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One Day in the "Life or Death" of a Boko Haram Jihadi: Ameliorating the Violent Insurgency & Achieving Enduring Peace & Security in North Eastern Nigeria

By. Herbert A. Igbanugo*
Igbanugo Partners Int'l Law Firm, PLLC

In today's Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), a small but increasing number of Muslims have adopted a more conservative interpretation of the Islamic religion, as well as a perceived radical view of a global struggle for the liberation of Islam from oppression. This narrow interpretations of Islam is a shift towards the "*Wahabi*" form of conservative Islam, which forbids many aspects of modern education, and requires adherence to ancient traditions of social relations that disregard basic human rights for the "*Alimajeri*" class and women, both of whom constitute the down trodden in traditional Muslim societies. This recent shift is mostly not unconnected with the increasing access throughout SSA to the Arab world's media.

The expansion in the number and geographic reach of Arab satellite television stations over the past 25 years introduced Arab cultural norms to the wider SSA audience on a daily basis and popularized this conservative interpretation of the religion. To make

matters worse, it has provided the impetus for differentiated relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims. Also, foreign organizations such as the Kuwait based Africa Muslims Agency, as well as the Saudi-funded al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, have funded madrassas, primary, secondary, and tertiary educational institutions and institutions of higher learning across SSA nation states.

Over time, the student beneficiaries of this free, conservative Islamic education absorb ideas of what is and what is not Islamic, and who is and who is not a true Muslim, and has encouraged them to actively advance these radical views. One of the most difficult challenges of Islamic extremism is that often, perceptions of religious discrimination are worse where divisive Islamic narratives are present and are actively circulating. Claims that Muslims are deliberately denied economic, educational, and other favorable societal opportunities relative to their non-Muslim counterparts have become commonplace. For many Muslims, particularly the youth, such perceived inequality validates the divisive messages of fundamentalist Islamic centers and mosques, which is truly a prescription for conflict and disaster.

In Northeastern Nigeria, a place with a myriad set of complex developmental and security issues, one of the greatest threats to development comes in the form of the violent terrorist group Boko Haram. Boko Haram's abhorrent, violent insurgency came forefront to the world's attention in 2009 when they staged a series of attacks on the Nigerian government in retaliation for a government raid. Boko Haram's roots, however, date back to the early 2000's.

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International Relations

South Africa Says IDF 'Must Withdraw' from Gaza

The Times of Israel, 04/04/2018

South Africa on Wednesday sharply condemned the Israeli military's actions during last Friday's protests at the Gaza border, calling them an "act of violent aggression."

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Political/Legal

In Africa, Scant Data Protection Leaves Internet Users Exposed

Reuters, 04/04/2018

NAIROBI/LAGOS (Reuters) - In Kenya, which has a large and fast growing population of internet users, there are no specific laws or regulations to protect the privacy of those individuals.

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Anti-Corruption/Terrorism

South Africa Corruption Inc

Al Jazeera, 03/28/2018

Last month, South African President Jacob Zuma was forced from office by his own party, the African National Congress, when almost a decade's worth of corruption, bribery and racketeering allegations finally became too great to ignore.

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Africa's Ambitious Trade Treaty

The Independent, 04/04/2018

After close to 30 years of negotiations, 44 African states finally agreed to establish a single market to ease buying and selling of African-made goods and services. That leaves out 11 countries; including the two biggest economies - Nigeria and South Africa. But that has not stopped the plaudits from following.

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Fostering a New Era of Modern Indonesia-Africa Relations

Jakarta Post, 04/04/2018

The legacy of the Indonesia-Africa relationship is written with a golden ink in history. Indonesia hosted the 1955 Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung and is one of the initiators of the Non-Aligned Movement. The summit clearly marked a monumental landmark for the relationship.

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**Igbanugo Partners Int'l Law 250
Marquette Avenue
Suite 1075
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
USA
Phone: 612-746-0360
Fax: 612-746-0370**

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Changing Presidents without Elections: Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana

AfricaNews, 04/04/2018

The convention across most of Africa is that a new president is usually sworn in after elections. Some countries allow vice presidents to complete the terms of their bosses in case of death or resignation. Elsewhere, there is the need for a by-election for the next president to be chosen.

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'Day Zero': How Drought, Water Mismanagement, Politics Led to Crisis

ABC News, 04/01/2018

Residents of Cape Town rejoiced Friday evening when an unexpected storm rolled over the drought-stricken city, dropping precious rain and loud claps of thunder throughout the night.

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Nigeria at Crucial Point in Anti-Corruption Fight, Says Lalong

The Guardian, 04/04/2018

Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong, has said that the country was at a crucial time in its fight against corruption and efforts to sever it from those who have been plundering the nation's commonwealth.

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Nigerian Government Moves to De-Register NGOs Allegedly Financing Terrorism

Daily Post, 04/04/2018

The Federal Government of Nigeria has begun the profiling of about 100 non-governmental organizations, with the aim of de-registering those of them that have "deviated" from their mandate.

The Director of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, Mr. Francis Usani, said in Abuja on Wednesday that the profiling was necessary in view of emerging threat of "non-profit organisations" being used as "veritable tools to launder money and finance terrorism" in Nigeria and other West African countries.

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Igbanugo Partners Int'l Law Firm, PLLC, 250 Marquette Avenue,
Suite 1075, Minneapolis, MN 55401

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