is a common feature.

Disputants personally present their case, marshal arguments and lead evidence. The entirety of the foregoing attributes of this procedure of dispute resolution can be summed up in regarding Negotiation as the fastest, least expensive, most private, least complicated and most party-control oriented process¹² negotiation takes a problem-solving approach rather than an adversarial one. Negotiation typically takes place during the early stages of conflict when communication between parties is cordial and good or at the de-escalation point when communication has been restored¹³

Under negotiation, there are several theories that have evolved over the years for the utilization and adoption of the process of negotiation. To start with, every negotiation need familiarize himself/herself with two major strategies that come to play in all negotiation sessions. They are:

¹² Ibid. at p.19

¹³ Chikwe, 2011 in *Sacha Journal of policy and strategic studies* , volume 1 no 2 (2011). Pp. 64-73. <http://www.sachajournals.com/user/image/kennedy002.pdf>.

- Integrative or Problem-solving Approach:

This approach is one applied when disputing parties have a tendency to engage in future dealings. Precisely, this approach is also referred to as the problem-solving approach or problem-solving orientated. Under this approach, a dispute resolution mechanism in which both sides seek a solution that best meets and suits their interests from the outset¹⁴. Furthermore, this approach takes into consideration the interests of all the parties to a dispute. It is also the believe that regardless of the fact that the interests of the disputants may be divergent, yet they are reconcilable, and in so doing, necessary expansions can be made where necessary to accommodate the interests of both parties.¹⁵ According to Dele Peters:

“to achieve this goal, all parties to a dispute see themselves as collaborative problem-solvers. They separate themselves from the problem to which they are seeking solution and thus endeavor to create many options as possible for their mutual gains and benefits. This is achieved by focusing on their interests rather than their positions.”

With this approach, the goal is at making the interests of disputants maximized, hence, setting aside their individual–self from the contentious issue, thus exploring various options to achieve their mutual benefits. This has been described as a *win-win* approach because upon the resolution of the conflict, the parties thereto would not have lost anything, rather both parties will be at the benefiting side, hence, putting the interest of disputants first¹⁶. On the other hand, the Distributive or competitive Approach is a direct opposite.

¹⁴ Dele P., ‘Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Nigeria; Principles and Practice’, (Lagos; Dee-Sage Nigeria Ltd 2004). Pp. 69-96.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Roger F., Wiliam U., and Paton B., ‘Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement without giving in’, 2nd Ed. New York: Penguin Books 1991.

- Distributive or positional approach:

This approach has been known as the distributive model by which the parties distribute, between themselves, the substances over which they are bargaining. This approach encourages hard bargaining between opponents. In this light, instigating a form of contest in which there will be a winner and a loser. In order to win, a bargainer is inclined to be skilled, powerful, and tough in maximizing his self-interest.¹⁷ In addition, this approach has also been referred to as Positional¹⁸ and contending bargaining¹⁹. The competitive approach is not a particularly worthy approach as the approach possess a hostile and confrontational approach and response.²⁰ Herein, the application of this approach results in a win-lose result wherein both parties take diverse positions and through negotiating attempt to get the opposing party to agree to such position. This leads to hard bargaining, and even damage to relationships.

Concept of Mediation

Mediation is that process which employs an impartial person(s) to facilitate negotiation between the parties to a dispute in an effort to reach a mutually accepted resolution. In an event wherein parties to a dispute are incapable of resolving their difference through self-effort, hence, there is a need to explore other means for resolution of such a dispute. One of such other means of dispute settlement where negotiation fails is mediation.

If in the course of a dispute either of the parties or even both of them seek the assistance of a third party to guide them towards reaching an amicable resolution of the dispute. In this regard, the third party is not to make any decision for the parties, rather, the third party is to serve as a facilitator and

¹⁷ Dele P., 'Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Nigeria; Principles and Practice', (Lagos; Dee-Sage Nigeria Ltd 2004). Pp. 77.

¹⁸ Dean P., "Strategic Choice in Negotiation," in *Negotiation Theory and Practice*, eds. J. William Breslin and Jeffery Z. Rubin, (Cambridge: The Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, 1991), pp.27-46.

¹⁹ Roger F. and Ury. W., 'Getting to Yes: Negotiating agreement without giving in', (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1981).

²⁰ Dele P., 'Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Nigeria; Principles and Practice', (Lagos; Dee-Sage Nigeria Ltd 2004). Pp. 78.

an intermediary between the disputants, this is known as Mediation²¹. Hence, what is mediation?

Mediation has been referred to as negotiation carried out with the assistance of a neutral third-party at the instance of the parties.²² More so, it is a voluntary process that offers disputants meaningful and creative solution at a fraction of the cost of litigation.²³ In addition, mediation has been described as a structured process in which a third-party neutral called *mediator* assists disputants to reach a negotiated settlement of their difference²⁴. Dele Peter has endeavored to expatiate on the concept of mediation. He posited that:

“Apart from being a structured process, Mediation is as well as a facilitative process that attempts to overcome all barriers to successful negotiation. Thus, when disputants are unsuccessful in the process of utilizing negotiation as a method to resolve the dispute and are not too disposed to any of the adversarial procedures, the proper step to take is to call in the intervention of a neutral third party to guide them to a mediated settlement. We must stress that the role of the neutral third party in Mediation is neither akin to that of a Judge in Judicial proceedings nor to that of an Arbitrator in arbitration. A mediator is impartial, trained and experienced in the mediation process and by definition has no decision-making authority. A mediator is neither a Judge nor an Arbitrator, both of which render formal binding decisions for disputants instead of the disputants deciding matters for themselves. Rather a mediator essentially facilitates continuation of negotiations by the parties, guides and assists them towards a successful negotiation and hence, resolution of all impasse encountered in the course of negotiation. The

²¹ Ibid.97.

