

Terrorism: A New Challenge to Nigeria`S Stability in the 21st Century

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Abstract

This paper examined the threat and vulnerability to terrorism in Nigeria. This implies the country will react differently, based on its unique perception of the threat. It furthermore implies that the Nigerian interpretation of the reason, threat and impact of terrorism will differ from that of other parts of the world. On the other hand, Nigeria cannot isolate itself from developments relating to the threat of terrorism in other parts of the world because factors such as globalisation, post 9/11, radicalization of religious doctrine, social media networking and the impact of United States, China and Russia`s foreign policies in developing countries directly influence perception, formation and radicalisation that extend beyond national, or even continental borders. Nigeria is a far most populous country in Africa being Africa`s largest oil producer. The religious and political tensions between the main religious populations and ethnic nationalities, inequality and social justice are persistent and often breed political violence. Evidence of successful propagandizing by either side is an explosive source of such violence. The aim of the paper is to find out how Nigeria can tackle the menace of inequality and security challenges that breed terrorism.

Keywords: Religious Radicalization, Political Violence, Inequality, Resource Control Terrorism and Security Challenges

Introduction

The threat of `terrorism` is not peculiar to western countries alone, it`s tentacles are spreading fast like wild fire ready to consume and object close to it. In the past, terrorism was said to have evolved as a direct consequence of the United States and Russia (former Soviet Union) foreign policies towards the world. Their foreign policies were dominated by the strategic need to contain ideological issues communism and capitalism which to a large extent mitigated the potency of human rights, democracy, inequality and social justice. Though the cold war between these powers came to an end, it also provoked broad demands for human rights, poverty reductions, eradicating corruption and other issues taking centre stage in nation`s domestic and foreign policies as a whole to contend with in world politics. The sudden emergence of China as potential superpower also rekindled the century old rivalries between the US and Russia over strategic international relations issues. The issue of domestic terrorism in Nigeria has remained a major problem from beginning of the year 1999. This development has never been witness in any form throughout the year of statehood, the issues of banditry, armed robbery, ritual killing, and fraudulent activities at home or abroad perpetuated by Nigerians, unemployment, breakdown of law and order, poorly managed infrastructural facilities and corruption remains synonymous to Nigeria.

The institutionalization of democratic rule Nigeria and the inabilities of political leaders to address key developmental problems increased the proportion of criminal activities such as kidnapping and blasting of oil pipelines in the Niger Delta region, foresaw the establishment of ethnic militias with the aim of protecting the interest of the regional and cultural identities, politicization of religion, religious fanatics. Other factor such as, unhealthy policies and the impact of satellite TV stations which beam live and sensitive footages to wider viewers of current happenings and the influence of social networking sites also gave rise to domestic feelings to engage in terrorism. This development is not to the best interest of Nigeria, rather the state remains very relax in dealing with the threat of terrorism. According to a CIA report, Nigeria is now becoming a breeding ground for terrorist activities based on the facts on ground. In support to this claim, the US government has occasionally placed Nigeria as a potential terrorist target and urges its citizens to restrict their movements to Nigeria.

The ignorance of the Nigerian authorities to react to this claim by not taking pro-active measures in reducing the risk of terror attack and also pre-emptive measures in identifying, tracing the terrorist networks/cells, sponsors, sympathizers, funding and also liaising with Nigeria`s neighbours on regional security challenges were not feasible. Instead the political leadership and Nigerians debunked the CIA report as counter-productive and capable of harming Nigeria-US relations.

The failed attempt by a young Nigerian to bomb a US bound plane from Amsterdam on Christmas day. And the frequent boko haram (an Islamic sect link to Al Qaeda) insurgences in the northern part of the country became the latest scenario of act of terrorism. The tactics, strategies and mode of operations adopted by these terrorists, are similar and professional in line with terrorist ideologies and practices found elsewhere around the world. Nigeria, as a terrorist nation, the ugly phenomenon has created a new dimension on her image and

credibility with other member of the international community to address the situation, Nigeria had earlier protested and fails to authenticate the CIA report. Nigeria is now in dilemma of terrorism threat and underscores the government response to the threat. This situation has impacted negatively on Nigeria's domestic and foreign policies.

