



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF THE SENATE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE AND ARMY, POLICE AFFAIRS AND
NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE
ON LOSS OF MANY LIVES AND THE
DESTRUCTION OF SEVERAL HOUSES, CARS
AND MOTORCYCLES IN BAGA TOWN, KUKAWA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BORNO STATE

MAY 2013

REPORT OF THE SENATE JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND ARMY, POLICE AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ON THE LOSS OF MANY LIVES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SEVERAL HOUSES, CARS AND MOTORCYCLES IN BAGA TOWN, KUKAWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, BORNO STATE, MAY 2013.

1.0 PREAMBLE:

The Senate in its plenary on Tuesday April 23, 2013, deliberated on Personal Explanation from a member, Senator Mairia Ma'aji Lawan (Borno North) who drew its attention to the incident that led to the loss of many lives and the destruction of several houses, cars and motorcycles in Baga town, Kukawa Local Government Area, Borno State. He urged the Senate to investigate the matter. He also called on the Federal Government, State and Local Governments, and all concerned Agencies as well as good spirited individuals to come to the aid of the surviving victims.

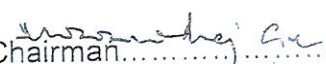
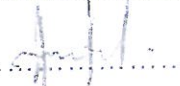
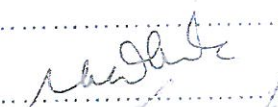
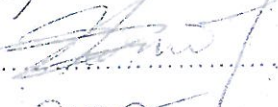
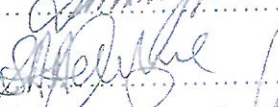
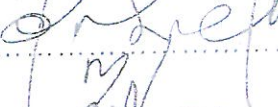
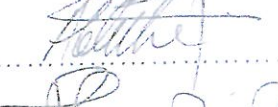
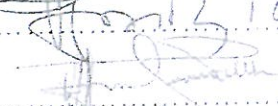
Consequent upon this, the Senate resolved and directed the Committees on Defence and Army, Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the matter and report within fourteen (14) days.

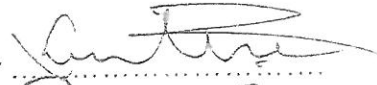
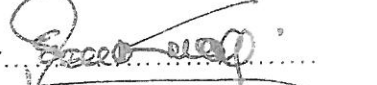
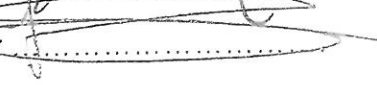
2.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE:

1. Sen. George Thompson Sekibo - Chairman
2. Sen. Mohammed Magoro, OFR - Joint Chairman
3. Sen. Igwe Paulinus Nwagu - Joint Chairman

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MEMBERSHIP

		SIGN
1.	Sen. George Thompson Sekibo	- Chairman 
2.	Sen. Mohammed Magoro, OFR	- Joint Chairman 
3.	Sen. Paulinus Igwe Nwogu	- Joint Chairman 
4.	Sen. Ahmed A. Ningi, CON	- Member
5.	Sen. George Akume	- Member
6.	Sen. Abu Ibrahim	- Member 
7.	Sen. Saidu A. Alkali	- Member 
8.	Sen. Chris N.D. Anyanwu	- Member 
9.	Sen. Barnabas A.I. Gemade	- Member 
10.	Sen. Ifeanyi O. Okowa	- Member 
11.	Sen. Magnus Abe	- Member 
12.	Sen. Prince Gilbert Nnaji	- Member 
13.	Sen. Suleiman A. Adoke ^{we}	- Member 
14.	Sen. Olugbenga O. Obadara	- Member 
15.	Sen. Mohammed Bindowo Jibrilla	- Member 
16.	Sen. Mohammed Shaaba Lafiagi	- Member 
17.	Sen. Abubakar Tutare Umar	- Member 
18.	Sen. Joshua M. Lidani	- Member 
19.	Sen. Mohammed Sani Saleh ^{CON}	- Member
20.	Sen. Chris Ngige, OON	- Member