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Kanowitz, L., “Cases and materials on alternative dispute resolution”, (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Co). P. 29.

absence of decision power by a mediator has often made a mediator to be referred to as being without 'teeth' ”²⁵

Mediation has a special merit when parties have ongoing relations that must continue after the dispute is managed, since the agreement is by consent and none of the parties should have reasons to feel they are losers. However, mediation creates a foundation for resuming the relation after the particular issue has been resolved. While mediation cannot guarantee specific results, there are trends that are characteristics of mediation. Some of such benefits of mediation are:

“flexibility, informality, confidentiality, non-binding nature, savings on resources, maintenance of parties’ relationship”

Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria

Boko Haram insurgency has continued to pose a serious threat to Nigeria’s security system and corporate political entity²⁶. The Origin of the terrorist sect known as Boko Haram and the subsequent outbreak of terrorism in Nigeria can be traced to Boko Haram as it is a dreaded Islamic sect known as “Jama’atul Alhul Sunnah Lidda’ Wat, Wal Jihad” which means a group committed to the propagation of Prophet Muhammed’s teachings and Jihad²⁷. Be that as it may, it should be noted that the literal meaning or interpretation of the term Boko Haram is “*Western education is forbidden*”, and this sect has sponsored this belief for a long period of time as the reasons for its violent act. Although the origin of this sect is filled with uncertainty,

²⁵ Dele P., ‘Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Nigeria; Principles and Practice’, (Lagos; Dee-Sage Nigeria Ltd 2004). Pp. 98

²⁶ Salisu S.S., Mohd A.S., and Abdullahi Y. S., “The Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Nigerian National Security”, *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences* (2015) Vol. 5, No. 6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBS/v5-i6/1676>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

²⁷ Muraina M. B., Uyanga U.D., and Muraina K. O., “Historical Antecedents of Boko Haram Insurgency and Its Implications for Sustainable and Educational Development in North Central Nigeria”, *Journal of Education and Practice* (2014) Vol.5, No.22. www.iiste.org ISSN 2222-1735. Accessed October 18, 2020.

yet some authors have tried to trace this origin to 1995 with Lawan Abubakar as its founder. On the other hand, others traced the founder of this sect to Shehu Sanni, a civil right activist in the Northern Nigeria. Be that as it may, the Boko Haram Movement founded by Ustadh Muhammed Yusuf in the North- Eastern part of Nigeria is officially recognized by its members as Jama'at Ahlis-sunnah Lid-Da'wat wal Jihad, which means 'people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and Jihad', meanwhile, the Hausa appellation Boko Haram suggests the ideology that forbids western education and any culture that is western in nature, hence, the advocacy for the abolition of democratic governance and any man-made laws.

This seemingly harmless ideology of the sect went rouge, i.e. had a terrorist outlook, in 2009 when the leader of the sect was later found dead having been taken by security forces. From that time till date, Nigeria has continuously felt the devilish impact of this deadly group which has enveloped the Nigerian community with acute and unquantifiable fears for the sect and the uncertainty of their next line of action. In pursuit of their ideology, the sect have taken into arson, bombing, shooting, stabbing with disdain and liberty while targeting important national events, public institutions, markets and sometimes Christian places of worship and Christian festivals and most recently the mosques.²⁸ More so, the sect have become more indulged in the indiscriminate killing of people regardless of Economic statutes, age grade, sex, race or locality. It is incontrovertible to assert that the Boko Haram insurgency is a war against the Nigerian nation. Since 2009, Boko Haram has constituted a grave security threat in the Northern part of Nigeria. Its terror crusade took a very disturbing dimension since 2010 and has persisted through till date. However, until June 16, 2011, the onslaught was restricted to the North - East geo-political zone. The first attack outside the zone was the bombing of the Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja. This attack was prompted by the statement altered by Hafiz Ringim, who threatened to smoke Boko Haram out in a press statement on his duty tour to Maiduguri where the sect launched an attack, while he was

²⁸ Ibid

the Inspector General of Police. A subsequent attack was orchestrated by the sect wherein they bombed the United Nation House, also in Abuja on August 26, 2011²⁹. Some other ugly attacks of this sect includes:

The Yobe State Attack on Potiskum, Yobe State Divisional Police Headquarters, where three Policemen and one fire service officer died on July 2009; the May 30 2011 incident in Borno State, where bombs exploded early morning on Baga road in Maiduguri, Borno State, 13 dead and 40 injured; June 16 2011 in Borno State, four children killed in a bomb blast at Damboa town, Maiduguri, Borno State; The sect also engages in kidnapping of foreigners, and the recent tactics of kidnapping women. The group kidnapped more than 250 school girls in Chibok town of Borno state, although recently a couple of the girls were released³⁰. These and many other attacks have been perpetrated by this terrorist sect for no justified or justifiable reasons.

Table showing the trend of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria.³¹

S/N	Date	Incident	Effect
1	July 26–29, 2009	2009 Boko Haram Uprising marking the Beginning of the insurgency in northern Nigeria.	Nearly 1,000 people were killed in clashes between Boko Haram Militant and Nigerian Soldier
2	July 30,2009	Execution Of Muhammed Yusuf, Spiritual	Abubakar Shekau takes control of the group

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰Chibok girls recount ordeal as they reunite with parents.

<<http://punchng.com/chibok-girls-recount-ordeal-reunite-parents/>>. Accessed October 18, 2020

³¹Solomon Elusoji , ‘Twelve Years of Terror: A Timeline Of The Boko Haram Insurgency’ (July 24, 2021) <<https://www.channelstv.com/2021/07/24/twelve-years-of-terror-a-timeline-of-the-boko-haram-insurgency/>> Accessed 10 March 2022.

		Leader of Boko Haram by Nigerian soldiers following the recent uprising	
3	September7,2010	Bauchi prison break	5 people were killed and 721 inmates freed from Bauchi prison
4	October 11,2010	Bomb Attack on Maiduguri Police Station	The police station was destroyed and three person injured
5	December31,2010	Attack at Mammy Market at Army Mogadishu Barracks, Abuja	11 people died
6	May 29,2011	Bomb explosion in Abuja and Bauchi (during Goodluck Jonathan's swearing in as new President	15 people killed
7	June 16,2011	Failed Abuja police Headquarters Bombing (Nigeria's first instance of suicide Bombing)	2 people died (the suicide Bomber and a traffic policemen
8	August 4,2011	Damaturu Attacks	Between 100 to 150 people were killed
9	December2223,2011	Boko Haram and Nigerian Army	68 people, of whom are 50 militants, at least 7

		clashes in Maiduguri and Damaturu	soldiers and 4 civilians were killed
10	December 25, 2011	Bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic church, Madalla	46 people killed
11	January 21, 2012	Kano multiple bombs blast	185 people feared dead
12	April 29, 2012	Attack Bayero University, Kano	13 Christian worshipers, 1 nonteaching staff and 2 Professors were killed
13	June 17, 2012	Kaduna church Bombings	19 people were killed
14	August 7, 2012	Deeper Life church shooting	19 church members killed
15	December 25, 2012	Maiduguri and Potiskum church shootings	27 Christians were killed
16	January 1, 2013	Nigerian Army Raid on Boko Haram	13 militants were killed
17	March 18, 2013	Kano Bus Bombing	Between 22 and 65 people were killed.
18	April 16, 2013	Baga Massacre (Borno state)	187 people were killed
19	July 6, 2013	Yobe state school shooting	Over 42 persons were killed
20	August 12, 2013	Attacks on Maiduguri Mosque	56 people killed
21	September 12, 2013	Ambush by Boko Haram	40 soldiers died.

