

Kidnapping Terrorism and Political Violence, Implication for Strategic Security Management in Nigeria

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Abstract

The way out of socio-economic crisis in Nigeria is clear; that Nigeria must create institutional structure and the relevant social conditions which will make it very difficult for any person to ride into national power on a tribal horse which will polarize the country with the associated vices of socio-economic significance. Okadigbo (June 30th 1986).

Kidnapping, terrorism and political violence are product of political instability occasioned by ethnic politics which would be intellectually criminal to gloss (those points of friction) that are responsible for the rise and fall of government (*A paper entitled: political leadership in Nigerian presented to a seminar at the centre for west African studies, university of Birmingham on November 191995*).

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Kidnapping, is the taking away of a person against the persons will, usually for ransom or in furtherance of another crime. The all pervasive nature of indiscriminate violence, where bombs goes off in a public place, the hijacking of an air craft, where innocent people are held at a ransom to achieve political ends etc. The manipulation and loss of innocent life have become common place and it constitutes terrorism around the world. This being done to achieve political goals, which they believe, that the political systems will never respond to their political demands, except through the justification of violence related activities.

In Nigeria the examples of political violence includes Wars, Police brutality, Torture, Genocide and Capital punishment etc.

Boko Haram is just been added to the list and hence a new lexicon. The concept of strategic security management implies all measures that are taken, to protects a places or to ensure that only people with permission enters or leave a given place to ensure the protection of life's and property in a given jurisdiction.

The concept of policing will as a matter of necessity and relevant will be introduced to make the discussion clearer. The term violence is a common means used by people and government around the world to achieve political goals. It is a common knowledge that several groups and individual believe that their political system will never response to their political demand and as a result they believe that violence is not only justified but necessary in order to achieve their political objective.

2. DISCUSSION

In our attempt to understand the concept strategic security management, the role Police and functions of the Nigerian Police Force would need to be X-rayed alongside with the strategic security network in Nigeria.

The Nigeria Police Force is designated by section 194 of the 1979 constitution (as amended) as the national of Nigeria with exclusive jurisdiction throughout the country. A situation where informal relationships and sanctions prove in sufficient to establish and maintain a desired social order, a Government or a State may impose more formalized or stricter systems of social control. Using the institutional and legal machinery at their disposal, agents of the state can compel populations to conform to codes and can opt to punish or attempt to reform those who do not conform. One can view criminalization as a procedure deployed by society as a preemptive, harm-reduction device, using the treat of punishment as a deterrent to anyone proposing to engage in the behavior causing harm. The State becomes involved because governing entities can become convinced that the costs of not criminalizing (through allowing the harms to continue unabated) outweigh the costs of criminalizing it (restricting individual liberty for example, to minimize harm to others). In this case, criminalization becomes a way to set the price one must pay to society for certain actions considered detrimental to society as a whole. An extreme view might see criminalization as State-sanctioned revenge. States control the process of criminalization because:

1. Even if victims recognize their own role as victims, they may not have the resources to investigate and

- seek legal redress for the injuries suffered: the enforcers formally appointed by the state often have better access to expertise and resources.
2. The victims may only want compensation for the injuries suffered, while remaining indifferent to a possible desire for deterrence.
 3. Fear of retaliation may deter victims or witness of crimes from taking any action. Even in policed societies, fear may inhibit from reporting incidents or from co-operating in a trial.
 4. Victims, on their own, may lack the economics of scale that could allow them to administer a penal system, let alone to collect any fines levied by a court.
 5. V Garoupa and Klerman (2002) warn that a rent-seeking government has as its primary motivation to maximize revenue and so, if offenders have sufficient wealth, a rent-seeking government will act more aggressively than a social-welfare-maximizing government in enforcing laws against minor crimes (usually with a fixed penalty such as a parking and routine traffic violations), but more laxly in enforcing laws against major crimes.
 6. As a result of the crime, victims may die or become incapacitated.

3. CONCEPTUALISED ROLE OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY NETWORK.

The NPF performed conventional police functions and was responsible at inception for *internal security generally*, for supporting the prison, immigration, and customs services; and for performing military duties within or outside Nigerian as directed. Police officers were not usually armed but were issued weapons when required for specific missions or circumstances. They were often deployed throughout the country, but in 1989 Babangida announced that a larger number of officers would be posted to their native areas to facilitate police-community relations.

The role of the police as a formal institution in a given society is to prevent and control criminal activities for a stable society, in order words peaceful co-existence of humanity. That is to make the society governable for the benefit of all. It fails to recognize the social context within which the police perform their role in crime prevention and control. It may also fail to have cogitation of the relative nature of any human behavior or activities of which the police performance is only a part. This is because with the society social actions definition of the role of Police seems parochial and quite different from what it ought to be.

