

## Understanding Human Rights Violations in the Fight against Boko Haram: A Historical Perspective

**Authors :** Anthony Mpiani

**Abstract :** Recent media and NGO reports suggest that human rights violations have been a salient characteristic of the government Joint Task Force (JTF) in the war on Boko Haram. However, there has been relatively scant scholarly engagement with the forms of abuses committed by the JTF against civilians and why such human rights violations occur. The focus of this paper is to analyse the various human rights violations committed by JTF in the war against Boko Haram. Employing a historical approach, it argues that the JTF's human rights violations is shaped by the philosophy of colonial policing in Nigeria. Consequently, the failure of successive post-colonial governments to ideologically transform policing is accountable for the human rights abuses being witnessed in Nigeria today. A philosophical transformation in Nigeria's security forces especially the police and military is a prerequisite for ending human rights abuses in the fight against Boko Haram.

**Keywords :** colonialism, policing, joint task force, counterinsurgency, Boko Haram, human rights violations

**Conference Title :** ICCCL 2019 : International Conference on Criminology and Criminal Law

**Conference Location :** Vancouver, Canada

**Conference Dates :** September 24-25, 2019