



## Security Infrastructure and Health in Nigeria

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**Abstract:** Security agencies have been overwhelmed by the terror- utilizing groups in the BOYONA states (North East Nigeria), as insecurity of life and property and health are mutually exclusive. The essential of a force unit was defined in this work. Personnel recruitment, care of his family by monitoring emoluments, casualty handling, accommodation for him and his 'stock in trade'- suspects and other vagrants on lawful custody. Accoutrement is on 'a la carte' or 'pay as you earn', except for critical hardware. Internally generated revenue of foreign peace keeping missions, abandoned loot by fleeing suspects, disciplinary fines, bequeathals, trust funds and other donations, all were examined. The health implications of anachronistic security infrastructure which engendered terrorism were pondered on. Crime creativity exploding via ECOWAS Free Movement Treaty is here seen as a red alert to curtailment and the possibility of BREXIT type to control influx of aliens.

Noticeable health concern of terror survivors is a retardation to citizens' development in the axis. Psychologists call it post trauma stress disorder (PTSD), this is a precursor to psychiatric disorder- horror or fear of repetition of catastrophes. Perplexity, anxiety, planlessness, insomnia, which debut at the time of the Jewish holocaust in 1948, even for the pre and neo natal. Consequentially, health issues of survivors such as low lifestyle, distrust, refugee/forced migration crises cum attendant hazards berthed.

The imperative of changing the rule of engagement-military involvement to police engagement is the recommendation-Military doctrine, policy and training never inculcated quelling of internal insurrection but that of external aggression. Intelligence gathering, forensic inquest into source of arms and financing, fraternization with insurgents, care of Children and Young persons at the Refugee camps, analysis and documentation of bombings and other materials are on the curriculum of the police colleges, which can all be read up in the policing texts, all trademarks of the police and not the military. More so, the police engendered all the uniformed units in Nigeria. Other conclusions range from plea to academics to commence intense research into schemed areas like use of ICT by terror groups for hate speeches and unschemed areas of terrorism like downward migration to Southern Nigeria, the imperative for a demographic database of all citizens, UNHCR/UNFPA (for census) and other international organizations intervention, security and health workers' need for new skills. Academic freedom and independent research permit a thrust into this foray.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Security is the preservation of property, life and personal integrity. Security therefore is a prerequisite for health, stability of continuous livelihood (Achumba & Akpor-Robaro 2013). Infrastructure is the apparatus – either human and material resources, of maintaining the security of a nation. World Health Organization (WHO) in 1946 defines health as complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, though not exactly the absence of ailments. Health is the state of wellness. Marrying security and infrastructure, consensus puts these as uniformed personnel's mode of recruitment, training modules or curriculum of designated force academies, and their welfare.

The force infrastructure is endless, and stretches to, why a force personnel must account very well for his emolument to his or her immediate family members. A report to the authority that the reverse is the case can earn the officer a dismissal for 'dereliction' of duty in the home front- if the family is not in order, the officer certainly will perform dismally. How should officers' experiencing casualty in the course of duty be treated? Local or foreign hospitals, economy has made the government opt for the earlier though. Housing for officers and men and their 'stock in trade'- suspects, committed to lawful custody is taken for granted. Barracks exist for all personnel, except officer declines, this official accommodation is preferable, so as to take into cognizance, their compulsory, epileptic, endless, a times, punitive transfers. Detention camps for suspects are however far from desirable.

Much as such camps/cells are to be well secured to ensure safety for inmates, they should be made as humane as possible. This is the 'desirable' except for the fact that, it is in some countries of the world, that it is not a crime for a suspect to escape (Sweden), it is an anathema in this clime for a member of the force to report the disappearance of his suspect. It is naturally assumed, some complicity occurred and he aided and abetted the escape, so the cells are exactly secured. This explains the inhuman state of most detention camps where "pail" disposal of faecal waste prevails and no ventilation nor sun ray is considered in the architecture, an invitation to pigment dispersion syndrome.

Part of the wellbeing of the force is accoutrements. None goes to war at his own expense – the story differs for Nigeria security forces. The kitting is "a-la-carte" by all ranks. Any wonder why hoodlums lay hand on 'kitting' easily? It is only here, one will sight a bus driver donning a military or police camouflage! Misappropriation of funds meant for such kitting has never been queried as such is viewed as mutiny. Civil labour groups protest inadequate personnel protective equipment ( P.P.E.), but never will members of the force!

