

A Purview into the Historical Development of Terrorism in Nigeria

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Abstract

This study of Nigeria history of terrorism is a retrospective study and much more a re-occurrent issue in the contemporary time. The act of terrorism, being existed or has happened in most countries of the world, by various unidentified groups with the use of powerful weapons has now graduated to making use of individual as instrument, differently; still targeting civilians deliberately, government representatives, government buildings, aeroplanes or ships belonging to a particular country etc., politically religiously motivated. The act of terrorism in Nigeria is a borrow idea of what's going on in international arena. The effect of the clamour for the America independence was the successive result of the French revolution. Most of the terrorist attack in various parts of the world produces result, except few that fails.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing state of insecurity, terror and man-made destruction of lives and properties in our world today has become very worrisome and heart breaking that it has gained global attention, prompting various security organizations sleeping with one eye open. Terrorism refers to political violence that targets civilians deliberately and indiscriminately. Beyond this basic definition, other criteria can be applied, but the definitions become politically motivated - one person's freedom fighter is another's terrorist. More than guerrilla warfare, terrorism is a shadowy world of faceless enemies and irregular tactics marked by extreme brutality.¹

In some cases, terrorism has been a means to carry on a conflict without realizing the nature of the treat thereby mistaking terrorism for criminal activity. Sometimes, terrorism emerged in the course of agitation for something, probably, for the following reason-**Political, Economic, Social, Change of government through military coup defeat, so also religious conflict; in order to enforce a particular religion on the people and never to be forgotten is the Cultural Conflict or Ideological Conflict** which leads to terrorism or war. Although terrorism is now new in the real sense of the world, it can be relatively hard to define. It has been described variously as "Tact", "Strategy", and a "Crime", "a Holy Duty", a justified reaction to oppression and an inexcusable abomination. Attempting a definition of terrorism therefore depends on whose point of view is being represented. "The Russian President, Vladimir Puttin(2005), has consistently portrayed Moscow's War in Bhechnya as a struggle against terrorism so that he would not be outdone by other world leaders"²The United States Department of Defense defines terrorism as "the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological." Within this definition, there are three key elements-violence, fear, and intimidation-and each element produce terror in its victims.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uses this: "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government the civilian population or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives." Putin joined in their condemnation of terrorism, while commenting on the death of the Chechnya leader, Aslan Maskhador, Putin said that the Kremlin has eliminated the "President of the Chechen terrorists" and that a source of 'evil' has been eradicated.³The U.S. Department of State defines "terrorism" to be "premeditated politically-motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.

The United Nations produced this definition in 1992; "An anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by (semi-) clandestine individual, group or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby- in contrast to assassination - the direct targets of violence are not the main targets". The conceptualization of terrorism is as difficult as the attempt to criminalize it in law. And the reason is that there is an overwhelming political dose in the motivation of the terrorist is often so marred by controversy that the resultant definition is seen to be an imposition which either oversimplifies or distorts the issues, this is more so because:

The label is a loaded one, especially controversial when applied to those struggling on behalf of a nationalist cause. There had been many conversations with Arab leaders who argued that anti- Israeli groups like Hamas

and Hezbollah shouldn't be considered terrorists because their struggle to recover lost Arab land had legitimacy ... They are only doing what American patriots did in their war for independence against Britain.⁴ Terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. The strategy of terrorists is to commit acts of violence that draws the attention of the local populace, the government, and the world to their cause. The terrorists plan their attack to obtain the greatest publicity, choosing targets that symbolize what they oppose. The effectiveness of the terrorists act lies not in the act itself, but in the public's or government's reaction to the act. Terrorism refers to political violence that targets civilians deliberately and indiscriminately. It is politically motivated violence terrorism is the threat or the act of such violence, primarily against the civilians. Terror is not against the victims themselves but intended against larger, related communities living within and across national boundaries. During the past-cold war era, terrorist graduated from rag-tag groups into sophisticated organizations, even the 16th, 17th centuries most puritanical groups has harness its forces. The contemporary terrorists groups have become resilient by developing overseas support and operational networks. Terrorism is basically, just a means of leverage, it's different from total war or guerrilla war. Indeed, terrorism and guerrilla war often occur together. In the past, terrorism has occurred in the Middle East, Europe and South Asia, so also in the United States of America in the recent times. Generally the purpose of terrorism is to demoralize a civilian population in order to use its discontent as leverage on national, government or other parties to a conflict, related to this is the aim of creating drama in order to gain media attention for a cause.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The main purpose of this study is to:

- i. Highlight the trend of terrorism attack in the country – Nigeria
- ii. Understanding terrorism, National and transnational organized crimes.
- iii. Showcase how Nigerians has witnessed various attack or assassination in the acts of terrorism and effort at combating it.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Events on terrorism cannot be covered completely, we are limited to what happened around us except it is covered by the telecast or radio, in order to put it down, this is one of the limitations during the course of this research. Many schools of thoughts have written much on the topic internationally and locally as well, albeit the course of study dwells on Nigeria only.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is Nigeria based because the various significant occurrences that has taken place in the name of Nigeria both home and abroad which cannot be overemphasized in the aspect of terrorism- politically, economically, religiously and militarily. During this period, the effect of terrorism was felt both nationally and internationally. Then, the emergence of terrorism both international and transnational occurred, in which Nigeria was deeply involved. By the year 2010, because of such strong cases of terrorism, Nigeria was named one of the terrorist countries and their absorbers in which she was trying to dodge the accusations. On the international scene, event on Christmas Day of December 25th, 2009 a 23 year old Nigerian –Usmar Farouk Abdul Mutallab attempted to detonate an incendiary device aboard a flight bound for Detroit, is a terrorist attack had the mission succeeded and in the subsequent year, the event kept repeating itself. The bombing, on Nigeria Independence Day celebration, Oct 1st, 2010 by Movement for the Emancipation of Nigeria Democracy (MEND) is a terrorist act; an occasion where there were presidents, diplomats, government agents from other parts of the world sited.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main research instrument used in this study is the secondary source of information which consists mainly of books, magazines and articles, etc.

Empirical findings

Few books were used in carrying out this research work and the books were also used as guidelines to the completion of the research work. Emeka Okereke(2010) (*Nigerian Journal of International Affairs*) in his Articles, *Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crimes in West Africa*, he relates thoroughly how “the threats of terrorism and incidences of transnational organized crimes in West Africa have emerged as critical challenges that threaten the security of states in the sub-region. Such crimes as Drug Trafficking, money laundering and terrorist financing, Advance free fraud, human trafficking, sea piracy, piracy of intellectual property, smuggling and cross border robberies among others exert immense pressures on the stability of states and sub- regional peace and security in West Africa. He stressed further, that. He stressed further, that the enormity of these threats has compelled national governments in the sub – region to intensify measures towards combating these challenges. However, the efforts of many states in West Africa to combat the associated security challenges are constrained by institutional weaknesses and fragility of states”. The spread of terrorism from major cities of the world i.e. from European nations to Africa in general vis-à-vis North, South East and West in recent times is rampant and cannot be quantified, and as the terrorist emerges times after times, they come up with news ideas daily.⁵

Fred Aja Agwu(2007), in his book – *WORLD PEACE through WORLD LAW* (The dilemma of the United Nations Security Council), 2007 highlighted the events that took place on the acts of terrorism on two accounts when Nigeria / state sponsor terrorism has emerged both international and transnational. He shed more light on how the first event involved the Nigerian state while the second involved a disaffected Nigerian insurgent group. Nigerian state was involved in international terrorism when Buhari / Idiagbon military regime that toppled the Shagari government and therefore declared Alhaji Umaru Dikko, the minister of transport wanted in connection with the massive corruption and also how Dikko was drugged and crated to be flown back to Nigeria in Nigeria Airways Boeing 707 aircraft but was intercepted by the Anti-Terrorist C13 unit of Scotland Yard. He also narrated the second transnational terrorist incident which involved a politically disaffected Nigerian group took place while the annulment of the June12, 1993 presidential election of late business mogul, M.K.O. Abiola and how the group planned to hijack a plane, Nigeria Airbus A310, with 139 passengers – the group called Movement for the Advancement of Democracy (MAD). He also explained further the remote and immediate causes of all these events, some countries that has practiced such illegal action as in Libya, France and America in the course of fighting for independence of rather politically motivated.⁶

