

INSURGENCY OF BOKO HARAM TERRORISM IN NIGERIA AND OTHER TERRORIST ATTACKS ACROSS GLOBE: PERCEIVED AND ACTUAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SPORTS INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

One of the post 9/11 terrorist attacks is the Boko Haram terrorism in Northern Nigeria. This paper is a documentary review of the insurgency of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria and other terrorist attacks across globe with emphasis on the perceived and actual negative impacts on sports industry. It equally examines terrorism in and outside Nigeria, and susceptibility of sports to terrorism. Sport is a social event, situation and institution that has either directly or indirectly been affected by anti-social and terrorist attacks in different continents or countries of the world. The paper highlights the perceived and actual negative impacts of terrorism on sports facilities, equipment, and supplies; sports organization and administration; sports participants; on-site/field sports fanship and spectatorship; sports tourism; sports economy, and sport marketing and sponsorship. Recommendations that are anchored on anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism were made with a view of making the sport society free from terrorism and safe for all participants.

Keywords: Terrorism, anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism, Boko Haram, sports industry.

INTRODUCTION

Security of lives and properties is one of the constitutional assignments and responsibilities of every sincere, responsible and responsive government at the local, state and national level. Some governments have been challenged and embarrassed by the activities of terrorists. Terrorism is one of the global social problems and challenges for the past decades. Terrorism and

counter-terrorism, according to Fussey and Coaffee (2012), have become political issues of the last decade. According to Hoffman (1998), terrorism is a deliberate creation and exploitation of fear through violence or the threat of violence in the pursuit of political change. Hornby (2005) viewed terrorism as the use of violent action in order to achieve political aims or to force a government to act. In the context

of this paper, terrorism is the conscious and deliberate act of using violent means by an individual or group of individuals with political agenda with the intent to cause massive fear, injuries and deaths to sports participants, thereby forcing government to act.

Terrorism is a criminal act that violates the fundamental human rights and is highly anti-developmental in nature. It affects the social, economic, political, cultural and religious development of any nation. Sport is expected to take place in a safe and secured environment. Sport as a social event, situation and institution has suffered from the menace of terrorism. Terrorism frustrates the sports developmental efforts, plans, strategies, and programmes of any nation. Terrorism negatively affects the sports industry especially the status of sports facilities and equipment, sports organization and administration, welfare of sports personnel, officiating officials, athletes, spectators, fans and realization of sports goals.

After the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and the Black

Palestinian attack on Israeli athletes, guarantees of security and safety for athletes, officials, and spectators had become critical for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Olympic Games Organizing Committee (Toohey & Taylor, 2008). Security assurances, counter-terrorism and anti-terrorism provisions, strategies and programmes have become part of the criteria for a nation to win the hosting right for any mega sporting events such as FIFA World Cup and Olympic Games.

Counter-terrorism refers to active operations intended to pre-empt, neutralize, or destroy terrorists and their organizations - they are offensive measures. Anti-terrorism refers to defensive measures taken at, for example, borders, ports and airport, designed to detect and stop terrorists in their tracks (Hoffmann & Morrison-Taw, 2002; Naftali, 2005). Supporting this, Boyle and Haggerty (2009) noted that in order to host sporting mega-events, candidate cities and nations are required to provide significant assurances of their ability to host a safe and secure spectacle. Giulianotti and Klauser (2012) pointed out that

in order to win the bid for the 2012 Olympics, the London bidding team had to project the city's anti-terrorist resilience before the International Olympic Committee and international audiences. The provision of security technologies and systems for sport mega-events, according to Giulianotti and Klauser (2012), is a multi-billion dollar industry, and the London bidding team had to gain national support for a large security budget estimated at US\$1.7 billion.

There have been cases of terrorism in the society and it affects all sectors of the society. This paper is a documentary evidence of the impact terrorism that takes place within and outside Nigeria has on sport industry. It emphasizes the impact of terrorism on sports facilities, equipment, and supplies. Equally discussed in the paper is the impact of terrorism on sports organization and administration, sports participants, on-site / field sports fanship and spectatorship. Moreso, the paper highlights the impact of terrorism on sports tourism, economy, marketing and sponsorship.

