



Options and Strategies in the "Boko Haram" Conflict in Nigeria



panel contribution of
Libby Traubman, BA, MSW and Len Traubman, DDS, MSD
Co-producers:

[DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future](#) (2012)

Co-founders:

[Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue](#) (1992)

for the

23rd Annual Africa/Diaspora Conference

**Rethinking & Managing Ethnic and Religious Relations in Contemporary Africa/Diaspora:
Past Experiences, Present Realities, and New Directions**

Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution

California State University, Sacramento - Sacramento, California USA - 24-26 April 2014



THREE CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN MODELS OF CITIZEN-DRIVEN ENGAGEMENT TO TRANSCEND PROTRACTED CONFLICTS

based on time-tested practices in the 2012 documentary, [DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA: Muslims & Christians Creating Their Future](#), filmed at the [2010 International Conference on Youth and Interfaith Communication](#) conceived and perpetuated by Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, [New Era Educational and Charitable Support Foundation](#), Jos, Nigeria.

1. **Abidjan, COTE D'IVOIRE** — *Offuh James Offuh*

January 2012 -- Activity began with our own, local skill mastery described and thoroughly illustrated at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast.pdf>

August 2012 -- We of UFPACI moved outward 10 kilometers to Akouedo Ibrie village to successfully convene the alienated Ebrie people and Attie people in a day of historic healing and communication excellence. <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoast2.pdf>

March 2013 -- Travelling 400 km. to Duekoue, on the site of 2011 post-election mass slaughters, we step-by-step build confidence among tribal leaders before bringing face-to-face



Guerre ethnic groups, Mossi-Burkinabe, Malinke Muslims, Guerre ethnics, and other deeply divided citizens in more historic healing.

(1) Conference Opening -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastduekoue01.pdf>

(2) Face-to-Face Activities -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastduekoue02.pdf>

(3) Closing Experiences -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastduekoue03.pdf>

June 2013 -- Back in Duekoue for the seemingly-impossible, we accomplished Confronting Fear: First Dozos-Guerre Reconciliation never approached by others. The three steps were:

(1) Opening in Duekoue -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastdozosguerre01.pdf>

(2) Building Trust -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastdozosguerre02.pdf>

(3) Celebrating Reunion -- <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastdozosguerre03.pdf>

Fall 2013 -- First Albino ~ Non-Albino Reconciliation in southern Cote d'Ivoire, with thorough documentation at <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastalbino01.pdf> and <http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriaivorycoastalbino02.pdf>

April 2014 -- Unprecedented Albino ~ Non-Albino Reconciliation in Bouake, northern Cote d'Ivoire, with 14 April 2014 national TV newscast at <https://vimeo.com/92553915>

2.

Kinshasha, DR CONGO — *Elesse Henoc Bafandjo*

March 2012 - Kinshasha In-home Learning of Principles of Engagement

August 2012 - Community film-screening for leaders of tribes, associations, and family groups.

February 14, 2013 - St. Valentine's Day Reconciliation with Muslims and Christians, Lubas and Katangas, and Mongos and Katangas

March 8, 2013 - International Women's Day to view DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA for women to become instruments and ambassadors of communication in their houses, villages, universities, and nation.

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongo.pdf>

April 2013 - First-ever Albino ~ Non-Albino Reconciliation Workshop

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongoalbino.pdf>

June, 2013 - "Enemy" Rival Football Fans Humanize Each Other

"Imaniens" (DCMP supporters) and "Vitaclubiens" (Vita Club backers) overcome history of hate and killing

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongofootball.pdf>

June 2013 - Married Couples Improve Communication Skills

<http://traubman.igc.org/vidnigeriadrcongomarriage.pdf>



3.

Bauchi, northern NIGERIA — *Usman Mohammed Inuwa*

February 2010 - New Muslim- Christian Interfaith Dialogue in Bauchi State <http://traubman.igc.org/nigeriadialogue.pdf>



November 2012 - Dialogue for Relationships & Sustainable Farming for Gar village Muslim and Christians

April 2013 - Reconciliation and Consensus Among Muslims and Christians of Birim and Gigyera villages

October 2013 - More Seeds for Peace Seminar for sustainable (1) Biointensive Agriculture and (2) Relationship Building for eager Muslim and Christian farmers