Professor Charles Adenrele Alade(2001), *Terrorism or the Right to Self – Determination: The Russo – Chechnya war revisited* this book served as a shadow of remote past events, in various countries of the European World and transcend to Africa in which Nigeria is no exception. He hereby reveals what people or the world term as terrorism, so uneasy to define he also opines that “Although not all such acts have been defined as terrorism.”⁷

Most terrorist attack involves conventional fire-arms and explosive. The head or leader of the Al-Qaeda Terrorist group was Osama Bin Laden, the founder and an undisputed leader for over 30 years. He was believed to have been behind numbers of atrocities committed in bombing of U.S. Embassies in East Africa and the attack on New York and Washington, on 11th September, 2001.⁵

It is interesting also to point out here that governments and states engage in terrorist activities to accomplish the objectives of state or individual rulers. There are three ways that states can engage in the use of terror.

- Government or states terror (terror from above)
- State Involvement in terror
- State Sponsorship of terror

Government / State Terror

This is where a government terrorizes its own population to control or repress them. These actions usually constitute the acknowledged policy of the government, and make use of official institutions such as the judiciary, police, military and other government agencies. Changes to legal codes permit or encourage torture, killing or property destruction in pursuit of government policy.

Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons on his own Kurdish population without any particular change or expansion of policies regarding the use of force on his own citizens. They were simply use in an act of governmental terror believed to be expedient in accomplishing his goals.⁶

State Involvement in Terror

These are activities where government personnel carry out operations using terror tactics. These activities may be directed against other nations’ interests, its own population, or private groups or individuals viewed as dangerous to the state. In many cases, these activities are terrorism under official sanctions, although such authorization is rarely acknowledged openly. Historical examples include the Soviet and Iranian assassination campaigns against dissidents who had fled abroad, Libya and North Korean intelligence operatives downing airlines on international flights.⁷

Another type of these is “death Squad” or “war veterans”: unofficial actions taken by official or functionaries of a regime (such as members of police or intelligence organizations) against or functionaries of a regime against their own population to repress or intimidate. While these officials will not claim such activities, and disguise their participation, it is often made clear that they are acting for the state. Keeping such activities “unofficial” permits the authorities deniability and avoids the necessity of changing legal and judicial processes to justify oppression. This is different than “pro-state” terror, which is conducted by groups or persons with no official standing and without official encouragement. While pro-state terror may result in positive outcomes for the authorities, their employment of criminal methods and lack of official standing can result in denial and punishment of the terrorists, depending on the morality of the regime in question.

State Sponsorship of Terrorism

Also known as “state supported” terrorism, when governments provide supplies, training and other forms of support is the provision of safe haven or physical basing for the terrorists’ organization. Another crucial service a state sponsor can provide is false documentation, but also for financial transactions and weapons purchases. Other means of support are access to training facilities and expertise not readily available to groups without extensive resources. Finally, the extension of diplomatic protections and services, such as immunity from extradition, diplomatic passports, use of embassies and other protected grounds and diplomatic pouches to transport weapons or explosives have been significant to some groups.⁸

TERRORISM IN NIGERIA

POLITICALLY:

Nigeria's experience in the act of terrorism was minimal before and after the independence in the quest for nationalism in the country from the former colonial master-Britain. There were radical and conservative nationalist; although with different ideologies but both pursuing the same goals in aiming at achieving independence for Nigeria.

