

Handbook

Hello and welcome all to this committee, the vision of the African Union is that of: “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”

This vision of a new, forwardlooking, dynamic and integrated Africa will be fully realized through relentless struggle on several fronts and as a long-term endeavor. The African Union has shifted focus from supporting liberation movements in the erstwhile African territories under colonialism and apartheid, as envisaged by the OAU since 1963 and the Constitutive Act, to an organization spearheading Africa’s development and integration.

During the two days of Tarbutmun in this committee we will try to solve a variety of problems that are crucial to the growth of the world as a better place for everyone who lives in it.

We trust all of you to try and excel at this debate, giving the best of yourselves to accomplish our committee’s goals and have some good and interesting debating sessions while doing so.

We’re sure that this is going to be a fun and productive committee
Good luck and see you in a few weeks

Chairs:

Ilan Tezone
President

Uri Barky
Moderator

Emilio Cohen
Secretary

Topics to discuss:

Topic A: Armed forces without children: ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers

Topic B: The Boko Haram situation and the government involvement in this issue

Most Important Countries:

Nigeria

Egypt

Sierra Leone

Guinea

Topic B:

The Boko Haram situation and the government involvement in this issue

Boko Haram is a terrorist Islamist movement based in northeast Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon. The group is led by Abubakar Shekau. Estimates of membership vary between a few hundred and 10,000. They have been linked to al-Qaeda and ISIL

Boko Haram killed more than 5,000 civilians between July 2009 and June 2014, including at least 2,000 in the first half of 2014, in attacks occurring mainly in northeast, north-central and central Nigeria. Corruption in the security services and human rights abuses committed by them have hampered efforts to counter the unrest.

The AU strongly condemns the horrific abduction of young girls from the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School in Borno State in Nigeria. The 276 young girls aged between 16- 18 were taken from their school on the night of 14th April, 2014, and horrified that eight more girls were abducted on Monday, May 5, 2014 in the same province of Borno. The AU urge those who are responsible for their abduction to release them unharmed, and return them to their families, where they rightfully belong.

Attacks against the liberty of children and targeting schools are prohibited under international law and cannot be justified under any circumstance. Schools are and must remain places of safety and security, where children can learn and grow in peace. Girls and young women must be allowed to go to school without fear of violence and unjust treatment and exercise their rightful role as equal citizens of the world.

African leaders have agreed to send 7,500 troops to fight the Boko Haram insurgency in north-east Nigeria as the international community, including long-time foes the US and Iran, rallied against the militants.

The African Union announced the move on Saturday on the closing day of a summit of AU leaders in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, earlier said he supported the deployment of AU troops to fight Boko Haram, which is increasing its attacks in the runup to the

general election on 14 February. Thousands of people have been killed in the five-year-long insurgency.

Iran also said on Saturday it has begun consultations with west African countries affected by Boko Haram to provide help.

Its deputy foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian said he was confident the Islamist insurgent group could be defeated with collective action.

"We will share our experiences in combating terrorism to defeat Boko Haram. We will achieve that without a doubt," the official said on the sidelines of the AU summit. On Friday the US promised more technical support, training and equipment.

African nations have opened up a new international front in the war on terror. Chad said on Saturday its forces had killed 120 Boko Haram fighters in the north of neighbouring Cameroon in a battle that began when the insurgents attacked its troops.

Boko Haram has recently launched cross-border attacks from Nigeria into Cameroon and Chad as part of its drive for an Islamist state in the north-east of Nigeria. Chad and Cameroon have stepped up troop deployments to fight the militants.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has backed an African Union (AU) proposal to send a regional force to fight Boko Haram in Nigeria, as warplanes from Chad carried out air strikes against the armed group.

Support for the initiative, announced on Saturday at an AU summit being held in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, came amid an upsurge in fighting with the group that has also drawn in Nigeria's neighbours.

The Chadian military said three of its soldiers and 123 rebels had been killed in two days of fighting in northern Cameroon.

Chadian planes then bombed the Nigerian town of Gamboru on Saturday, security sources said.

Speaking at the AU summit, Ban said Boko Haram needed to be "addressed with a regional and international co-operation".

