

XXXII

TECMUN

Security Council

Outline of the Security Council

The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and the one with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In order to maintain it, the Security Council takes actions such as: investigate any dispute that could lead to a situation of international friction, recommend methods to solve those situations or adjust the terms of settlement, the formulation of plans to create a system to regulate the armament, identify any threat for the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what actions should be taken, call on members to impose economic sanctions or other measures, avoiding the use of force to prevent or stop aggression.

The Security Council was created in 1944, when the delegations of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and China met for the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in Washington D.C. to discuss the United Nations structure. After this, the United Nations Security Council was officially established and started to carry out their work in its first session on January 17 of 1946 in Church House of Westminster, London.

Topic A

Action on the situation in the Republic of Yemen with a focus on the eradication of the extremist group Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula

Background of the conflict

During 2004, a low-level insurgency against Yemeni Government was impelled by a Zaidi group with its origins on Yemen's northern border with Saudi Arabia, called Ansar Allah (hereinafter referred as the Houthis). During the course of the 2000s, the intensity of the conflict increased with multiple disregarded peace agreements. At the beginnings of 2009, the Houthi insurgency arose, including neighbouring Saudi Arabia on the side of the Yemeni Government.

In January of the same year, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (hereinafter referred as AQAP) is created from a merger of al-Qaeda's Yemeni and Saudi branches. In June of 2009 the Little Rock recruiting office shooting took place when a Muslim who had spent time in Yemen, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad, opened fire on soldiers in front of a United States military recruiting office in Little Rock, Arkansas, in a jihad attack. He said that he had been sent by and was affiliated with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. On November 5, 2010, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula took responsibility for the plot.

The following year, a ceasefire between the Houthi and the government was signed, but had no effective results. In 2011, during the early stages of the Yemeni Revolution, Houthi's then-leader, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, announced the group's support for protest calling for the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. At the end of the same year, President Saleh prepared to leave office, meanwhile the Houthis laid siege to the village of Dammaj, acquiring influence and power.

In the wake of the Yemeni Revolution and the Battle of Zinjibar, an Islamist insurgent organization called Ansar al-Sharia, who are supporters of Islamic Law, arose in Yemen and took control of areas in the Abyan Governorate and other governorates in southern Yemen and declared them an Islamist Al-Qaeda Emirate in Yemen. There was heavy fighting with the Yemeni security forces over the control of these territories. By 2012, Ansar al-Sharia got driven out of most of their territory. In April 2011, AQAP's chief religious figure, Shaykh Abu Zubayr Adil bin Abdullah al-Abab, explained the name change as a re-branding exercise: "the name Ansar al-Sharia is what we use to introduce ourselves in areas where we work to tell people about our work and goals."

At the beginning of 2012, the Houthis boycotted a candidate election with the purpose of giving Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi a two-year term of office. On May of the same year, an

AQAP member wearing a belt of explosives carried out a suicide attack on military personnel preparing for a parade rehearsal for Yemen's Unity Day. That attack resulted in over 120 deaths and 200 more got injured, becoming the deadliest attack in Yemeni history.

On 4 October of 2012, the United Nations Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the United States Department of State designated Ansar al-Sharia as an alias for Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

After the National Dialogue Conference in early 2014, Hadi's mandate was extended for another year. Meanwhile in northern Yemen, a conflict between Houthi's and Sunni tribes spread among other governorates. After several weeks of demonstrations against Hadi administration, the Houthis came to confrontations with the Yemen Army Forces. The battle lasted a few days and at the end of it in September Houthi fighters seized control of Sana'a, the Yemeni capital,. The Houthis forced Mansur Hadi to negotiate an agreement in order to end the violence, in which the government resigned and the Houthis obtained a remarkable level of influence over state institutions and politics

During January of 2015, Houthi fighters took control of the presidential compound in Sana'a due to their discontent about a proposal to split the country into six federal regions. The fight for power provoked the departure of president Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi and his cabinet. Ali Abdullah Saleh, Hadi's predecessor as president (who had been widely suspected of aiding the Houthis during their takeover of Sana'a the previous year) publicly denounced Hadi and called on him to go into exile. During the same month, AQAP confirmed responsibility for the *Charlie Hebdo* shooting in a speech from top Shariah cleric Harith bin Ghazi al-Nadhari. AQAP claimed that the purpose of the attack was to gain "revenge for the honor" of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. On February 2015 the Houthi political leadership announced the dissolution of parliament and formed the Revolutionary Committee to govern the country.