<http://traubman.igc.org/nigeriadialoguegrow.pdf>

October 2013 - Seeds for Peace Growing Food, Building Relationships in conflict region of Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Bauchi State: (1) Alkaleri, (2) Tafawa Balewa, and (3) Bogoro

December 2013 - First Christian-Muslim Compost-Making Workshop

January 2014 - Muslim-Christian Tree Planting

Proposal for a Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Peacebuilding (CSAP): Growing Food, Nurturing Relationships

<http://traubman.igc.org/nigeriadialogueseedsforpeace.pdf>



OTHER RELEVANT, CONTEMPORARY RESOURCES



- ***Non violence: An Antidote to the Violence of the North***
- ***The Necessary Change: A Case for National Dialogue in Nigeria as Process and Product.***
- ***The Boko Haram Challenge and Possible Peace Process in Nigeria*** (March 2014)
The above three papers of **Obiorah Charles Kwuelum**, Nigerian graduate scholar at Eastern Mennonite University, are at <https://easternmennonite.academia.edu/CharlesKwuelum>
- ***Nigeria: beyond the silence of guns and bombs***, added July 2014 by Insight on Conflict, is at <http://www.insightonconflict.org/2014/07/nigeria-beyond-silence-guns-bombs/>
- ***Solution to ideological struggles and extremism lies in dialogue, not force***
by Hawa Noor - Published in Daily Nation - Kenya - Thursday, April 3, 2014
<http://www.nation.co.ke/oped/Opinion/Solution-to-ideological-struggles-and-extremism/-/440808/2269366/-/adij6fz/-/index.html>
- ***What's Behind Latest Nigeria Attacks by Boko Haram?***
Liz Harper - February 25, 2014 - United States Institute of Peace - Washington, DC USA
<http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/what-s-behind-latest-nigeria-attacks-boko-haram>
The CLEEN Foundation co-sponsored by USIP surveyed in northern Nigeria to determine why young Muslim men join Boko Haram. The three major factors were (1) unemployment and poverty, (2) manipulation by extremist religious leaders, and (3) a lack of awareness of the authentic teachings of Islam. Boko Haram's movement of grassroots anger is attributed to northern Nigeria's continuing deprivation and poverty, and some of the worst maternal and infant mortality rates in the world -- far worse than rest of Nigeria . Many are hopeless, while disengaged from other Nigerians and from decision-making processes. Removing the threat over time requires widespread reforms that provide health and livelihoods of northern Nigerians and includes them in social engagement and political decision-making.

- ***Rebuilding Relationships Through Good Neighborliness Seminars in the Rift Valley, Kenya***
William Kiptoo - November 2013- WWKiptoo@gmail.com
MA Student, Peace Studies, Joan B. Kroc Inst. for Int'l Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame
<http://www.beyondintractability.org/kiptoo-rebuilding>

- ***Peace requires human engagement***
Lionel "Len" Traubman, San Mateo, California USA
Ha'aretz - Israel - 10 April 2014
<http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/1.585053>

EXCERPTS:

Change is not going to happen first among governments and political personalities...still blind to the required-yet-missing public peace process of face-to-face, citizen-to-citizen engagement to humanize and experience authentic trust among the people. Why can we not see that "wanting" peace means pursuing human engagement? A distinctive "struggle" requires people-to-people relationship-building...becoming artisans of communication, genuine neighbors, thus empowering governments to succeed.

- ***How Terrorist Groups End***
Seth G. Jones and Martin C. Libicki
Rand Corporation - Santa Monica, California USA - 250pp - 2008
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/2008/RAND_RB9351.pdf
All terrorist groups eventually end. But how do they end? Analyzing 648 different terrorist groups that existed between 1968 and 2006 revealed many ended because they entered, and were included, into the larger community and political process. Military force rarely ends terror groups. The authors recommend ending the use of the phrase "war on terror," since there is no battlefield solution.

- ***Talking to the Enemy***
Dalia Dassa Kaye
Rand Corporation - Santa Monica, California USA - 166pp - 2007
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG592.pdf
Violence and mistrust often prevent direct, open communication among long-standing adversaries. Increasingly, unofficial track two diplomacy and relationship-building dialogue is an important part of the international landscape and new, needed human security that allows official policies to succeed.



Contact panelists:

Libby and Len Traubman
1448 Cedarwood Drive
San Mateo, CA 94403 USA
(650) 574-8303
LTraubman@igc.org

This document is on the Web at <http://traubman.igc.org/bokoharam.pdf>