**A Psychological Analysis of Boko Haram**

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course Number and Name

Instructor's Name

Date

**A Psychological Analysis of Boko Haram**

**Introduction**

A terrorist group involves a team formed by some individuals to engage in criminal activities that threaten the security of other citizens. The groups can be local or international, with supporters worldwide. People are influenced by different factors, like political or economic, to join terrorist groups. One of the most prominent terrorist groups is Boko Haram. The paper provides a psychological analysis of the Boko Haram terrorist group.

**A General Hypothesis of the Terrorist/Group**

Boko Haram wants to seize the northern politics, which they believe has been controlled by some false Muslims (Iyekekpolo, 2020). The group believes that it is through violent activities they can change Nigeria's politics and convert the country to a pure Islamic state.

**Motivation for the Group**

Boko Haram is an active terrorist group that has done different injustices like kidnapping and killing to remain relevant. There are various motivations for a terrorist group that makes people join and engage in violent activities. Those who seek justice but ultimately fall short in their endeavors are the primary motivation behind terrorism. Horgan (2017) also pointed out that those who are drawn to radicalism are the persons who witness injustices first-hand. People are frustrated because they perceive deprivation from the government or other organizations. A person initially considers their state of being unpleasant. The person complains about a circumstance, an unpleasant event, or their social or financial well-being (Horgan, 2017). People convert their complaints and weaknesses into hatred of a particular nation or program. The motivation for violence or a justification of the hate is thus created.

The need for identity is another motivation for Boko Haram. In Nigeria, there has been prolonged religious violence between Christians and Muslims. The conflict contributes to people joining Boko Haram to be recognized as Islamic. Boko Haram kills and kidnaps people to allow the media to report on the issue and ensure the local government and international communities can acknowledge their existence (Iyekekpolo, 2020). The need for belonging is another motivation for the terrorist group. Some people want to belong to a particular team and interact with them after they become rejected in society. As a result, this makes them join groups like Boko Haram.

**The Dynamic of the Group**

Boko Haram has turned out to be a dangerous terrorist group in Nigeria. The group is rooted in northeastern Nigeria. Many of the group's operations are run from northeastern Nigeria, where their significant hideouts are. However, Boko Haram has expanded to other parts of Nigeria where it conducts violent activities. The activities of Boko Haram have also broadened to central Africa, where countries like Cameroon and Chad (Iyekekpolo, 2020). Nations like Niger and Mali are also affected by the expansion of the Boko Haram terrorist group. The terrorist group has diversified from religion to political issues. The push for Islam in Nigeria and other nations in West and Central Africa has diversified their needs to the political areas. The terrorist group aims to instill a sense of psychological tension in the targeted groups. In most cases, they associate their violence with the political system in the affected country to force the government to recognize them.

**Limitations of the Analysis**

The analysis was limited to secondary data. Only past scholarly materials were used during the investigation to provide important information that guided the research. The use of secondary data may affect the accuracy of the information. The presence of people's opinions and views concerning the terrorist group may affect the accuracy of the results.

**Conclusion**

Terrorist groups like Boko Haram target innocent people to pass their information to the government. The need for recognition and belonging motivates people to join terrorist groups. Boko Haram is a terrorist group in Nigeria that has expanded to other nations in West and Central Africa, like Chad, Mali, and Cameroon.

**References**

Horgan, J. G. (2017). Psychology of terrorism: Introduction to the special issue. *American Psychologist*, *72*(3), 199. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0000148>

Iyekekpolo, W. O. (2020). Political elites and the rise of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *32*(4), 749-767. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2017.1400431>