There was in small measure of domestic and minority insurrection and agitations where people at times made peaceful demand in the late 1950's while all little forms of terrorism died a natural death, when Nigeria emerged as an independent nation in October 1st 1960. *Paul Wilkinson(1972)* ,exclaimed that "political terrorism is seen as the systematic use of threat of violence to secure political goals"¹.

Politics play greater role contributes in no small measure as one of the causation or factors of terrorism, for it is usually, politically motivated, there about transcend and manifest in other spheres of the state. It contributes in the courses of change of government in Nigeria after independence when the first coup' de tat took place in 1966 and these repeated itself severally in the subsequent years as the military forced themselves into power, through terror and most times coup' de tat goes along with shedding blood. *Edward Hyans (1975)* argues that, "it is the use of terror by political militants as a means of over throwing government in power or forcing that government to change its policies."²

Aspirant to Governorship, Presidency, Chairmanship and Honourables in the house of representative and assembly most often tried every means to get to that position trough crooked way or other, killing their opponent or contendant in order to be the only beneficiary by also sending hired-killers or terrorists to kill or threaten one another.

During and after election period in Nigeria, the people of the country were always in a condition of "closing one eye and opening down the other" because of the chaos usually caused by political tugs who goes for stealing ballot papers, kidnapping of the masses for rituals, burning of houses, this call for event of political riot in western regions of Nigeria in 1964 called "Operation Wet E" as well as regions in Nigeria when party loyalists or faithful were exhibiting their grievances and dissatisfaction during this time.It was time that crimes of the highest order, terrors were displayed, so as tugs were hired and being paid for nefarious activities.

Mickolus Edward(1977), describes domestic terrorism as a violent by individual or group of nationals within its own nation state while state terrorism consists of violent actions conducted by a nation state within its own borders.³Many regimes, right from the onset of Nigeria's independence where faced with problems. If not terrorized by external forces, the government of the day will be on the neck of the masses such as the regime of Rtd. General Muhammed Buhari, Rtd. General Gbadamosi Babangida, Late General Sanni Abacha (1984 – 1998).

THE BOMBER'S RAGE

Nigeria's experience in the trend of terrorism between 1995 – 1998 was great and unexplainable.Series of went leading to dropping of bombs into the cars, sending of parcel containing letter bomb which affected Dele Giwa, the director of Newswatch Magazine leading to this death in 1986.So also, bomb takes lives at family support launch on Tuesday may 30th 1995 in the ancient city of Kano, news had it that 30persons were murdered with over 20 cars and 70 motor-cycles damages

Also, bomb explosion rocks durbar hotel on Thursday, January 18th 1996 and the time was about 4:25p.m when a pound man was suspected to have some into the hotel to plant a bomb in one of the hotel's toilets was blown to pieces by the device.

Blast at Kano airport: this involved the son of the past president and commander of the armed forces Late General Sanni Abacha on January, 17th 1996, the son died in a plane crash at a result of the plantation of parcel bomb which blast at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport.

Explosion at Ikeja militant cantonment on Saturday, April 13th 1996, the explosive device that caused the blast was reported concealed in Peugeot 504, wagon car parked at the market by an unidentified person(s). The blast allegedly damaged four cars including one belonging to the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) then, now Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN).

Car bomb explosion at Lagos airport- the news was shocking as anyone could imagine. Car bomb explosion in Nigeria? On the 14th day of November, 1996, a few tabloids came out with a story that three persons had been killed in car bomb explosion along Muritala Mohammed Airport one of local airport link road, the victims was late Dr. Shola Omoshola who had just been promoted to an assistant general mayor position a few weeks before the incident, though not many Nigeria from those who worked with him.⁴

There are other political crises, terrorist acts, state riots in the course for achieving democracy and transitional programme in Nigeria, so also, the annulment of the best election Nigeria ever had had and the killing of the winner – Late Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola and his wife for the cancelling of the election on June 12th 1993.