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| 21. Sen. Boluwaji Kunlere | - | Member |  |
| 22. Sen. Solomon S.A. Ewuga | - | Member |  |
| 23. Sen. Babafemi Ojudu | - | Member |  |
| 24. Sen. Kamar Akin Babalola Odunsi | - | Member | |
| 25. Sen. Aloysuis Akpan Etok | - | Member |  |
| 26. Sen. Abdul Aziz Usman | - | Member | |
| 27. Sen. Hadi Serika
Sirika | - | Member |  |
| 28. Sen. Ehigie Uzamere | - | Member |  |

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|--------|
| 25. | Sen. Aloysuis Akpan Etok | - | Member |
| 26. | Sen. Abdul Aziz Usman | - | Member |
| 27. | Sen. Hadi A. Sirika | - | Member |
| 28. | Sen. Ehigie Uzamere | - | Member |

SECRETARIAT:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Umar Mohammed Iya | - | Clerk, Defence and Army |
| 2. | Samuel P. Umar | - | Clerk, National Security
& Intelligence |
| 3. | Barr. Falade Ayo Lawson | - | Clerk, Police Affairs. |

3.0 PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE:

In pursuance of the Senate mandate which was formally transmitted to the Chairmen of the three (3) Committees vide letter No. NASS/75/R/03/VOL.1/275 dated April 24, 2013 the Chairmen met on April 25, 2013 and deliberated on the modality to carry out the assignment. Accordingly, the following decisions were taken:

- i. Send a letter to the Governor of Borno State intimating him of the Joint Committee's plan to visit Borno State on May 7, 2013.
- ii. Send a letter to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) informing him of the Joint Committee's planned visit to Borno State and requesting him to arrange for necessary security as well as to

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inform the Commander of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to receive the Joint Committee in audience in Baga.

- iii. Send a letter to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) informing him of the planned visit by the Joint Committee and requesting him to arrange for audience with the Commissioner of Police, Borno State.
- iv. Send a letter to the Director General, State Security Service (SSS) informing him of the planned visit by the Joint Committee and requesting him to arrange for audience with the Director, SSS Borno State.
- v. All the letters were dispatched on Friday April 26, 2013 and responses received by Thursday, May 2, 2013.

4.0 MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE:

A formal meeting of Members of the Joint Committee was held on Monday, May 6, 2013 where the Chairman provided briefing on the preliminary activities initiated to facilitate the investigative assignment. The meeting deliberated and endorsed the steps taken, the modality adopted for carrying out the work; and agreed on the planned trip to Maiduguri the following day, Tuesday May 7, 2013. It was agreed that each Committee should nominate three members for the trip.

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5.0 TRIP TO MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE:

On Tuesday May 7, 2013, Members of the Joint Committee proceeded to Maiduguri. On arrival they held meetings with the under-mentioned personalities who briefed them on the Baga incidence.

5.1 MEMBERS ON THE TRIP

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| 1. Senator George Thompson Sekibo | - | Chairman |
| 2. Senator Mohammed Magoro | - | Joint Chairman |
| 3. Senator Ahmed A. Ningi | - | Member |
| 4. Senator Mohammed Bindowo Jibrilla | - | Member |
| 5. Senator Mohammed S. Saleh OON | - | Member |
| 6. Senator Saidu Alkali | - | Member |
| 7. Senator Abubakar Tutare | - | Member |
| 8. Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan | - | Borno North |
| 9. Brig. Gen. BB Tete (SSA to the SP.) | - | Accompanied |

Secretariat

1. Umar Mohammed Iya
2. Samuel P. Umaru
3. Falade Ayo Lawson

5.2 BRIEFING BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, BORNO STATE, CP ABDULLAHI YUGUDA:

The Commissioner of Police provided the following information on the Baga incidence:

- (a) That on 16th April, 2013, insurgents believed to be members of Boko Haram laid siege at Baga a border town noted for fishing

activities and attacked a Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) patrol team killing a soldier popularly known as Corporal "Yellow". The patrol team retreated and got reinforcement and launched a counter attack on the insurgents which lasted throughout the night;

- (b) That on 17th April, 2013, the patrol team returned to the town on mop-up operation and engaged the insurgents in a shootout that lasted for several hours;
- (c) That during the exchange of fire between the soldiers and the insurgents, some houses were burnt and some civilians lost their lives. The death of the civilians was attributed to various causes which included gunshot wounds, smoke inhalation, burning, drowning, etc.
- (d) That so far a total of one hundred and eighty five (185) persons were alleged to have died in the course of the clashes. He however stated that this is subject to verification.
- (e) That the actual casualty figure suffered by the soldiers is not yet known.
- (f) That the figure of three thousand, one hundred and fifty nine (3,159) houses alleged to have been burnt during the clashes would require further verification as some of the figures given were arbitrary.

