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TERRORISM AND COUNTER INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
The problem of terrorism and insurgency has eaten deep into the fabric of our society, a very serious challenge to Nigeria government and all other governments in the world. This research x-rays the above in full; it highlighted the negative impacts of the activities of Boko-haram, Fulani herdsmen, agitations of Niger Delta, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). This paper nevertheless, investigated into some of the causes of terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria such as poverty, Nigeria plural social nature, monumental corruption, uncontrolled population explosion and religious bigotry etc. It proceeded to discuss the inevitable ways and steps the government must take as to mitigate or eradicate these problems of terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria such as environmental and personal security that makes vulnerability to kidnappers and abductors impossible. It concluded with a range of recommendations on how Nigeria should introduce extracurricular training in security in all levels of education and in the communities, adopt fiscal Federalism to end unwarranted agitations, the use of dialogue and diplomacy to solve their problems, abrogate or regulate all forms of radical ideologies our lives and corporate entity be ruled by justice and fair play.

Education, Terrorism and Counter Insurgency in Nigeria

Overview
Education as has been well described is life and light. It can no longer be doubted that any nation that intends to grow or be well endowed cannot but invest in education. Several educational economists have argued that a good government must invest heavily in education due to its tangible and intangible benefits (Schultz, 1971; Osokoya, 2003; Babalola, 2003 and Akangbou, 1985). Other sources and authors such as FRN (2004) did not fail to mention the role and position of education in national development n

Nigeria and other African nations. In the count down to reaping the fruits of educational investments, several scholars have argued on the methods of providing education, costs involved in educational provision etc. (Fabunmi, 2003; Isah and Akinwumi, 2016). In the provision of education, most developed nations adopt either of the following; Social demand Approach, Manpower planning approach, Eccletic and other methods. Here in Nigeria, a new paradigm appears to be rising may be completely domiciled in Africa known as the 'free education programmes.

Educational economists have come to argue on the viability of free education programmes which have the capacity of popularizing politicians in the African setting. Isah and Akinwumi (2016) argued on the possibilities of free education at all levels in Nigeria with an understanding from Babalola (2003) and Fabunmi (2003) that education has various costs that include Social and private costs. Arising from the provisions of the FRN (2004) which is the Nigerian national policy on education, education is now under the concurrent legislative lists making its provision mandatory for all tiers of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the private sector.

Prior to the turn of the century, terrorism in education was quite unexpected. According to Isah (2016), religious places and educational institutions were not included in the terror war as they were seen as sacred places. In recent times, terror attacks have focused on the vulnerable society such as women and educational institutions, taking hostages etc. On the other hand, insurgency described in www.steampowered.com as taking to the streets in close combat especially where a team survival depends on close combat and taking crucial enemy strongholds which depends on its survival.

Here in Nigeria, terrorism has been seen in diverse dimensions.

(i) There is the Niger Delta Agitation for resource control and fiscal Federalism that has given rise to the Niger Delta Militants in South South Nigeria.
(ii) There is the IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra) agitating for the control and secession of the Southeast of Nigeria from the Nigerian Federation due to alleged marginalization.
(iii) There is the Boko-haram insurgency in the Northeastern part of Nigeria which agitates that there must be no form of western education in Nigeria and

requesting for an Islamic caliphate to set up a kingdom in Nigeria.

(iv) There are the Fulani herdsmen in the North who are currently killing and maiming Nigerians but government has turned its face to the other side.

The problem of terrorism, insurgency and counter insurgency has become a very serious challenge to Nigerian governments and all other governments in the world. Recently, the Nigerian mass media reported the abduction of 6 secondary school students from a secondary school in Epe, Lagos. The same school recently was attacked where 3 students were abducted and released after a ransom was paid by the families involved. In this recent abduction which is still on, the abductors are asking for a whopping N100m to release the students. The severity of terrorism can be captured in recent events in the world.

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Table 1: A Chronology of Notable Terrorist Attacks in the Last 2 years.

