

## **National Tragedy and Insecurity Threats in Nigeria: Implications to Security Woes and Challenges in the 21st Century**

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### **Abstract**

Insecurity threats requires tactical approaches and national collaboration across the stakeholders. Security experts both security agencies, and citizens need a multidimensional technique to curb the insecurity menace confronting the nation woes. This will have sought ways to safeguard the country against the system collapsed or bleeding and criminal malady. The insecurity situations have its implications in the country that has hindered development, progress and economic growth. Insecurity incidence occurred in different parts of the country indicated that the security challenges confronting Nigeria and law enforcement agencies has collapsed. Nigeria security is in serious jeopardy and a complex ill and it will continue to remain unabated if not check. The security Architecture needs model's information technology system approach and scientific techniques with improve modern gadgets, and super-technological machine and as well as international collaboration to achieve the goal and combating solution to insecurity challenges. The causes and problem of insecurity can be attributed to conspiracy theories, bad governance, corruption, socio-political, ethnic militia and system failure. Therefore, the paper concludes and recommends that there is need for double approach international and local collaboration among the security experts across board and also a synergy for proper adequate security checked is requiring. Government should review security tactics framework and adopt community policing strategy to curb the menace. Efforts should be intensified by government to provide CCTV cameras, Detective electronics machines, general packet radio service (GPRS), Tracking computer information system and scientific gadgets in security investigation, management, regulation and to apprehend all the criminal elements across all local government, states and national to control and harness all insecurity in the nations.

**Keywords:** *National Tragedy, Insecurity, Threats, Implication, Challenges*

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### **Background to the Study**

Recently, Nigeria has witnessed a lot of security threats and unprecedented insecurity in all the states, geographical entities and different quarters and locations of the country in general. Daniel (2021), maintains that the security challenges is a global pandemic virus and national threats that requires national emergency and expert's collaboration in the country. This phenomenon has attracted serious attentions across all quarters in the nations that suit for multi-dimensional approach within the security apparatus, community relations for better national growth, Development, progress, peace and national stability.

The security challenges in Nigeria has assumed a new dimensional approach and systematic techniques that requires expertise and scientific collaborations among law enforcement agencies, stakeholders, citizens and community policing relations for adequate synergy and confrontation. Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) Posit that security is a pillar upon which every meaningful development could be achieved and sustained. Nigeria as a nation state has experience unprecedented threats, attacks and different forms of insecurity problems ranging from terrorism and insurgency, Kidnapping and abduction, bombing, carnage, armed robberies, crime and criminality, cybercrime as well as different forms and magnitude of internal and external challenges deviling the country both past and present time which h hindered development. The most dastard so far is the terrorist activities and militia group boko Haram which are interpreted to mean Western education is evil, The insecurity situation in the country sorrowful, worrisome and complex phenomenon.

Achumbe and Akpor – Robaro (2013), argued that national security threat is the major issue for the government through which huge allocation of the national budget were allocated to the security. Similarly, in order to ameliorate the problems of insecurity and crime in Nigeria, the Federal government ought to embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act 2011, Installation of computer based-closed circuit Television cameras (CCTV) in some parts of the country enhancement of surveillance as well investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media (Azazi, 2011). Despite these efforts, the insecurity in the country is on the alarming rate and Nigeria consistency ranked among the Global Crime Index and Terrorist Country. Jacob and Andrew (2015) collaborate that in fairness insecurity is not a problem that is unique to Nigeria. It has geographical spread across the globe.

Insecurity in the country record the second highest fatalities associated with militancy insurgency and Kidnapping in the region (Adongoi, Otodo and Azibasuan, 2019). The challenges in the various states and geo political zones reflective the broader Nigeria condition as mirrored in the threat dynamics in the Nigeria states since inception of Boko Haram insurgency surfaced in 2009 (National Security Strategy Policy Document, 2019). According to the National security threat index in the National Security strategy policy document (2019) Nigeria forces a rapidly changing world with diverse range of threats, including violent extremism, terrorism Banditry, kidnapping, separatist, agitations, sets, pastoralist, farmers conflicts, transnational organized crime, army robbery, porous borders among others

(Croaker; Hampson and Aall, 2012). The rate of security challenges in Nigeria society was disturbing and its continuum to accelerated rise in the intensity of violence, social upheaval, corruption in governance, system failure of traditional government mechanisms, breakdown in socio-cultural norms, delinquency and restiveness among young people. Incidences of insecurity are fundamental structural problems that are plaguing the body-politics of the country.

