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## THE NIGERIAN SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS (NSCDC) AND THE CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*The advent of the Fourth republic in 1999 came with new forms of violent crimes perpetuated by groups such as: Boko Haram, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) etc. The activities of all these groups and many others have led to destruction of lives, properties and have negatively affected the national security of Nigeria. The government through the different security agencies has put in place different policies to manage these problems but have not achieved the desired outcome. It is against this background this paper looked at the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSDCC) and the challenges to national security in Nigeria. The study adopted the Case study approach secondary data was gathered from published material such as books, magazines and unpublished material on the subject matter. The study discovered that NSCDC has achieved a mixed result in terms of security. In Oyo state for example the success of NSCDC led to the security outfit being given one of the Operation Burst (OB) command to head, in Benue and Delta states on the other hand they recorded the agency performance is very poor. The paper concluded that insecurity has assumed a frightening dimension with the inability of the government and the different security agencies to tackle the challenge head-long. NSCDC personnel should be re-trained to keep them abreast with the numerous insecurity challenges faced by the country and there should be synergy between them and the*

*NPF as the agency roles and functions continue to conflict with that of the police.*

**Key Words:** NSCDC, National Security, Nigeria, Insecurity

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## **Introduction**

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is indisputably one of the most richly endowed countries on the continent, the country boast of immense human and material resources, which is supposed to provides opportunity for national development (Oyakorotu, 2008). However, in spite of it rich endowment in both human and material resources the state is still largely underdeveloped and has been described by many as the poverty capital of the world. One of the major reasons for this is that the relative peace and security needed for any form of positive development to take place as eluded the country. The state since its formation in the 1960 and till date has been confronted by different form of insecurity issues that ranges from: militancy in the Niger Delta region of South/South geo-political zone, Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, cultism, Militant herdsmen in the Northern part of the country.

While in the South/East geo-political zone is the the menace posed by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign state of Biafra (MASSOB), kidnapping and finally, in the South/West geo-political zone are the issues of: National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) crisis, kidnapping just to mention a few. Other cause of insecurity in the Nigerian state are: ethnic differences, political rivalry, religious intolerance, accusations of marginalization and domination as well as perceived inequity in the distribution of the country's wealth have threatened national security particularly in the last two decades. The activities of these known and unknown groups have threatens the core of Nigeria unity and existence as a nation. It is therefore a major challenge for the government and security agencies on how to contain the diverse manifestations of violence in the country.

As President Olusegun Obasanjo stated while formulating Nigeria's Grand Strategy for National Security:

The primary objective of national security shall be to strengthen the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to advance her interests and objectives, to contain instability, control crime, eliminate corruption, enhance genuine development, progress and growth, improved the welfare and well-being and quality of life of every citizen (Grand Strategy for National Security, 2001 in Nwolise, 2011).

The maintenance of national security is important in every state because without it the state is bound to experience great difficulty in harnessing its human development and the promotion of the general well-being of the people. Ogbonna Onovo, Nigeria's former Inspector General of Police said: "Every human being is always conscious of his or her security at any given time, and at all places. In the same way, every government all over the world makes security of lives and property within its territorial area of jurisdiction a priority agenda, just as it makes the survival, continuity, defence and security of the state a primary goal" (Onovo, 2009).

The maintenance of National Security over the years has been hampered by different forms of crisis within the Nigerian state most especially in the northern part of the country. A report by the International Crisis Group (ICG) claimed the North has experienced recurrent violent conflicts, particularly since the early 1980s, these conflicts are products of several complex and inter-locking factors, including a volatile mix of historical grievances, political manipulation, ethnic and religious rivalries. The Maitatsine riots of December 1980 in other northern cities like Bullunkutu, Yola, Jimeta and Gombe which claimed thousands of lives, led to destruction of properties worth billions of naira and set the tone for subsequent riots involving the Maitatsine and anti-materialist Islamic sect (Lubeck, 1985). The destruction of churches and other properties belonging to Christians by Muslim mobs protesting the construction of a church in Kano's Muslim heartland in October 1982, the 1987 and 1999 Kafamchan-Kaduna ethno-religious riots. Other major ones include the Zangon-Kataf riots of 1992, the Tafawa Balewa clashes in 1991, 1995 and

2000, the Kaduna Riots of 2000, Sharia crisis in Zaria and the Jos Crisis of 2001 in which several hundreds of lives and properties were destroyed (International IDEA, 2000).