S/N	Event	Date	Type of Terror	Remarks
1	London Bombing	June 2017	Bloody	3 Terrorists shot
2	France attack	April 2017	Shooting Policemen	Policemen killed
3	Belgium killings	May 2014	Killed 4 so many injured	
4	Brussels	March 2016	32 killed 340 injured	
5	Moscow, Russia	August 2016	Several killed	
6	Chibok School Girls Abduction Abduction of Nig-Turkish	April 2014	Book haram Abducted over 200 female students	
7	School Students in Lagos	2016	Students released after ransom was collected	
8	Abduction of 4 Junior Secondary School Students from Babington Maculay Junior Secondary School in Ikorodu, Lagos	2016	Released after payment of ransom	
9	Abduction of 4 secondary school students from Government Model Secondary School, Lagos	2016	Released after ransom payment	
10	Abduction of 6	2017	Negotiation still	

	secondary school students from Government Model School, Igbonla, Epe, Lagos		on as at time of writing this paper	

Source: Various sources as compiled by the researcher (2017)

The list prepared in Table 1 is not in anyway exhaustive. This paper wants to find out the causes of terrorism.

Causes of Terrorism and Insurgency in Nigeria

The following are perceived causes of terrorism, insurgency in Nigeria.

1. Poverty

The poverty in Nigeria is globally recognized as described in World Development Indicators (WDI 2007) till today. Again the causes of terrorism as shown in the World Terrorism Index (GIT 2014) includes poverty. The poverty has resulted in severe agitations in several parts of Nigeria which includes the South-south region of Nigeria, the region that produces more than 90% of the revenue generating exports in Nigeria which is crude. The agitations of the Niger Delta region from the early period of democracy in Nigeria has been unabated requesting for fiscal control of the resources manned from each region and captioned political fight for fiscal Federalism. Figures from the National Bureau of statistics (NBS, 2016) indicated a heavy increase in inflation, decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increase in unemployment a recession. The absence of jobs, money in the hands of the jobless etc has create which is kidnapping for ransom. Nigeria according to GTI(2012 & 2015) was ranked the 6th most unsafe country in the world only behind such countries as Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran and India. It is worthy to note that developments that add nothing to the people's welfare inflate insurgency.

2. Nigeria's Plural Social Nature

Another possible cause of terrorism and insurgency is the composition and operation of the entity called Nigeria which can be summarized as the presence of bad governance. The presence of ethnicity, tribalism and poor leadership cannot be denied. Social norms have been thrown overboard while values over the years have

continued to decline. Most people see the problem of insurgency and terrorism rooted in the impurity that pervades the society. criminals appear to go away with crimes when caught only to be apprehended in other crimes and punished. However, it is not only being punished, crimes of the same nature are given different punishments by courts in the same country depending on how well you can pay and where your origin comes from. With such situations, several agitations arise. A recent example was the communal crises that arose in Ile-Ife in Osun State, Nigeria. In the Ile-Ife crises, 2 ethnic groups clashed resulting into bloodshed. The Nigeria Police Force arrested people from the 2 ethnic tribes but over time, one ethnic group was set free when the case has not been judged leading to severe agitations from the other ethnic group. Over 100 lawyers from the aggrieved ethnic group volunteered to defend their kinsmen and led to a national agitation by the ethnic group. Since it has become an embarrassment to the NPF, nothing has been heard of the case till now. Several cases of this nature go underground and are mismanaged by the police.

3. The Death of Nationalism

Nationalism has to do with the ethnics and ethos of national integrity by its citizens. It thus appear that such virtues has carelessly left Nigeria. Nationalism could be described as doing things for a nation that promotes peace, oneness and progress. In Nigeria, nationalism seem subjugated within the whims of greed, covetousness and deceit. While in the years gone, citizens made sacrifices to help Nigeria their nation out of crises but today, personal benefits, stealing pervade the society, National appointments are now read as no longer for service but to share from the national cake. Owners of the land where the national case is mined feel short changed and are agitating for succession.