### **Conceptual Analysis of Insecurity**

Security connotes a process of the establishment of measures for the protection of persons, information and property against hostile persons, influenced and actions. The security evolved and revolved states in terms of their ability to defend their boundaries or territories, institutions and citizens. It was the conceived that the might of nations ensured they negotiated from a position of strength and also deter aggressor nations from attacking them (Croaker, Hampson and Aall, 2012). This conception of security essentially as a military term did not give privilege to the human person but rather the abstract entity. The state and relied heavily if not completely on force and other elements of light and power (Mac-Ognor, 2000). This conception of security has its theoretical forbearer in the realist theory (Weltz, Undated, 2000). For the realist, security or peace was a product of domination in a world without supranational government, where the pursuit and advancement of the interest of political actors, units or nations as the dominant or unitary actors, using their military might or prowess, dictated how they fared (Viotti and Kauppi, 2019; Salughter, 2011). This rather aggressive or realist notion of security which reigned in the post war world two (2) cold her environmental. Finally came to its Zenith in the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon Building in the United States of America (Barnett, 2004). This 9/11 terror attack forced the need for new thinking on security globally and locally.

In Nigeria, this new era coincided with the immediate post amnesty era and the de-escalation of militancy or organized anti-state violence, better known as militancy or insurgency, terrorism, banditry and insurgency. Internally, security meant the rigid enforcement of order and the maintenance of the relevant architecture (Police, Navy, Airforce, Army, as other para-military forces) for the forceful and sometimes violent enforcement of state and regime-oriented laws (Atelhe, Etefiong and Omajarabi, 2016). This is manifested in the suppression of dissent, demonstrations and other forms of mass protest against unjust policies and laws by a regime bent on maintaining order (Chandra, 2019). In its broadest formulation, the term security goes well beyond military considerations. Security can be understood as a defense against external or internal threats as well as the overall socio-economic well-being of a society and the individuals who compose it. Security is more inclusive than the term defense. They are often used interchangeably but in reality, the military component, defense is dominant.

Yanet and Oisamoje (2016), Posits that National security centers on protection from threat or any situation that is capable of causing a change to occur. It denotes the ability of a state to address the threats to its sovereignty. This is reflection of a state-centric realist perspective. Security has also been defined more broadly as “all measures design to safeguard and protect the citizenry and the resources of individual, groups, businesses and the nation against sabotage, or violent occurrences (Kinge and Nweke, 2019). According to Kinge and Nweke

(2019) citing the United Nations Development programmed (UNDP and others define human security as the protection from hidden and hurtful disruptions in the daily activities, at home, offices, or communities. That is, it is a state of being safe or secured from danger... it is the absence of the threat to peace, stability, national Cohesion, political and economic objectives of a country. Human security is forced on identifying and addressing Widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people.

According to the UN, human security is a people-centered comprehensive, context-dependent, prevention-oriented approach to strengthening and empowering people. Human security views everything as being capable of affecting and influencing human dignity and freedoms and therefore requires deliberate efforts to achieve and protect. Devendra (2019) observe that the insecurity therefore, will come from threats to people capacity and ability to live a leave a meaningful life, free offers, anxieties, and lack. Insecurity comes from anything that threatens people survival, livelihood and dignity. It is exacerbated by social, economic, political, legal and other forms of injustice perpetrated against a person, group or nation. Insecurity is the absence of security on both military and on human security perspectives. We believe life consistently improves for humanity over time but it does so only because individuals, communities and nations take it upon themselves not only to imagine a feature worth creating but actually try to build it (Bernett, 2004) and that it is up to the security at large rather than only the state to guarantee human security and better manage acts that cause insecurity.

Insecurity is the anti-thesis of security. The insecurity affects all the gamut of human life and social existence. The concept of insecurity has usually been ascribed different interpretations in association with the various ways which it affects individuals, social groups and society. Some common descriptors or insecurity connote safety; danger, hazard, uncertainty, doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lacking stability, troubled; lack of protection; and unsafe to mention a few. All of these have been used by different people, authorities, scholars to define the concept of insecurity in the society Beland (2005); Daniel, (2021) defined insecurity as the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. It is inadequate freedom from danger. This definition reflects physical insecurity which is the most visible form of insecurity and it feeds into many other forms of insecurity such as economic security and social security.

Insecurity is a state of being exposed to risk or anxiety where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. Omede (2012) sees security as a dynamic condition which involves the relative ability of a state to counter threats to its core values and interest. Nwolise (2006), security is an all-encompassing condition which suggest that a territory must be secured by a network of armed forces that the sovereignty of the state must be guaranteed by a democratic patriotic government, which in turn must be protected by the law enforcement.

### **Problems of Insecurity in Nigeria**

The menace bedeviling the Nigeria insecurity and successional agitations across the geographical zones in the country is as a result of system failure, mal-functioning and poor socio-

economic control and security challenges confronting the country which could be traced back to decades of misrule, bad governance, corruption, unemployment, diversion of the common wealth. Political factor, human bias and lack of national interest among the citizens.