- (g) That the insurgents were armed with AK47 rifles, general purpose machine guns and other heavy weapons like rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and bombs.
- (h) That on the same night of 16th April, 2013 the insurgents also attempted to attack Baga Police Station but were repelled.
- (i) That one of the JIBWIS Aid Group officials Alhaji Abubakar G. Usman hinted that a boat capsized within the same period leading to the death of several persons and that further investigation will determine the nexus between the two incidents and exact loss of lives arising therefrom.
- (j) That while the deaths and destructions on the night of 16th April, 2013 might be ascribed to the clash between the MNJTF and the insurgents, same cannot be said of the following day, 17th April, 2013, as soldiers action of that day could be best described as deliberate and premeditated.
- (k) He further stated that only the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) can give the exact number of people that died.
- (l) When asked of the problems confronting his Command, the Commissioner informed the Joint Committee that the Command lacked adequate communication gadgets, vehicles, barrack accommodation, armoured tanks, bullet proof vests and helicopter for surveillance as well as shortage of personnel.
- (m) Further, when asked of his relationship with the State Government, he affirmed that it is cordial.

5.3 BRIEFING BY THE DIRECTOR, STATE SECURITY SERVICE (SSS)
MR. A.O. AHMED:

The Director, State Security Service, Borno State made the following presentation to the Committee:

- a. That on 17th April, 2013, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) masterminded by suspected Boko Haram members exploded near the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) patrol team vehicle at Baga Town, Kukawa Local Government Area of Borno State;
- b. That following the IED attack on the MNJTF vehicle, there was an armed encounter with soldiers by a large number of Boko Haram fighters during which about 10 sect members and ten civilians were killed;
- c. That the following day 18th April, 2013 at Ngom village, Mafa LGA, a gang of Boko Haram members barricaded the Maiduguri – Gamboru – Ngaia highway and attacked motorists killing two passengers believed to be Igbos by tribe and snatched a commuter bus belonging to Marte LGA;
- d. That the blast left casualties among military and police operatives whose number and identities have not been ascertained except one Awolu Modu, a civilian who was also reportedly killed in the explosive;
- e. That further reports indicate that in the course of the counter – offensive by soldiers, the insurgents fired indiscriminately amidst civilian residents, several of whom were killed as a result;

- f. That one soldier identified as Yellow, a private and another policeman was killed in the incident;
- g. That an unspecified number of casualties resulted among sect members and civilians who were inevitably caught up in the intensive cross fire. He stated that the casualty figures which were estimated at about a hundred (100) may have been aggravated by the inability of the injured, who scampered to different locations for safety to obtain immediate medical attention as many dead bodies have been recovered from the adjoining bushes.
- h. That several properties were destroyed during the confrontations. Among these were:
 - (i) About forty (40) vehicles.
 - (ii) Sixty (60) motorcycles.
 - (iii) Several houses, especially at Falatari ward believed to harbour sect element.
- i. That His Excellency, the Governor of Borno State, Kashim Shetima, during a condolence and on-the-spot assessment visit to Baga Town sympathized with the Community over the incident and urged those who fled to other areas to return assuring that government will attend to their conditions;
- j. That the State Government has inaugurated a ten (10) Member Committee to ascertain the level of destruction, establish a temporary emergency camp where victims will be given medical attention and provided with relief materials;

- k. That given the circumstance and human – shield tactics adopted by the insurgents, figures of casualties (among sect members and non-combatant civilians) can only be speculated as inquiry indicates varying reports.
- l. That since the Task Force maintained operation to manage the aftermath of the incident, they are in the right stead to estimate the casualty figure on the part of the insurgents and unarmed civilians;
- m. That, however, the brief made available to Lawan Kole, Chairman Kukawa LGA by the "Yan Agaji Muslim Youth Volunteers" who conducted the burial of the casualties indicated that a total of one hundred and eighty five (185) corpses were buried in mass graves, but this figure did not differentiate the insurgents and non-combatant civilians.