The United States, Eritrea and Saudi Arabia have declared that the Houthis receive weapons and training from Iran, although the Houthis and the Iranian government have denied any affiliation. Meanwhile the Yemeni government received international backing from many countries from the Persian Gulf monarchies, also specially from the United States with drone strikes conducted regularly in Yemen during Hadi's presidency in Sana'a, usually targeting AQAP.

Outbreak of the conflict

On March 19 2015, troops loyal to Hadi clashed with those who refused to recognise his authority in a battle for Aden International Airport and the Yemeni Civil war was official. After the 2015 Sana'a mosque bombings the following day, the leader of the Houthis, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, said his group's decision to mobilize for war was "imperative" under current circumstances and that AQAP and its affiliates would be targeted, as opposed to southern Yemen and its citizens. The same day as the mosque bombings, AQAP militants seized control of the provincial capital of Lahij, Al-Houta, after killing about 20 soldiers. The next day Hadi declared himself as the legitimate president of Yemen.

The Conflict

After clashes erupted in Aden during the same month, a Saudi-led military intervention, called Operation Decisive Storm, took place involving 100 warplanes and 150,000 soldiers to the military operation contributed by Saudi Arabia. Reuters indicated that planes from Egypt (10 fighter jets), Morocco (6 fighter jets), Jordan (6 fighter jets), Sudan (4 fighter jets), Kuwait (3 squadrons of F/A-18 Hornet aircraft), United Arab Emirates (30 fighter jets), Qatar (10 fighter jets) and Bahrain (15 fighter jets) were taking part.

During the same month President Barack Obama declared that he had approved the proportioning of logistical and intelligence support to the Saudis in their military intervention in Yemen. This includes aerial refueling permitting coalition aircraft more loitering time over Yemen, and permitting some coalition members to home base aircraft rather than relocate them to Saudi Arabia.

A UN panel of experts said in a report for the UN Security Council in January 2016 that the Saudi-led coalition had undertaken 119 sorties in Yemen that violated international humanitarian law. Organizations like Amnesty International, Human Right watch and BBC estimated the numbers of casualties until the end of the operation on April 21 , summed up a total of 600 deaths approximately.

The Islamic State (hereinafter referred as IS) marked its entrance in Yemen in March 2015 with suicide attacks on two Zaydi mosques in Sana'a, killing about 140 civilians. Though they have since claimed other high-profile attacks, including the assassination of Aden's governor, the group has not gained as large a following in Yemen as al-Qaeda has. The *Journal* estimates the Islamic State's ranks in Yemen in the hundreds, and al-Qaeda's in the thousands.

Despite the airstrikes, however, the southern offensive continued. In April 2015, AQAP captured the city of Mukalla, and released three hundred inmates, many believed to be AQAP members, from the city's prison. Since then, the militant group has expanded its control westward to Aden and seized parts of the city.

The Saudi Defence Ministry declared it was ending the campaign of airstrikes because it had "successfully eliminated the threat" to its security posed by Houthi ballistic and heavy weaponry on April 21. It announced the start of a new phase codenamed *Operation Restoring Hope*.

By the end of April, Saudi Arabia proposed a ceasefire of five days that was accepted on May 10 by the Houthis and their allies in the military. The ceasefire was intended to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to the country. The temporary truce began on the night of 12 May to allow the delivery of water, food, medical goods, and fuel aid throughout the country. Meanwhile, King Salman doubled his country's Yemen aid pledge to \$540 million, funds the UN said would "meet the life-saving and protection needs of 7.5 million people affected. By the end of the ceasefire, the airstrikes against Houthi forces and AQAP continued in all Yemen.