PURSUIT FOR SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF NIGER DELTA REGION IN NIGERIA

In order to establish the premise for a good understanding of what constitutes terrorism and who can engage in the terrorist activities, *Juliet lodge* (1981) shares that “the resort to violence for political ends by unauthorized, non-governmental actors in breach of accepted codes of behavior regarding the expression of dissatisfaction with dissent, from or opposition to the pursuit of political goals by the legitimate authorities of the state whom they regard as unresponsive to the needs of certain group of people.”⁵

The struggle for socio-political and economic integration of the people of Niger Delta region of Nigeria by the Leader-Late Ken Saro Wiwa was cut down by former Late General Sanni Abacha when the man was arrested and hang by the judicial authority; in the course of fishing for justice over Niger Delta issues. Since then, from late part of 1995, fighting, kidnapping, hostage taking has never seized in the region. These people felt cheated that the government of Nigeria refuses to improve the basic necessity and the infrastructure in their region where the main dependent and economic resources of the country-Nigeria is being tapped on daily basis. This results to chaos, terrorism on the high side, contending with the government officials and armed militancy, so as oil terrorism was not left out, tampering with the oil pipeline which belongs to Shell Petroleum and Development Company in December, 2005; attack on a Chevron Oil supply vessel, *Lourdes tide*, with 11 crew on board.⁶

Recently, militant attacked more Chevron facilities at Abiteye flow station in response to the militancy operations of the Joint Task Forces of Nigeria militancy nicknamed “Operation Restore Hope”.⁷

The battle or struggle continued till the subsequent years, during the regime of President Musa Yar’dua who scheduled Niger Delta crisis and resolving method as one of his manifestation in 2007 it was this era that the terrorist in that region were placed on monthly salary and posed for laying/dropping down of their guns for settlement. A report from the United States Federal Bureau Of Investigations (FBI) insist that African Criminal gangs predominantly originated from Nigeria, but also with some criminal groups operating from other African countries, such as Ghana and Liberia. Nigeria Criminal Enterprises are some of the most aggressive and expansionist International Criminal Groups.⁸

Nigeria’s Delta unrest’, the International Crisis Group, ICG, argued that a “potent cocktail of poverty, crime and corruption is fuelling a militant threat to Nigerian’s reliability as a major oil producer”, and the crudeness of state power.⁹

Terror is terror no matter the level and the size, a car bomb on street and a jet fighter dropping bomb on a tank are both acts of violence that produces terror and death. The famous phrase “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter” is only a way of legitimizing the use of terror by successful revolutionary movements.¹⁰ The bombing in Nigeria Independence Day celebration, on October 1st 2010 by MEND is a terrorist act.

More, on economic aspect of what creates problems in Nigeria, whereby people raise “eyebrow” or clamour for economic integration of their lives or pose for increment of salary in their working places. Right from Nigeria’s independence, our leaders has been mis-managing Nigeria’s fund and it has led to the downwarding of economy. Head parastatals, the past Presidents, Governors, Local Government, Chairman And Councilor, all are involved in syphoning the public fund to their own advantage, this has been leading to poverty, inability to maintain families by the heads, whereby the union has met very often to fight for people’s right and freedoms especially the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and given ALTIMATUM to the Federal Government most times, workers went out for peaceful demonstration, at times leads to riot when the Nigerian police came out to attack them on the order of the government .

So also, youth unemployment leads to the course for them to engage in crime or terrorism while seeking for means of survival, crime becomes the order of the day. Youths often joined gangs perpetrating evil to raise capital so to meet up with their needs. An adage says:”an idle hand is the devil’s workshop” many youths that lacked home-training in this millennium who is computer literate finds solace in computer-robbery, drawing away people’s fund in their accounts if gained opportunity to their bank account number overseas or in the country.