The return to democracy in 1999 has not solved the problem but has rather introduced new forms of violent form of crimes with many people getting involved in diverse sophisticated criminal activities which have made the society to be insecure (Otto and Ukpere, 2012). The groups includes but are not limited to the Militant Herdsmen, bandit groups and Jama'tu Ahlis-sunah Lidda'awatti wal-Jihad popularly known as Boko Haram which is a terrorist labeled organization in Nigeria that has been blamed and has claimed responsibility in attacks leading to the death and injury of thousands of Nigerians across religious and ethnic lines (Walker, 2013). Secessionist groups such as the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the South/East, Freedom fighters in the South/South such as the: the Avengers, Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF), Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND). The activities of all these groups negatively affects the national security of Nigeria, it therefore for calls for intervention by security agencies including the Civil Defence as the police are already overstretched and apprehensive.

In response to this the government has established different law enforcement agencies such as: The Nigerian Army to defend the country from external attack, the Air Force to defend the country from attack In the air, the Nigerian Navy to defend the from sea attack, the Nigerian Immigration Service to prevent illegal entry of persons into the country, The Nigerian Customs to protect the land borders of the country. The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) whose is to maintain law and order, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) which constitutional responsibility is to protect government properties and ensure civic security. Others are the Economic, Financial and Crime Commission (EFCC) established and empowered to fight financial crimes; Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) to tackle corruption and its perpetrators; National Drug and Law Enforcement

Agency (NDLEA) to combat illegal drug business; National Agency for Trafficking in Persons (NATIP) to tackle human trafficking etc.

The need for peace, stability and security informed the Nigeria state to establish the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSDCC) in 2004 to assist in maintaining security. These establishments were based on a number of factors such as: the current security demands by Nigerian masses, the inability of the NPF and other related agencies to control the rising spate of crime, and the fact that these institutions are seen as oppressive tools in the hands of people in government especially the 'rich few', have given room for public distrust and subsequent debates on how to improve safety and security for Nigerians and foreigners residing and doing business in the country. The legal basis for including the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps is contained in the corps (Amendment) No. 6 Act, 2007. Section 1 (a) which assigns the Corps the task to: *Assist in the maintenance of peace and order and in the protection and rescuing of the civil population during the period of emergency.* This function can only be carried out when called upon by the Federal Government (FG) in the event of police inability to contain the crisis.

Although, similar task has been severally performed by the NSCDC such as: crowd control and management; however, every crisis situation has its own peculiarities such that anytime personnel are committed for an operation; they seem to face fresh challenges. The deployment of NSCDC personnel in a military joint task force operation has been ordered by the FG or State Government (SG) on several occasions to manage a situation and prevent it from getting worst. This development informed the need to identify to the role of the NSCDC in containing the crisis in Nigeria. Others are to identify the challenges faced by the NSCDC during operation and to propose strategies to enhance future conduct of internal security operation by NSCDC personnel.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Conceptual Clarifications

#### Security

Amujiri & Agu, (2012) defined security as freedom from risk or danger and fear. Nwanegbo & Odigbo, (2013) stated that there are two major ways of

looking at security. The first is neo-realist perspective that sees security as strictly a state affair aimed entirely at securing the territorial integrity of the state through military approach while the second is the postmodernist perspective which seeks to displace the state as a major provider of security but rather places greater emphasis on non-state actors. Security as used in this study simply suggest the ability of the state to ensure her citizens are free from danger of threats, protect and promote its cherished values and well-being of its people.

### **National Security**

Encyclopedia of social sciences defines national security as the ability of a nation to protect its internal values from external threats. The position of Al-Mashat, (1985) on national security moves beyond territorial defence and focuses on “the physical, social and psychological quality of life of a society and its members, both in the domestic setting and within the larger regional and global system”. In another perception, the concept of national security emanates from what Usman describes as the sum total of the efforts of government and the people to detect, prevent, eliminate or contain sources of danger and risk, whether internal or external, natural or manmade, which threaten the collective interest of the citizenry (Usman, 1999). He stated further that, though national security may be defined differently, the basic issue is that it focuses essentially on securing public safety and public welfare within both the internal and external environment and international system (Ibid, 1999). This paper defines National Security as the maintenance of law and order within the state that allows for positive development.