Minig and Maanew (1978) argued that the role of police is best understood as a mechanism of distribution of non-negotiable coercive force employed in accordance with the dictates of an inducts grasp of the situational exigencies.

The police protect lives and properties of the public. Looking at importance of the police in administration of criminal justice system of a society, it is observed that there would be a state of anarchy where ‘survival of the fittest reigns supreme’ in the absence of the Police in a society, Appadona (1978).

This justifies why the colonial masters insisted in the institutionalization of the Force and the continual preservation. According to police Annual Report 1995, for example, 24 hours patrol with different forms of system and purchase of modern crime prevention and control equipment like communication gadgets, walkie talkie sets, etc. But despite all the efforts being made, crime is still on the increase and tragic thing in that, new dimension of it are being introduced yearly into the society such as 419 syndromes, hire assassination, terrorism, etc. The crime record obtained in the 1990 Police Annual Report connotes crime increase in the Nigeria and violent crime is currently being recorded; it is therefore the role of the police to check these activities. To this end, Odekuwe (1978) argued that “force is the best determined by the amount and quality of protection is offers and the degree of confidence and cooperation it enjoys from average citizens. Furthermore, he argued that “the police are support, primary responsibility for the control, investigation and detection of crime as well as the apprehension of suspects. Their honesty, integrity and observance of procedural law in handling offences have deep implications for the final outcome of cases for people’s liberty and the degree of respect the average citizen has for them”. The major defect of this study is the fact that it is restricted in its findings to only the roles the police perform in crime prevention and control and characteristics of a good policeman which is internal, but fall to emphasis on the external factors that make up a good policeman like equipment for crime control, welfare of the police personnel, etc.

Cowley (1979) observed that teamwork between the community and the police is needed to roll back crime. The most efficiently administered policy agency will falter, unless the community it serves generally supports it. Conversely, a supportive of police agency is incompetent vigorous cooperation in necessary, even through the statement above tells us the necessary of cooperation between the police and members of the public for the success has not given us clue of how the police and community could work as a team to fight crime.

Similarly, Carley (1978) argued that for any community to avoid crime, the authorities must respect the right of the citizenry by providing them job opportunity, shelter and human dignity which the citizenry deserve from the state. It is then the police can get maximum cooperation from the citizenry. The major defects of this question is that it fails to tell us how human dignity can be achieved and how shelter and job can be created to citizens

which at long run will create cooperation between the police and the members of public.

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This can pave way for effective crime prevention and control. This study will attempt to reveal or unveil how human dignity will be achieved and consequently provide data to evaluate the extent at how this area affected the role of the police in crime

Tanimu (1969) pointed out that “the loyalty of his state directly proportional to the degree to which the latter is able to protect him. Taken in its broadest sense, such portion covers the preservation of lives and properties of the people against threat”. The basic problem of the above statement is that is that it fails to tell us how the Government can be a supportive body to the police. Besides, Charles (1981) observes that “the detection, prevention and suppression of crime had traditionally been accepted as one unfortunately police performance is often judged on the basis of incidence of crime in a community. This study stresses one of the fundamental duties of the police in any given society, be it a totalitarian system or democratic system, but it has failed to intimate us of those who judge the police performance. Is it the government or the members of the public? And even why the police is being judged on the incidence of crime in such community. Odekunle (1978) asserts that “police are the officials most proximate to crime. They are supposed to be the primary responsible for the prevention, investigation and apprehension of suspects” He questioned “does the NPF have valid and reliable information about crime and criminals in the country” It has no adequate equipment and expert aids in the field of crime prevention and control. For this reason, police have not really contributed and of course contributing minimally to crime prevention and control of the country and this explains the reasons for the mobilization of the army as Joint Tax Force (JTF) to quell militancy activities in several parts of the country.

4. SOME NOTABLE CRIMES AND VIOLENCE RECORDED IN NIGERIA THE 2009 NIGERIA RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE

Religious violence resulted in at least 150 deaths in two days after a series of attacks on 26 July 2009 in several Nigerian cities. Bauchi in Bauchi State, Maiduguri in Borno State, Potiskum in Yobe State and Wudil have all been attacked. Witnesses now claim over 250 people are dead. Nigeria claims that most of the dead are militants.

