THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL *ACTORS I*N ENSURING SECURITY DURING CONFLICT *IN NIGERIA*

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ABSTRACT

This paper identifies and analyses the patterns through which the traditional actors can get involved in granting the security during conflict in Nigeria. The objective of the research is to examine the public perception, factors, roles, strategies and challenges of traditional actors in ensuring security during conflict in Nigeria. Questionnaire and interview are used as the methods of collecting data while analysis was made using simple mathematical percentage. Literature was reviewed from relevant textbooks, journals, and newspapers. Conflict theory is suitable and satisfactory in analysis of this research. The findings indicated that the involvement of traditional actors emerges as a result of the ineffectiveness of the formal security to protect lives and properties of citizens in Nigeria. However, frustration, corruption, lack of man power in security and public agitation are among the major factors that lead to the involvement of traditional actors in security administration. The challenges of security in fighting conflict ranges from lack of logistics, manpower shortage, and lack of new strategies that can be used by the security in combating with conflict in Nigeria. The research recommended that by converting the hunters and traditional actors to be the fore-front fighters of conflict in Nigeria will aim a very good result. In conclusion, this research is contemporary social issue that needs urgent investigation by other researchers to be able to know and identify the role of traditional actors in fighting conflict in Nigeria.

Introduction

For decades, security studies have been polarized around a single concept: national security, interpreted as the fundamental condition of each and every nation state's security. However, the multiple attempts of guaranteeing the territorial integrity of the states exclusively through military power have not managed to improve the human condition of its citizens. As a response, it is logically understood that the traditional actors can play a very vital role on insuring security and have the obligation to do whatever possible so as their citizens to be safe.

Statement of the problem

National security is built on the personal security of each and every individual while national interests represent generalizations on a local scale of individual interests. Yet sometimes national interests' mistakenly stated or sacrificing particular interest of people. If a conflict is absolutely necessary, then the traditional actors should do all possible in order to limit the inherent human suffering. In the study of the involvement of the traditional actors in guaranteeing security during conflict, the research consider the role of the states directly drawn into the conflict must be analyzed separately from the role of the third party states.

Research Objectives

The aim of this study is to find out the public perception of public on the role of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict in Nigeria. The Specific objectives includes:

   i. To examine the public perception on involvement of traditional actors in insuring human security in Nigeria?
   ii. To find out the factors that lead to the emergence of traditional actors in combating with conflict in Nigeria
   iii. To identify the roles of traditional actors in insuring human security during conflict in Nigeria?
   iv. To find out the strategies that can be used by the traditional actors in combating with conflict in Nigeria?
   v. To find out the challenges of traditional actors in fighting conflict

Research Questions

The study intends to address the following research questions:

1. What is the public perception on the involvement of traditional actors in insuring human security in Nigeria?
2. What are the factors that lead to the emergence of traditional actors in combating with conflict in Nigeria
3. What are the roles of traditional actors in insuring human security during conflict in Nigeria?
4. What are the strategies that can be used by the traditional actors in combating with conflict in Nigeria?
5. What are the challenges of traditional actors in fighting conflict?

Significance of the Study

The involvement of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict is a very important area of interest in criminology and other related field. The research is relevant because it will provide an in-depth insight on public perception of the involvement of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict. This study will also serve as a guides to other researchers, help traditional leaders, security personnel and government to be aware of some possible solutions of resolving conflict by the traditional actors.

Finally, the research can give a new sense of direction for the Nigeria police, based on these therefore, will enable them to find out some strategies for future effect.

keywords

** **traditional actors:** one who takes part in a situation pertaining to tradition; derived from tradition; communicated from ancestors to descendants by word only; transmitted from age to age without writing. http://wiktionary.org*

** **security:** the condition of not being threatened, especially physically, psychologically, emotionally, or financially in country. http://wiktionary.org*

** **involvement:** The act of involving, or the state of being involved. http://wiktionary.org*

** **conflict:** A clash or disagreement, often violent, between two opposing groups or individuals. http://wiktionary.org*

Methods of Data Collection

Data Were Collected through Two sources, the primary and secondary source. A questionnaire is a set of questions designed to obtain information from the respondent about subject matter under investigation. Questionnaire is used as a primary source of data collection where 100 questionnaires were distributed, 20 is administered to the traditional actors, the remaining 80 is administered to general public.

Equally, personal interview (face-face) is used with other stake holders, this is due to the numerous advantages of the primary data needed which will allow

the respondent to say their minds with an alternatives answer and established good report with the respondent to enable the effectiveness of the research and free from bias.