5.4 VISIT TO THE STATE GOVERNOR:

At the Government House, the Joint Committee Chairman made the following remarks:

- a. That the Senate is aware of the security problems in the State and efforts being made by the Federal and State Governments to stem it.
- b. That the Senate is standing solidly behind the Governor and will extend to him all required support to arrest the situation.
- c. That the purpose of the visit were two fold, namely:

- (i) Commiserate with the Government of Borno State over the unfortunate incidence;
 - (ii) To make an on the spot assessment and gather all necessary information relating to the incidence that happened at Baga and report back to the Senate.
- d. The Chairman concluded by expressing delight that people and vehicles were moving freely in Maiduguri town contrary to what was being reported.
- e. The Chairman requested for a minute silence to be observed in respect of all who lost their lives in the Baga incidence.

5.5 RESPONSE BY THE STATE GOVERNOR:

OPEN SESSION

The State Governor Alhaji Kashim Shetima thanked the Committee for visiting the State to hear their own side of the story and observed that the Joint Committee is made up of people of veritable wealth of experience.

- a. He stated that he held the Senate in high esteem noting that it had risen up in times of crisis citing the case of the enacting of the doctrine of necessity which resolved the leadership crisis in the country and finding solution to the labour dispute at the beginning of the year 2012.
- b. He therefore opined that the Senate is an unbiased umpire in the present crisis;

beneath.

- c. He stated that beneath the Boko Haram crisis is the issue of extreme poverty and destitution.
- d. He lamented that the issue agitating the mind of the elite of the country is acquisition of wealth and power, adding that our leaders are presently preoccupied with 2015 elections.

CLOSE SESSION:

- e. That Baga incidence was the climax of the sour military/civilian relationship subsisting in the State.
- f. That he had cause on different occasions to invite the JTF Commander in Maiduguri into the inner sanctum of his office to complain about the excesses of the military.
- g. That when the Baga incidence occurred he visited the town on 20th April, 2013, in company of the State Commissioner of Police.
- h. That he went round to assess the level of destruction and gathered that about 187 people lost their lives during the encounter.
- i. That at the time of his visit he found out that the people were terrified of the military and were sleeping in the bush which is infested by snakes.
- j. That he has set up a Committee to ascertain what actually transpired and provide assistance to the displaced persons.
- k. He stated that the sect had indicated its determination to overrun Maiduguri and Damaturu towns within the next two (2) weeks and take over the entire North East Zone in the next six (6)

- l. He expressed worries over Federal Government's detachment from the Boko Haram problems, noting that since the onset of the crises no single assistance has been extended to the State Government.
- m. That the State Government is spending between Two Hundred to Three Hundred Million Naira (N200,000,000 – N300,000,000) monthly on maintenance of the JTF troops;
- n. That when the Shehu of Borno and the Deputy Governor of the state were attacked by the sect members nobody came to the state to commiserate with them over the incidence unlike when the Emir of Kano was attacked;
- o. That the economy and education in the State has grounded due to the activities of the Boko Haram sect;
- p. That ten (10) Local Governments of the State have high prevalence of Boko Haram activities and as a matter of fact, Marte Local Government Area has been completely taken over by the sect and they have hoisted their flag;
- q. That he had several interactions with the President and Service Chiefs who assured that activities of Boko Haram would soon be a thing of the past;
- r. That although the Boko Haram sect members have some Chadians and Cameroonians within their midst about eighty percent (80%) of them are of Kanuri tribe, adding that the leader of the Sect Abubakar Shekau is a Kanuri man from Niger Republic;

Ability to determine and confirm your
status

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- e. Providing further insight in the composition of the Boko Haram, he stated that they are made up of three elements, viz:
- (i) The criminal elements that send text messages to individuals to extort money.
 - (ii) Political Boko Haram who sought to advance their political interests.
 - (iii) The real Boko Haram which are made up of two elements:
 - (a) The moderate elements that are prepared to dialogue with government; and
 - (b) the crazy religious elements who are die hard and are not ready for compromise.
- t. The Governor pleaded that the Federal Government should not withdraw the Joint Task Force (JTF) from the state.
- u. When asked about his relationship with the Joint Task Force (JTF), he said it is cordial.
- v. When Members sought to find out how to end the Boko Haram insurgency, the Governor called for a Marshall plan for the entire North East Zone, creating jobs and employment opportunities and mounting of massive enlightenment campaign to dissuade people from taking up arms to redress their grievances.

