



## Interrogating the Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on the Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection in Northern Nigeria

Buhari, Lateef Oluwafemi\*, Ph.D, Soetan Olayiwola Stephen, PhD

Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ekiti State University, Ado – Ekiti, Nigeria

**\*Corresponding Author:** Buhari, Lateef Oluwafemi, Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ekiti State University, Ado – Ekiti, Nigeria

**Abstract:** This paper focuses on the Boko-Haram insurgency and the challenges on cultural and natural heritage protection in Northern Nigeria. It assesses the levels of damages carried out by the Boko-Haram Insurgent group on the Sambisa forest in Bornu State, Nigeria. The Boko-Haram insurgence broke out in July 24, 2009 in Maiduguri but soon spread to six Northern States of Bornu, Bauchi, Yobe, Gombe, Kano and Katsina. Sambisa forest located in the city of Maiduguri is an example of destruction of cultural heritage as collateral damaged in the course of the insurgency. During this period, a great deal of cultural heritage such as buildings, mosques, markets, churches, cultural landscapes were damaged. Again, Sambisa forest had been taken over by the Boko-Haram insurgents whereby animals, timbers and tourist and recreation centres were destroyed. Due to its location, Sambisa forest has been controlled primarily by Boko-Haram group and other gun men who use it as hiding places and the border porosity in the area for smuggling of arms. The issue of kidnapping also prevented the influx of people into this area thereby jeopardizing the economic, political and social activities as well as educational systems of the area. Natural order between the people of this area has been altered since the emergence of Boko-Haram and people live with the physical and psychological effects of the disappearances of 219 girls from Chibok. These securities gave signals to the international community that Nigeria is not a safe and secured place suitable for tourism and economic investment. The paper suggested various measures the Nigerian government can put in place to arrest the situation.

**Keywords:** Boko-Haram, insurgency, culture, heritage, Nigeria.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The African continent has been bedeviled by insurgency, violent conflicts and wars since the end of colonialism. Such conflicts and wars brought in their wake large scale destruction, involuntary involvement of displaced people, and acute security problems for neighbours<sup>1</sup>

In Nigeria, the *Jama'atu Ahhus Sunnah Lid Da'await Wah Jihad*, also known as Boko-Haram meaning “Western education is sin”<sup>2</sup> or abomination has emerged with the belief that western education and values are sinful<sup>3</sup>. Adesina described Boko Haram as bloodiest militant against the innocent citizens that continually wrecked havoc on the people of the north – eastern Nigeria<sup>4</sup>. This sect emerged in the year 1995 under the auspices of Shabaab group. Mallam Lawal was the leader. When Lawal later proceeded for further study, Muhammad Yousuf emerged the leader of the group which opened the group to political influence and popularity in the North-Eastern Nigeria. The crisis that started in Bornu spread to Kano, Yobe and Bauchi States. The victims include police stations, churches, women and children as well as mosques. Muhammad Yusuf, a 39years old leader of the group opined that “Democracy and the current system of education must change”<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Africa peace review: Edition Policy; in Journal of centre for peace research and conflict resolution, April, 1998, vol.2, No.1, National War College, Abuja, p.iv.

<sup>2</sup> Iyabrade Ikpokpo, “Menace of Insurgency, State Resistance and Implications for the Economic Development of Africa”: The Boko - Haram in Nigeria, ASEJ-IMSUBIZ JOURNAL, Vol.3, No.1, April 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Benson, O. Igboin, “From Religious Conflict to Religious Nationalism: the Nigerian Experience, (eds) Babatunde, Sofela, et al. in Nigeria at 50: Politics, Society and Development, 2013, John Archers, Ibadan, p.240.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Adesina, O.J,” Predicting the Effect of Counseling on the Psychological Adjustment of Book Haram Victims In Nigeria” , International Journal of Arts And Humanities,(AFREREV IJAH), Ethiopia, 2013, VOL.2(4)S/N.8, PP.205-216