The aims and objectives of this paper is to examine the impact, origin, scale and the threat of terrorism to the corporate stability of Nigeria in the 21st century.

Conceptualizing Terrorism

Dempsey (in 2006) posit that 'terrorism' is a failure of political process that begins with in-equalities, corruption and injustice in a given political system, and moves from a frustrated attempts at reform that breed fear and anger, to political confrontation and conspicuously erupted into violence. This can be exploited to rationalize the use of any form of violence against any target. It seems that solutions to terrorism could be found at any stage of the evolving, or deteriorating political and social processes. This suggests that we must start by understanding the historical context of terrorism.

Historically, 'terrorism' dates back to the first organized human interactions. At minimum, it could be traced back to the period when Jewish zealots and Arab nationalists used terrorism to resist the imperial authority(Romans) by killing many Roman soldiers and destroying Roman property and the Arabs also fight each other (Shiites versus Sunni) over religious doctrine and also revolt against the crusaders by the Arabs. The terrorism of the modern era was conceived as a tool to achieve political and religious goals it began during the French Revolution (1793-1794). During this period, the government of France sponsored terrorism in order to maintain power and suppress opposition to the government according to (Hoffman 1999).

Similarly, the Soviet Revolution in 1917, Lenin and Stalin, evolved government sponsored terrorism as a useful tool to maintain government control. These personalities systematically used the act of terrorism to intimidate and frighten the entire society. To them, both terror and fear were veritable instruments for governmental operations to suppress intimidation and consolidate their positions on power.

In the 20th the act of terrorism was carried out by opposition leftist or rightist political leaders in order to consolidate their influence and authority over the available scarce resources. The dynamic nature of terrorism has now shifted to groups within a political system who are discontented with the socio-political and economic arrangements and ever determine to challenge the existing authority to their advantages. However, going by this development terrorism has been internationalized and domesticated in ever part of the globe.

What is Terrorism?

Most scholars of political violence would agree with Cooper (1978) cited in Dempsey (2006) that the term terrorism poses a problem for academics and policymakers alike. As Cooper notes, terrorism scholars have problem with the definition of this phenomenon, specifically it is a difficultly derived from establishing a clear definition of the kind of problem terrorism characterizes. In other words, political violence represents a social problem, but exactly what that problem is and how to understand it within the confines of sociological theory seemingly escapes the contemporary discussion of terrorism.

Cooper's recognition of such analytic confusion rests on several issues on the impact and conceptually and operationally define the problem of political violence. For example, simplistic definitions of terrorism abound in the literature and are used by various scholars and government agencies (Jenkins, 1983; Laqueur, 1987; FBI, 1999) also cited in Dempsey (2006). These definitions are typically a theoretical and are often analytically defeated by the variants of violence that have come to be categorized under the umbrella term terrorism and within the globalized social dialogue regarding political resistance and mass violence. Likewise, many of these simple definitions are politically loaded and reflect the interests and the power of the defining entity that wishes to delegitimize their opponents in the common avenues of the everyday social dialogue of this problem.

Alternative definitional perspectives on what constitutes "terrorism" do exist and offer some variation in thought over the simplistic definitions that are commonly used (Hoffman 2002). These alternatives typically focus on one sub variety of terrorism (e.g., state terrorism) and they represent viable criticisms of the power dynamics embedded in the labelling process represented in many of the definitions noted above. Due to their limited applicability and singular focus, these alternative definitions do not necessarily fully help to cultivate an understanding of the multiplicity of experiences that should be accounted for when discussing a globalized social problem like terrorism. The simple definitions used by government agencies and some academics, represent political choices about what constitutes the relevant issues and what are acceptable questions for study.

However, a chosen definition of terrorism used by the U.S. State Department, contained in Title 22 of the United States Code, Section 2656f (d). That statute contains the following definitions: "The term 'terrorism' means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national

groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience. The term 'international terrorism' means terrorism involving citizens or the territory of more than one country. The term "terrorist group" means any group practicing, or that has significant subgroups that practice, international terrorism"(Dempsey,2006)

The lack of an acceptable definition of terrorism has also created room for different interpretations of the concept at the domestic level where the label of terrorism has been selectively used by political leaders to target their enemies. In this particular case, the definition of domestic terrorism is so broad that it can be used against any protest group whose activities are deemed to be tantamount to intimidating an incumbent government to change or accept a particular policy. In this manner a self-serving anti-terrorism law could be used as a tool for checking the free exercise of the people's right of dissent or protest. According to Hoffman (2002) domestic terrorism relates to those acts of terrorism that are carried out by persons or local groups within the state that are meant to redress domestic grievances. This is distinct from international terrorism, which relates to terrorist acts by persons, or groups that are external to the affected state and whose objective is to advance an extraterritorial cause.