At the end of the meeting with the Governor, Members of the Joint Committee allayed fears over declaration of State of Emergency in Borno State.

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5.6 BRIEFING BY THE MNJTF COMMANDER BRIG. GEN. A.D. EDOKPAYI:

In his briefing to the Committee, the Commander stated that the mandate of the MNJTF is primarily to expel rebels and undesirable elements in the Lake Chad region. He stated that the Boko Haram Sect is now part of the undesirable elements. He mentioned earlier attacks on his men by the sect members before the 16th April, 2013 incidence. In particular, he informed about the killing of one Lieutenant – Zira on 29th March, 2013 at 1020HRS. The Officer was brought out from a bus through Personal Identification and shot by the Sect members. The Commander further informed:-

- a. That relationship between the people of Baga and MNJTF had been cordial and peaceful before the incidence;
- b. That on account of nefarious activities of Boko Haram all non-indigenes of Borno have fled the area;
- c. That all Primary schools and health centres within the area have stopped functioning since August 2012;
- d. That the Police, Customs and Immigration Personnel have equally left the area;
- e. That some leaders and politicians are fraternizing with Boko Haram members for fear of their lives;
- f. That in the course of the exchange of fire between troops and insurgents there was no human shield used as alleged; however, sporadic shooting by the insurgents caused pandemonium resulting

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in death of some civilians. The use of IEDs by insurgents caused conflagration and burning of many houses and properties.

- g. That Boko Haram are determined to create a sphere of influence for themselves;
- h. That as a mark of magnanimity, 9 civilians that sustained injuries in the course of the clash were treated at MNJTF medical centre free of charge;
- i. That the Chief of Defence Staff has been very forthcoming in terms of providing materials and logistics to the MNJTF;
- j. That the distribution of MNJTF troops are as follows:

(i)	Nigeria:	1,200 members
(ii)	Chad:	700 members
(iii)	Niger:	200 members

7. VISITS TO THE GRAVE YARD:

Members visited the grave yard where they saw freshly dug graves numbering nine (9) and were also informed of one (1) grave in a faraway grave yard.

8. MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS:

- a. Members met with the District Head, the Bulamas, some leaders of the Community and individuals in the town and received some information. The Community confirmed that the incidence started at

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Gaja gaja area of the town and it was in the evening of 16th April, 2013. As the clash between the troops and insurgents intensified most of the civilians scampered for safety, those that were unfortunate were caught in between the cross fire.

- b. The Community informed that 3,059 houses were razed.
- c. The Community also alleged (from the records obtained from the Aid Group) that an estimated number of 185 people were killed.
- d. That hitherto the relationship between the soldiers and the civilian population in the town had been cordial.
- e. The Community therefore expresses hope for the sustenance of that cordial relationship.
- f. Finally, the Joint Committee assured the Community of Federal Government's protection.

5.9 JOINT COMMITTEE REQUESTS FROM COMMUNITY LEADERS:

- i. Send to the Joint Committee a comprehensive list of names of those who died.
- ii. Send to the Joint Committee list of houses burnt with the names of their owners.
- iii. Request is expected to be received on or before May 15, 2013.

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6.0 ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER THE VISIT

- a. On return to Abuja, Members of the Joint Committee met on Monday, May 13, 2013 to re-appraise the findings from the visit to Maiduguri and as a result invited the under-mentioned personalities to obtain clarification on certain issues:-
 - i. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) for Monday, May 13, 2013
 - ii. The Inspector General of Police for Tuesday, May 14, 2013
 - iii. The Director General, State Security Service for Tuesday, May 14, 2013.
 - iv. The Chief of Army Staff for Wednesday, May 15, 2013.
 - v. The Director General, NEMA for Wednesday May 22, 2013.
- b. The Committee met with all the invited officers of Government and obtained relevant information and clarifications.