In the year 2002, Yusuf practically reorganized the group in Maiduguri, Borno state with the aim of establishing a Sharia government in the State under Ali Modu Sheriff, The former Governor of Borno. He established a religious centre/empire with a mosque and a study centre where many poor families across Nigeria and neighbouring countries enrolled their wards<sup>6</sup>. The centre served as a recruiting ground for future Jihadist to fight the state. It is believed that the sect has the support of some elites and political bigwigs of northern Nigeria<sup>7</sup>. When the northern region especially north-eastern region is mentioned anywhere in the world today, what people really think of is 'Boko-Haram'. The daily and weekly newspapers headlines are not complete without headlines like; "Boko-Haram: Yobe attack: forty people killed in another attack". "Army recapture Sambisa forest Army repels Boko-Haram early morning attack in Sambisa forest", etc. The attacks of Boko-Haram which used to occur on daily basis has gone beyond the northeast, the Nigeria state is in short under siege, fear and uncertainty is seen everywhere. The most significant attacks of Boko-Haram include those of United Nations office Abuja, Police Headquarters Abuja, the building of Thisday newspaper, Sun newspapers, Daily Trust in Abuja, Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) Office, St. Theresa's Church, Madalla Niger State, Deeper Life Bible Church Okene, and Military Cantonment, Jaji and other numerous facilities<sup>8</sup>.

However, Boko-Haram is notorious for not only attacking schools, its members are also known for kidnapping western tourists as well as assassinating members of the Islamic establishments who are against its diabolical activities. Violence linked to Boko-Haram insurgency has resulted in an estimated 10,000 deaths and several injured between 2002 and as at the present members of the group include Abubakar Shekau and its weapon expert, second in command and arms manufacturer, Momodu Bama.<sup>9</sup>

## **2. EFFECTS OF BOKO-HARAM OF INSURGENCE ON CULTURAL AND HERITAGE LOCATIONS**

**Sambisa:** is a vast location in Borno State. The forest is believed to be harbouring suspected members of Boko - Haram Islamists sects. It is bordered on Bama, Askira Uba, Guwza, Konduga, Demboa, Dikwa Chibok and many local government areas within the state. This forest, is a games reserve located about 14 kilometers of Kawuri village, along Maiduguri-Bama road; it was attacked in March, 2014, leaving about 85 people dead with property worth millions of Naira destroyed. When members of Boko - Haram sect were dislodged by the Nigeria army and vigilante youths from Maiduguri, most of them moved to the Sambisa forest vandalized the games reserve killed some of the workers and settled there. This forest harbors a sizeable population of wildlife, typical of savannah environment like monkeys, antelopes, lions, elephants as well as bird species such as ostrich, etc<sup>10</sup>. It is contrary to people's perception that Bornu is a complete desert area, there are sizeable areas of the state, particularly southern Borno, Sambisa inclusive is a savannah by nature.

Sukur town is located in Adamawa State, which is one of the three states seriously affected by Boko-Haram insurgency. It consists of palaces, villages and the remains of an iron industry accessed by natural stone paved footpaths that ascend the hills. This site was designated a world heritage site by the UNESCO in 1999<sup>11</sup>. This location is supposed to be a jewel of Nigeria's tourism industry but Boko-Haram attacks in Madagahi and other Adamawa local government areas between 2014 and 2017 changes the story for Sukur. On September 17<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> 2014, dozens of the terrorists successfully entered the epicenter of the Sukur hilltop settlement stole foodstuffs, livestock's, short residents and burnt nothing less than 73 horses. The most unfortunate aspect of these attacks was the burning of the Hidi's palace, an iconic building among other traditional architectural structures altered the integrity of this world heritage site. Sukur community is cultural landscapes that no longer exist as it once did. Material and non material cultural heritage in the palace including all tangible and non tangible

---

<sup>6</sup> Farouk, "who are Nigeria's Boko-Haram Islamists". Available on [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world.africa](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world.africa) retrieved on 28/05/2016.

<sup>7</sup> Ndujihe, K, Boko-Haram : Chief Army Staff Relocates to Northwest, Vanguard Newspaper, 12/10/2013

<sup>8</sup> [Www./Http://En.Wikipedia.Org/Wiki/Boko-Haram](http://En.Wikipedia.Org/Wiki/Boko-Haram)

<sup>9</sup> Osunkoya, O.A, "Nigeria Internal Security, Boko - Haram Insurgency And The Nations Battered Image In The International Community In Ado Journal Of History And International Studies Vol.1, No.1 pg. 39

<sup>10</sup> Vanguard, Wednesday 18, May, 2016

<sup>11</sup> UNESCO view about Sukur in 1999, available on <http://www//google.com/search?q=UNESCO++view+sukur+1999>.

aspects of people's ways of life disappeared<sup>12</sup> Nonye Onyima B, puts that cultural heritage were preserved in royal palaces of kings, family heads, priest in control of sacred rooms, shrines<sup>13</sup>, etc.