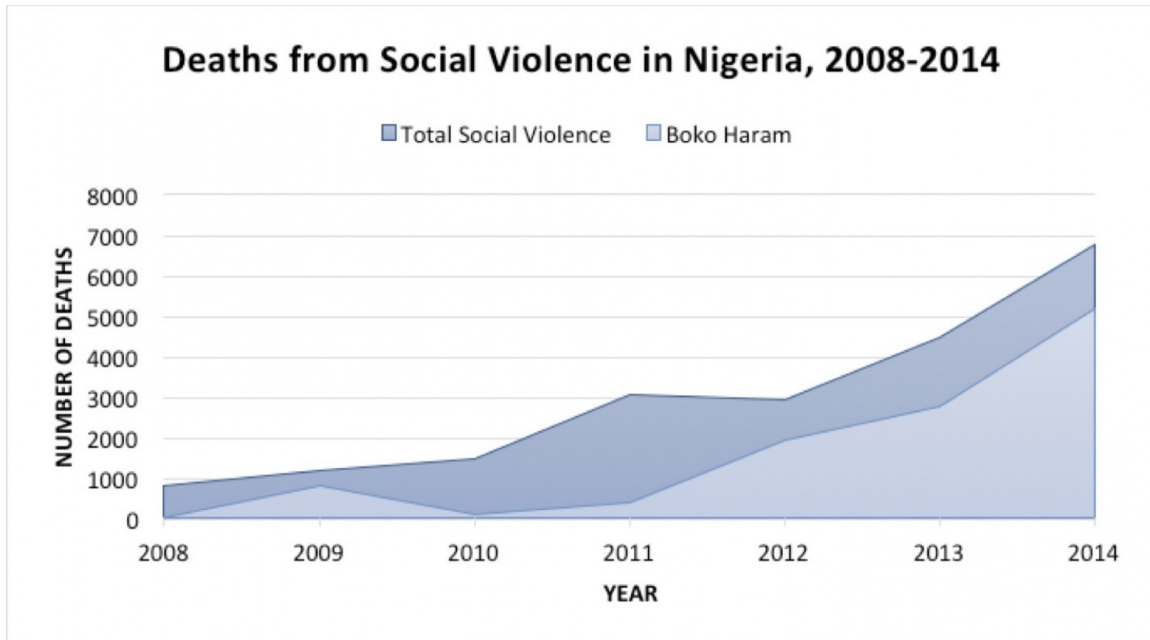
"I welcome the decision of the AU and regional countries to establish an MJTF [Multinational Joint Task Force] against Boko Haram," he told reporters.

"They have committed unspeakable brutality. Not a single country, even the regional countries, can handle this alone," he added.

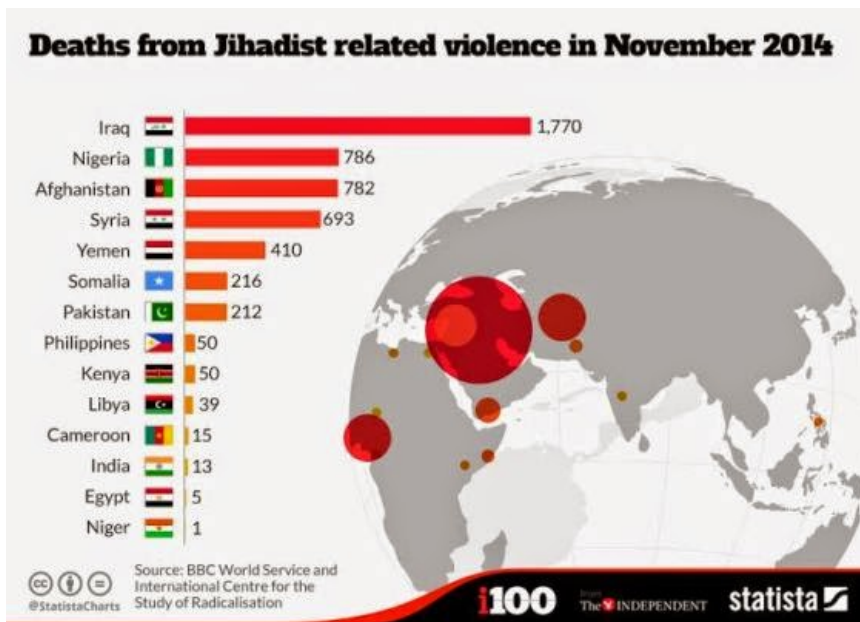
"The United Nations is ready to fully co-operate with the African Union."

Ban nevertheless said that "military means may not be the only solution".

"There should be very careful analysis of the root causes why this kind of terrorism, and extremism, violent extremism, are spreading," he said.



The conflict is rapidly intensifying. It is estimated that 7,000 people died in incidents related to the insurgency between July 2013 and June 2014, compared with fewer than 1,900 in the preceding year. These deaths account for more than a quarter of all the recorded deaths in the past 15 years. Since January, more than 5,000 people have died, making the past eight months almost as deadly as the preceding five years.



For the moment, Boko Haram is a network with local foundations and goals, but the rising scale of conflict belies the easy dismissals of some observers. This is clearly the most lethal conflict that Nigeria has confronted in decades. It is being fought on a scale that is comparable

to serious civil strife in other parts of the world. The levels of casualties, internal displacement, social disruption and government failure are fomenting a widespread crisis, spilling over the borders of neighboring states such as Niger, Cameroon and Chad.

Boko Haram carried out deadliest single attack which was at the Kano Central Mosque bombing which killed over 100 people in November. Statistics by the BBC World Service and International Centre for the study of Radicalization shows Nigeria's terror group, Boko Haram, carried out the second highest number of terror attacks in the month of November in the world. According to the statistics, 5,042 deaths from 664 jihadist attacks were recorded in the month of November with Iraq, Nigeria, Syria and Afghanistan accounting for 80% of the total death toll.