Terrorism in Africa

Domestic terrorism has a long history in developing countries. The early notable examples of domestic terrorism that occurred in Africa are the Mau-Mau rebellion in Kenya in the 1950s and the Algerian independence struggle from 1950s to early 1960s. It was noticeable from the pre-African independence movements over their colonial opponents and resort to tactics that today would only be described as terrorist in nature. However, some notable African groups that currently use terrorist tactics to achieve their goals include the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda, militia and rebel groups in Sudan, the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tuareg militias in Mali and Niger, Senegal, Nigeria and Somalia. While some of these groups receive considerable support from the local people, the fact is that their tactics sometimes pose a special challenge to existing political, social and economic structures as conceived by Dempsey (2006).

Theory and causes of terrorism

The theoretical effort at understanding terrorism comes from the subfield of collective violence in the field of social science, and indeed, prior to the emergence of criminal justice as a separate discipline in the early 1970s, it can be safely said that social science had a monopoly over theories of terrorism, followed perhaps by other disciplines have also certainly had a role to play with some relevance (Dempsey,2006). Although there are numbers of theoretical postulations that attempted to explain and analyse domestic terrorism in developing world. One theory that stands out to be useful in explaining the phenomenon in the region is the resource mobilization theory.

This theory describes the process by which a group assembles material and non-material resources and places them under collective control for the explicit purpose of pursuing a group's interests through collective action. Collecting resources must be accompanied by mobilization of resources. A group may prosper yet still not contend for power. Four central factors condition the process of mobilization: organization, leadership, political opportunity and the nature of political institutions. Strong horizontal links between members of a group provide the best organizational structure. Leaders who make themselves available to members and take an interest in members' grievances tend to make the best leaders. Political opportunities refer to moments when the "time is ripe" for action, and groups which seize upon such opportunities tend to succeed. Political institutions refer to moments when the existing political parties are weak or fractured, and these are seen as times when domestic terrorist groups will best succeed by taking action.

Freilich (2003) maintains that terrorism in the developing world is caused by resource mobilization theory, and it suggests that states which are more prosperous and socially integrated but politically weak institutional framework would tend to develop more domestic terrorist activity, on the basis that group competition for power and resources becomes intense. To justify Freilich position most third world countries are endowed with potentials that can turn around their economies fortune for the good of its citizen, but yet these countries remain backward due to failures of implementing viable policies and programmes that can ameliorate the plight of its citizen. The common features of third world countries are the prevailing crisis within the political and economic structures after decades long of independence that can be seen as leadership crisis, economic inequality amidst plenty resources, corruption, breakdown of law and the weakness of the public institutions to checkmate and address societal ills.

Causes of terrorism in Nigeria

In Nigeria domestic terrorism relates to those acts of terrorism that are carried out by persons or local groups within the state that are meant to redress domestic grievances within the political system or structure.

Domestic terrorism in Nigeria is distinct from the scale of international terrorism, the level on which domestic terrorism strive and operated in Nigeria relates to acts by persons or groups that are external to the affected state and whose objective is to advance a cause, either the struggle for political leadership, mobilization for resource control, uneven distribution of national wealth, sentiment across religious believe, ethnic marginalisation claiming or fighting over outright superiority of other. Unemployment and poverty may have a less impact as a cause of terrorism, but religious and cultural ideological and extremist believe from traditional enemies of the western world the middle eastern countries, have impacted their hatred on the mindsets of the people and often view the west as one and only enemy(Ogundiya,2009).