22	September 12-18, 2013	Nigeria Army offensive against Boko Haram sect	150 militants and 16 soldiers died
23	September 19, 2013	Benisheik Attacks by Boko Haram	16 people were killed
24	September 29, 2013	Guiba College Massacre (Yobe state)	Over 50 students were killed
25	October 2013	Government force Raid on rebel	101 Boko Haram fighters were killed
26	October 29, 2013	Raids on Damaturu	At least 128 people were killed (95 militants, 23 soldiers, 8 policemen and 2 civilians)
27	January 26, 2014	Northern Nigeria Attacks by Boko Haram	138 killed in total
28	February 14, 2014	Borno massacre in konduga	121 Christian villagers were killed
29	February 15, 2014	Izghe attack by Boko Haram	106 persons killed
30	February 25, 2014	Federal Government College Attack by Boko Haram in Yobe state	students were killed some through throat slitting by militants
31	March 14, 2014	Attack on Giwa Military Barracks in Maiduguri	Boko Haram Detainees were freed from a detention facility and recaptured detainees were

			executed by the military
32	April 14,2014	Abuja twin Bombing Attack	Over 88 people were killed
33	April 15,2014	Chibok School Girls kidnapping (Borno state)	276 female students were kidnapped by Boko Haram
34	May 1,2014	Abuja Car bombing	19 people killed
35	May 5,2014	Gamboru Ngala Attack (Borno State)	(Borno State) At least 300 people were killed
36	May 20,2014	Jos Car Bombings	At least 118 Villagers were killed
37	May 27,2014	Buni Yadi Attack (Yobe State)	49 security personnel and 9 civilians were killed
38	June 1,2014	Mubi Bombing (Adamawa State)	40 people were killed
39	June 2,2014	Gwoza Massacre	At least 200, mostly Christians were killed in several villages in Borno State.
40	June 20-23,2014	Borno State Attacks	70 people were killed and 91 women and children kidnapped by militants
41	June 23-25,2014	Central Nigeria (Middle Belt) Attack	About 171 people were killed in series of attacks in the middle Belt of Nigeria
42	July 26,2014	Nigerian Military Raid on	Over 100 Militant were killed

		Boko Haram camps	
43	November28,2014	Kano Bombing and Gun Attacks	At Least 120 Muslim followers of the Emir of Kano, Muhammed Sanusi II were killed during a Suicide bombing and gun attack by Boko Haram. The Four gunmen were subsequently killed By an angry mob
44	December13,2014	Gumsuri Kidnappings (Borno State)	About 35persons were killed, while about 185 persons were kidnapped
45	December 28-29, 2014	Failed Boko Haram offensive into Cameroon’s far North Region	85 civilians, 94 Cameroonian soldiers were killed
46	January3-7, 2015	Baga massacre and Raze	Militants razed the entire town of Baga in North-East? Nigeria. At least 2,000 were killed. Boko Haram then controlled 70% of Borno State. The worst affected by the insurgency.
47	January 9, 2015	Refugees flight from Baga, Borno State	7,300 Refugees flee to neighbouring Chad, while over 1,000 were trapped in the land of Kangala in lake Chad

			(following the Boko Haram Massacre in Baga)
48	January 12, 2015	Failed Kolofata Raid in Cameroon	The Cameroonian Military claimed the army lost one officer, while the Boko Haram group lost between 143300 rebels
49	January 18, 2015	Attacks on Villages in North Cameroon by Boko Haram	80 people kidnapped and 3 others killed by Boko Haram
50	January 25, 2015	Offensive against Nigerian Forces in Maiduguri	8 civilians, about 53 Militants and unknown numbers of Soldiers died Rebels captured the nearby strategic town of Monguno
51	January 29, 2015	Recapture of Border town of Michika by Nigerian Military in collaboration with Chadian Soldiers	Michika recaptured from the Rebels
52	January 31st, 2015	African Union Pledged to send 7,500 International Soldiers to Nigerian and Fighting in	Chadian Forces Claimed to have killed 120 Boko Haram fighters while they lost 3 Soldier

53	February 6, 2015	North of Cameroon Niger Raid by Boko Haram on Bosso and Diffa towns	It marked the first time the Boko Haram attacked the country. The Chadian Military assisted the Nigerien Armed Forces to repel the attack. 5 Nigerien were killed while the government claimed to kill 109 militants
54	February 12, 2015	Invasion of Sambisa Forest, Borno State (Boko Haram Stronghold) by West African Allied Forces of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger	Undisclosed number of scores of insurgents were killed
55	February 13, 2015	Ngouboua, Chad Attack (after 30 insurgents crossed lake Chad in 4 Motor Boats)	The first attack on Chad by Boko Haram
56	February 21, 2015	Recapture of Baga by Nigerien Army	Baga which had fallen to Boko Haram on January 3rd was recaptured by Nigerien Army
57	February 24, 2015	Chadian Boko Haram Rebels	Over 200 Boko Haram Fighters were killed,

		clash near Garambu	one Chadian Soldier lost and nine others wounded
58	March 9 & 18, 2015	Recapture of Malam Fatouri and Damasak (North East Nigeria) by Chadian and Nigerien Forces	Insurgents dislodged from Fatouri and Damasak while Chadian and Nigerien Forces retook the towns
59	April 24, 2015	Sambisa Forest last area controlled in Nigeria by Boko Haram Forces	Intensive efforts are still mounted to dislodge the militants and take over the area.
60	June 16, 2015	Twin Suicide Bomb Attacks in Chad Capital targeted at Police Headquarters and Police Academy	24 people killed and more than 100 wounded in N’Djamena blamed on Boko Haram Jihadists
61	June 22, 2015	Maiduguri Mosque Bombing by 2 female suicide bombers	30 killed at crowded mosque as Boko Haram marked the start of Ramadan by targeting a mosque that they saw as falling short in following ‘the Prophet

62	July 1-2, 2015	Multiple Mosque Massacres	48 persons killed on the 1st at one mosque in Kakawa and 17 wounded in the attacks. 97 others mostly men were killed in numerous mosques on the 2nd July 2015 with a number of women and young girls killed in their homes, while unknown numbers were wounded
63	July 5, 2015	A suicide bomber attacks a church in the Potiskum area of Nigeria's Yobe State	killing five
64	July 6, 2015	Jos Bomb attack	At least 44 persons were killed
65	November 17, 2015	A blast in the northeastern Nigerian city of Yola on Tuesday night tore through a marketplace	killing 32 people and wounding 80 others
66	January 27/28, 2016	Weekend rampage with a total death toll of at least 65	Residents say the death toll was even higher, with as many as 100 dead