### **Sources of National Insecurity in Nigeria**

There are numerous causes of insecurity in Nigeria but the study will look at the most prominent ones:

**Bad Government:** Government is machinery through which the will of the people is formulated, expressed, realized and attained. The essence of government according to the Social contract theory by Thomas Hobbes in

his book titled the Leviathan is to prevent the society from becoming primitive were life was brutish, nasty and short (Hobbes, 1651). The Nigerian state got independence in 1960 but the state over the six decades of her existence has been bedeviled by bad government whether in civilian or military dictatorship which have affected its development. Nigeria's security situation has over the years deteriorated owing to poor governance, political desperation and government inability to deliver the needed dividend (Nwanegbo and Odigbo, 2013). This fact remains the basic cause of insecurity in Nigeria from the past till now (Babawale, 2001).

**Poor Accountability:** This is another cause of insecurity and a major factor causing underdevelopment in Nigeria and many Third World countries. Poor accountability by public office holders and other stakeholders within the Nigerian state has made many Nigerians see every appointment or holding an office as opportunity to make money and enrich themselves greatly because nobody will call them to come and give account of how money or other materials put in their care were used or expended. This has been one of the major cause of insecurity in Nigeria, as money meant for the public are being siphoned or embezzled by the few because the institution that will call them to account are very weak or non-existent in some cases. The government releases budget yearly and sometimes same roads are usually awarded for construction or repair yearly.

**Ethno-Religious Differences and Conflict:** The Nigeria state is heterogeneous in nature as it's made up of people of different religious belief, culture, language, customs and ethnicity etc. However, event unfolding itself has shown that the ethnic disparity has become one of the major causes of conflict as many unscrupulous individuals have manipulated these ethnic and religious differences to achieve selfish ends. Some ethnic group and religion think of themselves superior to others and even the Constitution of the FRN made some languages "official" while others are "irrelevant"<sup>1</sup> giving the impression that some are more "Nigerians" than others, no wonder Boko Haram asked the former president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to convert to Islam because the

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 55 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999).

Nigerian state can't be rule by an infidel. The intolerance of the other's ethnic group and religious belief has been considered as one of the main causes of insecurity.

**Weak Security System:** The security system in Nigeria is considered very weak both in personnel and equipment. It is an established fact that the security personnel in Nigeria are not satisfied with their work environment, corrupt, poorly trained and inadequately remunerated. This is one of the major factors responsible for the high level of insecurity in Nigeria. Others are inadequate funding, lack of modern equipment, poor welfare and inadequate personnel. As a result the expertise needed to encounter modern security challenges is not available. Facts abound where these personnel abandon national interest for ethnic or regional one by sabotaging the efforts of government in achieving national security. Also noted is the lack of synergy among the security agencies.

**The Loss of Traditional Values and Moral System:** The Nigerian traditional society has some ethos and values that naturally provided and sustained security among the citizenry. Such ethos and values like absolute respect for life and its dignity recognition and praise of hard work, honesty and integrity, respect for the elderly persons, justice and fair play made it impossible for insecurity to thrive. Presently, globalization have eroded the cherished value system that made the traditional society safe and secure with low social vices like celebration of criminality, dishonesty, kidnapping, banditry, cheating, and general immorality.

**Porous Borders and Arms Proliferation:** The porosity of our borders has made criminals element to cross into and out of Nigeria easily to carry out criminal activities. The porous borders as also made the movement of both heavy and light arms into Nigeria very easy. This is the reason behind the recent increase in criminal activities in different part of the country (Hazen & Horner, 2007). Again the porous nature of the Nigerian borders has enabled undocumented migrants from neighbouring countries to invade Nigeria at will (Adeola & Oluyemi, 2012).