Terrorism in Nigeria

There is no continent of the world that has not witnessed or suffered from terrorism. Africa especially Nigeria cannot be ruled out of terrorist attacks. Nigeria is facing the insurgency of Boko Haram terrorism mostly at the Northern part of the country. Boko Haram was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 in Northern Nigeria. In Hausa language, Boko Haram literally means "Western education is sin". They oppose western education and culture. Boko Haram is a violent group without a clear structure that has been terrorizing and traumatizing Nigeria especially the Northern part with series of bombings including suicide bombings. Approximately a decade of the existence of Boko Haram witnessed the incessant bombings and attacks by this terrorist group.

Notable among the Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria were the bombing of Nigeria Police Headquarters in Abuja in June 2011; bombing of the United Nations building in Abuja in August 2011, and Christmas Day bomb attack on Saint Theresa

Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger State, near Abuja in December 2011. Nigeria is yet to recover from the ugly marks or effects of these terrorist attacks where there were losses and damages to lives and properties. For effective and efficient counter-terrorism and anti-terrorism, there is need for well coordinated and cooperative efforts of all stakeholders. Every individual and institution must contribute its quota towards achieving a positive result on terrorism-free society. On the side of government, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan signed the anti-terrorism Act passed by the National Assembly into law; declaration of "state of emergency" in some of the affected Northern states; increased security budgets; arrest and prosecution of suspected terrorists and their sponsors; tight border security network, and change of security leadership as some of the counter-terrorism and anti-terrorism measures taken in the country. Many lives and properties worth billions of Naira have been lost to Boko Haram attacks. The insurgency of Boko Haram

has instilled fear into the minds of Nigerians. This is not far from the submission by Neumann and Smith (2008) that many countries seemingly operate under at least the fear of attack from rogue elements either within their own state boundaries or from pan-national terrorist movements. It is equally important to note that if mega sports events such as World Championships and Olympic Games are to be hosted by any city in Nigeria, Boko Haram is capable of disrupting such mega sporting events, if anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism measures are not put in place.

Terrorism outside Nigeria

There have been several reported cases of terrorism in other countries and continents of the world with or without target to sports. Cases of terrorism were confirmed at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich and 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta (Atkinson & Young, 2012); actions of a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber in Pakistan on 3 March, 2009 (Berry, 2009), and gun attack on the Togo national team bus carrying the squad to a training session prior to the African Cup of Nations staged in Angola during

January 2010 (BBC, 2010 as cited in Hassan, 2012). Also, ETA attack on power supply to Barcelona 1992 opening ceremony, and al Shabab's terrorist attack in Somalia (Fussey & Coaffee, 2012). Others include the terrorist bombings across continental Europe in 2001; spate of car bombings in Istanbul in 2003, and bombing of four commuter trains in Madrid on 11 March, 2004 (Gieger, 2004), and 12 October 2002, night club bombing in the town of Kuta on the Indonesian Island of Bali (Atkinson & Young, 2012).

Difficult to forget was the September 11, 2001 otherwise known as 9/11 terrorist attack on United States that saw the destruction of World Trade Centre towers in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. This ugly incidence triggers governmental and non-governmental institutions' attention and researches across countries on terrorism. Undoubtedly, the attacks on US World Trade Centre towers and Pentagon marked a global war against terrorism.

