Questions

1. How big can the camps become? How many insurgents can you accommodate?
   1. Financial and logistical limitations – they have studies Saudi Arabia, Pakistanis – no one has a standard
   2. The camp can take 1000-1200 ex-combatants
2. Hoe many are there all over Nigeria?
   1. About that number
3. What are the demographics?
   1. 80% are male, remaining: women and children
   2. women were not fighters, they were married, they came along with the fighters
   3. men are kept separately from women
   4. different counseling for different groups
4. Women as captives?
   1. Women can return to their families etc.
   2. Men being fighters doesn’t stop him from being her husband
   3. The women make the choice to be with their fighters
      1. US: puts people in protective custody to give counseling
   4. In Africa you cannot go back to your own community after having mothered children of fighters (there is such a shame associated with what happened to the women – hide behind religions, ethnic beliefs)
5. Is there an age of consent?
   1. Yes!
   2. Women Affairs Ministry is new – trying to build capacity where they can take in persons and council them etc. but as it stands today, unfortunately for us,
6. OCS: directed towards people who are repentant, are there cases where combatants been captured and are not repentant – can they get into OCS?
   1. No, strictly for surrendered combatants
   2. Combatants that were caught or captured, have a separate facility
   3. Convinced fighters do not want to give up the cause
7. What were some of the reasons for leaving?
   1. They were conscripted – when you join the army, because you like it
   2. Battle Fatigue of fighters – the aim is not being achieved in the short term, people want out after a while
8. OCS government mandated? – YES. Why do the sanctions apply to the government?
   1. We are signatories to the UN.
   2. The people I am rehabilitating are Boko Haram, but the world says: No.
   3. Outside world cannot help rehabilitation efforts because the sanctions are stopping them
9. Is the military running the operation?
   1. Military is not running the operation, military is involved, because it is not possible to let civilians take care of this.
   2. Within the 12 weeks program there is civilians
   3. The person in charge of OCS is a military guys, he is the coordinator
   4. Military takes care of safeguarding / lets combatants surrender
10. Is Nigerian military having trouble funding because of the public/medial image of the military that has been shown in the media?
    1. There have been concerns, but mainly: the government has been funding the program. Until international donors come in to help, Nigerian gov’t will continue funding project
    2. Military is necessary – combatants won’t surrender to civilians
11. Are they frightened of the military?
    1. Initially, yes.
    2. But the ex-combatants are being treated well in the camps
12. Comparison Niger Delta
    1. Reintegration process became too much for gov’t to bare
    2. Luck: stigma associated with BH leads to no people wanting to be associated with the organization
13. Regional Problem Boko Haram: How is the cooperation with the joint task force?
    1. It’s going wonderfully!
    2. With the last regime there was a lot of skepticism, most countries did not contribute as much – most countries saw BH as a Nigerian problem.
    3. End game: transfer knowledge/program to ECOWAS
14. What are the trends happening in Nigeria?
    1. “I sleep Better.”
    2. Nowadays it’s possible to go out etc., it’s a lot safer. As soon as other countries decided to come in and close off their borders, the Nigerian army is able to locate them, to starve them off etc.
    3. Hope: in 5-6 months the insurgency will be “defeated”
    4. Recent festival: no attacks, it has been quiet, because they do not have the capacity anymore
15. Follow-Up after 12 weeks?
    1. Yes, ex-combatants choose which industry/area they want to go into afterwards. During 12 weeks will learn about that industry during the 12 weeks
    2. After 12 weeks – there is a database on locations etc., National Orientation Agency has outlets all across Nigeria, it’s their responsibility to monitor the ex-combatants
    3. For a minimum of five years the combatants stay there
    4. Two ex-combatants tried to go back immediately and were killed by their communities
16. Demographics of ex-combatants. Are there child soldiers?
    1. We have not yet dealt with child soldiers
    2. We have wife and child of fighters, but we do not have child soldiers
    3. Youngest fighters were 17/18 years old
17. Were there any socio-economic conditions that led to the expansion of Boko Haram? What’s being done to help the situation? What about the religious driver?