This trend has now been exported to regions known to be a potential target for terrorist activities. It is only in Nigeria terrorists are celebrated with heroic recognition and become instant celebrities, the law of the land is slow and often pass judgement in favour criminal, corrupt public officials, ritualists, economic and political saboteurs and terrorists alike, but for petit criminals who are bent to spend their entire lifespan in Nigerian jails. People have committed terrorist acts and crimes that warrant them to long jail terms. The judicial system of the country is often criticised over the circumstances, which bail application is always granted to suspected terrorist amidst endangering the security situation of the country.

The revolution that has taken place in the global information highway, which has greatly facilitated networking between distant diverse groups, the possibility of some linkages between domestic and external terrorist groups cannot be ruled out, financial and logistical support, importation of terrorist skills and manoeuvres, movement of terrorist from one location to another, poorly manned border posts by Nigerian security and paramilitary personnel, the spirit of oneness which is often the major slogan in the extreme part of northern Nigeria, allows people from neighbouring countries with questionable characters to cross over to Nigeria as either a save heaven or on religious ground(Sassen,1998).

This case of Maitatsine uprising in north-western and north-eastern part of the Nigeria in 1980s, the infamous communal and ethnic conflicts, the cultural motivated ethnic militias are virtually in all part of the country to create fear, intimidate, destroy and create restiveness in the system. Dempsey (2006) sees the nature of domestic terrorism differs within the Nigerian context for example in the northern part of the country, religious and ethnic differences between the Moslem and Christians against the government loopholes has always been the causal factor of terrorism in that part of the country. While in the southern part of the country domestic terrorism is caused by the socio-cultural and economic differences among the ethnic nationalities within the environment, against the activities of multinational companies and its corporate social responsibility to the host communities and the rivalry existed between the south over the north dominance and influence are among the causes of terrorism.

The rise of terrorism in Nigeria 1999-2012

Nigeria has the largest population in Africa and blessed with human and natural resources aimed at lifting the country into the rank of developed countries. The oil wealth is strategic to the growth and development of the country, but the failures of the past and successive governments over their inability to explored the policy framework for developmental goals from the revenues accrued from sale of Nigeria's oil to foreign buyers. These developmental goals and policies are not bad but, the dichotomy existing between northern and southern politicians over the quest for national resources and national prominence has either slowdown the pace of developmental and also weakens the entire system (government) service delivery. During the years of military rule, the primordial sentiments over quest for free and fair distribution of nation wealth was not too articulated by these groups, because of the fear of being arrested or the use of coercive means to suppress any form of internal rebellion by the same institution(Ogundiya,2009).

However, enthronement of democratic rule in 1999 headed by a retired army general (Olusegun Obasanjo), a southern Christian got elected as the civilian president in 1999. He was instrumental to the handing over power to a civilian authority in 1979 to a northern president elect (Alhaji Shehu Shagari). The arrival of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo at the helm of affairs was seen as a threat to the already existing northern oligarchy which they feel will threaten their influence, which they have been enjoying for a long time, is bound to decline politically, militarily and economically. It is true to a certain extent this point raised by. The troubles in Nigeria started after the assumption to power of former president Obasanjo he drastically reduced the northern influence over these areas by instituting sweeping reforms to embrace the minorities and other sectional views in accordance to the Nigerian constitution.

It is no longer business as usual that a particular section of the country enjoys more than other productive parts in terms of distribution and allocation of resources and revenues. Another important factor is that the international figure of president Obasanjo as a friend of the west and traditionally the western sympathy over the state of Israel by the US and other western nations, which majority of the northern Muslims consider him to be a western stooge aimed at destroying their already built empire, to replace it with foreign interest and

domination to favour the west (Ali, 2002).

Promoting Religious Difference among the People of Nigeria

The liberalization of religious activities and the proliferation of different religious groups and sects with strange and conflicting doctrines and practice and the inability of the federal and state governments in Nigeria to censor these religious activities in the country have rendered the authority ineffective to combat the rising wave of terrorism. 'Most religious teaching in Nigeria is all about hatred, in most places of worship today 'Satan who used to be the traditional enemy of mankind is no longer the enemy, but the hatred inbuilt by the religious leaders and preachers, preaching against the basic tenets of religion to encourage violence among the major religious groups, against one another is the common feature in such places of worship whether you are a Christian or a Muslim' (Ali, 2002).