- people and twice that number injured. Affected areas were various villages in Dalori and outskirts of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno Province.
- 67 February, 2016 Joint operation carried out by Cameroon's army and Nigerian Army At least 92 militants were killed and over 850 villagers were freed in the Nigerian village of Kumshe which is close the border with Cameroon
- 68 March 16, 2016 Three female suicide bombers killed 22 people and injured 18 in Umarari Village, on the outskirts of [Maiduguri](#), Borno State
- 69 June 26, 2016 The Nigerian army claimed they had rescued 5,000 people, mostly women and children, from four remote villages in north east Borno state (Zangebe, Maiwa, Algaiti and Mainar) and killed six Boko

- 70 August 19, 2016 Haram fighters. A civilian JTF member was also killed. The army also claimed to have killed two more Boko Haram fighters in operations at 11 other villages. The Nigerian military claimed Abubakar Shekau (leader of Boko Haram) was fatally wounded and about 300 militants including three senior Boko Haram commanders (Abubakar Mubi, Malam Nuhu and Malam Hamman) killed in an air raid on the village of Taya in Borno State.
- 71 August 21, 2016 A Boko Haram attack on a Women were raped and 11 people dead

		village called Kuburvwa (between Chibok and Damboa , Borno State)	
72	September 14, 2016	clashes near the village of Toumour in Niger's southeast Diffa Region	At least 30 Boko Haram militants and 5 Niger Armed Forces soldiers are killed
73	September 17	Chad and Nigeria soldiers killed at least 38 insurgents from terrorist group Boko Haram in Niger. 2 soldiers were also injured in the operation	
74	October 13, 2016	Release of 21 Chibok girls	
75	October 24, 2016	Suicide bombing in Cameroon	2 Suicide bombers killed three people in Cameroon
76	October 29, 2016	Suicide Bombing	2 Suicide bombers killed at least eight people in Maiduguri
77	November 1, 2016	Car bomb	Nine civilians killed when a car bomb exploded near a military checkpoint in Gubio, Northern Nigeria

78	November 8, 2016	Bomb Explosion	4 deaths and 6 injured persons were recorded after 2 suicide bombers exploded an improvised explosive in Maiduguri.
79	November 8, 2016	Communal attacks	Two civilians were killed, three soldiers injured and 100 houses set on fire by Boko Haram fighters on their raid on a village in Far North Cameroon
80	November 18, 2016	Multiple bomb blasts	Death of 6 persons and many injured in multiple bomb blasts
81	December 9, 2016	Madagali Suicide Bombings	2 explosions in Madagali town left 57 person killed and 177 injured.
82	January 23, 2017	Village invasion	Insurgents invade a village, killed eight people and abducted an unknown number of women and children
83	January 30, 2017	Killings by insurgents	Fifteen people were killed by Boko Haram militants in Maiduguri. One dead and three others injured in Boko Haram attack in Fotokol

84	February 11, 2017	Insurgents ambush and invasion	7 soldiers were killed, 19 injured and a village invaded and set ablaze by Boko Haram insurgents in Borno State.
85	March 30, 2017	Kidnap and abduction	Insurgents abducts 22 girls and women in separate raids in North East Nigeria
86	May 5, 2017	Attack on Military	Nine Chadian soldiers killed in a Boko Haram attack on an army post in the Lake Chad region. Some 40 Boko Haram militants were also killed as the army responded to the attack on the Kaiga post, sources said. Five people are dead in northeast Nigeria in Maiduguri in an attack by two female suicide bombers
87	May 20, 2017	Insurgents attack	At least 7 people dead and more than 40 injured from gunshots in separate attacks by Boko haram militant group rampaging within recently liberated Borno communities

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| 88 | June 8, 2017 | Insurgents stage multiple attacks | At least fourteen persons killed and 24 injured as Boko Haram suicide bombers staged multiple attacks targeting mosques where Muslim worshippers were praying. The attack occurred while soldiers were trying to repel another group of Boko Haram fighters, who were trying to invade the city |
| 89 | July 11, 2017 | Public execution and village attacks | Boko Haram have publicly executed eight villagers in northeast Nigeria who opposed the enforcement of its hardline form of Islam. Four Boko Haram suicide bombers killed 19 people and injured 23 in the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri |
| 90 | July 29, 2017 | Suicide Bombing | 14 people were killed and 15 others were injured when two suicide bombers blew up themselves in Dikwa, Nigeria |

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| 91 | August 7, 2017 | Insurgents raid fishing community | At least 31 fishermen were killed by Boko Haram jihadists in two separate attacks on islands in Lake Chad in northeastern Nigeria. |
| 92 | August 15, 2017 | Suicide Bombing | A woman bomber blew herself up and killed 27 others at a market in the village of Konduga near Maiduguri. |
| 93 | August 23, 2017 | Fresh Boko Haram attacks in Borno State | A least four people died and eight others were injured when two terrorists attacked Maiduguri. Boko Haram extremists killed at least 27 people by shooting them and slitting their throats as they attacked several villages in northern Nigeria's Borno state |
| 94 | September 3, 2017 | Attack on IDP camp | Boko Haram insurgents attacked an IDP camp in Borno State, killing eleven people and injuring three persons while also kidnapping four before fleeing. The attackers used swords |

			and sharp knives to carry out the acts.
95	September 18, 2017	Attack on village in Borno State	At least 15 people have been killed and 43 others injured in a suicide attack on Mashimari village in Borno state.
96	October 22, 2017	Suicide Bomber	A suicide bomber kills 13 people and injures five others in the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri. According to the police, 13 more civilians were injured in separate attacks
97	October 30, 2017	Separate Insurgents attacks and suicide bombing	11 civilians were killed by Boko Haram terrorists in Kolofata, Cameroon. Five civilians were killed and several other were Boko Haram terrorist blew himself up in a mosque in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Four people, including a mother and her two children, were killed and nine others were injured when a vehicle hit a mine planted by Boko Haram terrorists in Banki, Nigeria.