    1. Religious: the fight is more about religion, fighters took out Quran, interpret it in a way that suits their beliefs, don’t believe in Western education, they want to create a caliphate - women are not to be seen or heard, there is a specific kind of Islam that you must practice
       1. Initially: peaceful / then turned violent
       2. Shekkau kills everything/everyone he sees, originally: you do not kill Muslims
    2. Socio-economic: poverty is particularly in the North
    3. People that joined were conscripted – if you sit with them and talk to them for 24 hours, they can be turned around – it’s like a cult, they see their leaders as an authority
18. 12 weeks too short?
    1. Saudi Arabian model: 12 weeks is the minimum required time
    2. After 12 weeks they are put through program again
    3. Ratio of fighters: 15/20% have to go through program again
    4. Other than that it’s been very successful
    5. There is a lot of remorse, they are tired, they want to go home, they do not remember why they joined
    6. Willing to do whatever to be able to return to a “normal” life
19. Same language of fighters?
    1. Yes!
20. The men in your camp that had been conscripted, do they still have strains of radicalism? What types of education to you offer in the 12 weeks?
    1. Main purpose: deradicalize them is the main goal!
    2. There are scholars to de-radicalize them, sent my Saudi Arabia / Pakistan etc.
21. When you bring in the religious leaders is it a dialogue?
    1. It is a bout communication
    2. Once you play something over and over again, they will believe it
    3. We play Islamic teachings and readings from the Quran
22. Do you have any hope in de-radicalizing Boko Haram leaders?
    1. They are the ones who are captured, not the ones that surrender, they are kept in a different facility than the OCS camp.
23. What kind of training do the people have that run the camps/sessions?
    1. The ministry for women affairs sends psychologists, counselors from Nigeria
    2. Expert advice, consultants from other countries
    3. Women and men are treated by different people
24. What are the standards for assessing whether an ex-combatant Is ready to re-enter society?
    1. Psychological tests – study patterns of them, you interview them etc., national interrogation agency sends specialists to assess the readiness of ex-combatants
25. Have the communities where they are being reintegrated been receptive?
    1. Initially, no!
    2. First, you have to reach out to the traditional rulers from a national level and convince them of the program and ask for acceptance
26. Different types of insurgent groups – are the people in the OCS camp from different groups? If so, are there different procedures for each group?
    1. No, same process for all participants
27. What type of help does the Nigerian government need from the UN? And, could OCS be THE model for Nigerian integration?
    1. As it is, it is already a model. It’s working, we have achieved a lot in six months, we started from nothing, so we really had to set everything up in a very short space of time.
    2. Reintegration is difficult, there is a lot to find out from Columbia, over Saudi-Arabia to Pakistan – it will take lot
    3. A Nigerian is not as highly radicalized –
    4. Regarding the UN: the sanctions have to go! Then we can receive international donor money, there is not a lot of money in Nigeria at the moment to finance the efforts of OCS
    5. The camp will have to be expanded in the future
28. Will this be a successful model of reintegration without a criminal prosecution component? What about justice? Doesn’t criminal justice revision have to be part of the process?
    1. If you are going to prosecute the man, isn’t it also a crime to rehabilitate him?
    2. Prosecution will lead to suffering both ways
    3. We showed them a better part to life – we try to take people in, rehabilitate them, if through that process stops, the government cannot say that they still want to punish them
    4. After they are de-radicalized they can still be sued
       1. For our proposal: criminal prosecution can be part of the proposal, but not necessarily intertwined with rehabilitation effort
    5. Ex-combatants are still Nigerian, they have a right to return
    6. Being a member of Boko Haram is in itself not a crime, only when you provide evidence against them that they have harmed/killed someone, can there be prosecution afterwards (but not by government necessarily)
    7. Most fighters were conscripts
    8. Some of the ex-combatants have joined the CTF (?)
    9. Prefer: let down on the prosecution side