Belligerents and territories

Supreme Political Council

The executive body of the Houthi's forces formed by Houthi Ansarullah and the General People's Congress with the purpose to rule Yemen. Formed on 28 July 2016, the presidential council consists of 10 members and is headed by Saleh Ali al-Sammad as president with Qassem Labozah as vice-president. Supreme Political Council carries out the functions of head of state in Yemen and is to manage Yemen's state affairs in a bid to fill in political vacuum during Yemeni Civil War in 2015. The Council aims to outline a basis for running the country and managing state affairs on the basis of the existing constitution. The Supreme Political

Council is also responsible for creating a head of government led by Abdel-Aziz bin Hattour known as National Salvation Government. Its allies are Iran, Syria, North Korea and Russia.

Hadi-Led Government and allies

Since February 25 of 2012, Vice President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi replaced former President of Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh as the new President of Yemen. He selected new cabinet members of the Yemeni Government. Hadi Government counts with the the Republic of Yemen's Army Forces and has the support of the Saudi Arabian Led coalition. Its state allies are United States, China, United Kingdom and France. Hadi-led government is recognized as the official government of Yemen by the United Nations.

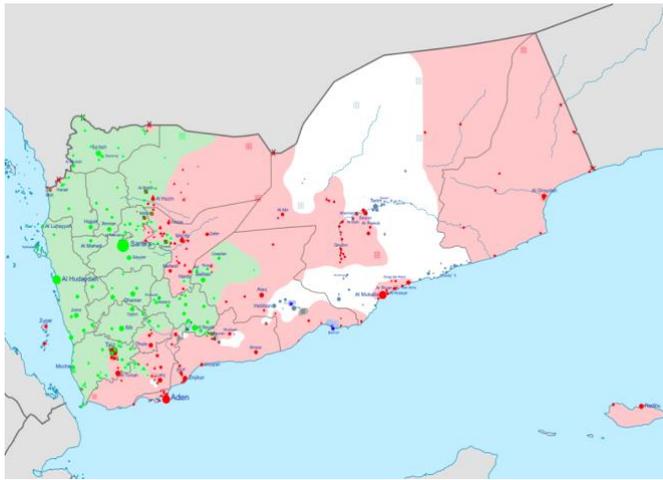
Al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula

Western intelligence agencies consider AQAP the most dangerous branch of al-Qaeda because of its technical expertise and global reach, and the emergence of IS affiliates in Yemen is a serious concern.

The militant Islamist group al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) was formed in January 2009, after Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism efforts drove al-Qaeda's Saudi branch across the Yemeni border, resulting in the union of the Saudi and Yemeni branches.

The roots of the organization reach back to the 1990s, when mujahideen who had been fighting against the Soviets in Afghanistan, resettled in Yemen and were repatriated by the ruling Saleh regime. While most of these former mujahideen became integrated in Yemeni society, a small group remained determined to carry out violent jihad.

The group has vowed to target oil facilities, foreigners and security forces as it seeks to topple the Saudi and Yemeni governments, and establish an Islamic caliphate. AQAP has disrupted operations in dozens of U.S. diplomatic facilities in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, while it has inspired or directed attacks in the United States and Europe.



Military situation in Yemen on 6 December 2016

- Controlled by the Supreme Political Council (Houthis)
- Controlled by the Hadi-led government and allies
- Controlled by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)
- Controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

The conflict nowadays

“Half of Yemen lives below poverty line. They have endured decades of wars and instability. Economy is declining and the future looks uncertain. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula may take advantage of this situation to further expand in Sunni areas where anti-Houthi sentiment is on the rise” (*Ahelbarra, 2015*)

After more than a year-and-a-half of fighting, no side appears close to a decisive military victory. Pro-government forces - made up of soldiers loyal to President Hadi and predominantly Sunni southern tribesmen and separatists - were successful in stopping the rebels taking Aden, but only after a fierce, four-month battle that left hundreds dead.