Religious ideology believes that anything of western values is declared unhealthy and capable of destroying indigenous values systems and this is one of the main reasons of terrorist act. Nigeria's effort and approach to combat terrorism at regional and country level has placed the country on the potential threat of terrorism, Countries that have close link with the US in the global campaign against terrorism and the proliferation of small and medium arms across border are likely to be a potential target of terrorist acts. For countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Iraq, and Nigeria are facing the same threat of terrorism. The late Osama Bin Laden of the terrorist network Al-Qaeda has now established its presence in West Africa countries through its local contacts and sympathizers, is a justifiable cause against the Western values especially the US policy. Other sees the Israeli policy towards the Arabs as also justifying. The international disputes which the US and its Allied spearheaded, even if these disputes are justifiable, the US is heavily criticised and wide protests denouncing and condemning the US action resulted to burning of the US flag and interests, notable examples are the protests in Kano and other parts of the northern states sometime in the 2000s and often comes with religious views or sentiments over the issue is now intensifying.

The US Foreign Policy

Similar incidences of disaffection of the US global policy also occurs in Russia and China between 2008 and 2009 no concerned northerners came out to condemn or protested against the Russian and Chinese authorities over their foreign and domestic policies in their own countries and in developing countries. Since the global war on terror began, many countries have taken measures to combat the menace internally. The post 9/11 incidence had seen the US adopting tactical and decisive measures in order to liquidate the effectiveness and efficiency of potential threat of terrorism anywhere. However, these measures were aimed at checking the spread of terrorism across continents and countries in solidarity with the US in this global campaign and are compel to share intelligence report and gathering, at a greater risk to their corporate existence. The terrorists also incorporate new strategies in order to established bases and cell within the local populace as a direct consequences of the country's actions. Majority of northerners believe that the US is the main cause of Africa's problems through its foreign policy, but the fact remains very visible, the US is not the only major power that operated in this framework, Russia and China are very relevant and present in the domestic affairs of developing nations. The unhealthy political rivalries and the thirst for power among the elites in Nigeria, have often lead to violence clashes among supporters or at factional level of the political parties, regional and cultural factors.

The Inability of the Government to Check the Excesses of Political Office Seekers

The arming of political thugs with dangerous and sophisticated weapons to protect the interest of their masters remains unchallenged by the law enforcement agencies. During the 2003, 2007 and 2011 gubernatorial electioneering campaigns across the country by various candidates contesting for the post of governors of their respective states where seen accompanied with thugs in possession of dangerous weapons. Sometime these electioneering campaigns turn violent. For example in Ekiti, Oyo, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Borno, Gombe, Sokoto, Rivers, Imo, Akwa-Ibom, Cross Rivers, Benue, Ondo, Bauchi, Anambra, Enugu, Edo and Delta states. The activities of these thugs or groups of die-hard Nigerians, who are readily available to unleashed terror by all means, remain unchallenged and check by their clients and the authority of the state. This development gives them the monopoly of weapons acquisition to the extent that these groups may be discontented with the political promises made by their god fathers or clients for been neglected and can one day assemble themselves into groups of outlaws, in the name of protesting injustices and inequalities of the political and economy systems and those who are willing to do anything for the money (OPC, MEND, NDVF, Yankalare, Yan sarasuka and the Yandaba fame) (Ogundiya, 2009).

These groups later developed themselves into full terrorist organization operating in the country with foreign contact, support and training to form network of terrorism, no matter where they are operating. It was during the intense atmosphere in the Nigerdelta region that one of the major militant leaders proclaimed his

likeness to Osama bin Laden against the US foreign policy. 'If the militant leader from the Niger delta region claimed to be fighting for the plight of the region and the people, then why is he equating his likeness to a terrorist who have been on a wanted list. His comment clearly drawn our conclusion the terrorism has arrived Nigeria'. However groups from the southern axis of the country have now spring up in retaliation to challenge the dominance of the north even when their own son is at helm of affairs under the aegis of freedom fighters acquiring sophisticated weapons to pursued their cause.