98	November 21, 2017	2017 Mubi Bombing	50 people were killed in a suicide attack in the north of Nigeria caused by Boko Haram militants.
99	December 2, 2017	Twin Suicide Bombing	Fifteen persons were killed and 53 others injured in twin suicide bomb attacks in a market in Borno State .
100	December 30, 2017	Insurgents raids village	Boko Haram fighters opened fire on a group of loggers in a remote village in northeast Nigeria, killing 25 people. The gunmen also burned three vehicles laden with firewood heading to Maiduguri.
101	January 8, 2018	Insurgents Open Fire on Civilians	At least one civilian was killed in an attack by members of the terror group Boko Haram in Cameroon's Far North region. Gunmen on motorbikes opened fire on a group of loggers collecting firewood at Kaje village, near the Borno state capital, Maiduguri. 20 People were killed in the attack and 15 others

			are missing and presumed kidnapped by the attackers.
102	January 17, 2020	Insurgents attack in North and South eastern region of Nigeria	Two suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers killed 12 people and injured 65 others in an attack in the north eastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri. Suspected Boko Haram fighters killed at least seven soldiers in an attack on a military post in Niger's south eastern Diffa Region. Ten others were injured in the attack.
103	January 31, 2018	Multiple suicide bomb attacks	Four people were killed and 44 others sustained injuries in multiple suicide bomb attacks at a Konduga community and the Dalori Internally Displaced Persons camp.
104	February 4, 2018	Multiple attacks	Boko Haram fighters stormed a village in northeast Nigeria and killed three people. Seven others were injured in the attack. One person has been

- reported dead after Boko Haram terrorists attacked Kala village, opposite the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Dalori, Borno State. The attackers also injured another man during the attack and burnt down some houses. Six people were killed and two others injured in the Cameroonian town of Hitawa (Far North), following an attack by Boko Haram.
- 105 February 19, 2018 Dapchi Schoolgirls Kidnapping About 110 girls were abducted by Boko Haram from their school in Dapchi, Nigeria.
- 106 March 1, 2018 Killings and abduction Boko Haram threatens to harm Leah Sharibu, Presidency; Condemns Killing of Red Cross staff. Boko Haram insurgents abducted three people from Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa state. Boko Haram militants killed at least 11 people including three aid

107	April 22, 2018	Killing of Forest workers by insurgents	workers in an attack on a military barracks in the town of Rann in Borno state. Another three aid workers were wounded and one more kidnapped. Boko Haram jihadists shot dead 18 forest workers who had been collecting firewood in Borno State, near the town of Gamboru, on the border with Cameroon. In another incident, a vehicle carrying civilians travelling in a nearby army convoy hit a mine placed by insurgents, killing three people and wounding eleven others near the village of Wumbi.
108	May 1, 2018	2018 Mubi Suicide bombings	At least 86 people were killed in two suicide attacks at a mosque and a market in Mubi, a town in the state of Adamawa in northeastern Nigeria. 58 others were injured in the bombings.

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| 109 | June 16, 2018 | Multiple insurgents attacks in Cameroon and Nigeria. | Two suicide bombers were killed when one of them prematurely activated her explosive device in the town of Limani in the Far North region of Cameroon. A young boy was also killed in the explosion. Two people were killed by terrorists in the village of Tchika in the commune of Hile-Alifa in northern Cameroon. At least 43 people were killed and 84 others injured when six female suicide bombers detonated their explosives in the Damboa local government area in the Nigerian state of Borno. |
| 110 | October 8, 2018 | Attacks in Niger and Chad | Boko Haram attack leaves 15 soldiers dead in attacks near the Niger Border and around the Lake Chad. |
| 111 | November 22, 2018 | Attack on Nigerian military | Insurgents overran a Nigerian army battalion at Metele Village in Guzamala Local government in |

112	June 17, 2019	2019 Konduga bombings	Borno State killing 70 soldiers. Three suicide bombers detonated near a group of people watching a football game, killing 30 and wounding over 40.
113	July 27, 2019	2019 Nganzai funeral attack	Militants opened fire on a group of people walking home from a funeral in Nganzai District , Borno State. At least 65 people were killed in the attack. A local government chairmen said the attack happened because a civilian defense group had killed 11 of the militants during an ambush last week.
114	December 26, 2019	Insurgents executes christians	ISWAP militants executed 11 Christians, who were kidnapped from Maiduguri and Damaturu, in a video released one day after Christmas. The militants said the execution was in response to the death of Islamic State

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| 115 | January 6, 2020 | 2020 Gamboru bombing | leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi
At least 32 people were killed and over 35 injured when an IED explode on a crowded bridge in Gamboru , Borno State, Nigeria. |
| 116 | February 9, 2020 | Auno attack | At least 30 civilians were killed and many more abducted by militants in Auno, Borno State, Nigeria. Four soldiers were killed and seven more wounded in an attack on the same village in January 2020. |
| 117 | March 23, 2020 | March 2020 Chad and Nigeria Massacres | at least 50 Nigerian soldiers were killed by Boko Haram militants in an ambush near a village in Yobe State , Nigeria. Other sources stated as many as 75 soldiers were killed. |
| 118 | June 9, 2020 | Gubio massacre | An attack by ISWAP on the herding village of Gubio in Borno State, Nigeria, left at least 81 people dead, seven people and over 1,200 cattle abducted, |

119	June 13, 2020	2020 Monguno and Nganzai massacres	and the village destroyed. ISWAP conducted two attacks in the Monguno and Nganzai areas of Nigeria's Borno State, killing at least 20 soldiers in the first location and at least 40 civilians in the second location. Hundreds of civilians were wounded and many buildings were torched in the violence, according to local sources.
120	August 2, 2020	Nguetchewe attack	Boko Haram militants attacked an IDP camp in Far North, Cameroon, killing 16 people and wounding at least seven more.
121	August 9, 2020	Koure shooting	ISWAP killed six French aid workers and two Nigerien civilians in Kouré, Tillabéri Region , Niger.
122	November 28, 2020	Koshebe massacre	About 110 civilians, mostly farm workers, were massacred by Boko Haram in Koshebe, Borno.

123	January 8, 2021	Nothern Cameroon	A dozen people from a village in northern Cameroon killed in attack blamed on Boko Haram.
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However, the evaluation or reassessment of the evolution of Boko Haram as a terrorist sect is not the crux of this work. The essence of this paper is geared towards the examination of the hybrid alternative dispute resolution mechanism; Neg-Med. In this light, the subsequent part of this work will cater for this discuss.

Negotiation and Mediation As Tools in Resolving Boko Haram Insuregency in Nigeria

Conflict, as has been earlier established is inevitable, nonetheless, shall conflict perpetually exist because of its inevitability? Hence, the need for Conflict resolution. Conflict management and resolution are in diverse forms ranging from amicable to coercive measures. Be that as it may, conflict maybe discussed, avoided, negotiated, adjudicated, resolved, arbitrated or by violent force.³² Of course, conflict constructively handled can spur a progressive relationship between disputants.

Conflict resolution was defined by John Burton as:

“terminating conflict by methods that are analytical and that get to the root of the problem. Conflict resolution as opposed to mere management or settlement, points to an outcome that, in the view of the parties involved, is a permanent solution to the problem.”³³

³² Christopher M., *“The Mediation Process: Practical Strategies for Resolving Conflict”*, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1996). <http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/moor7538.htm>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

³³John W. B., ‘Conflict resolution as a political system’, *scar.gmu.edu/wp_1_burton.pdf*. Accessed October 24, 2020.