The Houthis have also been able to maintain a siege of the southern city of Taiz and to continue firing missiles and mortars across the border with Saudi Arabia almost daily. Jihadist militants from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and rival affiliates of so-called Islamic State (IS) have meanwhile taken advantage of the chaos by seizing territory in the south and stepping up their attacks, notably in government-controlled Aden.

In August of 2016, the UN estimated that 10,000 people had been killed since the escalation of the conflict in March. Around of 60 percent of the deaths were caused by air strikes, and only the Saudi-led coalition has these capabilities. UN panel of experts found that civilians have been targeted by both sides, in violation of international humanitarian law. Among the violations the panel cited was Saudi Arabia's declaration of the entire city of Saada

as a "military target". The city has witnessed some of the war's worst devastation, including the destruction of a hospital run by the international non-governmental organization Doctors Without Borders. Elsewhere, the coalition and resistance fighters have targeted hospitals and schools, the panel found. It noted that Houthi forces have committed war crimes, as well, including in their siege of the city of Taiz.

Security Council in Yemen

On 21 October 2011, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2014, which urged Secretary-General to continue to exercise his offices to support Yemen's political transition. The United Nations Secretary-General established a Special Political Mission for Yemen or the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen to facilitate the political transition, as specified in Security Council resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012), and reaffirmed through subsequent resolutions in 2014 and 2015. The Mission focuses on supporting Yemen's return to a peaceful political transition in accordance with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the outcomes of the National Dialogue and Security Council resolutions through:

There was hope of a breakthrough at a second round of UN-brokered talks that opened in Kuwait in April 2016, with both the Houthis and the Saudis seemingly under pressure and willing to negotiate. However, the talks collapsed three months later, triggering an escalation in the fighting that the UN said resulted in the number of civilian casualties rising dramatically.

Mr Hadi's government says the political process can only proceed if UN Security Council resolution 2216, which calls for the rebels to withdraw from all areas they control and lay down their arms, is fully implemented.

The most important resolutions the Security Council has released are:

S/RES/2014 (21 October 2011): This was the resolution endorsing the GCC initiative for a peaceful transition of power.

S/RES/2051 (12 June 2012): This resolution focused on the second phase of the transition and expressed the Council's readiness to consider further measures, including under Article 41 of the Charter.

S/RES/2140 (26 February 2014): This resolution expressed the Council's strong support for the next steps of the political transition and established sanctions against those threatening the peace, security or stability of Yemen.

S/RES/2201 (15 February 2015): This was a resolution that strongly deplored the Houthis' actions to dissolve parliament on 6 February and take over government institutions and urged the acceleration of negotiations to reach a consensus solution regarding the political impasse.

S/RES/2204 (24 February 2015): This was a resolution renewing the assets freeze and travel ban until 26 February 2016 and extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 25 March 2016.

S/RES/2216 (14 April 2015): This resolution demanded the Houthis to withdraw from all seized areas and to relinquish all seized arms, and established an arms embargo on the Houthis and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

S/RES/2266 (24 February 2016): This was a resolution renewing the Yemen sanctions measures until 26 February 2017, and the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 27 March 2017.

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Glossary

A

Affiliation: Connected with or joined to a group or organization as a member.

Airstrikes: An attack by military aircraft on a city, enemy soldiers, or their supplies, either by bombing or by firing guns.

B

Blockade: Situation in which a country or place is surrounded by soldiers or ships to stop people or goods from going in or out.

Boycotted: To refuse to buy a product or take part in an activity as a way of expressing strong disapproval.

C

Caliphate: Related to the Caliph (muslim leader) regarding to the position of a caliph, the area of land which a caliph rules over and the period of time when someone is a caliph.

Coalition: The gathering of different political parties or groups for a particular purpose, usually for a limited time, or a government that is formed in this way.

D

Disregarded: The fact of showing no care or respect for something. Indifference.

Drone strikes: Situation where a place is hit by a bomb dropped from a drone.

F

Friction: Disagreement or unfriendliness caused by people having different opinions.

I

Inmates: A person who is kept in a prison or a hospital for people who are mentally ill.

Insurgency: Situation where a group of people attempt to take control of their country by force due to social, political or economical disagreements.