Susceptibility of Sports to Terrorism

Transnational groups such as the Al-Qaeda network; regional

organizations such as the Abu Sayyaf Group; or anti-western groups such as Lebanese Hezbollah, were capable of conducting major terrorism acts against the Olympics (Hope, 2000). Olympics and World Cup championships are global events participated and watched by virtually all countries in the world. Any anti-social activity that happens before, during or after the Olympics or World Cup championships, within or around the sports arena or to the sports participants usually receives global attention. This is why Coaffee and Rogers (2008) observed that it has been contended that the Olympic Games are terrorists' number one sport target. Taylor and Toohey (2007) noted that sport remained a very real focus of attack in terrorists' strategic arsenal. Sports events may become targets of terrorism (Atkinson & Young, 2003). Mega-events such as Summer Olympic Games represent the primary focus for certain terrorist cells (Home & Manzenreiter, 2006). Mega-sport events are prone to terrorist attacks as the events draw international viewership and attention. The reason for mega-sport being terrorists'

target has earlier been explained by Hassan (2012) who noted that the presence of international media corps facilitates the broadcasting of any resulting atrocity to all parts of the world. However, most terrorist attacks were not directly targeted at sports per se except al Shabab's attack in Somalia that targeted a crowd of spectators watching the FIFA World Cup final on television in Kampala, killing 74 people (Fussey & Coaffee, 2012). Supporting this, Hassan (2012) noted that terrorism which is not directly targeted at sport, has nevertheless succeeded in affecting and disrupting it. Sport has never been left out of the social institutions and situations that feel the impact of terrorism.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on Sports Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies

Quality sports programmes cannot be effectively organized and administered without the availability, adequacy, accessibility and affordability of standard sports facilities, equipment and supplies. Terrorist attacks sometimes may destroy sports facilities, equipment and supplies. Also sports equipment manufac-

turing industries may have their infrastructure demolished and destroyed as a result of terrorist attacks, thereby affecting the quantity and sometimes quality of sports equipment produced by the companies. The raw materials for the manufacturing of sports equipment and supplies may be scarce as a result of terrorist attacks. The few available sports equipment and supplies are bound to be expensive as a result of the aftermath of terrorist attacks. Sports facilities in the states affected by Boko Haram terrorism are likely to suffer from non-use or under-utilization by athletes and other sports participants.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on Sports Organization and Administration

Sports programmes are expected to be organized and administered at the local, state, national and international communities under a peaceful social atmosphere. Unfortunately, many sports programmes have been disrupted due to terrorism and terrorist attacks. Hassan (2012) stated that terrorism has succeeded in affecting and disrupting sport. Countries and

cities hope and strive to host mega sports competitions such as World Cup and Olympics. Terrorism affects the number of sports programmes to be organized as security of lives and properties at the sports arena must be put into consideration, and when there is no much security assurance, sports organizers may not think of organizing and administering any sporting event. In February 1996, Australia and West Indies refused to travel to Colombo during the cricket World cup (Tausif, 2009). He further noted that they preferred to forfeit their match points rather than risk the lives of their cricketers as Sri Lanka was gripped in civil war against Tamil Tigers. Hassan (2012) noted that Australia has refused to play a Test match in the country since 1998. Terrorism has made and can make some sports teams or countries to withdraw from sports competitions for the sake of their safety. The attack upon the Sri Lankan cricket team led to the withdrawal of India from the original fixture (Berry, 2009). In the same vein, Fussey and Coaffee (2012) noted that the withdrawal of the British women's badminton team from

the 2009 World Championships in Hyderabad due to threats and fears of terrorism. Terrorism can lead to the postponement or cancellation of sports competitions. Supporting this, Martin (2011) noted how the terrorist attack of the Al Qaeda on New York on 11 September 2001, has affected sport by the postponement of the 2001 Ryder Cup tournament and the cancellation of the 2008 Dakar Rally. Cricket tournament was transferred from India to South Africa, when the Indian government stated that it could not guarantee security (Manthorp, 2009). Except under serious security network, it will be difficult for any mega sporting event to be organized and administered in Nigeria especially in Northern part of the country for the fear of Boko Haram terrorism.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on Sports Participants