As an advantage, John Burton, made known that conflict resolution is merit based in that it helps the parties to identify the root cause of the problem, aims not merely at resolving the immediate social conflict, family or ethnic dispute, but also to provide insights into the generic nature of the problem and thus to contribute to the elimination of its sources and the prevention of other instances³⁴ Nonetheless, a point to be noted is the fact that there exists a distinction between Disputes and Conflict. Disputes entails negotiable interests, meanwhile disputes are concerned with non-negotiable issues that relate to ontological human needs that cannot be compromised.³⁵ This germane distinction has been made based on the realization that the precise and clear use of the appropriate term is very instrumental in the course to apply the most appropriate mechanism. For instance, the term settlement implies the negotiated or arbitrated outcomes of disputes, on the other hand, resolution is concerned with the outcomes of a conflict situation that must satisfy the inherent needs of all parties.³⁶

Acknowledging the existence and application of an innovative adjudicatory system of dispute resolution, John Burton stated:

“Recently there have been developed, as an alternative to the traditional processes of courts and arbitrators, what are termed "alternative dispute resolution" processes, and other forms of interaction in which parties to a dispute are helped to communicate, to make choices and to arrive at some outcome agreed by all concerned... While there are different styles, the role of the intervenor or 'third party' is, in these cases, mainly directed toward the accommodation of conflicting interests as defined by the parties. The assumption is that the parties themselves have sufficient insights into the

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ John, W.B., ‘In conflict resolution as a political philosophy’, www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/14781159108412733. Accessed October 24, 2016.

³⁶ John W. B., ‘Conflict resolution as a political system’, scar.gmu.edu/wp_1_burton.pdf. Accessed October 24, 2020.

nature of their conflict, and of most possible options, to find an agreed outcome that will be lasting. What is required and provided is a process which helps them communicate, and which suggests options they may not have considered.”³⁷

Conflict resolution is applied in disputes as a method employed in the settlement of disputes matters a lot because in most cases what is focused at in the resolution of conflict is the interests of disputing parties. However, where parties to a dispute however decide to peacefully put aside their differences, assuredly, they can reach an amicable settlement with the application of Negotiation and Mediation processes where such objectives are offered.³⁸ Negotiation and mediation are both mechanisms under the Alternative Dispute Resolution for the resolution of conflict in a non-confrontational way.

In as much as conflict is hazardous it does not in any way refute the obvious truth that a win-win solution can be achieved if conflict is amicably resolved. Hence, in order to achieve this, disputing parties must jointly take up the status of problem solvers, seeking to resolve the dispute, and to try and ‘enlarge the pie’ rather than acting as adversaries and aggravating the situation³⁹.

Regardless of the advantages attached to Negotiation and mediation, it need be noted that Negotiation is a step that will definitely be initiated before mediation is later carried out. However, an exception to this is in situations where such conflict, having being studied, will require mediation as a

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ National Open University Nigeria: “PCR 371 third party intervention in conflict resolution”, nou.edu.ng/uploads/NOUN_OCL/pdf/pcr%20371.pdf. Accessed October 18, 2020.

³⁹ Yona S., “Alternative dispute resolution approaches and their application”. http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/disciplinary_studies.shtml. Accessed October 18, 2020.

resolution mechanism. Accordingly, Goldberg, Sander, and Rogers⁴⁰ have defined negotiation as:

“Communication for the purpose of persuasion⁴¹”.

Negotiation usually involves the discussion between disputing parties discuss possible outcomes directly with each other in a bid to resolve issues. Herein, the parties exchange proposals and demands, make arguments, and continue the discussion until a solution is reached, or an impasse declared. More so, in negotiation, three germane approaches applied in the course of dispute resolution, with each of such approaches having different objectives and focus. They are: interest-based, right-based and power-based. It should be noted that the application of these approaches will give different result in conflict resolution.⁴²

Be that as it may, where it happens that parties cannot negotiate together effectively, hence the need for a mediator who will facilitate the negotiation process. Mediation is defined as

“the intervention in a standard negotiation or conflict of an acceptable third party who has limited or no authoritative decision-making power but who assists the involved parties in voluntarily reaching a mutually acceptable settlement of issues in dispute”⁴³

⁴⁰ Goldberg. S B., Sander. F.E.A, Rogers. N.H., and Cole. S.R., “Dispute Resolution: Negotiation, Mediation, and Other Processes”, (New York: Aspen Publishers, 1992). <https://www.amazon.com/Dispute-Resolution-Negotiation-Mediation-Processes/dp/0735507104>. Accessed October 18, 2016.

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² Yona S., “Alternative dispute resolution approaches and their application”. http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp/disciplinary_studies.shtml. Accessed [October 18, 2020](#).

⁴³ Christopher M., “*The Mediation Process: Practical Strategies for Resolving Conflict*”, (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1996). <http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/moor7538.htm>. Accessed October 18, 2020

Negotiation and mediation are two mechanism or templates in conflict resolution with different steps. In most cases, Negotiation has never been known to settle terrorism, nonetheless, the Act of Mediation has a positive impact on the resolution of terrorism. The inclusion of a third party and its functional role in conflict is that it helps two or more disputing parties to reach a resolution, more so, the third party has to take the initiative to calculate the willingness on the part of the disputants and bring them to the resolution table⁴⁴. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy that the decision reached at the end of a resolution are not usually binding on parties to the conflict, however, the third-party mediation process remains exciting because the decisions or compromise reached are normally designed to favor both parties evenly.⁴⁵

A large majority of Nigerians are of the opinion that there is a need to negotiate with Boko Haram possibly because they are fed up with the menace that comes with the activities of this sect.⁴⁶ Mediation and Negotiation are expert mechanisms requiring a set of skills and practices which can be learnt and well mastered. Such skill include: diagnosing the causes of conflict, identifying opportunities to build parties' confidence in negotiations, pursuing shuttle diplomacy when the adversaries refuse to talk directly to each other, designing and convening mediation processes, preparing agendas and conducting meetings, identifying common ground between parties, generating options for resolving deadlocks, and facilitating dialogue, cooperative problem-solving and the drafting of agreements. Advocates have sort to give reasons why there is a prospect in the aspect of dialogue with the insurgent sect most likely because of the persistent persuasion on the Nigerian government to dialogue with the sect. Mr. Obasanjo on March 17, 2015,⁴⁷ advised that in handling terrorist organizations the Nigerian

⁴⁴ National Open University Nigeria: "PCR 371 third party intervention in conflict resolution", nou.edu.ng/uploads/NOUN_OCL/pdf/pcr%20371.pdf. Accessed October 18, 2020

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Prof. James B. K., "Boko Haram, the Government and Peace Negotiation", <http://www.cddwestafrica.org/itstime/?mdocs-file=75039&mdocs-url=false>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

⁴⁷ In an interview with the Business Times in Dubia

government should not rule out dialogue if the group is willing to talk, and this should happen after sustained military operations against the sect.⁴⁸

However, this expressed opinion has been objected to with a view that negotiation with terrorists will only encourage them to repeat their tactics. Be that as it may, it should be clarified that negotiation per se does not in any way encourage any form of terrorism, rather, the demands of the terrorists are made known through negotiation.