RELIGIOUS ANGLE OF TERRORISM AND ETHNIC CONFLICTS IN NIGERIA

Religion, politics and economy of a state are tied together if it is allowed corroborate. These three items, ties people together in the society.

Nigeria society is full of multi-cultural diversity, with different religion practiced on this ground; the former British colonial master amalgamated both the Northern, Eastern and Southern Nigeria together in 1914, by Sir Fredrick Lord Lugard despite all these features. Surprisingly, after the independence, the northerners that were undoubtedly Islamized majority of the Easterners and Southerners were Christians, apart from other religions could not e, or co-operate together as the religion was creating lots of differences among them. There was a time, the regime of Late General Muritala Ramat Mohammed wanted to sign Nigeria as to become an Islamic state in which some Christian leaders in Nigeria disapproved the motion.

This more has created grievance between the Northerners and Southerners in Nigeria through which religions (Islamic) fanatics of Northern mafias has raised the Talakwa Boys to cause terror or terrorized the people. Most

times, Christian Fought each other in which many churches were burnt, lives and property were destroyed. For the sake of religion, Muslims vent their anger against Christians in the northern Nigeria, especially in Kano, Sokoto, Borno, Maiduguri and Jos- Plateau.

Kaduna and Jos are fortunate to have been christianised by the Missionaries in the past centuries, for this cause, the northern Muslims has been trying all effort to wipe off Christians from the north and make all states over there (North) Islamic states

METSSENE ISLAMIC FANATICS, D'RUL ISLAM AND BOOK HARAM GROUPS

In 1978 to be precise, a group of Islamic fanatics rose to stardom, terrorizing and killing the people in the Northern Nigeria, fighting for the course of Islam. This group were faceless enemies, they used to come out in large number, burnt houses and killed as many people as possible and immediately ran back to their hide out.

Similarly the emergence of another fanatical group called "BOOK HARAM", the contemporary issue at stake, such as been terrorizing the Nigeria all the way from Northern Nigeria and the group has spread their tentacles to every corner of the country Nigeria. Just of recent, the united nation embassy was rocked down with bomb on June 16th 2011.

What was the motive behind all these and the meaning of "Book Haram". The group wants to justify their actions by breaking the bones behind the more of the Americans, getting involved in the affairs of the Islamic countries world wide and most likely cutting off the spread of United States ideologies and anything calls "western station, such as education mode of dressing capitalism, democracy as system of government is refuted.

The groups keep spreading by terrorizing the country through the planting of bomb s everywhere such as the case of the Nigeria police headquarters, Abuja, also at Jos, Ibadan, Ekiti etc. *Grant Wardlaw* (1982) however, declared that some members of society who are bored and or sadistic may terrorise others to express their frustrations; vent their rage, or engage in symbolic acts of protest against society.¹¹

The united state government frowned at this event but Nigeria government quickly called for resolutions immediately; to put the building in order so as not to tarnish her image and cordial relations between Nigeria and United States government.

SPORTS

Terrorism has been emerging in the sport arena from time to time immemorial, especially in football, boxing, judo, wrestling etc. these aspect of sport involves the use of force and energy, so also the aims of the contendants to win and take the trophy. The players do attack one another even at expense of one of the other, his/her target is victory.

At match venue, players collide sometimes or attack one another which lead to death. Such was the case of the late Samuel Okwaraji, (of the blessed memory) at the National Stadium, Surulere, in Lagos (1987), the match between Nigeria and Cameroon.

Grant Wardlaw(1982), posits that individual terrorise actors is portrayed at irrational, driven by a deranged mind and with aims of self-interest or illogical destructiveness.¹²

Spectators attacking players for not playing well or satisfactorily, especially at club level or for their country and victory is not on the side of their favourite at home, therefore, anger is vented on the players, this is vividly observed most times when Nigeria team has encounter with another country in footballing. In this case, players make their engagement very often, "a do or die affair, which not suppose to be; terrorizing one another in football and boxing can not seize. Boxing in many times encounter between two contendants led to death of one among them. The case of one Nigeria boxer who went for engagement in united state died on the ring after which his opponent hit him at first round, it is dreadful!

