

State conspiracy and counterterrorism engagements in Nigeria: changing the peace agenda narratives

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Abstract

While the need for securitization and counterterrorism cooperation among states is consistently reechoed in security literature, the conspiracy of and sabotage from the security personnel in undermining counter-insurgency has been downplayed. Claims of leakage of security intelligence information resulting to successful Boko Haram attacks on security formations, troops movements as well as high-placed government officials have been reported, but there are no systematic verification and documentations of these claims. This article is based on content analysis of primary and secondary data as well as the use of deep state theory. In Nigeria, state complicity is underpinned by its–rehabilitation of ‘unrepentant’ Boko Haram terrorists, fragmentation of military institution, complicity in cross-border arms movements, refusal to blacklist terror groups. Beyond these, are state actors implicated in the fragility of counterterrorism engagements in the Lake Chad region. Approaching counterterrorism from this perspective provides a new peace agenda discourse that extends to and incorporates the security agents in peace education campaign.

Keywords: The state, neoliberal state, counterterrorism, institutionalization of insecurity, Boko Haram, Nigeria.