**Political Based Violence:** Politics in the current civil dispensation like the previous Republics have displayed politics of anxiety which has played

down on dialogue, negotiation and consensus. The quest for political power between politicians in Nigeria or regions is one of the major causes of insecurity. A former president once said winning an election was going to be a Do or Die affair. This aggravated tension and caused lots of crisis before, during and after the election.

### **The Consequences of Insecurity in Nigeria**

The consequences will be looked at under three sub-headings:

#### **Economics Effects:**

**Low Direct Foreign Investment (LDFI):** Foreign investors are discouraged from investing in nations that will reduce the investors' competitive advantage or they will not be able to make profit due to internal security threat. For example during the height of Niger Delta crisis many Multi National Oil Companies (MNOCs) shut down their activities and left the country. This affected the foreign exchange earnings of the state as the state is a monopolistic economy depending largely on oil revenue.

**Forced-Occupational Migration:** Internal security threat causes talented and skilled people to seek employment outside the country rather than stay and engage themselves in productive activities for the nation's development. For example when the United Kingdom advertised vacancies for health workers during the Covid-19 pandemic many health workers in Nigeria wanted to travel the UK than stay in Nigeria.

**High level of Poverty and Low Standard of Living:** The Nigerian state has been described as the poverty capital of the world because of the low standard of living experience by its citizens.

**Underdevelopment of the Country:** internal security crisis occurring in different part of the country since 1960 is responsible for the underdevelopment in the country as money meant for development purpose is diverted to manage the problem. It is responsible for poor living standard and lack of public utilities such as roads, unstable electing supply, and low standard of schools.

**Political Effect:**

**Political Instability:** It affects the stability of government as loyalties are fragmented by thoughts of fear and improbabilities, thereby destabilizes the institutions of the state. The efficiency and efficacy of institutions of both public and private as decisions-making process is not only slowed down but also is incoherent and often irrational when a nation faces internal security crisis.

**Poor image in the International Community:** The Nigeria state is no longer respected internationally because of the insecurity in the country. Many countries have on different occasions warned their citizens to avoid Nigeria most especially the northern part and the Niger Delta because of the incessant insecurity those regions.

**Emergent of Separatist Groups/Insurgent Groups:** Presently secessionist movements have emerged such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) led by Nnamdi Kanu, the “Taliban” and the “Boko Haram” groups in North/East. Others are the Shittes led by El-Zazaky and many other Islamic groups in the Northern agitating for the reconstruction of Nigeria as an Islamic country and the abolishment of western culture especially education. There are also powerful militant groups like the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF) led by Asari Dokubo and many more. The activities of these groups threaten national security and obstacles against national integration and development.

**Social Effects:**

**Kidnapping:** The spate of kidnapping in Nigeria is becoming alarming (Onoge, 1993). The problem is now seen as a big business. The menace has affected Nigeria’s image as a nation both nationally and internally. It has also affected Nigeria’s attempt to develop viable tourism industry as visitors are regularly warned by their countries to be wary of coming to Nigeria. Many prominent individuals such as Olu Falae a former presidential aspirant and elder statesman from South/West, traditional rulers, religious leader recently the Christian Association Chairman in

Nasarawa state was kidnapped and killed and many less prominent persons.

**Armed Robbery:** The problem has been identified as one of the prevalent crimes and has change in forms and dimension in contemporary Nigeria (Rotberg, 2003). Prominent forms of armed robbery experienced in Nigeria include: car snatching, high-way robbery, arson attack, house and office robberies etc. All these robbery incidents have created fears in the mind of many Nigerians travelling on major roads in the country and people sleep with their eyes opened.

**Poverty:** Nigeria is richly endowed with human and material resources but its citizens are among the poorest in the world. The human development index places Nigeria as one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world. This problem of poverty which is link to corruption, bad leadership, unemployment etc have made many Nigerians both young and old to dabble into organized kidnapping, armed robbery, civil unrest, terrorism and communal conflicts.

**Increase in Crimes and Violence:** The sporadic increase in crime and violence in the nooks and crannies of the Nigerian state has increased. The security situation has deteriorated to a point where people are daily kidnapped for ransom or ritual purposes, armed robbery is now a way of life, internet fraud is on the rise, vandalization of oil pipe lines, bomb blast of religious places markets are becoming uncontrollable. These and many other problems have led to many prominent individuals calling for the restructuring of the Nigerian state.