EDUCATIONAL SECTOR:

Cultism and kidnapping among the students in the Nigerian universities is an aspect of terrorism. Youths are tools or instrument of terrorism, most youth who are in cult graduated from individual devilish orientation to group terrorism, there about join cult or being invited to it while in the university to perpetrate evil such as kidnapping students and lecturers, rapping of girls, killing and threatening of people in the campus, one cult or another fighting each other, so on and so for.

The effort of the Nigerian government and university communities to clamp-down the continuance and spread of cultism in Nigeria can not be over-emphasised. the exigency for cultism and kidnapping to be rooted out in Nigeria is a-day-to-day activities from every individual and the general public, frowning at such character; and the government of Nigeria has been helping through publicity or advertisement at every higher institution, this has helped by not folding hands or putting fingers across by the government of Nigeria, despite cultism is a secret society. Cultism and kidnapping has damaged the lives of many youths in Nigeria and not only that, every cult members had always been on the neck of the non-members around them and they served as terror to the people.

YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE

The agility, power and ability of the youths always contrived them to go ahead for any course of action without weighing or measuring it or even the result, whether it is positive or negative result oriented. Youth are easily

used or penetrated into, despite, youths are the leaders of tomorrow of every nation.

In Nigeria, the past leaders such as Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe, Obafemi Awolowo, Tafawa Balewa; in their hey days were relevant to the society. The youth of today are also expected as such. Nigeria children are well taught by the teachers/lecturers in the academic institution apart from those that are disadvantageous

THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS INCLUDE:

Bombings

Bombings are the most common type of terrorist act. Typically, improvised explosives devices are inexpensive and easy to make. Modern devices are smaller and are harder to detect. They contain very destructive capabilities; for example, on August 7, 1998, two American embassies in Africa were bombed. The bombings claimed the lives of over 200 people, including 12 innocent American citizens, and injured over 5,000 civilians. Terrorists can also use materials that are readily available to the average consumer to construct a bomb.

Kidnapping and Hostage-Takings

Terrorists use kidnapping and hostage-taking to establish a bargaining position and to elicit publicity. Kidnapping is one of the most difficult acts for a terrorist group to accomplish, but if a kidnapping is successful, it can gain terrorists money, release of jailed comrades, and publicity for an extended period. Unlike kidnapping, hostage-taking provokes a confrontation with authorities. It forces authorities to either make dramatic decisions to comply with the terrorists' demands. It is overt and designed to attract and hold media attention. The terrorists' intended target is the audience affected by the hostage's confinement, not the hostage.⁹

Armed Attacks and Assassinations

Armed attacks include raids and ambushes. Assassinations are the killing of a selected victim, usually by bombings or small arms. Drive-by shootings is a common technique employed by unsophisticated or loosely terrorist groups. In the order of political and economic reconstruction of the nation, armed military men attacked the political leaders by assassination - "The Nzeogwu group made for the Premier's Lodge. It was an impregnable castle with a massive iron gate fitted with automatic alarms. Because of this, five rounds of the 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank Recoilless Rifle had to be fired to destroy the gate and gain entrance into the lodge. The Premier, Alhaji Tafawa Balewa resisted arrest and was shot". So also Colonel Shodeinde and Brigadier Ademulegun were also shot dead at Kaduna, in the 1966 Nigeria coup (January 13th).¹⁰

Arsons and Fire Bombings

Incendiary devices are cheap and easy to hide. Arson and fire bombings are easily conducted by terrorist group that may not be as well – organized, equipped, or trained as a major terrorist organizations. Arson or firebombing against a utility, hotel, government building, or industrial center portrays an image that the ruling government is incapable of maintaining order.