4.1 THE BOKO HARAM VIOLENCE

The battles began on 26 July when Boko Haram a Militant Islamist organization, attacked a police station in retaliation for the arrest of its leaders. Police responded with their own retaliation and a curfew fell on the area. The attacks spread and by the next day corpses were located at police station, people were fleeing their homes and some were being pulled from their cars to be shot dead as police stations burned to the ground. Nigerian troops then surrounded the home of Mohammed Yusuf in Maiduguri on 28 July after his followers barricaded themselves inside. It is the worst sectarian violence the country has experienced since November 2008. It has been suggested that politics, not religion, is the cause of the violence. Crimes and various forms of criminalities the more recent being unwanted killings, kidnapping and other acts of terrorism, such as the phenomenon of ethnic militancy, rebellion and other politically induced conflicts tends to become a norm and has adversely affected the societies of both developed as well as developing countries **comparing** the quality of life, threatening human rights and fundamental freedom and posing a serious challenge to the community. No country has remained unaffected, although the level and intensity of the problem might vary nation to nation.

4.2 THE BOKO HARAM PHENOMENON

Boko Haram was founded as an indigenous Salafist group, turning itself into a Salafist Jihadist group in 2009. The term “Boko Haram” comes from the Hausa word book meaning “western education” and the Arabic word haaram figuratively meaning “sin” (literally, “forbidden”). The name loosely translated from Hausa ,means “western education is forbidden”. The group earned this name due to its strong opposition to anything Western, which it sees as corrupting Muslims. It proposes that interaction with the Western World is forbidden, and also supports opposition to Muslim establishment and the government of Nigeria.

Jamatu’atu Ahis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal-Jihad), better known by its Hausa name Boko **Haram** is a violent jihadist terrorist organization based in the northeast of Nigeria. It is an Islamist movement which strongly opposes manmade laws. Founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2001 or 2002, the organization is a Jihadist group that seeks to establish Sharia law in the country. The group is also known for attacking Christians and bombing churches. The movement, whose name in Hausa language, BokoHaram, translates as western education is sinful”, is divided into three factions. In 2011, Boko Haram was responsible for at least 450 killings in Nigeria. It was also reported that they had been responsible for over 620 deaths over the first 6 months of 2012.

5 BOKO HARAM AND THE SECURITY CHALLENGE.

The group became known internationally following sectarian violence in Nigeria in July 2009 which left over 1000 people dead. They do not have a clear structure or evident chain of command. Moreover, it is still a matter of debate whether Boko Haram has links to terror outfits outside Nigeria and its fighters have frequently clashed with Nigeria’s central government. A US commander stated that Boko Haram is likely linked to AQIM

CalQaeda in Islamic Magrerb). The group publicly extols its ideology despite the fact that its founder and former leader Muhammad Yusuf was himself a highly educated man who lived a lavish life and drove a Mercedes Benz. The members of the group do not interact with the local Muslim population and have carried out assassinations in the past of anyone who criticizes it, including Muslims clerics. In the town of Maiduguri, where the group was formed, the residents dubbed it as Boko Haram.

6 THE IMPLICATIONS

The security implication of the incident of Boko Haram is such that there is emergence of ethnic militia in other parts of the country. It is for these reasons that the security situation of the country has become so fragile coupled with the ongoing political situation that continues to unfold.

It is imperative to note that the present administration is poised to deal decisively with the situation and has commenced liaison security network with the British Government and the United States government to launch new initiatives to counter the insurgents. The British government has already launched a new initiative to fight terrorism.

According to the BBC report, this initiative will involve “real life versions of the scientist Q in the 007 films”, getting funding for gadgets to defeat groups like alQaeda.

7 CONCLUSION

The above situation compromises the security situation of this nation called Nigeria as a result the federal Government has no alternative than to seek international assistance to nip the insurgency in the bud before it escalates beyond this as described above. It is for this reason that the initiative called innovative science and technology in counter-terrorism (INSTINCT) and it is part of the broader science and technology counter terrorism strategies known as (contents) The American levels of surveillance considered acceptable alongside the omnipresent Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera are so effective in combating crime and terrorism. This is why the Nigeria Government is going into alliance with the American Government to deal with the situation. It is however being argued that the effectiveness of the CCTV camera has recently become a debate in UK (United Kingdom) London in particular as it was alleged that 80% of crimes in London remain unresolved in spite of the over ten thousand official CCTV cameras in use for public surveillance. In the United States of America new technologies have been deployed to detect any hostile intentions. According to Admiral Lord West, the British counter terrorism minister recently mentioned on the BBC that they were other initiatives which include countering Cyber terrorism and investigating how to intercept new methods of communication terrorism. All these advances have had a new initiative at the world level to respond to terrorism, Kidnapping and other political violence through the use of technology. It is however remain a challenge to the African Nation in general and Nigeria in particular.

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