Considering Boko Haram terrorist sect, the necessary question to be considered is whether or not either negotiation or mediation or both will be an effective mechanism in resolving this age-longed conflict. Respect has been attributed as the basic condition of any negotiation. The one-down approaches which seeks to impart a sense of inferiority are unproductive. However, it is noteworthy that effective negotiations can kick off when parties perceive themselves to be in a mutually hurting stalemate and find a way out which may either be a win-win situation or a win-lose one. On the other hand, mediation becomes necessary where neither party trusts the other, but trust the mediator to help them reach a constructive conclusion.⁴⁹ In order to achieve a peaceful conflict resolution with Boko Haram sect, negotiation and mediation are two very necessary mechanisms that will facilitate the conflicts orchestrated by this sect as against the government and the citizenry of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Just recently, specifically on October 13, 2016⁵⁰, a total of 21 Chibok girls who were abducted on April 14, 2014 in Chibok, were released by the Boko

⁴⁸ 'Again, Obasanjo seeks dialogue with Boko Haram; says sect has legitimate grievances'. <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/178601-again-obasanjo-seeks-dialogue-with-boko-haram-says-sect-has-legitimate-grievances.html>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

⁴⁹ Guy Oliver Faure and I William Zartman (united states institute of peace, forthcoming). 'the mediator's toolkit: negotiating with terrorists'. <http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/resources/publications/IIASAPolicyBriefs/pb06-web.pdf>. Accessed October 18, 2020

⁵⁰ Return of 21 chibok girls. <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/10/return-of-21-chibok-girls/>. Accessed October 24, 2020.

Haram sect. however, President Muhammadu Buhari commended the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the active role they had played in the release of the 21 abducted Chibok school girls, urging it to sustain humanitarian interest in Nigeria⁵¹. He further stated that his administration was open to continue talks with the Boko Haram sect “as long as they agree to involve international agencies like ICRC”. According to him, the results of recent talks have become obvious as 21 of the Chibok girls are back. This reemphasizes the importance of international agencies like ICRC as an important stakeholder in the resolution of Boko Haram conflict.⁵²

Be that as it may, Negotiation is a one of the major approaches applied in making decisions and manage disputes that may occur between different categories of persons or institutions such as spouses, parents and children, managers and staff, employers and employees, professionals and clients, within and between organizations, between agencies and the public, and between governments and groups. As has already been established, Negotiation is a problem solving mechanism wherein two or more people voluntarily discuss their differences and attempt to reach a joint decision on common concerns. In this light, the disputants are required to identify issues upon which they differ on, educate each other about their needs and interests, generate possible settlement options, and bargain over the terms of the final agreement.⁵³

To this extent, it is explicit that the issue of Boko Haram can only be mitigated only by the employment of the Alternative Dispute Resolution – Negotiation. However, the benefits of utilizing Negotiation in resolving this

⁵¹ President Buhari commends Red Cross for release of Chibok girls. <http://www.nigerianeye.com/2016/10/president-buhari-commends-red-cross-for.html>. Accessed October 24, 2020.

⁵² Chibok Girls: Buhari gives condition for continued negotiation with Boko Haram. <http://abbeylist.com/chibok-girls-buhari-gives-condition-for-continued-negotiation-with-boko-haram/>. Accessed October 24, 2020.

⁵³ Agbebaku, P. E., Odion, William E.; and Edokpa, M. F., "Tackling Nigeria's Security Challenges: Negotiation or What with Boko Haram?", *Journal of Global Initiatives: Policy, Pedagogy, Perspective* (2014): Vol. 9: No. 2, digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1174&context=jgi. Accessed October 24, 2020.

Boko Haram insurgency includes the following: restoration of peace in the region and country; increase in dispute visibility; confidence in the state's ability to restore and ensure safety of lives and properties; encourage investments/investors; removal/reduction in arms proliferation and heavy militarization of the region reduce defense expenditure which has since skyrocketed; lifting of emergency rule in affected states with the attendant benefits; and reintegration of dislocated families as well as providing the citizens in the region a sense of belonging in a federation⁵⁴.

Of a truth, with the application of Neg-Med, there is bound to be a swifter resolution of the Boko Haram conflict. It is very evident, as has been established above, that the establishment of Dialogue or Negotiation between the Federal Government and Boko haram sect resulted in the release of the 21 Chibok Girls. However, it is the submission of the writer that there is more to be achieved by the use of Alternative Dispute Mechanisms. Hence, it is the projection of the writer that with these mechanisms more peaceful settlements can be reached which will allow for the return of the remaining Chibok Girls, restoration of destroyed Properties and infrastructure, as well as peaceful existence. This will consequently result in a gradual but steady eradication of the insurgent group.

Conclusion

There is no country that can make significant progress in any aspect of its socio-economic and political life when it steadily fighting terrorism in her territory, as this will result in no developmental project or investment. Hence, there is a need to put a total halt to the menace constituted by Boko Haram terrorist insurgency in Nigerian which has done too much harm in the past couple of years of its violent activities.

It is for this reason that the hybrid mechanism in the Alternative Dispute Resolution has been recommended for the resolution of this menace. Negotiation and mediation have been regarded as necessary mechanisms for the resolution of Boko Haram insurgency. The book haram sect is a very dangerous and powerful sect with extreme capacity to persistently inflict

⁵⁴ Ibid

havoc on the entire Nigerian community. However, Negotiation and Mediation has a lot of prospect for the settlement of conflict, and it has been advised that if sufficient attention is given to it by the government then there will be a positive impact on the issue of terrorism. According to Lai Mohammed⁵⁵, in his interview with Vanguard News⁵⁶, he was asked if he is of the opinion that the current intervention of the international community can held squash the sect, he stated:

“If they do, good for us, because these European countries have lots of experience in fighting insurgency. But we believe that the matter wouldn’t have gotten this far, if government from the beginning had focus on the matter rather than alleging the opposition as the cause of it”⁵⁷

Furthermore, Lai Mohammed made known the fact that sensitive issues such as this could warrant the utilization of individuals the sect has confidence in to negotiate. However, he opined that Shekau won’t come out at the beginning of negotiation. Yet, he has people he trusts who he would send. Therefore, he advocated for negotiated settlement if there are intermediaries between government and the sect. There have been two instances where volunteers have indicated to mediate between the Federal Government and the Sect. For instance, Shehu Sani volunteered to be a middleman between the Federal Government and the sect. When negotiations were going on, government broke the agreement. Another instance is that of a journalist who was negotiating on behalf of the sect in Kano⁵⁸.