Due to the terrorist attacks in the north east, tourists have continued to stay away from Sukur and other fascinating destinations in the country over security concerns. The tourism industry has been badly hit by the Boko - Haram insurgency as all social and economic activities associated with the sector are being disrupted. The persistent terror attacks have also affected the influx of people into the conflict zones. i.e. northeast. On the other hand, tourists are shunning these tourist locations in north such the Yankari Games Reserve, the Mambila Plateau, the famous Argungu Fishing Festival, Othman Dan Fodio Tomb and the palace of Emir of Kano etc. Other destinations are Gashaka Gunti, Okomu, Chad Basin, Kamuku and Kainji Lake National parks and others. The above mentioned parks serves as heritages of Nigeria which are riches of extinct and extant societies which are of educational, economic value recreation, historic, that are preserved and handed over from generation to generations

The consequence of these attacks is that most tourist destinations in Nigeria are grossly under-visited except places like Osun Oshogbo festival, Obudu cattle ranch in Cross River State, Eyo festival in Lagos and Ikogosi warm spring, Ekiti State among others. Most of the tourist attractions in towns and natural heritages of the North East that had at one time or the other, been taken over by insurgents emanates from nature and environment.

Gwoza Hill is one of the natural heritage site in Borno State. It is about 1,300 meters above sea level which is located in Borno State, is better known for mountaineering, trekking and picnicking. It starts from Pulka running through Mubi to the Nigerian Cameroonian borders. Gwoza has several streams, ponds and springs. The hill provides beautiful scenery and the Nigeria Police Force has a training camp for its Mobile Police Personnel. The training camp was sacked and taken over by Boko - Haram until it was later recovered by the military<sup>14</sup>

Again, Yankari National Park is one of the most developed wildlife park in Nigeria with a wide variety of flora and fauna. Its many attractions include Maliki, and Mawuigo. The Yankari Games reserve such as lions, buffalos, roan, wildebeest and a hundred species of mammals as well as 500 species of birds. It hosts the largest surviving elephant population in Nigeria and perhaps the only viable remaining of Nigeria<sup>15</sup>. Similarly, federation of tourism association for Nigeria observed that Boko-Haram violence has paralyzed tourists' activities in many parts of the country and impacted negatively on the Abuja carnival, which was initiated to market Nigeria a global leader in cultural tourism.

The issue of terrorism is far beyond the issue that tourist does not come to Nigeria but the trend of domestic terrorism in the country is exemplified by the nefarious activities of the dreaded sect called Boko Haram which has become a major threat to the government of Nigeria in particular and the government of the international communities in general. The tourism sector which ranked first in the country, Nigeria generates approximately ₦80billion annually has been held stand still. A successful tourism destination is composed of basic facilities which are known as infrastructure which serves as it life. One of the major problems caused by Boko-Haram sect the Nigeria tourism industry is the collapsed of infrastructures. There are world class sites that can place Nigeria on the global tourist map and ensure that visitors come, but facilities to make tourist stay meaningful are not there. The roads are in total state of disrepair, electricity in comatose with near absence of portable water to mention few.

According to Awoseyin, "Nigeria is endowed with unique attractions such as rolling hills, beaches, mountains, caves, rich culture, good tropical climate to mention few, but there are no access roads and

---

<sup>12</sup> Group Discussion with some of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and some serving Army Officers from North - Eastern Nigeria, on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, (names withheld).

<sup>13</sup> (NONYE, O.B. "Nigerian Cultural Heritage Preservation, Challenges And Prospects" Ogorisi: Journal Of African Studies, Volume 12, 2016)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> **Andrew Dunn and Nyangaji** : Wildlife Conservation Society (CWS), Improving Protection for Nigeria's Elephant Population, Yankari Games Reserve, Final Report to the International Elephant Foundation from the Wildlife Conservation Society, 2011, pp.1 – 13.

sites are in dire need of revamp”. To address this ugly situation, there is need for urgent improvement to Nigeria infrastructures i.e. Roads, power supply, water and sanitation etc<sup>16</sup>. Even, the local historians, palace historians as well as tour guides in the conflict areas of north eastern Nigeria, are afraid of visitors and strangers as the area became militarized.