Hardware of prosecuting a war against insurgents must include manned and unmanned drones, rocket launchers, surveillance aircrafts( police air wing), and so on. How easy are these to come by for the agencies involved? Financing is critical to human endeavor. The budget of the military is all time the largest, but only little counter terror achievement to show for this. Any wonder most palatial buildings in town belong to retired and serving officers? All forces have internally generated revenue (IGR), ranging from fines from court martial or orderly room proceedings, proceeds of abandoned loot of fleeing suspects, donations like via Police Community Relations Committee, police and other forces have reward or Trust Funds-generated from philanthropists or businessmen, who sometimes give or return 'lost but found' valuables to the stations/ duty/border posts, corporate/international organizations' donations, etc. UN Peace Keeping Missions (Bosnia, Namibia, Rwanda, Liberia, etc) UNODC, USAID, Red Cross and grant donors who equally bequeath much substance for exigencies.

Wellbeing packages of force men include portmanteau post-retirement plans. Public servants have pension fund administration (PFA), officers opted out like the foreign service officers (diplomats), judicial officers and seamen. The scheme looks dicey, so the forces do not have much savings for old age, in a country with no provision for social security, even in old age. Resettlement centres where skills acquisitions commence to take care of disembarking members, on grounds of lawful exit, incapacitation or maiming or misadventure exist for all forces.

## 2. SECURITY AGENTS AND HEALTH.

Barracks are all time congested for failure to embrace family planning cum cost effectiveness leading to attendant shortage of ample accommodation space. The role of the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) is commendable as quarrels, bickerings, gossips, and the like are exactly punished, hence peaceful milieu of the settings.

Detention camps, which is a permanent feature of the peculiar office environments expose officers to communicable diseases. Pail disposal of faecal solid waste is the norm as water scarcity as cells are cannot permit the conventional toilet system (cistern). The predominant fear however is, suspects' escape, if allowed to visit the conveniences. The stench from detention camps/cells and attendant sexually transmitted disease (STDs) due to 'sodomy', and other prevalent outbreak of diseases such as Ebola, Covid19, heat rashes, 'Disease X' (yet to be named ailments) etc. are the norm, conventionally unventilated for the fear of escape. The joke is both 'warders' and 'prisoners' are all inmates.

With the ECOWAS Free Movement Treaty, came a lot of apprehension. The corruption at the three (3) borders-SEAL (sea, air and land) by the Customs and Excise department/ Immigration has made Nigeria the home of small arms proliferation, expired/substandard goods, human trafficking, illegal aliens, indeed complete array of cross border crime.

Crime creativity becomes a big cross to carry, as the scenery of how Ebola and Corona 2019 crossed into Nigeria readily comes to mind. Should Nigeria due to peculiar problem of insurgency pull out of ECOWAS after the similitude of BREXIT? Like one visa gives access to almost all European States, should West African States toe such line? No.

Innovative training of medical crews is an imperative as health workers desert terror zones (BOYONA). When frauds occur in banks and financial institutions, bankers ask forensic experts to relocate to the banks, to forestall such. The joke is that, bankers and related officers should be taught forensics by the police before they resume duty. A synergy has been worked out where forensic

experts are seconded to bankers' training schools. Ditto should hold for health workers in terror zones, who can incorporate defensive treatment of casualties and tactical withdrawal during attacks. Supply and installations of limbs or prosthetics by paramedics to terror survivors must still be met.

Critical issues to the security agents in terror zones are misappropriation of funds for tools, treatment when hurt and prompt payment of death benefits to dependants when the ultimate (death) happens. The standing rule is that dependants can only stay for ninety (90) days in allotted barracks, after which another occupant must take up that residence.

Last but not the least of health and officers' wellbeing in terror zone is, retaliatory attacks on civilian population, because security agents were attacked by civilians. Probably the officers reported late to ward off the attack. Is this diverted aggression on both sides? The likes of Konduga Invasion 2013, Odi rape cases, are a few of such. Sexual abuse of civilians cannot be justified in all climes – even though the Geneva Convention (LOAC) tries to negate this – a lot of work needs to be done for the security men to upgrade. Since they are away from their families and mostly men go to the theatre of war, nature must make its demand.

### 3. OTHER INDICATORS OF HEALTH INSECURITY

There is no gainsaying the fact that security agents hijack food rations for civilian populations in the BOYONA axis. Sex for ration, sex for comfort, and the likes are engendered. An observer on one occasion was told to pack as much food stuff as he desires from the UN logistics supplied. Valuables brought by relations to their kith as IDPs were immediately confiscated for personal use by the uniformed guards as sighted at the UNCHR Oru Refugee Camp (Liberians), till date.