A. FINDINGS

1. On March 29, 2013 an Army Officer by name Lt. Zira was brought out from a bus through personal identification at 1020 hours and killed by armed bandits suspected to be Boko Haram members. His body was mutilated.
2. On April 16, 2013, MNJTF patrol team was attacked by 1930hrs in Gajagaja area in Baga and a soldier shot in the head, who eventually died in the clinic.
3. The Multi-National Joint Task Force sent seventy (70) soldiers reinforcement to repel the suspected Boko Haram elements in the

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area. They arrived there between 2030 – 2100HRS at which time suspected Boko Haram members were already shooting into the air.

4. There was exchange of gunfire. Some deaths were recorded during the clash.
5. The State Governor and the District Head said One Hundred and eighty five (185) persons died. This figure included the Boko Haram members and civilians.
6. The Commissioner of Police corroborated the Statement of the State Governor on the figure but said that actual figure is subject to actual counting and confirmation. However, although he visited Baga in the company of the Governor, he did not take records of deaths/houses burnt.
7. The Director of SSS in the State in his report said thirty seven (37) persons lost their lives. This figure included both Boko Haram members and the civilians. He did not also visit Baga but obtained information from SSS sources.
8. The Commander of the MNJTF Brig. General Austin Edokpayi said thirty seven (37) persons were confirmed dead as follows:
 - a. Twenty five Boko Haram members
 - b. Six civilian bodies in the town
 - c. Six civilian bodies found in the river who ran out of fear and got drowned.
9. Photographs of the casualties of the encounter were not taken.

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10. The Community by their tradition were allowed to bury the dead.
11. When asked how he was able to identify the Boko Haram dead members from the civilians, the Commander of the MNJTF said the Boko Haram members were identified with weapons and charms on their bodies.
14. The Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Army Staff, the Inspector General of Police and the Director General, State Security Service also gave thirty seven (37) persons each as casualties.
15. The National Emergency Management Agency reported that with the aid of some community youths they counted thirty two (32) graves..
16. The National Emergency Management Agency treated over one hundred and fifty (150) patients within the first fourteen (14) days, and of the patients treated, none had bullet wounds or burns from fire. They were normal ailments of fever, malaria, flu etc.
17. Some houses were seen burnt.
- Claims:
- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------|
| 1. Governor | - | 2,000 |
| 2. District Head | - | 3,059 |
| 3. Joint Committee | - | 115 |
18. The MNJTF was established in Baga in 1998 consisting of (Nigeria - 1200, Chad - 700 and Niger - 200) to curb the excesses of rebels and other undesirable elements within the Lake Chad region.

19. In June 2012, the Heads of States of the three countries expanded the mandate of the Multi-National Joint Task Force to include fighting terrorism in their area of operational responsibility.
20. Government institutions including the Police, State Security Service, Customs, Health Centres, Immigrations and schools in the area are no more functioning.
21. The Governor of the State and other Stakeholders are in support of the continued military presence in the State.
22. The Joint Committee visited the Baga Community burial ground where nine (9) fresh graves were identified and a claim of burial of another person in a distant location. There were no mass burial graves identified.
23. The National Emergency Management Agency has established a camp that is addressing some of the initial teething problems.
24. The insurgency factor in Borno State had virtually crippled socio-economic activities in the State and placed the people in a state of fear and insecurity.
25. Some quantities of assorted arms and ammunition were recovered by the Multi-National Joint Task Force during the mop up operation on April 17, 2013.

26. There is high prevalence of Boko Haram calls in the following Local Government Areas in Borno State where citizens are not at liberty. They have mounted their flag in Marie Local Government Area.

- a. Marte - flag already hoisted
- b. Monguno
- c. Kukawa
- d. Gubio
- e. Ngala
- f. Kala Balge
- g. Dikwa
- h. Maiduguri Metropolitan
- i. Jere
- j. Kaga
- k. Bama
- l. Gwoza
- m. Damboa

2. The insurgents have resorted to kidnapping drivers and mechanics to maintain their operational vehicles.

B. OBSERVATIONS

1. Although the Task Force in Baga is a Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF), only one Nigerien was seen among Nigerian Soldiers who returned from morning routine exercise. When asked, we were informed that troops from other countries were deployed in outposts along their borders.