### **Historical Background and Origin of Civil Defence**

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps came into existence on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1967 during the Civil War. It was initially known as the Lagos Civil Defence Committee and the major function of the members at that time was to enlighten the Lagos Public on Safety Precaution during the Civil War. These precautionary measures include warning the public against picking up objects along the street as these could be explosive dropped by the enemies and also they engaged in sending out warning notes on how

people should behave and react when there are explosions and bomb blasts. It was gazette in the year 1986 during the Regime of General Babangida and placed under the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The gazette No. 42 Lagos–25<sup>th</sup> August, 1986 Vol. 73 page 1015 (Title of Ministry of Internal Affairs No. 21) the gazette was backed up with a presidential directive through its letter number GHQ/OGS/971 of 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1988<sup>2</sup> granted the NSCDC formal recognition and assigned to it, among others the following responsibilities:

- i. Information/Intelligence gathering.
- ii. Monitoring the activities of Trade and professional Associations.
- iii. Participating in National Orientation Agency Activities.
- iv. Coverage of operations in disaster areas, i.e man-made or Natural.

In the Month of May, 2013, the National Assembly passed a Bill on the Corps. This Bill establishes the Corps as a Para-military outfit of the Federal Government, with the Role of maintaining security and disaster prevention, management and control. As established, the Corps is to equally complement the function of the other security agencies and shall operate with regular staff and volunteers and shall be under the control of the Immigration and Prisons Services Board at the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (now under Ministry of Interior).

Considering the comparative advantages, which Nigerians would derive from the enactment of the Act which establishes the Corps as a Para-military organization in Nigeria, the traditional role of this organization which spreads across the socio economic and political existence of the people, as the junction steals and ends with the presence and absence of the civil population and government and considering that the Corps would prescribe among others, measures to precautionary approach and persuasion to handle such conflicts or even avert them, and with its basic training in Diplomacy and the art of negotiation and Corps shall protect

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<sup>2</sup> The Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The gazette No. 42 Lagos – 25<sup>th</sup> August, 1986 Vol. 73 page 1015 (Title of Ministry of Internal Affairs No. 21) presidential directive letter number GHQ/OGS/971 of 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1988

lives and property of Civil populace and educate the masses in ways of averting/handling national emergencies, danger and self defence. The Senate therefore passed the Bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps as a Para-military outfit of Government on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2003 while the House of Representatives also passed the same Bill on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.

### **Functions of the NSCDC**

- (a) Assist in the maintenance of peace and order and also in the protection and recuing of the civil population during any period of emergency.
- (b) Recommend to the Minister of Internal Affairs the registration of private guard companies.
- (c) Supervise and monitor the activities of all private guards command and keep register for that purpose.
- (d) Maintain twenty-four hours surveillance over infrastructures, sites and projects for the Federal, State and Local Government.
- (e) Have power to arrest, investigate and hand over to the Nigeria Police, for further investigation and prosecution of any person who is involved in:
  - i. Any chemical poisoning
  - ii. Any criminal activity and
  - iii. Any industrial espionage or fraud
- (f) Provide intelligence information to the Ministry on any matter relating to:
  - i. Crime control generally;
  - ii. Riot, disorder, revolt, strike or religious unrest;
  - iii. Subversive activity by members of the public aimed at frustrating any government programme or police;
  - iv. Industrial action and strike aimed at paralyzing Government activities; and
  - v. Any other matter as may be directed by the Honorable Minister of Internal Affairs, (now mister of interior).

In the year 2007 the NSCDC Act, 2003 was amended as NSCDC Amendment Act, 2007 session 3 (1 f) of the Act specifies that the Corps shall have power to arrest with or without warrant, detain, investigate and institute legal proceedings by or in the name of the Attorney-General of the Federation in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as specified in the Section of the Act.

### **Aims and Objectives of NSCDC**

The Corps is determined to pursue vigorously all programmes, plan and actions with a view of discharging her statutory duties as contained in the relevant sections of NSCDC Act. To achieve this aim, the Corps ensures adequate rationalization of personnel, facilities and funds available to her and to embark on such activities that will touch the life of an average Nigerian, preserves public facilities and the heritage of NSCDC.