On the other hands, secondary source of data collection is used to collect data in this research whereby data from relevant literature were collected like textbooks, journals, magazines, and papers on the public perception on the involvement of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict in Nigeria**.**

Target Population
The target population is limited to Jos city, traditional actors resides in nearby villages and members of the public.
A total number of three hundred (300) people were targeted. One hundred (100) questionnaires was distributed for the study. Out of the one hundred questionnaires distributed (89) questionnaires were returned and used for the study. The remaining were not used for the study because there is no way to be found, some were done haphazardly filled without some pages and some no even answered at all.

Sample Size/ Sampling Techniques
For the purpose of this research, simple random sampling techniques is used where respondents were selected at random. The sample of 20 traditional actors out of the 300 target population was selected. 80 questionnaires were distributed to the general public.

Theoretical Frame-Work
A theory is a set of related ideas that explains the correlation of variables or the prediction of a phenomenon. Several theories can be adopted in this study, but the suitable theory that can satisfy the analysis of public perception of the involvement of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict would be examined

Conflict theory
The conflict perspective views society as composed of different groups and interests competing for power and resources. The conflict perspective explains various aspects of our social world by looking at which groups have power and benefit from a particular social arrangement.
The origins of the conflict perspective can be traced to the classic works of Karl Marx. Marx suggested that all societies go through stages of economic development. As societies evolve from agricultural to industrial, concern over meeting survival needs is replaced by concern over making a profit, the hallmark of a capitalist system. Industrialization leads to the development of

two classes of people: the bourgeoisie, or the owners of the means of production (e.g., factories, farms, businesses); and the proletariat, or the workers who earn wages. The division of society into two broad classes of people the "haves" and the "have-nots" is beneficial to the owners of the means of production. The workers, who may earn only subsistence wages, are denied access to the many resources available to the wealthy owners. According to Marx, the bourgeoisie use their power to control the institutions of society to their advantage. For example, Marx suggested that religion serves as an "opiate of the masses" in that it soothes the distress and suffering associated with the working-class lifestyle and focuses the workers' attention on spirituality, God, and the afterlife rather than on worldly concerns such as living conditions. In essence, religion diverts the workers so that they concentrate on being rewarded in heaven for living a moral life rather than on questioning their exploitation.

Findings
- There are different public perceptions on the involvement of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict in Nigeria. Most of the participants agree that, there is need to involve the traditional actors in resolving conflict in Nigeria
- The study also revealed that, the involvement of traditional actors in insuring security during conflict in Nigeria emerges as a result of the ineffectiveness of the formal security to protect lives and properties of Nigerians.
- This study shown that frustration, corruption, lack of man power in the security, and peer group influence is among the major factors that lead to the emergence of traditional actors in combating with conflict in Nigeria.
- The study also revealed that the challenges of traditional actors in fighting conflict in Nigeria ranges from lack of government support, lack of logistics, and lack of recognition by the police.
- The research finally revealed that, the strategies that can be used by the traditional actors in combating with conflict in Nigeria is by converting the hunters to become the fore-front fighters of conflict in Nigeria

Recommendation
In meeting all these hardships government should step in, through the multinational forces to deploy security in the conflict area to immediate the violence and repression, protecting the civilian population, organizing negotiations between the parties directly drawn into conflict, acting as forums for political debates with the purpose of finding viable solutions, conduct

monitoring or stability and support operations, thus assisting the implementation of peace agreements, implementing peace making.

Yet the primary mission of these government remains training competent and well prepared local security forces. As local forces become more and more capable to fight, they can take on heavier responsibilities, or even the operational control of the entire conflict area.

Conclusions

Whatever the strategic end or the justifiability of the conflict, one can remark the necessity of drafting lessons learned regarding security, not only for future operations, but also for the conflict zones that still take on civilian lives. These loses represent a continuous and growing challenge for the legitimacy and authority of the community, and also for its capacity to act in future alike conflicts. Being centered on the individual, the security paradigm perceives the ordinary citizen as a purpose and not as a means, and addresses not only material concerns, but also the spiritual pursuits of humans and communities. During conflict situations, all efforts carried on by the state regarding national security must have as an end the granting of security. The efficiency of security policies implemented at national and regional level are quantified in the real value of acquired security. A national security policy that does not aim for a plus of safety for each and every citizen will be a poor policy, especially in conflict situations. National interests can never be put upon the general interests of the majority of citizens belonging to that nation.

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