The Attitude and Response to Human Rights Organizations and International Media towards Terrorists

The human rights organizations are not soft on terrorism. It acknowledges that states must sometimes take exceptional measures to ensure public security. But whatever the emergency situation, some fundamental human rights and freedoms can never be suspended or derogated, such as the right to life; the right to freedom from torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; and the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. In addition, human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights establish that any restrictions on other rights must be, among other requirements, exceptional and temporary in nature; limited to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation; non-discriminatory solely on the ground of race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin; and consistent with the state party's other obligations under international law, particularly the rules of international humanitarian law.

Human rights watch dogs have consistently absolved terrorists whenever they strike their target from any wrong doing. Several incidence of terrorists attack occurs in Nigeria from 1999-2012 and yet, these acts were not condemned or even alert the international community against such crime. The media suppose to be a medium of balancing reportage, but today the one sided reporting of the media is seen as aiding terrorists to continue their dastardly act. The media only focus on the government effort to address the issues as counterproductive and extrajudicial killings of innocent people

Terrorism and the challenge to Nigeria's security and unity

The threat incurred by terrorist act in Nigeria have profound security and economic implications and the corporate existence of nigeria as united and indivisible entity have been threaten to a level mistrust and mutual suspicion of Nigerian moving to other part of the country. Indeed the deadly confrontation having carried out by terrorists. In southern part of the country, the act of domestic terrorism has taken over the production and exportation of crude oil to the world market, and had seen a short fall in supply of the commodity and raises the demand level, although the traditional buyers of the nation's crude oil could not easily access the commodity. Only through black marketers who are accomplice of the terrorists by supplying them with dangerous weapons and ammunitions by the Nigerian backers and from dissidents and merchants of death from European countries to further their campaign against the state.

The region has also witness the growth of terrorists into the class of multimillionaires and this also renders it difficult for meaningful development to take place in the regions (Ogundiya, 2009). The wide scale destruction of life and properties by terrorist activities in the northern part of the country has cripple the once buoyant economic fortress of Kano and the tourism life of Plateau states, the main cities and towns in north are now living in abject fear. The issue of fear have dominated the mindset of the people that they no longer patronises religious places of worships in their thousands, everybody is suspecting one another because no one knows who the terrorist is. Traditionally the north has been a symbol of Nigerian unity is no longer tenable, because the north has now turned into a war zone and divided along sentiments.

The current wave of domestic terrorism in the north has endangered the lives of women and children and has crippled the socio-economic and political activities of the region and the security situation in the region is deteriorating on a daily basis those charged with the responsibility of protecting the life of Nigeria are also infiltrated by terrorist ideology and thus perpetuating violence on defenceless Nigeria. The patriotic zeal of the nation's law enforcement officials are placed under severe scrutiny because of the threat of switching allegiance and sympathy to terrorist has placed Nigeria on a dangerous path and it will take a long time before this situation can come under control.

Another area which remain very critical to overall security situation of the country is the unchecked activities of terrorists across the borders in the north, and banditry activities in both the northern and western borders and along the Gulf of Guinea in the south, the overwhelming security concern over the years where silent criminal activities have been perpetuated in Nigeria with the authority having less concern to the aftermath where smuggling of small and medium weapons are being shipped into the country and the movement and activities of un scrupulous elements and groups known to have pose security threat in their countries of origin are seen moving freely in most Nigerian cities. These people or groups are either been expelled, deported or denied entry into their countries of birth and countries that is determine to end the scourge of terrorism have

already have access to firsthand information on the identity, movement and motive of the suspect, because their presence may jeopardise the existing effort in the fight against terrorism.

Nigerian a response to the threat of terrorism

The authority in Nigeria seems to be relaxed when the issue of terrorism was first uncovered, although this trend is relatively new and strange in the country. The effect (collateral damage) of terrorism was only seen in foreign countries and the ability of their media to beam live footage of this development to other part of the world, is a wakeup call for countries preparedness against future strike by terrorists and this phenomenon can happen in areas that have not been known to be a terrorists operating zones. For every deadly act committed by terrorists in these countries, it enables the country to take decisive or proactive measures in stopping and reducing the vulnerability of the terrorism, the act can be repeated at a different interval. The global campaign against terrorism is the collective responsibility of peace loving and civilised nations to unite and fight terrorism; this effort is spread across continents and the readiness of countries to adopt a common ground is needed.