An analysis of conflict necessitates the meticulous study of the entirety of human relationships, be it conflictual or otherwise, for it is human

⁵⁵ Minister of Information and Culture.

⁵⁶ May 18, 2014.

⁵⁷ “Boko Haram: The negotiated settlement, resolution we need, by Lai Mohammed“ <http://www.daargroup.com/daar-group/latest-news/vanguardngr-boko-haram-negotiated-settlement-resolution-need-lai-mohammed>. Accessed October 18, 2020.

⁵⁸ Ibid

motivations and values that are involved conditioned by the totality of the environment --economic, political, social and ecological --in which these relationships are enacted.⁵⁹

Conclusively, in the words of John W. Burton:

*“The practice of problem-solving conflict resolution is deduced from the theory of conflict as a universal response to frustrated needs. Hence, the practice involves providing opportunities for the parties: first, to analyze relationships so as to generate an accurate definition of the problem in terms of motivations and human needs; second, to cost their goals and policies once they are fully informed of all aspects of the dispute, including the motivations and values of the opposing side; and third, to discover the possible options that may be available once there has been a full analysis of the conflict in all its elements”.*⁶⁰

Recommendations

The Boko Haram insurgency can no longer be a tolerated issue in Nigeria. Hence, the need to devise means to put the activities of the sect to a total halt. In this light however, the following recommendations are made.

- Firstly, the Nigerian government should address the high rate of poverty and unemployment. It has been submitted that Poverty and unemployment have made crime and criminal activities very appealing, attractive and irresistible to mostly youths who have got nothing doing.
- Secondly, the government of Nigeria need a re-orientation in the act of handling political or other related crises as peace approach is more

⁵⁹ John W. B., ‘Conflict resolution as a political system’,
scar.gmu.edu/wp_1_burton.pdf. Accessed October 24, 2020.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

successful than security or military approach. This is however not to say that the use of military approach may not be useful in some situations, rather more of peaceful resolution should be used.

- Thirdly, this article recommends a change in the mind-set of those in government as they often read ethnic, religious or political sentiment to any conflict. With the plethora of crisis that have occurred in Nigeria, it has become very obvious that the Nigerian government are quick to labeling issues as politically or ethnically driven, thereby putting them aside.
- Finally, the Nigerian government must take seriously its fundamental responsibility, that is, the general welfare of its citizenry and the protection of its territory.

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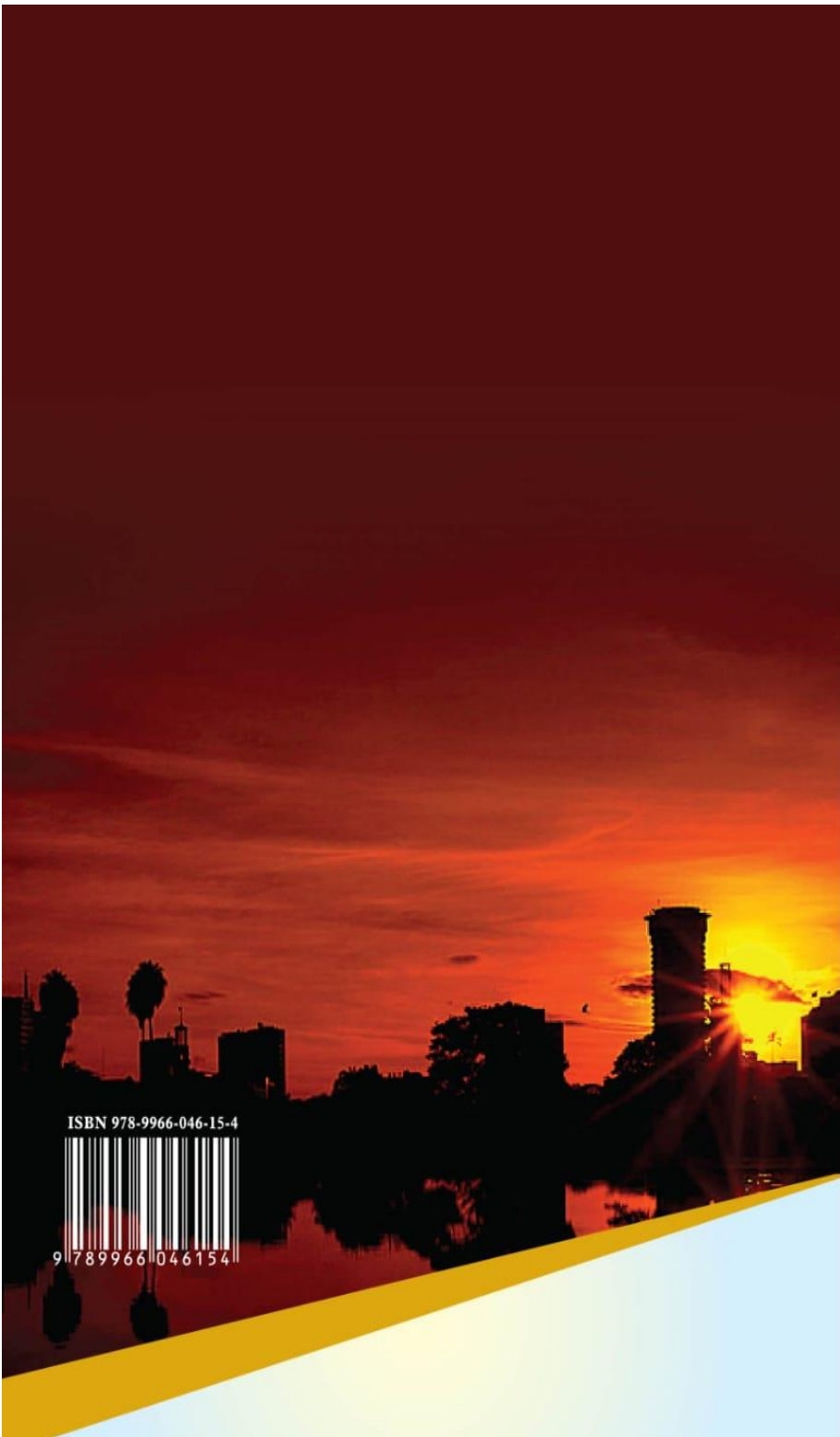
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