Natural disasters are features of prolonged security breaches involving geological dimensions. The bombs make impact on the earth and geologists tell that such can cause both animal and plants to be annihilated leading to famine, tremors, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and the like. These must be expected in years to come. Unexpected deaths of close relations and attendant dependence of their families on surviving relations lower the social status and esteem of the relations, an offshoot of terrorism. Marital instability is rampant, due to long stay away from home, which could lead to infidelity by the wife as well as security agents.

Fatal accidents are not wanting at war or pseudo war fronts – any explosion will make anyone in sight scamper for safety- at the wheels or on foot. Rule of law and social norms take a bow as witnessed during the Ireland Republican Army/Falkland and Syrian wars. Another crux on the health sphere is the insanity, drug addiction, low life expectancy, nightmares, neuroticism, PTSD and others.

### 4. HEALTH IMPLICATION OF TERRORISM

Since sound health and violence are mutually exclusive, as community health workers never envisaged these dimensions, there is need for a new framework. All will feel vulnerable due to rating on community risk perception by insurance agents because of ill-preparedness. Attendant low social support produces high rate of psychological disorders like mental breakdown, depressive disorder, eating disorder, social phobia panic disorder. Post trauma stress disorder (PTSD) is also constant. This is a feeling of horror, fear of its occurrence or repetition, anxiety, insomnia, hypertension, despair, dependency and morbidity, as resultant effects. (Onyecho, Omeiza, and Wakil2014). Attendant fast depletion of even the vulnerable group who are not in the theatre of war, but away from the bread winner and care givers can be noticed. Binderbryne et al 1985 traced consequences of the Jewish Holocaust in 1948 and found that the human subjects had babies with PTSD – babies heard of these events while in the womb.

Due to the disappearance of health workers, quackery fills up the missing links. Economic wellbeing is threatened as social life is paralyzed, stable planning of governance gone, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) dwindles in that axis; students manifest dyslexia and hatred for schooling. Imagine Miss Leah Sharibu kidnapped in 2014 at Chibok-Nigeria, attending school again! The recent USA visa ban on Nigeria is as a result of terrorism. Global Peace Initiative Index of 2019 classes Nigeria as a terrain of catastrophic horizons. No wonder the travel passport has become one of the weakest in the world.

Trauma related psychiatric cases multiplied too (Wolfe, 1990). Opium sell rapidly due to frustration, perplexity and hopelessness. Seed at (2013) of the South African Society of Psychiatrists (SASOP) declares that with right treatment guidelines for such psychiatric disorder, there will be a decline in traits. But it is never easy to come by as health workers desert.

Drug abuse is attendant option for gross disorientation. Sedatives are often needed to induce sleep for worried hearts, this often graduates into other opiums that inadvertently lead to addiction, due to near impossibility of withdrawal.

General observations from terror zones include, low lifestyle signified by retardation in growth, annihilation of Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs), high risk perception, neuroticism, low investing power, etc. With refugees' make shift camps and attendant health risks in waste and faecal disposal, immorality and petty crime, a life of uncertainty is now certain.

Small arms proliferation attend the unceasing terror attacks- in tandem with self -defense. It is unfortunate that comprehensive socio-demographic statistics of victims are not readily available and this can be grounds for further research. (*See the narrative of a false 9/11 victim online*). Research ethics also foreclose details of sexual abuse of Chibok girls of 2014. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) were reported when some were released. Gender Based Violence (GBV) occasions sexual abuse which dates back to the Roman or Medieval wars. It is a practice that has refused to die, as women are still seen as booties of war. No employee wants to be posted to BOYONA states because, it is a red alert zone for now.

### 5. AN IMPERATIVE FOR DIRECTIONAL CHANGE

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, fifty (50) houses were devastated by an explosion at a Lagos location. The conclusion was that the pipeline exploded. Crimes are often camouflaged to look like accidents. Forensic expertise which only the police is privy to, would have been drafted to the scene to confirm, if it was a cluster or impact bomb. Till date serious queries as to the validity of pipeline have been raised and no resolve yet.