The primary objective(s) of the formation of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps include:

- (a) Provision of a bridge for the information gap existing between Law Enforcement Agent and the populace. The existence of this information gap has been responsible for existence of this information gap has been responsible for the inability of the law enforcement agents to detect and combat crimes easily in Nigeria.
- (b) Monitoring of the movements and activities of people and groups of people to ensure public safety and security within the States and Local Government Areas.
- (c) Provision of emergency relief and rehabilitation service during fire outbreak, motor accident, etc.
- (d) Offering of complementary service with other agencies during natural and manmade disasters. Assisting other Law Enforcement Agencies in decongesting traffic hold up on major roads within the country as may be directed by authorities.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The study adopted the Case study approach. Secondary data was gathered from both published material such as books, magazines, lectures and unpublished material such as: official documents from security

establishments. The contents of the various documents were analyzed and this analysis brought out the roles and challenges encountered by the Civil Defence in maintaining national security. This paper intends to identify a number of conflict situations that have been recorded in the country particularly in Oyo State, Delta state and Benue state. This analysis will expose how successful or otherwise the NSCDC while on national assignment to maintain the peace in these places, left behind more woes and terrorized citizenry than they met on ground. In order to accomplish these objectives, an exploratory research using the descriptive method was carried out.

### **The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Force (NSCDC) in the Management of internal Conflicts in Oyo, Benue and Delta states in Nigeria**

#### **Oyo State**

The state is located in South/West, Nigeria. It's an ancient state that was the centre of administration of the old Oyo state. The state is home to Ibadan, the largest city in Africa. In line with Nigeria's Defence Policy objective of strengthening our national character by eliminating social vices; the government can through the state security agencies or Joint task forces involved in various anti-crime operations such as Operation GBALE in Oyo State. The return to democracy in 1999 ushered in new forms of insecurity in different part of the country and Oyo state is not an exception. As part of the Governor Abiola Ajimobi-led administration's efforts to provide adequate security in all the nooks and crannies of Oyo State, outcries over the activities of hoodlums and armed robbers, who have literally frozen the peace of the people, have been on the increase, the crisis between National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) a unit of the Joint State Security Outfit codenamed 'Operation Burst' was inaugurated in 2011.

"Operation Burst", a Joint Task Force (JTF) is made up of policemen; personnel of the Nigerian Army; Air Force personnel; from the State Security Service (SSS) and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). This joint security patrol of both military and para-military was

to restore peace and tranquility in the state that was ravaged by different forms of violence and criminal activities (insecurities). National security operations are activities which are collectively undertaken by all security agencies, towards restoration of peace and stability in Nigeria. For internal security operations, participants will comprise of the member of the Armed Forces, Police, Para-military as well as plain clothes security outfit. Operation Burst was established to perform a range of function which includes: protecting persons (Vulnerable people such as judges, key witnesses, high ranking government officials and prominent citizens) and property (Individual property, key and vulnerable points). Apprehending violators and suspected violators of the law and ensuring respect for the law. Others are preventing the escalation of violence, surveillance, intelligence and reconnaissance operations, evacuation operations, Cordon and search operations (sealing off a village or an area to search for offenders, weapons or equipment). Joint patrol with other security agencies etc

The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) performed extremely to make Oyo State a haven of peace and tranquility. During the leadership tussle of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) on who controls the entire motor park in Oyo state most especially that of Iwo-road. The crisis led to the death of many people, injury and destruction of lives and properties. The chairman of Nigerian Medical Association who came for a conference in University College Hospital was killed at Iwo-road. The men of the NSCDC worked tirelessly with other security agencies to arrest some of those hoodlums, closed all the motor parks and did other things to ensure peace returned to the state. It was there performance that led to Oyo state being acclaimed as one of the safest States not only in the South West but in the entire Nigeria. The prevailing peace and security in the State, brought about by the effectiveness of operation Burst has triggered exponential growth in socio-economic development in Oyo State. The State now enjoys peace during Christmas and New Year festivities without any major security breach. The prevailing peace and security in the State has accounted for the Joint Patrol

Squad, nicknamed Operation Burst. The success of NSCDC led to the security outfit being given one of the operation Burst command to head.