L

Loitering: To stand in a place or walk slowly around without any purpose.

M

Merge: To join together.

R

Refueling: To put more fuel into an aircraft, ship, etc.

Relinquish: To give up something such as a responsibility or claim.

S

Seized: To take hold of something quickly and firmly especially by force or by law.

Separatist: Someone who is a member of a particular race, religion, or other group within a country and who believes that this group should be independent and have their own government or in some way live apart from other people.

Siege: An attempt to capture a fort or town by keeping it surrounded by an armed force until it surrenders.

T

Topple: To (make something) fall.

Triggered: An event or situation, etc. that causes something to start.

Truce: A (usually temporary) rest from fighting, agreed to by both sides.

W

Weaponry: weapons as a general term, armament.

Topic B

Appropriate actions to the threats posed to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts of the extremist group Boko Haram in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

By: Lucía Galván Olvera

Outline

Created in 1960 from a former British protectorate, Nigeria collapsed into anarchy following the launching of terrorist operations in 2009 by the extremist group *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad* (hereinafter referred as Boko Haram).

Since the return of democracy in 1999, Nigeria has been inching towards stability, but the new authorities still face a challenge from Boko Haram extremists and the Sharia law, which has been instituted as a main body of civil and criminal law in 9 Muslim-majority territories and in some parts of 3 Muslim-plurality states.

In 2009, an insurgency took place within the context of long-standing issues of religious violence between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities. Boko Haram has been called the world's deadliest terrorist group, in terms of the number of people it has killed.

On 9 January 2012, Nigerian President Good Luck Jonathan said that the terror threat posed by the Boko Haram was worse than the country's civil war in the 1960s that killed more than a million people. The president stated that the nation knew where the enemy was coming from during the civil war while the challenge Nigeria faces today is more complicated.

“Boko Haram must be understood in the context of Nigeria's current conditions: it is Africa's most populous nation, largest economy and biggest oil producer, but astounding levels of corruption have left it without basic development and infrastructure. [...]

Disparities between the country's north, which is mainly Muslim, and its south, which is mostly Christian, are also important in understanding the conflict. Today much of the north badly trails the south in terms of education and wealth due to a complex list of historical, cultural and other factors.” (*Smith, M. 2014*)

Background of the conflict

Briefly after democracy in Nigeria was re-established in 1999, then-Zamfara State governor, Ahmad Rufai Sani, began the enforcement for the institution of Sharia law at the state level of government. Due to the concisely efforts made by Ahmad Rufai, controversy emerged among

nigerian citizens as to the would-be legal status of the non-Muslims in the new Sharia system. Shortly after, a series of Muslim-Christian riots soon emerged.

During the next months, the demands of a variety of Muslim societies who favour the nationwide introduction of Sharia Law the mainly Islamic northern states of Nigeria got partially upheld by the Nigerian Federal Government in 12 states, widely attributed as being due to the insistence of Zamfara State governor Ahmad Rufai Sani. Due to the previously mentioned events, political and religious tensions.

“The fight between Muslim herdsmen and mostly Christian farmers has killed more than 60,000 people in the last 15 years. It’s a situation jihadists mean to exploit.” (*Philip Obaji Jr, 2016*)

In 2002 the group Boko Haram, which may have existed since the late 1990s, organizes under the Muslim cleric Mohammed Yusuf. Centered in Maiduguri, the capital of the northeastern state of Borno.

The first known attack by Boko Haram took place on December of 2003, and included roughly 200 militants, who attack multiple police stations in the state of Yobe, near the Niger border. Later, in 2009, the Nigerian government reportedly repeatedly overlooked warnings about the increasingly militant character of the organization due to following reports of a gubernamental investigation into the group's activities that proved that its members were arming themselves.