Nigeria has had its fair share of terrorists aggression from 1999-2012, the inability of the authority to rise to its feet in combating terrorism has placed the country in a dangerous position. The decision taken by authority is rather too slow to really challenge the scourge of domestic terrorism in the country. During the civilian administration of Chief Obasanjo, proactive measures are taken to fight back terrorism, for example the Odi and Zaki Biam response by the government is a clear indication of its willingness to fight terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria. But the present political leadership seems to lack the will to combat terrorism despite the presence of well effective intelligent networking and structures put in place to counter terrorism from all indication, has raises questions on the sincerity of the government in handling terrorism. Every month many innocents Nigerians have lost their lives through terrorist strikes. These unexpected events have made many Nigerians to have no confidence in the authority's effort in the fight against terrorism. It is seemingly right for Nigerians to protest the government in ability to bring to an end to terrorism of the perpetual fear of being a possible target of terrorist attack.

Likewise the government is also not sleeping in its effort to address the situation but rather it needed a concerted effort for all meaningful and reasonable Nigerians to achieve its aim of reducing the threat of terrorism. But this situation is increasingly dangerous and is consuming much time, despite the fact that the Nigerian authorities have discovered and known the terrorists and their major sponsors within and outside Nigeria. Even if the United States has done little to help Nigeria out of its severe economic and political issues, which are claimed to be indirectly responsible for much of the tension in the country. Nigeria should not put in much weight on Washington and other superpowers to actively support current economic and political reforms, but be prepared to take the lead in the fight against domestic terrorism and addressing Nigeria's myriad of problems."

Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper discovered that terrorism is formed from two fronts in Nigeria. First terrorism in Nigeria is a consequence of myriad of domestic problems and externally motivated diverging views of the people on certain feelings which are inimical to Nigeria. Secondly, terrorism has been in existence long ago and finally it has re-surfaced again through unhealthy policies of major powers towards weaker and poorer nations, the advent of the internet and social media networking making unrestricted communication and information sharing to dissident groups and extremist's ideas are incorporated into the people. It is discovered that despite its potentials yet the country could not take full advantages of the wealth of the country to develop the economy and make life meaningful to the people. Therefore, religious and political differences over national issues have placed sectional and regional issues above national interest. The restoration of civilian rule in 1999 saw the hidden problems of Nigerians from different sections emerging to challenge the constitutional authority over primordial issues. These issues sometime take a centre stage over programmes mapped out for developmental purpose which few Nigerian benefited, for those left out, regroup themselves under different groups under socio-cultural and religious affiliations to challenge the government through the use of force and aggression over resources.

From all indication a calls for a careful understanding of the domestic terrorism involves and strategies to being applied. The problem is for all Nigeria to solve. Solution cannot only come from outside but a determined effort, from the government devoid of rhetoric, to promote social justice and equity; tackling corruption, making our borders more secured, religious monitoring and censorship of religious material coming into Nigeria to stem the tide of insecurity and religious fundamentalist and providing efficient infrastructural facilities, The recent development in information and communication technology is fast aiding terrorists in acquiring and sending information at an unrestricted medium and this development what terrorists are taking advantage to perpetuate their acts.

The solution to Nigeria's internal problem, especially security issues is a matter of national importance,

it should be the concern of all stakeholders in the Nigerian state and it requires comprehensive and committed contribution of all groups and interests Nigeria.

Some of the major security problems currently confronting the nation have been identified to include: political and electioneering conflicts, socio-economic agitations, corruption, ethno-religious crises, ethnic militias, boundary disputes, cultism, criminality and organised crimes and proliferation of small and medium arms across borders. These problems individually and collectively constitute threats to the peace, security and development of the country. Invariably, they have implications on Nigeria. Nigeria's also need to explore areas that can response positively to these problems.

There is need for a clear and coherent national policy on terrorism. Akin to this, a well trained antiterrorism squad must be created from the Nigerian Army, Air Force, Navy, Police and State Security Service. The role of these security organizations must be clearly stated in order to prevent duplicity and conflict of functions. This is necessary and critical to Nigeria's preparedness to contain the development and spread of terror acts to other zones (more especially the Northern states where cases of terrorism have been reported in the recent time) that are prone to terrorism as Ogunniya observed (2009).

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