The killings and kidnappings were on the rise across the country due to the failure and inadequacy of institutional framework and systemic approaches to control and regulate the violent attacks on farmers and destruction of farmlands by marauding herdsmen. The country was not capable of ending banditry's, kidnappings, terrorism, armed robbery, or rescuing the escalating abducted citizens, a situation which forces family members to the abductors to secure release of their loved ones.

The Government are playing politics and possible run out of ideas and was incapable of finding solutions to the worsening security challenges facing the country. The failure of the security agencies to check the proliferation of small arms bearing AK-47 rifles operating as herders and lopsided appointments have fuelled the separatist agenda of several groups. Similarly, negotiation and granted amnesty to terrorist and bandits in the recent and anti-peoples policies have led to the ascendancy of insecurity in the country (Falana, 2021). The country is seriously bleeding and no part of the country is safe as Marauders have been abducting people including under graduates, secondary school students and primary school pupils. The country could breakup or engage in a full-sale civil war as its happened in 1967-1970 if the worsening insecurity were not address in all states of the federation and the federal capital territory was not checked.

Overwhelmed security challenges and the ruling class will not hesitate to sabotage the democratic process or plunge the country into another civil war. Since 2009, the armed forces have been imaging the country-insurgency operations in the north-East region. Realizing that the armed forces are ill-equipped and ill-motivated. The law enforcement agencies have been demobilized from maintaining law and order by successive regimes, the over stretched armed forces have been deployed and mandated to free many communities that have been overrun by nihilist forces in the various states. The rise of insecurity and poverty in Nigeria have drawn an antagonistic between the citizens and people in power and their subjects. Our leaders are insensitive to the country turmoil.

### **Causes of Insecurity Challenges**

There has been an increasing rate of criminality and insecurity in Nigeria. several factors were attributed to the causes of insecurity in Nigeria to the social instability and disorder in the society. Some of the factors that have been postulated as menace to unrest in Nigeria security challenges, thus;

a. Boko Haram Militant group: The major security challenge in Nigeria which has adversely affected the Nigerian economy. Olugbode (2010), the word "Boko is a Hausa word meaning "Animist" Western" otherwise non-Islamic education and the Arabic word "Haram" figuratively means "sin or literally something forbidden. The Boko Haram is a controversial Nigeria militant Islamist group that has sought to impose Sharia law or its radical interpretation of Islam on the northern. States of Nigeria and then to other parts of the country like what the Malians Islamists almost succeeded to do in Northern Mali. Dunia

(2010) holds a view that the group opposes not only western education but also Western culture and modern science. Nwagboso (2012) observed that the Boko Haram group promotes a radical form of Islam which makes it haram or forbidden for Muslims to take part in any political or social activities in the society. This includes voting in election, wearing of shirts and trousers or receiving secular education (BBC News Africa, 2010). Boko Haram was founded in 2002 in Maiduguri by Utaz Mohammed Yusuf, the death of their leader in 2009 turned the group into a killing machine that has put the economic development of the Northern geopolitical zones to a night melee. The activities of Boko Haram have constituted a serious security challenge in contemporary Nigeria as the group has even been linked to the dreaded Al-Qaeda terror group.

b. **Terrorism and Insecurity:** The word terrorism comes from the reign of terror instigated by Maxmilien Robepierre in 1793 following the French revolution (About.com, 2014). This implies that terrorism is not a child of modernity; it is as old as the existence of man. The history is as old as human's willingness to use violence to affect polities. Terrorism does not lend itself to one single acceptable definition. The term according to Terrorism research (Undated) is better understood from the point of view of the person that is being represented. This is because to the victims of terrorism the perpetrators are terrorist while to the perpetrators terrorism is an act targeted at reforming or enforcing change.

c. **Other cause of Insecurity in Nigeria** are thus: Religious conflict and moral values, Armed violence and Drug Abuse. The alcohol drug abuse-violence nexus present itself in several different facets; alcohol and other drugs of abuse may act on brain mechanisms that cause a high-risk individual to engage in aggressive and violence behavior. Individual with costly heroin or cocaine habits may commit violent crimes to severe the resources for further drug purchases.

**Child trafficking:** according to the protocol to prevent suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (2000), child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation transfer, harboring or receipts of children for exploitation. Other causes of insecurity include: unemployment, marginalization, poverty, militancy, kidnaping, electoral violence, class inequality and discrepancy, social differentiation, opposition and oppressed group, ethnocentrism just to mention a few.

### **Implications of the Nigeria Insecurity**

Insecurity has been identified as one of the obstacles bedeviling human society (Igbuzor, 2011). The social virus has been variously concerned in term of vision expression, value change, moral development, social reorganization or transformational process toward a desired future or better world. Development is unsustainable when an enlargement of human choice excludes, disconnects, promotes inequality reflects imprudence or raises insecurity.

