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Genesis, expansion and causes of persistent violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin

by

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Introduction

Violent extremism in the lake chad Basin is a combination of socio-economic malaise emanating principally from the recession of the lake's water and its resources thereby depriving the communities with their means of livelihood.

Environmental degradation flanked by political insensitivity led to the activation of precolonial nostalgia amidst clamor for reform within the prism of sharia perpetrated through misinformation accentuated the persistence of violent conflict in the region.

Genesis of Persistent violent extremism

- Lake Chad was immense in surface area and was fourth largest inland fresh water body on the African continent.
- It is a terminal depression with eight basin countries grouped around it, of which four are in direct contact with the lake basin: Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria
- The lake has been a source of livelihood to more than 10 million people, who are mostly preoccupied with fishing, farming, animal husbandry and commodity exchange and is a Business hub including long-distance trading for centuries.
- However withdrawal of the lakes water and its ensuing emasculation of socio economic activities led to reactivation of precolonial nostalgia and the construction of identity pattern that draws the contours of conflict.



Genesis. CONT

- ▶ The contours delineated entire collectivities as hostile entities as they survive and thrive by being subordinates to the west and its democratic values which seek to reimpose inequality, deprivation, subjugation and blatant disregards to Islamic values.
- ▶ The mobilizational tune for this emerging movement gradually became very swift in its mobilizational strength and grab the deprived, disenchanted and the underprivileged youths into its tentacles; first through organization of reading competition; second allocation of business grants; third distribution of commercial motorbikes and golf cars; fourth establishment of farms and finally fortification of their center.
- ▶ While these events were ongoing, the political ambivalence of the democratic leadership at both levels and the uneasy relationship with the wider society lead to the outburst of skirmishes over defiance of directives by the security forces.
- ▶ Ever since they engage in blatant disregard to the constituted authorities and thus their liquidation by military force and subsequent regroup in rural areas that opened up new chapter for the ongoing conflict.



- Expansion of the persistent violent extremism is due to combination of factors such as the the inability to properly understand circumstances vertically and horizontally.
- Vertically the federal government and international partners whose security apparatus are in charge of managing and controlling the situation did not properly comprehend the problem and the measures taken were grossly inadequate. Horizontally the state government and its local government constituent were not in the same picture and thus there is gross communication gap.
- The security operations aimed at tackling the menace reinforces the ember of haterate against the Nigerian state and its armed forces thereby galvanizing support for the insurgents
- Blockade of weakly rotational markets was considered strategy of deprivation for those whose means of livelihood are directly tied to it and thus led to the expansion of the persistence of violent extremism.



Expansion and Persistence CONT

- ▶ Displacement of very fertile and productive communities such as Malam Fatori, Abadam, Gashigar, Ngala, Kerenowa, Damasak, Banki among others were strategic mistakes that reinforces the expansion of the extremist activities
- ▶ Displacement and suspension of rotational weakly markets led to the evolution of gray and ant market with very huge return is also another factor for expansion as many were attracted to join the risky business for profit maximization
- ▶ Cross border infiltration across the region and from within the operational areas also facilitated the expansion



conclusion and way forward

- ▶ Relocation derive of the government should be sustained as a catalyst for denying the insurgents an outlet for new members.
- ▶ The non military approach of persuading the insurgents to lay down their arms are excellent approach and have been yielding positive results considering mass surrender of these insurgents should continue
- ▶ Community engagements on the reintegration projects should be intensified through enhanced transitional justice system
- ▶ Sustained pressure by the armed forces from within and collaboratively across the lake chad basin when sustained would definitely bring an end to the persistence of violent extremism to an end.
- ▶ There should be deliberate effort toward enhancing community governance with a view to proper state citizens relationship.





Thank you