One important aspect that needs to be a feature of a culture and heritage is storytelling. One could relate cultural heritage to land through stories, while migrants might be able to preserve immaterial cultural heritage, i.e land must be left behind. There is no doubt that Hausa /Fulani especially, north eastern Nigeria have stories relating to the land which tell them where they are from, why they are there, and how they must live to survive and thrive while generations unborn can claim such stories<sup>17</sup>. Unfortunately, most of these narrations relating to old places, historical sites, heritage national parks, have been razed or destroyed by Boko Haram sect and the Nigerian armed forces in the course of fighting Boko Haram insurgences. However, cultural heritage must tell old stories in the new ways, connecting the heritage of the past to the contemporary world and making use of modern of storytelling<sup>18</sup>.

Migrants also use cultural assets for identification purpose. This is apt for intangible cultural assets such as songs, dancing, or stories that migrants may carry with them into their new localities but people of the north eastern Nigeria already displaced from their communities. Many national parks such as Yankari games reserve, Gashaka Gumti national parks, Chad basin, to mention few, have been truncated due to Boko Haram unrest as only daring people will attempt to visit such hot zone for any form of relaxation and tourism.

### **3. THE STRATEGY USED BY BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY**

Surveys, interviews, and focus group conducted by U.S Institute of peace commissioned a study from the CLEEN Foundation in Nigeria in 2003 depicts that unemployment, illiteracy, poverty and weak family structures facilitates the young men vulnerable to radicalization clergy men capitalized on the situation by preaching an extreme version of religious teachings and conveying a narrative of the government as weak and corrupt. Armed groups such as Boko Haram can then recruit and train youth for activities ranging from errand running to suicide bombings<sup>19</sup>. Boko Haram learns very quickly, they have moved a little bit from asymmetrical warfare though the government had made endless efforts to hinder them. These guerrilla attacks in the north eastern Nigeria is very similar in style to what Al-Shabab is doing in East Africa<sup>20</sup>.

The effect of warfare on the preservation of heritage further proves the political dimensions of heritage. Ellen Marc opined that material heritage is a perishable public good, which states and nations have a compelling responsibility for preserving it<sup>21</sup>.

However, insurgences and political upheavals occur, control break down, vast areas are threatened by hostilities, and they become looting fields or treated as enemy territory with strong identity connotations which needs to be destroyed. Throughout the ages, the spoils of war have mainly been the cultural heritage of the conquered<sup>22</sup>.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

Terrorism cannot be completely defeated but it can be isolated to the barest minimum if proper and efficient strategies are adopted. The Nigerian government should incorporate the provisions of the

---

<sup>16</sup> Awoseyin, L. “Implementing the Tourism Master Plan for Nigeria”, African Hospitality and Tourism, Vol.12 No.4, p.18

<sup>14</sup>Dieter Offenhauber et.al, World heritage and cultural diversity, germany,2010, german commission for unesco,p.53

<sup>18</sup> ibid

<sup>19</sup> Onuoha, F.C, “A Danger not to Nigeria Alone. Boko-Haram’s Transnational Peach and Regional Responses, published by: Friedwiche-Ebert-Stiftung, Regional office Abuja, 12 Maurakesh Street, Wese, Abuja, Nigeria

<sup>20</sup> Robin sanders, “Question and Answer: Boko Haram Changing Tactics” available on [www.al-jazerans.com/news/2016](http://www.al-jazerans.com/news/2016), retrieved on 10/09/2016

<sup>21</sup> Ellen Lekka and Marc Wohlrabe, “Political Dimension Of Heritage” in World Heritage and Cultural Diversity, Germany, 2010, Germany Commission for UNESCO, 156 .

<sup>22</sup> ibid

guidelines into domestic legislation or into military doctrine and policy to help protect students in armed conflict<sup>23</sup>. The Nigerian government should also take concerted steps to improve access to education by children in Nigeria, including for children displaced by conflict in the northeast.

The various security forces should be more proactive in their approaches to the fight against the ferocious activities of the sect. The forces should invest more in intelligence gathering and work in conjecture with the traditional rulers and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Sensitization of the natives through lectures, preaching (Mosque and Churches), seminars and rallies should be used to educate the people that development cannot take place in a crisis prone environment with representative from all the federation<sup>24</sup>

Joseph Okwesili opined that if Nigeria as a country wishes to move forward along the right path, there is need for a serious sensitization of mind and re-orientation, especially from the political class. This is because it has so corroded the society to the level of impunity that everything seems to depend on the whims and caprices of the political leadership. If the political leadership can muster the political will to deal with Boko Haram sects, then, their activities will be drastically reduced if not completely ameliorated.