2. There were Boko Haram members resident in Baga town and indigenes of the community could not report that to the Multi-National Joint Task Force for fear of being killed or harassed.
3. Following the killing of the soldier by the Boko Haram members, indigenes of the Community may have fled into nearby bushes for fear of reprisal attack from the MNJTF.
4. There was palpable fear among the indigenes of Baga town. Members of the community are afraid to mention the name "*Boko Haram*", and throughout our dialogue with the District Head and his Council that name was not mentioned and the incident of Boko Haram was not also mentioned.
5. There is good relationship between the Governor and the Commander of the Joint Task Force in Maiduguri.
6. The relationship between the MNJTF and the State Government is not cordial. This may be due to the comments/actions of some indigenes of the state in connection with the Baga incident in which the MNJTF has been blamed.
7. The operations of the Multi-National Joint Task Force outside the guide of the GOC 3 Armoured Division at Jos who is in charge of the North East zone could cause some friction in Command.

2. The Armed Forces are overstretched due to the many security challenges confronting the country.

C. OPINION

1. The death toll of One hundred and eighty five (185) was exaggerated but there may be more than thirty seven (37) deaths. This is possible as there is no documentary evidence from either the natives or the military to ascertain figures quoted. Although the National Emergency Management Agency in the company of some community youths counted thirty two (32) graves seven days after the incidence, yet it is difficult to ascertain the actual number of casualties.
2. The operation to flush out the Boko Haram members between 2030HRS and 2100HRS on the April 16, 2013 was carried out hastily. The MNJTF should have cordoned the area till day break and carry out house to house check; this would have reduced number of casualties and damages.
3. Although opinion 2 above could have been the ideal situation, the Military cannot go back to their camp which is close to the venue of the incidence while still hearing sounds of gunshots and IEDs without being compelled to take action for fear of the Community being on siege or the insurgents advancing to their camp for attack. The action they took, though at night was the only option opened to them in the circumstance.

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4. The quantum of destruction of houses, vehicles and motorbikes were exaggerated. There was an actual physical count of one hundred and fifteen (115) houses burnt as against the figure of two thousand (2000) houses given by the Governor and three thousand and fifty nine (3059) houses by the District Head.
5. The burnt houses most of which are clustered together may be as a result of exchange of gun fire between the Military and the Boko Haram members, use of IEDs and other explosives by the Boko Haram members.
6. The failure of the District Head and his Council to transmit the requested list of names of casualties and actual number of destroyed houses and other properties for over twenty one days could be seen as lack of proper evidence of claims made.

3,059 + 115

5.9 RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Joint Committee, after due consideration of their findings and observations at the scene of the incidence and briefs taken from all relevant Stakeholders recommends as follows:

1. Condemns the mayhem caused by the Boko Haram attack on the Multi-National Joint Task Force in Baga Town.
2. Communities and individuals in the country should report suspected criminals in their domains to security agencies as the fight against terrorism should not be left for government alone.

3. That the National Emergency Management Agency should assist owners of buildings affected by the incidence with building materials to reduce the refugee problem in the community.

4. The Federal Government should re-establish all Federal Government Institutions including schools, health centres, the police stations, immigrations office and any other of such institutions that had been shut down as a result of the activities of the Boko Haram sect in Baga Border town. *Amended*

*Radical
Dahir*

✓ 5. The Federal Government should put up other alternative strategies to curb the excesses of the Boko Haram insurgencies

✓ 6. The President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces should *& security service* direct the Armed Forces especially the ~~Army~~ to carry out urgent recruitment of soldiers and officers to increase the size of the forces as the insurgency has overstretched the Services.

7. The Nigerian Armed Forces on Internal Security Operations should adhere to the provisions of the Geneva Convention, Code of Conduct and Rules of Engagement in order to minimise casualties. ** collateral, collateral damage*

* *Commend* 8. *Bayo* Appreciate the efforts of the Military and all other Security Agencies in their determination to eliminate the Boko Haram elements in Borno State and other affected States.

9. The Minister of Defence should ensure that the Rules of Engagement of the Armed Forces on Internal Security Operations are updated and strictly adhered to.

Negative

of Burma state

Q. Chini

Muzi / 9

Commend

10. Appreciate the Governor for his support to Security Agencies and the Federal Government should continue to assist him.

✓ 10

- The Senate should observe one minute silence in honour of the security personnel and the innocent civilians who lost their lives in the clash.