4. Monumental Corruption

The level of corruption in Nigeria has graduated in some years from ordinary corruption to monumental with these details. In Nigeria, bribery now appear to be a tip of the ice what constitute corruption. Readers hearts will be taken back to the monumental fraud associated with the contributory pension from (PENCOM). The stealing was associated with the Federal ministries given the mandate to secure the funds. Another mind boggling revelation comes from the on-going investigation into the Arm

scam' scandal. Others include the PINE investigation ie. the Presidential Initiative of the North East that has taken a toll on the secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF). For people of the status of the SGF to be found involved in corruption tells you what happens all over. Again, values seem dead in situations where the poor suffer in silence. Child marriage abuses which go unpunished by the high and rich in society against the poor. religious abuses which go uninvestigated are all contributory to terrorism, insurgency and armed banditry.

5. Laws that Encourage Illegalities

Nigerian laws appear to condone illegalities ie. making evil right backed by law which can simply be described as the tyranny of the majority. In this paper let's examine 2 laws. The Federal Character Commission and the Equal Educational Opportunity policy. These laws and policies have gone a long way to establish mediocrity in place of meritocracy. In 2013 in the same country, the entry into Federal Government Colleges generated a lot of ripples but the government got through because it was supported by law and policy. In that year the cut offmarkto gain admission to Federal Government College by females from Abia State was 241 while for the same admission for females from Zamfara state was just 20. The question is are these people from the same nation? The admission policy was conducted because it was backed by law. Again, allocation of Federation revenue on the basis of land mass even when such lands are barren and desert is not justifiable. Such laws have given rise to mutual suspicion, divisiveness and disunity.

6. Uncontrolled Population Explosion and Religious Bigotry

In the Nigerian news media recently, the Emir of Kano, MuhamdaduSanusi 11 decried the population explosion in Northern Nigeria accusing the elites in the North as embarrassing 13th century Islam which has been done away by forward looking Islamic countries that have since embraced western education and have become competitive. It is well known by ordinary casual observation that Northern Nigeria has a ready army of unemployed and uneducated youth known as Almajiri system. The Emir argued that the system had become abused with the marriage of many wives and the production of armies of children by the poor. the Emir advocated the marriage of 1 wife by all poor men. How this will be worked out in the days ahead remain to be seen but let look at it. The

army of Almajiri's in Northern Nigeria are a ready weapon for insurgency as they are well versed in Islamic teaching but completely illiterate in western education. If this is so why will there not be a book-haram?

Counter Insurgency Weapons-Preparations in Nigeria

If our earlier description of insurgency which involves taking to the streets, agitations and taking strongholds is anything to go by, counter insurgency has to do with using available means to overcome insurgents. Let's look at counter insurgency under the following options.

1. **Counter Insurgency in Schools**

This paper looks at counter insurgency as ways and steps a school must take to mitigate the advantages of insurgents. The level of security in Ibadan schools scored an average of 68% using descriptive statistics with a mean of 2.89 on the items listed which included school fence, security personnel etc. While mere observer will say that it scored well over an average, issues on security ought to score well over a 100% (Isah, 2013).

The study observed that in some of the schools, the fences provided were not more than a perimeter fence as is the case in Government Model Secondary School, lgbonla, Epe-Lagos, that is currently witnessing its second attack. It was also observed that some schools that had high fence were leaking at some spots making them vulnerable to attacks. The study further observed that many of the school doors and windows has no window protectors and the windows were already out of place. It must be understood schools that had gates and security personnel had security personnel that were either too old or lacked any form of security training. In some instances, the security at the school gates did not have entry and exit log books for visitors. Most Nigerian schools are under these conditions. It must be well noted that the security study was in Ibadan urban not rural hence what will be unearthed in a rural study will be heart rendering. What is reported here are visible to any visitor to any public school in Ibadan.

In another recent study, Isah (2016) 'tackling insecurity in Nigerian schools using multimedia internet solutions' posited that the use of multi-media has become a must for all schools especially facilities as CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) and video cameras which should be located everywhere in school compounds. The study maintained that the inability of law

enforcement agents to get requisite data at the right time encourage terrorism, hostage and ransom taking in educational institutions. However, in recent media reports on the second attack on the Government model school lgbonla in Lagos whose kidnap case is still current indicated that parents had to remove their children from the school because previous security suggestions were not implemented before the fresh attack,. The parents insisted that the school was advised to install CCTV everywhere. According to reports from the students released after profiling by the abductors near the waterway, the abductors this time did not wear masks indicating that they have become bolder, deadlier and more daring since they have been going on similar raids without any molestation a fall out of societal impunity.