Outbreak of the conflict

When the government came into action in 2009, several members of the group were arrested in Bauchi. As a result, deadly clashes between Nigerian security forces and Boko Haram militaries took place, leading to the deaths of approximately 700 people. Governmental militant members declared that Boko Haram "used fuel-laden motorcycles" and "bows with poison arrows" to attack the local police station. The uprising ended when police capture the group's founder and then leader, Mohammed Yusuf. His deputy, Abubakar Shekau, reportedly dies in the uprising. Yusuf later dies in police custody; police said he was shot during an attempted escape, but Boko Haram claims it is an extrajudicial execution. Since then, the Boko Haram Insurgency officially started.

The Conflict

In July 2010, Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram's former second-in-command, appeared in a video claiming leadership of the group and announcing threatening attacks on Western influences in Nigeria. Later that month, Shekau spread a second statement expressing unanimity with al-Qa'ida and threatening the United States of America. On September 7 of the same year, in the state of Bauchi, a terrorist attack involving 50 Boko Haram militants took place in the local prison, killing five people and releasing more than 700 inmates.

On April 19, 2013, Boko Haram battled with multinational security forces from Niger, Nigeria and Chad in the city of Baga in Borno State, leaving nearly 200 people dead, including many civilians. Shekau releases a video in May saying Boko Haram is not responsible for the civilian deaths.

During the next years, Boko Haram was constantly present in Nigeria by carrying out terrorist attack, causing the deaths of thousands of people.

“The insurgent's demands often focus on two main areas: the release of Boko Haram prisoners and the creation of an Islamic state. Boko Haram's demands have largely remained local and the insurgency has fed on poverty, hopelessness and unemployment in northern Nigeria. In May 2013 Nigeria declared a state of emergency in three northeastern states – Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. The military has mainly responded with heavy-handed raids that have resulted in widespread accusations of human rights abuses. Such accusations include indiscriminate arrests, extra-judicial killings and the burning of homes, but the military has denied this.” (*Smith, M. 2014*)

During the late 2014, Boko Haram soldiers attacked several Nigerian towns in the north and seized them. This aroused the Nigerian government to launch an offensive, and with the help of Niger, Cameroon and Chad military forces, they recaptured many areas that were erstwhile under the control of Boko Haram.

In Borno Boko Haram kidnapped several young schoolgirls, psychologically, physically, and sexually abusing them, using and selling them as sex slaves and/or brides of forced marriages with their fighters. This event nowadays is recognized as the most famous example being the Chibok kidnapping in 2014. In addition to kidnapping child students, Human

Rights Watch¹ stated that Boko Harām uses infant soldiers, including 12-year-olds. Also, the group has forcibly converted non-Muslims to Islam, and is also known to assign non-Kanuris on suicide missions.

From 2015 onwards

Attacks from part of Boko Haram continued and starting in late January 2015, a coalition of army from Cameroon, Chad Niger and Nigeria formed a counter-insurgency offensive against Boko Haram. On 4 February, the Chad military forces killed over 200 Boko Haram militants.

On March 7, 2015, Boko Haram's then-leader, Abubakar Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (hereinafter referred as ISIL) via an audio message posted on the organization's social media; the Islamic militant group which controls areas of Iraq and Syria, and is known for its gruesome executions. That same day, five suicide bomb blasts left 143 injured and 54 dead. Soon afterwards, ISIL spokesman, Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, published an audiotape in which he welcomed the pledge of allegiance, and described it as an expansion of the group's caliphate to West Africa.

By the beginning of October 2015, with the approval of the Cameroonian government, the US military deployed 300 troops to Cameroon. Their primary mission was to provide intelligence support to local forces as well as conducting reconnaissance flights.

On July 1, 2015, Boko Haram militants raid three villages in the northeastern Nigerian state of Borno, killing at least 145 people, according to witnesses. On September 3 of the same year, an estimated 30 people are dead and 145 injured after Boko Haram militants attack a crowded market in Kerawa, Cameroon and an infirmary near a Cameroonian military camp, according to Cameroonian military spokesman Col. Didier Badjeck. Furthermore, 241 women and children are rescued and 43 Boko Haram militants are arrested after the Nigerian military raids camps run by the terrorist group in two villages during the same month

On February 2016, Militants from Boko Haram attack two villages in northeast Nigeria, killing at least 30 people. In another attack, two female suicide bombers kill 58

¹ American-founded international non-governmental organization that conducts the promotion and research on human rights.

people at a Nigerian refugee camp for villagers fleeing terrorism. A suspect in the attack on the camp tells officers that she and the two suicide bombers were dispatched by Boko Haram. Some months later Boko Haram releases a video of some of the girls kidnapped in April 2014 and demands the release of Boko Haram fighters in exchange for the girls; the negotiation ended with the handing of over 21 Chibok schoolgirls to authorities by Boko Haram militants.