A sport participant is someone who directly or indirectly, actively or passively participates in sports as an athlete, coach, officiating official, fan, spectator, member of sports association, sports analyst, sports media

personnel (sports reporter, sports commentator, sports writer), among others. Many sports participants are injured, incapacitated and killed as a result of terrorist attacks. Hardly will there be any terrorist attack without a sports participant being a victim. Attacks by terrorists cause or may cause sports participants such as sports personnel and officiating officials, athletes, spectators and fans to sustain serious injuries and incapacitations. A high-profile terrorist attacks have been committed both against athletes and spectators at sporting events (Fussey & Coaffee, 2012). An example of the effect of terrorist attacks on spectators, according to Fussey and Coaffee (2012), was the murder of 75 spectators at a Pakistani volleyball match in January 2010. In Somalia, al Shabab targeted a crowd of spectators watching the FIFA World Cup final on television in Kampala, killing 74 people (Fussey & Coaffee, 2012). Berry (2009) reported that the militant terrorist attack upon the Sri Lankan cricket team bus, en route to a test match against Pakistan in Lahore on 3 March 2009 resulted to loss of the lives of eight people and six injured.

Hassan (2012) reported that the actions of a Tamil Tiger suicide bomber at the start of the Sri Lankan marathon of 2008 led to the deaths of 12 people and more than 100 injured competitors. According to him, amongst the dead were Sri Lankan Highways minister Jeyaraj Femandopulle and former Olympic marathon runner K. A. Karunaratne.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on On-site/field Sports Fanship and Spectatorship

Many people would not want to attend and watch live sports events at sports centres for the fear of being attack by terrorists. Hence, the number of fans and spectators for on-site or on-field live sporting events are likely to decrease as many people will prefer to stay in their homes, watch and cheer up their athletic teams without going to the sporting arena. Lives matches are played before small crowds as a result of the fear of insecurity at or around the sports arena. The number of sports spectators and fans during any live sports meet in Northern states of Nigeria that are affected by Boko Haram terrorism is bound to be small.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on Sports Tourism

Sport is one the largest revenue generating sources of a nation through sports tourism. Sports tourism is one of the largest and money-yielding segments in the tourism Industry. Giulianotti and Klauser (2012) emphasized that several international teams had refused to tour in Pakistan from 2001. Hassan (2012) noted that the fear of attack in Pakistan has exercised an effect on touring nations such as India. India cancelled a tour after the Islamic militant attacks on Mumbai in 2008 which had resulted in 164 deaths (Giulianotti & Klauser, 2012). In April 2008, Team Australia refused to tour Pakistan citing fear of terrorist attacks (Tausif, 2009). Boko Haram terrorism has caused people to flee and deploy from affected northern states of Nigeria instead of touring the states for sports.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on Sports Economy

Sports jobs and sports-related jobs that generate money for a nation can be averted due to terrorist attacks. Many persons

can lose their jobs in sports industries if those industries are rocked by the activities of terrorists. The sports industries if shut down, will definitely affect the economy of sports and a nation. Terrorism affects the manufacturing and sale of sports products and sports-related products.

Perceived and Actual Negative Impacts of Terrorism on Sports Marketing and Sponsorship

Terrorism will always affect the number of gate tickets sold for any sports competition. Sports products and sports-related products and services that are sold at sports arena during competitions are affected by the menace of terrorism as many people may not come out to watch the competitions and possibly buy some of the products and services. Many upcoming athletes will miss the opportunity of selling to the outside world due to terrorism. Potential sponsors will find it difficult to sponsor sports events that are prone to terrorist attacks. Every sponsor will want to know the security arrangements during the sports events for the safety of his or her products and services.

CONCLUSION

Terrorism is a criminal act capable of causing injuries, death and loss of properties. It is an anti-social activity of individuals or group of individuals who resort to instilling fear in the people with their act of violence that leads to devastating impact on lives and properties. Terrorism affects every social sector including sports. It has impacted negatively on the sports industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Nigerian government should strengthen their anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism institutions and strategies to protect sports and its participants.
2. High technology surveillance cameras should be mounted in and around sports arena.
3. Adequate and trained security personnel should be deployed in advance to the sports competition venues.
4. Adequate and appropriate punishment should be meted out to terrorists and their sponsors.

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