Development is the primary goal of every well-meaning government and it is essentially dependent on the level of economic activities in a country. Security and development are related in the sense that being a public good, the imperative to maintain security competes with other public goods such as health, education infrastructure for public funds. Expenditures on

security are therefore essential component of the development process. Insecurity therefore, becomes a drain on local and national resources at the expenses at the development and people well- being thereby having adverse consequences on economic growth and development (Nweagboso, 2012).

Thus, in the absence of any real threats to security, expenditures on security can be reduced significantly, allowing national channel to improve quality of life of the people. The security forces will be relegated to background and overthrown through which the country would become ungovernable to rule as well as to protect lives and property of the citizens.

### **Human Security Theory**

Theory of human security had become dominant since the mid-1990s. Despite these seemingly positive outlooks, the concept remains contested and is often described as ambiguous because of its wide coverage and analytical relevance Fukuda – Parr and Messineo, 2012. The concept of human security is a comprehensive one that goes beyond the confines of state-centered security and its primary or unitary focus on the state actor and the use force for territorial rather than individual gain. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 66/290 defines it as an approach to assist member states in identifying and addressing widespread as cross-cutting challenges to the survival livelihood and dignity of the people.

Theory of human security which people centered, dynamic, comprehensive, context- specific, multi-medium prevention and solution-oriented will be useful in understanding contextualizing, preventing or solving insecurity issues. Human security will give us the leverage to look beyond the application of force. It also allows us to approach insecurity as development or sustainable development challenge that cab be addressed via a good governance perspective that admits resource Justice in resource-rich nation as an abiding criterion. Human security is broad enough to encompass state security, individual and group security, environmental security, physical security (Fakuda-parr and Messineo, 2012).

### **Social Disorganization Theory**

Social disorganization refers to the inadequacies or failures in a social system of interrelated statuses and roles such that the collective purposes and individual objectives of its members are less fully realized than they could be in an alternative workable system. Sharma (2019) social organization is relative and matter of degree. It is not tied to an absolute standard located in some platonic empyrean but to a standard of what, so far as the know, could be accomplished under attainable conditions.

Devendra (2019), posits that social organization, or community or society disorganized in some degree, we mean that the structure of statuses and roles is not as effectively organized as it, then and there might be. This requires the sociological judge to supply competent evidence that the actual organization of social life can under attainable conditions be technically improved to make for the more evidence is no easy task. The composite of faults in the normative and relational structure of social system described as social disorganization can be thought of as inadequacies in meeting one or more of the functional requirements of the

system. The social system is inadequately related to its environment, neither controlling it nor adapted to it. The structure of the system does not allow sufficiently for its members to attain the goals which are its raison d'être.

Similarly, social disorganization superimposed on a clogged line of communication and often contributing to lapses of communication is the structural circumstance that enlarges the potential for social disorganization. People may thus work at cross purposes even though or precisely because they are living up to the requirements and values of their respective positions in the society. Disorganization stems also from faulty arrangements of competing social demands upon people who inevitably occupy a variety of statuses in society. Vadaackumchery (2017) posits that this often gives rise to the familiar clash of the multiple statuses that call for contradictory behaviour. When the social system fails to provide for a widely shared among these potentially conflicting obligations, the individuals subject to them experience strains, with their behavior often becoming unpredictable and socially disruptive. The fault in the objective, not the moral sense, lies in the inept organization of potentially conflicting obligations, not in the ineptitude of the people confronted with these conflicts. The problems involved in disorganization arise not from people failing to live up to the requirements of their social statuses, as in the case with deviant behavior, but from the faulty organization of these statuses into a reasonably coherent social system. Therefore, the paper adopts social disorganization as a theoretical framework because it holds a view that society is disorganized and dis-integrates as a result of system failure, institutional mal-functions and social incoherence in the society.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The insecurity challenge in Nigeria has become a national anthem, threats and woes across the social setting, community and it is an embodiment to the government. Meanwhile, there are a lot of governance challenges facing the polity which have trickled into the society due to dissatisfaction and unabated corruption in the system. Insecurity has hindered developments and it constitutes a threat to the country. Many productive lives have been lost, available ones are displaced and live in constant fears and pain of the loss of loved ones. Security bleeding has scared away the investors from the country, all the institutions, agencies are equally points of target and attacks of terrorists and other hoodlums. The growing discomfort and distress within the larger society with the high unemployment rate, economic crisis, pauperization of the masses and futile national integration.

There is an urgent need for paying lip-service to the matter of insecurity in Nigeria by government and its representatives in sitting on a time – bomb that may soon explode. Therefore, government needs to fight insecurity so as to create a conducive environment for the citizens. The paper recommends synergy and collaboration among security experts for adequate integration of the nation. There is a need for protection and emergency response on the rising state of insecurity and management.



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