

BERTHOLLET'S PRESS REVIEW

Boko Haram, scourge of Central Africa

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Uncovering the internal structure of Boko Haram through its mobility patterns

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The Boko Haram conflict started in July 2009 when a group wanted to fight the Nigerian government to create an Islamic state. This fight grew and spread to nearby countries, making it a major problem in the region. Over the years, the group faced challenges from within and from outside forces, leading to a decrease in violence. However, even with over 100,000 fighters giving up by July 2023, the threat from Boko Haram continues to be a serious issue in the area.

<https://appliednetsci.springeropen.com/articles/10.1007/s41109-020-00264-4>



The military's actions against Boko Haram have been at the expense of the local population.

July 3rd, 2023 - The New Humanitarian

Recent investigations have found that the Nigerian military has been violating international humanitarian law repeatedly. Because Boko Haram jihadists have been hiding in and near countryside villages the military has been raiding such villages to fight the insurgency. The army has been killing, capturing villagers, and kicking them out of their homes as well as destroying any settlements when often no jihadists were there.

With this adding to the secret mass abortion program that the Nigerian military has been running since at least 2013(*), it is reasonable to question if the government has really opted for the best strategy against Boko Haram.

(*)<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/nigeria-military-abortions/>

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/investigation/2023/07/03/living-trapped-between-boko-haram-and-nigerias-military>



Fight against terrorism and Boko Haram

Boko Haram is designated as a terrorist organization known for severe socio-economic and security impacts in Central Africa such as the abduction of many girls and women ⁽¹⁾, acts of violence like attacking a train ⁽²⁾ and many other crimes. UNOCA (United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa) has taken significant steps, including organizing workshops and establishing regional strategies, in collaboration with UN agencies, to combat this threat. The UN Security Council, recognizing the destabilizing impact of Boko Haram, has urged increased security assistance and humanitarian support for affected regions, while UNOCA's Special Representative consistently calls upon the international community for assistance and undertakes field missions to aid affected countries.

(1) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/05/two-women-rescued-nine-years-after-chibok-schoolgirls-abduction>

(2) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/21/over-160-passengers-still-missing-from-train-attacked-in-nigeria>

<https://unoca.unmissions.org/en/fight-against-terrorism-and-boko-haram>