More so, the effort of the Nigerian government to foster inter-religious dialogue should be intensified and Boko Haram sects should be persuaded to be active participants in the collaborative effort to ensure peace and unity in the country with a view to enthroning favorable environment for socio-economic activities. Also, as a matter of urgency, state should detach itself from interference with religious issues and that Government at all levels should have anything to do with religion as is the case in other democratic societies. Such neutrality would discourage other fanatical religious groups like Boko Haram from disturbing the peace and unity of the country in the name of imposing any particular religion<sup>25</sup>.

#### **Some Selected Cases of Boko-Haram Attacks**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Nature And Place Of Attack</b>	<b>Number Of Casualties</b>
1.	26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009	First clash with the security agencies in Bauchi State after an all night attack on Dutse-Township Police Station	42 people killed including 39 sect members, 2 policemen and 1 soldier
2.	27 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009	First attack in Yobe State during an invasion in Potiskum Divisional Police Headquarters	4 killed including 3 policemen and 1 fire service officer
3.	29 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009	Confrontation with security men at Mamudo Village, along Potiskum/Damaturu Road, Yobe State	33 members of the sect killed
4.	29 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009	An all night battle with combined security operatives at Railway Terminus, Maiduguri	Unreported scores killed and operational base of the sect destroyed
5.	28 <sup>th</sup> January, 2011	Attacks on the ANPP governorship candidate's convoy at Lawan Bukar Ward, Maiduguri	7 people killed including the governorship candidate
6.	5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2011	Attack in Maiduguri Government House	2 people killed including the Duty Officer and a 13years old boy with another injured
7.	3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2011	Attack at Baga market in Maiduguri	3 people killed
8.	4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2011	Attack in Damaturu, Yobe State	About 150 people killed
9.	27 <sup>th</sup> November, 2011	Attack in Geidaam, Yobe State	7 people killed
10.	18 <sup>th</sup> December, 2011	Bomb detonation in Shuwari, Maiduguri	3 sect members died
11.	22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2011	Bomb explosion and gunshots in Borno State	4 people killed and several others injured
12.	15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012	Attack on policemen in Minna, Niger State	2 policemen killed
13.	17 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012	Attack 1 Geidam, Yobe State	2 people killed
14.	17 <sup>th</sup> February, 2012	Attack in Maiduguri metropolis	5 people killed

<sup>23</sup> The Punch, Thursday 17, March 2011.

<sup>24</sup> Omotosho, A.O "Religions Violence in Nigeria - the Causes and Solutions: An Islamic Perspective, Swedish Misssiological Theme, 2003, pp.15-31.

<sup>25</sup> Nkwede, J.O, et.al, " Effect of Boko Haram Insurgency on the Socio-Economic Development In Nigeria", International Journal Sustainable Development, Ontairo International Development Agency, Canada, p.69 .available at <http://www.ssm.com/linkOIDA-intl-journal-sustainable-dev.html>

## Interrogating the Impact of Boko Haram Insurgence on the Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection in Northern Nigeria