The conflict has seen numerous human rights abuses conducted by the Nigerian military forces, in an effort to control the violence, as well as their reassurance of the formation of numerous security groups.

Amnesty International² accused the Nigerian government of human rights abuses after 950 suspected Boko Harām militants died in the first half of 2013 in detention facilities run by Nigeria's military Joint Task Force. According to Amnesty International, as of early 2016, at least 8,000 war prisoners have died in confinement facilities under the control of the security services.

On December 22, 2016 Major-general Leo Irabor declared that "During our operations in the period 14 - 21 December 2016, a total of 1,880 civilians were rescued from Boko Haram enclaves," in a statement after a news conference in the northeastern city of Maiduguri. He also said the operation was part of a military campaign launched last year to clear the area of the jihadists.

The Boko Harām leadership has international connections to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Al-Shabaab, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (also known as MUJAO), Mokhtar Belmokhtar's factions, and other militant groups outside Nigeria. Because of this, the insurgency can also be seen in the context of other neighboring conflicts. By 2012, offensives by Nigerian Islamist militias on targets beyond Nigeria's borders were still limited, and shall not be confused with the activities of other groups. Despite this, there were concerns that the conflict could spread to Nigeria's neighbours, especially Cameroon, where it existed at a relatively low terrorism level until 2014, subsequently escalating considerably. It should also be noted there are combatants from neighboring Chad and Niger.

² Non-governmental organization aim attention on human rights with over 7 million members and supporters around the world.

On 17 May 2014, the presidents of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria met for a summit in Paris and consented to battle Boko Haram on an organized premise, partaking specifically reconnaissance and knowledge gathering. Both Goodluck Jonathan and Chadian partner, Idriss Deby announced aggregate war on Boko Haram. Western countries, including Britain, France, Israel, and the United States had likewise deposed support including technical expertise and training. In March 2015 The New York Times addressed that several private military temporary workers from South Africa and different nations are assuming a definitive part in Nigeria's military crusade, working assault helicopters and defensively covered faculty bearers and helping with the arranging of operations.

Nowadays, Boko Haram has been blamed for the death of at least 20,000 people since 2009. The rebellion has also displaced some 2.6 million people, sparking a humanitarian crisis in the region.

Since early 2015, Nigerian military with the support of a regional force, have recaptured a swathe of territory from the insurgents. But sporadic attacks on soft targets have continued in the volatile region, including the use of female suicide bombers.

Belligerents and territories

Boko Haram

Founded in 2002, the group's official name is *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad*, which in Arabic means "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad". It's original purpose was to oppose Western education, however in 2009, Boko Haram started launching military operations in order to create an Islamic State. Not until 2013 it was designated a terrorist group by the United States of America.

Boko Haram is Nigeria's militant Islamic group that fights to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state. Boko Haram promotes a version of Islam which makes it "haram", or forbidden, for Muslims to take part in any political or social activity associated with Western society.

In 2016, ISIL appointed 'Abu Musab al-Barnawi' as the group's new leader, due to disagreements with then-Boko Haram's leader Abubakar Shekau's leadership. Because of this, Boko Haram suffered a split, but Shekau and his supporter continued operating independently.

On January 2015, Amnesty International claimed that Boko Haram counts with an army of at least 15,000 soldiers. On February of the same year, US government declared that the group had a strength of 4,000–6,000 soldiers. Finally, on March, Chad government claimed that Boko Haram had an estimated of 20,000 soldiers. Since the beginning of the Boko Haram insurgency, the group has also attacked villages in Cameroon, Niger and Chad.