### **Benue State**

In Benue, attacks by the Hausa-Fulani Muslim herdsmen have become brutal. From Guma to Daudu and Naka to Agatu, the emotional accounts given by the victims sometimes fail to transmit the true extent of the atrocities committed. Agatu is in the State of Benue close to Nigeria's centre, where several different ethnic groups meet. It is believed that the attack was committed in retaliation for the killing of the Fulanis' cows (Emmanuel Mayah, Sani Tukur and Hassan Adebayo, 2016) Former Senate President Mark also pointed out that the Benue South senatorial district were his constituents and hinted at a possible political motivation for these attacks. According to the Nigerian politician [Senator David Mark](#), over 500 have been killed (The Eagle Online). However, this number has been disputed. Afterwards, several small scale attacks continued through Benue state and central Nigeria (Ruth, 2016).

In 2018, Tragedy struck again on 4 March 2018 in Omusu village, Ojigo ward in Edumoga, [Okpokwu](#) local government area of Benue state as suspected herdsmen unleash terror of their victims leaving 26 people, including and children, dead just a day after president Muhammad Buhari promise to visit the state (David, 2016). The Fulani are Muslim and their victims are overwhelmingly Christians and non-Muslims. They cry "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) during their attacks, and they leave horrendous atrocities in their wake. There are suggestions that there is wide-scale collaboration between herdsmen, jihadists and terrorists, all aiming to occupy Christian territory in fulfillment of long years of waiting with an ambitious Islamic agenda (George, 2016). The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps since its formation as performed tremendously in discharging their duties without arms in the area of vandalism, Joint Task Force (JTF) and crime prevention. Oche, (2006) opines that, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has done well in providing security during elections in the federal capital territory during the April

10th 2010 elections in the six area council. He stresses that, because of the presence of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps the election was violent free through the provision of adequate security at various polling centers and also within and around the vicinity.

### **Gbaramatu Kingdom**

The Nigeria government decided that it could no longer fold its hand and watch militant in the creeks led by one High Chief Government Ekpemupolo” aka Tompolo the lead of a powerful militant group The Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) who claimed he was fighting economic marginalization, environment pollution and other injustice in the region caused by the Federal Government and International oil Companies (IOCs). The militant group through its activities had cut Oil production to less than 1.6 million barrels per day from a peak of 2.4mn bpd (African News Update, 2009). This they did through bombing oil pipelines and other installations, kidnapping for ransom foreign expatriate in the region, sabotaging the effort of oil companies and the government to explore and produce oils, they also attacked military positions.

The Federal Government argued that it could no longer ‘fold its hands’ after weeks of attacks on soldiers, hijacking of oil vessels and kidnapping of workers around Gbaramatu. On May 15, 2009, ordered the Military Joint Taskforce (JTF) in the Niger Delta to launch a major offensive against perceived militants inhabiting parts of Gbaramatu Kingdom in Warri South West Council of Delta State. The JTF including the NSCDC who have experience major casualties in attacks by the militant provided the military good information and there major base and hideout. The JTF therefore applied all forms of conventional warfare tactics to prosecute that attack. These included land, sea and aerial bombardment. This heavy military operation was reasoned to be necessary to enable the armed forces flush “out Niger Delta militants from the creeks of the oil-rich region<sup>3</sup>”. The operation was like a total war declared with the deployment

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<sup>3</sup> (Sunday Sun, June 7, 2009, p.8)

of every kind of weapon used on land, sea and air. The military succeeded a great deal in pushing many militants out of the creeks and oil production increases but it was only for a short time as the militants came back in full force to attack oil installation in different part of the country including the one in Lagos.

## Conclusion

Since the return to democracy in Nigeria in 1999 the occurrence of insecurity as clearly shown that the state of insecurity in has assumed a frightening dimension with the inability of the government and the different security agencies to tackle the challenge head-long. The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in spite of the numerous challenges faced by the agency as contributed immensely towards the maintenance of peace and security within the Nigeria state. But the agency roles and functions continue to conflict with that of the police.

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