15.	1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2012	Attacks at Adamawa State University, Federal Poly, and the School of Health Technology and also University of Maiduguri in Borno State	About 43 students killed
16.	1 <sup>st</sup> October, 2012	Attack in Minna, Niger State	2 policemen killed
17.	7 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012	Confrontation between the military and the sect members in Damaturu, Yobe State	About 32 people killed including 30 members of the sect and 2 civilians
18.	8 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012	Reprisal attack for the death	10 people killed
19.	14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012	Attack at Dongo Dawa village in Gwari LGA of Kaduna State	24 people killed
20.	28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2012	Attack in Kaduna	8 people killed and 100 injured
21.	28 <sup>th</sup> November, 2013	Attacks on residents of Sabon Gari village in Damboa District, Borno State	More than 17 people were killed
22.	2 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2013	Around 200 Boko Haram gunmen dressed in military uniform launched coordinated attacks on an air force base in Maiduguri	Scores of people killed
23.	15 <sup>th</sup> March, 2014	Boko Haram clash with the military at 21 Armoured Brigade, Nigerian Army, Borno	More than 350 people were killed
24.	15 <sup>th</sup> April, 2014	Attack at a Government Senior Secondary school, Chibok, Borno State	Over 275 girls were said to have been abducted
25.	21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2014	Attack on Alagarno, a village in Borno State close to Chibok	About 17 people killed
26.	24 <sup>th</sup> May, 2014	Bomb explosion in Jos football viewing center	Unspecified number of people killed
27.	3 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2014	Boko Haram attacks at Attagara, Agaoalawa and Agamjara, Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State	More than 100 people were killed
28.	15 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014	Attack at Borno market	More than 15 people were reportedly killed
29.	17 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014	Bomb blast at football viewing center at Damaturu, Yobe State	About 21 killed and others seriously injured
30.	29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2014	Gunmen attack at some church in Chibok community, Borno State	Actual number of deaths yet to be unraveled
31.	31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2014	Boko Haram attacks in Yobe mosque and another female suicide bomb attacks in Kano	About 18 people were reportedly killed
32.	2 <sup>nd</sup> January, 2015	Attack on WAZA Town	11 people killed and six others injured
33.	3 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2015	Boko Haram insurgents attack on Baga Massacre Town, Borno State	2,000 people killed, the entire town razed
34.	24 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015	Boko Haram burnt down Kambu village near Maiduguri, Borno State	15 people killed and several others injured
35.	25 <sup>th</sup> January, 2015	Boko Haram rebels launched a large offensive attack on Nigeria forces in Maiduguri, Borno State	8 civilians, 53 militants and unknown number of soldiers killed
36.	2 <sup>nd</sup> February, 2015	A female suicide bomber attacks minutes after the president of Nigeria leaves an election rally in city of Gombe State	1 person killed and 18 people injured
37.	15 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015	A suicide bomber attacks a city of Damaturu	16 killed and 30 people wounded
38.	20 <sup>th</sup> February, 2015	Boko Haram attack on Chibok town, Borno State	34 killed 21 injured
39.	22 <sup>nd</sup> February, 2015	A suicide bomber attacks a market in Potiskum, Yobe State	5 killed and dozens wounded
40.	7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015	Bomb blast at Maiduguri, Borno State	54 died and 143 injured
41.	28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2015	Boko Haram attack on Dukku town in Gombe State	15 voters including House of Assembly candidates killed
42.	1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2015	Attack on Mubi town, Adamawa State	Many buried alive, houses razed, thousands displaced
43.	22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2015	Maiduguri Mosque bombing, in Borno State	30 killed and several others injured
44.	2 <sup>nd</sup> July, 2015	Mosque Massacre in Kukawa Borno State	48 killed and unknown number wounded
45.	5 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015	Bomb attack in a church Potiskum area of Yobe State	5 killed

46.	25 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015	Boko Haram attacks Maikadiri village in Maiduguri, Borno State	21 persons killed and many injured
47.	26 <sup>th</sup> July, 2015	Bomb attack at Damaturu market, Yobe State	19 persons died and several others injured
48.	6 <sup>th</sup> August, 2015	Boko Haram attack at Tadagara and Dunbulwa villages in Yobe State	9 persons shot dead and looted thatch-roofed mud houses and shops

## 5. CONCLUSION

Cultural heritage has become a more complex reality that is all the more fragile and threatened as we become increasingly conscious of the part it plays in the life and development of societies. Since the end of Second World War, smaller scale conflicts have expanded in various parts of the world and cultural heritage has increasingly become a target, with a clear aim of attacking the symbols of culture and destroying people's identity.

This paper examined the effects of Boko - Haram insurgency on the communities in the conflict zone and the challenges of cultural and natural heritage protection in the North East, Nigeria. In short, the activities of militants groups in Nigeria have become a source of nightmare to the ordinary Nigerian, many people who went out in search of their daily bread never return. Everyone, especially in the Northern zone of Nigeria is living in perpetual fear of bomb blast and kidnapping and many people suffer immeasurable trauma from psychological instability. However, the government should at all levels measures in place to prevent the safeguarding intangible cultural goods from becoming counterproductive to the development of diverse practices and cultural innovation. It would be appreciated if international community reacts to the level of damages done by insurgence.

## AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY



**Dr. Buhari Lateef Oluwafemi**, is a Lecturer in Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ekiti State University, Ado – Ekiti, Nigeria. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and International Studies, Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies from University of Ibadan, Nigeria and Ph.D in History and International Studies from the Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ekiti State University, Ado – Ekiti, Nigeria. He has attended both local and international workshops/conferences. Dr. Buhari

has published papers in reputable local and international journals.

**Citation:** \*Buhari, Lateef Oluwafemi, et.al. "Interrogating the Impact of Boko Haram Insurgence on the Cultural and Natural Heritage Protection in Northern Nigeria " *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*, vol 5, no. 10, 2018, pp. 145-151. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20431/2349-0381.0510012>.

**Copyright:** © 2018 Authors. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.