Timeline of the insurgency

2009

July 26–29 - 2009 Boko Haram uprising, nearly 1,000 people are killed in clashes between Boko Haram militants and Nigerian soldiers throughout northern Nigeria, beginning the Boko Haram Islamist Insurgency in Nigeria.

July 30 - Mohammed Yusuf, spiritual leader of Boko Haram, is summarily executed by Nigerian soldiers following the recent uprising. Abubakar Shekau takes control of the group.

2012

During 2012, 792 people were killed as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency.

January 5–6 - January 2012 Nigeria attacks, around 37 Christians are targeted and killed by Boko Haram militants.

January 20 - January 2012 Nigeria attacks, 183 people, of whom at least 150 are civilians and 32 are police officers, are killed in Kano State by Boko Haram gunmen.

April 8 - April 2012 Kaduna bombings, 38 people are killed following a bombing at a church in Kaduna.

June 17 - June 2012 Kaduna church bombings, 19 people are killed following bomb attacks against three churches in Kaduna.

2014

January 26 - January 2014 Northern Nigeria attacks, 138 killed in total

January 31 - 11 Christians killed in Chakawa by Boko Haram militants.

February 14 - Borno Massacre, 121 Christian villagers killed by Boko Haram militants in Konduga, Borno State.

May 21–27 villagers are killed by Boko Haram gunmen in northeastern Nigeria.

May 27 - May 2014 Buni Yadi attack, 49 security personnel and 9 civilians are killed during a Boko Haram attack on a military base in Yobe State.

May 30 - The third emir of Gwoza, Idrissa Timta, is assassinated during a Boko Haram ambush.

June 1 - 2014 Mubi bombing, at least 40 people are killed by a bomb in Mubi, Adamawa State.

December 22 - 2014 Gombe bus station bombing, at least 27 people are killed at a bus station by a bomb in Gombe State.

December 28–29 - December 2014 Cameroon clashes, 85 civilians, 94 militants, and 2 Cameroonian soldiers are killed following a failed Boko Haram offensive into Cameroon's Far North Region.

2015

January 2 - Boko Haram militants attack a bus in Waza, Cameroon, killing eleven people and injuring six.

January 3–7 - 2015 Baga massacre, Boko Haram militants raze the entire town of Baga in north-east Nigeria. Bodies lay strewn on Baga's streets with as many as 2,000 people having been killed. Boko Haram now controls 70% of Borno State, which is the worst-affected by the insurgency.

January 3 - Fleeing villagers from a remote part of the Borno State report that Boko Haram had three days prior kidnapped around 40 boys and young men.

January 5 - News emerges that two days prior hundreds of Boko Haram militants had overrun several towns in northeast Nigeria and captured the military base in Baga.

January 28 - Boko Haram fighters killed 40 people while on a rampage in Adamawa State.

January 29 - The Nigerian military, in collaboration with Chadian soldiers, captures the border town of Michika from Boko Haram rebels.

January 31 - The African Union pledges to send up to 7,500 international soldiers to aid Nigeria's fight against Boko Haram. Chadian forces claim to have killed 120 Boko Haram fighters while losing only 3 soldiers of their own during fighting in the north of Cameroon.

February 13 - Boko Haram militants attack Chad for the first time after 30 fighters crossed Lake Chad in four motorboats and attacked the village of Ngouboua. Chad recently joined Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon in a military coalition against Boko Haram.

February 14 - Boko Haram forces assault Gombe, the capital city of Gombe State, for the first time. The Nigerian military repels the attack, although the militants managed to overrun a checkpoint on the edge of the city before retreating.

Official Name

The official name of the Boko Haram group is actually Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, which in Arabic means "People of the Sunnah (the practise and examples of the Prophet Muhammad's life) for Preaching and Jihad Group".

But the Hausa-speaking residents in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri, where the group had its headquarters, dubbed it Boko Haram.

And for reasons of brevity this is the media's preferred name.

Boko Haram translates from the local Hausa language to mean "Western education is a sin", according to most media reports. But a few voices of doubt have been raised. How could two words convey so much information?

Group's official name is Arabic - Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad
But Hausa-speaking locals called it Boko Haram
Haram means forbidden in Arabic, while Hausa phrase "ilimin boko" was shortened to boko and has come to mean Western-style education

7 Questions worth asking:

1- Why did Boko Haram take Baga now?

- 2- What do latest attacks say about Boko Haram's tactics?
- 3- Is Nigeria doing enough?
- 4- Is the international community doing enough?
- 5- What kind of threat does Boko Haram pose regionally now?
- 6- Should the rest of the world be worried?
- 7- What is the government's enrolment in all this?

If you want more information, and help to answer these questions, visit the following sites:

- 1- <http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/13/opinion/boko-haram-7-questions/>
- 2- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Boko_Haram_insurgency
- 3- <http://jaguda.com/2014/12/11/statistics-boko-haram-carried-deadliest-attack-november-bbc-report/>
- 4- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/10/06/the-boko-haram-insurgency-by-the-numbers/>
- 5- <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2015/02/chief-backs-plan-au-forces-tackle-boko-haram-150201015450460.html>
- 6- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/boko-haram>
- 7- <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-magazine-monitor-27390954>