Hijackings and Skyjackings

Hijacking is the seizure by force of a surface vehicle, its passengers and / or its cargo. Skyjacking is the taking of an aircraft, which creates a mobile, hostage barricade situation. It provides terrorists with hostage from many nations and draws heavy media attentions.¹¹

Other Types of terrorists Incidents

In addition to the acts of violence discussed above, there are also numerous other types of violence that can exist under framework of terrorism. Terrorist groups conduct maiming against their own people as a form of punishment for security violations, defections, or informing. Terrorists organizations also conduct robberies and extortion when they need to finance their acts and they don't have sponsorship from sympathetic nations. Cyber terrorism is a new form of terrorism that is ever increasing as we rely on computer networks to relay information and provide connectivity to today's modern and fast-paced world. Cyber terrorism allows terrorists to conduct their operations with little or no risk to themselves. It also provides terrorists an opportunity to disrupt or destroy networks and computers. The result is interruption of key government or business-related activities. This type of terrorism isn't as high profile as other types of terrorist attacks, but it's impact is just as destructive.

Terrorism and the use of Weapon of Mass Destruction

Historically, terrorist attacks using Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) weapons have been rare. Due to the extremely high number of casualties that NBC weapons produce, they are also referred to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). However, a number of nations are involved in arms races with neighbouring countries because they view the development of WMD also increases the potential for terrorist groups to gain access to WMD. It is believed that in the future terrorists will have greater access to WMD because unstable nations or states may fail to safeguard their stockpiles of WMD from accidental losses, illicit sales or outright theft or seizure. Determined terrorist groups can also gain access to WMD through covert independent research efforts by hiring technically skilled professionals to construct the WMD.¹²

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The act of terrorism, being existed or has happened in most countries of the world, by various unidentified groups with the use of powerful weapons has now graduated to making use of individual as instrument, differently; still targeting civilians deliberately, government representatives, government buildings, aeroplanes or

ships belonging to a particular country etc., politically religiously motivated.

The act of terrorism in Nigeria is a borrow idea of what's going on in international arena. The effect of the clamour for the America independence was the successive result of the French revolution. Most of the terrorist attack in various parts of the world produces result, except few that fails.

The Nigeria experience of terrorism has adapted back to the pre-independence at the course of fighting for the country's freedoms also the 1964 election result resulted into terrorism. Secessionists to the position of president and government functionaries in the pre-democratic government Nigeria was usually followed with terror. Ethnicity matter and religion also causes problem in Nigeria with ruthless killing between the Muslims and Christians in Nigeria.

The case of Boko Haram, in their belief which defies Western ideologies saying "NO" to European culture i.e. resisting education of the west, their mode of dressing, their technologies in whatever standard at all. All these have been the Nigeria problem till date, which the governments have not been able to tackle, but needs necessary attention. Protection against and preparation of terrorist attacks are needed with the aid and action of the government of Nigeria against the terrorist. No organization or individual can be as powerful or great than the government.

Publicity and the vigilance of ordinary Nigerians can also make a difference, even though, government makes preparations, also analyse defences, they also make plans to attack and defend themselves. External influence (outside Northern Nigeria burdens). Inspection of entries at the Nigeria borders, and those who have gained entry into the country must identify themselves to the government agency in charge of ministry of internal affairs;

The perpetrators of terrorism in the present Nigeria are majorly work force of the religion and politics. So also recommendation can be given in order to achieve good result for both the government and people of Nigeria to collaborate through the means of communication. This is a powerful instrument and tools of at least, checkmate or curb the act of terrorism in the country as the whole world has become one village with the invention of communication instruments.

Terrorism cannot be removed totally in the society as long as man exists, it's termed as wickedness or means of achieving one's aim, to some people. Some feels cheated due to one reason or the other and the means to retaliate is by terror. Some desire a particular, top position and resume to the philosophy of Nicollo MichaiVELH- "the end justifies the means" which simplifies getting there at all cost either through terror. The case and problem cannot be handled by government agencies alone but with the support of the masses, individual preparedness willing ways be required.

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