Multinational Joint Task Force

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) is a combined international formation, comprising units, mainly military, from Cameroon, Benin, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. It's headquarters are located in N'Djamena and it's main objective is to bring an end to the Boko Haram insurgency.

The MNJTF was originally formed in 1994 with the purpose of "checkmate banditry activities and to facilitate free movement" along Nigeria's northern borders during during the administration of Sani Abacha. During the 2000's, when the Islamist insurgency in northern Nigeria intensified, security forces across the region were increasingly directly challenged by jihadist militant groups. In April 2012, the MNJTF's mandate was expanded to fight counter-terrorism operations. Nowadays, all members of the Multinational Joint Task Force work together with the Nigerian Government in order to give an end to the Boko Haram insurgency and to eradicate Boko Haram's military forces.

Its strength is according to the following data:

- Nigerian Army: 130,000 active frontline personnel; 32,000 active reserve personnel
- Nigeria Police Force: 371,800 officers
- Multinational Joint Task Force: 7,500 active personnel (excluding Cameroon and Nigeria)
- Cameroonian Armed Forces: 20,000 active personnel
- 300 US advisers

The Security Council in Nigeria

On 22 May 2014, the Security Council's Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee authorized the inclusion of Boko Haram to its list of individuals and entities subject to the targeted financial

sanctions and the arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2083 (2012), adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Committee urges the need for robust implementation of the Al-Qaida sanctions regime as a significant tool in combating terrorist activity, and urges all Member States to participate actively by nominating for listing additional individuals, groups, undertakings and entities which should be subject to the sanctions measures.

As a result of the new listing, any individual or entity that provides financial or material support to Boko Haram, including the provision of arms or recruits, is eligible to be added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List and subject to the sanctions measures.

On May 13, 2016, The Security Council demanded that Boko Haram immediately halt all violence and all abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, as it strongly condemned the group's terrorist attacks in the Lake Chad Basin region and expressed deep concern that its activities were undermining peace and stability in West and Central Africa.

Issuing presidential statement S/PRST/2016/7 on the eve of a regional security summit in Abuja, the 15-member Council — expressing alarm at Boko Haram's linkages with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) — also demanded the immediate release of the group's reported thousands of captives, including 219 schoolgirls abducted in Chibok, in Nigeria's Borno State, in April 2014.

It expressed deep concern at the scale of the humanitarian crisis caused by Boko Haram's activities, including the internal displacement of more than 2.2 million Nigerians and over 450,000 internally-displaced persons and refugees in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Noting that an estimated 4.2 million people in the Lake Chad Basin region faced a food security crisis, it urged the international community to immediately support the provision of urgent humanitarian aid — noting however that only 10 per cent of the \$531 million needed to fulfil such assistance had been received this year.

Commending important territorial advances against Boko Haram by the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, the Council urged Member States taking part in the Multinational Joint Task Force to enhance regional cooperation so as to consolidate military

gains, deny safe haven to Boko Haram, allow humanitarian access and facilitate the restoration of the rule of law.

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Glossary

A

Allegiance: loyalty and support for a ruler, country, group, or belief.

C

Concisely: short and clear, expressing what needs to be said without unnecessary words.

Controversy: a lot of disagreement and argument about something.

E

Eligible: suitable or worthy to be chosen, qualified or entitled.

Entities: something that exists apart from other things, having its own independent existence.

Erstwhile: previous.

F

Fleeing: to leave a place quickly because you are in danger.

H

Herdsmen: a man who takes care of a large group of animals of the same type.

I

Inching: to move very slowly or in a lot of short stages, approach.

P

Pledged: a serious or formal promise, especially one to give something as a sign that you will keep a promise.

R

Raids: a sudden attack on a place by soldiers.

Reconnaissance: (the act of making) a study to obtain information.

Robust: strong and healthy.

S

Sporadic: happening at irregular intervals or only in a few places; intermittent.

Swathe: to wrap or bind.

U

Uphold: to defend or keep a principle or law, or to say that a decision that has already been made, especially a legal one, is correct.