2. **Societal Counter Insurgency Preparations**

Among security issues pertinent to the individuals are environmental and personal security. Environmental security deals with securing the environment where people reside. Such security makes vulnerability to kidnappers and abductors impossible. Another aspect is the knowledge of personal safety. Nigerians would have expected that at atime like this, the armed forces, police and other paramilitary organisations will be handy to offer good security tips but unfortunately this is not so. In Nigerian schools especially the ones chronicled in Oyo State by Isah (2013), it was observed that simple techniques on civil defence were lacking in both school administrators and students which also applied to public and private secondary schools in the metropolis.

Educational managers would expect that at a time of this nature, exra-curricular activities will be founded on school, environment and personal security. Taking a cue from the Northeast of Nigeria, Joint Task Force, Vigilante groups, Local organisations have joined the government to police insurgency. In southern Nigeria, it is not so. The regular police appear ill-equipped to fight terrorism and insurgency. Only until recently did the Police get collaborations from outside Nigeria to develop capacity to fight insurgency and terrorism. Also, the insurgents, militants and terrorists are becoming more deadly in their attacks due to the level of sophisticated weapons they parade. Such weapons are not with the Nigeria police force or any other organization in the armed forces. It appears that the more the Federal

Government of Nigeria advances, the more the insurgents advance. Book-haram for example was able to carve a niche for itself, How? It completely took over the Samisa forest in Borno state where they held captives, built strongholds and prepared the laboratory for designing, developing and launching Improvised bombs (IED)s. The Boko-haram had its own ideology and has destroyed so many souls.

3. **Economic Implication of Terrorism and Counter Insurgency**

The Nigerian economy has not fared better since the evolvement of insurgency and counter terrorism. In the first instance, there were displacecments of people from their regular abodes giving rise to what is now known as IDP (Displaced Persons) camps all over Nigeria. The regular National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was interrupted in 3 states namely; Yobe, Borno and Adamawa. Homes and government offices were burnt down by Boko-haram which government is still trying hard to build up.

Displacement of people from their regular homes decreased productivity in agriculture resulting into loss of jobs and loss to the Nigerian GDP aggregate for consecutive years. The IDPs are plagued with sicknesses, poor feeding and malnutrition.

Recommendations

The following suggestions are hereby recommended to end terrorism in Nigeria.

1. All forms of radical ideologies be completely abrogated or at the worst regulated. For Boko-haram to have grown up and become so empowered linking up with Al-Qaida, ?Al-Shaabab and developing international links to the extent of threatening the sovereignty of a country as massive as Nigeria is most unthinkable. While the government will say they have decimated Boko-haram's capacity, we know that there are other Boko-haram's already happening or waiting to happen. An example is the Fulani herdsmen.
2. In a plural society like Nigeria, justice and fair play should rule our lives and corporate entity. A situation where people feel marginalized and are unable to realize their potentials due to state of origin or race or colour translates to apartheid in the modern Nigeria. Obnoxious and vexatious laws such as the Federal Character Commission, Equal educational

opportunity should be abrogated from Nigerian law books.

3. Nigeria should tread the path of equity and dignity as done in other developed countries. Adopt fiscal Federalism to end unwarranted agitations. The use of Force and the Military cannot solve the present impasse. There must be dialogue and diplomacy.
4. Education must be given its rightful value. Political free education must be abrogated. Nigeria should adopt internationally recognized conventions for the provision of quality education, build sufficient capacity to provide school needs. All out of school children should be adopted by government. Government must do all it can to provide social security no matter how small for the indigent and the vulnerable.
5. There should be policies making it mandatory for the establishment of multimedia solutions (CCTV) and digital satellite devices in all public places (hotels, schools, communities, streets) etc.
6. Extra curricular training in security should be introduced at all levels of education and in communities.

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