Pipeline explosion may not have made that level of impact! The above appetizer is aimed at debunking the need for soldiers in civil unrests. No other clime of the world engages the army in internal insurrection-this is a militarization of such a State. Home grown terrorism in a peaceful milieu is certainly not within the ambit of the military. Neither Ghana, Kenya, Congo, United States, and so on quell insurrection with the military, which is a civil duty. Military readiness for its policy and defense of external aggression has waned. Police receives tutelage for mortality of ballistics, restricting its usage to extreme cases. This study is diminutive as the police though the mother of all forces, is its purview. It should be noted, it berthed all other forces- during the colonial era, there was no need for an army and all attendant forces. The police had an oversight of all the related duties. Investigation of crime that jolts humanity is a basic course in the police, this prowess endeared them to the United Nations who invited them to Bosnia-Hezegovinia, Namibia, Liberia, S/Leone, Rwanda for such ad-hoc duties. Tutelage on Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA) are inculcated to enable the care of juveniles and other vulnerable groups and related civilian population at the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) camps. Even their leisure reading needs like newspapers and novels, are met by formation of reading circles by policewomen. Care and counselling of 'distressed' victims are compulsory basic duties of policewomen-which is sequel to providing for maternal needs. Emphasis is laid, at the point of recruitment, on courses like the behavioural sciences-anthropology, sociology, psychology to mention a few. This will enable forensic criminologists to the social disorganization theories, that is to say, how a person's physical and social environment regulates behavioural choices. Follow up register of habitual or repentant criminals, friendship with insurgents, to know psychology behind the terror attacks, are taught as basic police duties. This follow up ought to be the norm rather than granting amnesty to hardened religious bigots.

Perceivable fear of insurgents becoming state-sponsored actors can be the learning outcome of any Amnesty. As to corruption level rating of the police, no agency of government, not even the private sector is immune to it.

### 6. LIMITATIONS OF THE WORK

Every schedule demands a **SMART** approach- Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound goals. How long is the counter operation to last? Deradicalisation quest takes what form?, Is it achievable? Relevance of state tactics. These are yet to be ascertained. Other factors are:

**A. In availability of grants:** Lack of a visit to Nigeria Defence Academy, Nigeria Police Academy or Force Headquarters, National Emergency Management Agency libraries and archives where pictures and incendiary residues are kept is a snag. Press clippings or scrap books and eye witness details constitute the major resources. Dread of the group and their modus operandi of speed, surprise and silence (SSS)- that is to say, Boko Haram group can hit the civilian population unannounced again,

makes a trip for recording near impossible. Survivors accounts are incomplete and will necessitate a trip to that zone too.

**B. Proactive Educational curriculum:** Schools are yet to be proactive. Till date no higher institution features courses bothering on counter terrorism measures. Forensic analysis is not taught at undergraduate level.

**C. Economical setbacks:** When the price is right, researchers would concentrate on the field but the heavy and daily rising debt profile may inhibit a reprieve to detailed follow up of this insurgency either by researchers or even philanthropists (they need to buy into the idea before giving a grant). It is a forlorn hope to think dispersing insurgents from their operational base in Sambisa forest will quell terrorism, they simply regroup in virgin regions considered safer. This we now witness in upsurge of banditry in the North West axis- Katsina, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, Kaduna, to mention a few. Except of course for foreign grants, pursuing a deliberate stoppage diligently is not yet in sight.

**D. Personal Resilience:** Ability to bounce back from adversity has varying degrees from profession to profession. Vietnam combat veterans rose from PTSD of permanent disability or invalidity to become business tycoons, some to USA senators and nobilities. Children raised by alcoholic dads/mums still fare well while those bourgeois kids end in shambles or gaols or having repeated problems in life. The grace or fortitude to cope well with life's traumatic ends, marks out the stem in all, Residents of BOYONA states and uniformed personnel should do all needful to quell insurgency and bounce back after this internecine disturbances.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Academics should leave their comfort, traditional zones and report at the emerging conflict zone. This is a green area, the sovereignty of Nigeria means we must resolve any mess that comes up against peace and safety. Communicable and cultural crime are often an epidemic.

- **Health Care Providers:** Survival is the first rule of the jungle, instead of fleeing this zone to give room for quacks, they must devise novel ways of psychological intervention and drugs by utilizing the print media on prevention and cure of PTSD. First aid care must be inculcated to other community front line attendants.
- **Deradicalization impossible:** Terrorists claim they are committed to the teaching of The Prophet and Jihad- as the followers of Late Moh'd Yusuf claim. As with all religious bigotry, a tiger cannot change its stripes and radicalization of violent non-state actors lead to huge human, political and economic losses. To renounce that "religious conviction" that produced terrorism is an invitation to suicide – apostasy is punished by death in the said religion. Let amnesty be granted to "repentant" or surrendered ones and definite skills be bequeathed, so they can have means of livelihood. Perhaps the appeal of crime will dwindle. To train them abroad is to waste unavailable national resources or leave them stranded. Judging by the Niger Delta experiment, it may not help.
- **Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) Student Exchange:** Like the "year abroad" programme of foreign language students, students may be exchanged, working out the modalities among universities. This therapy may heal students of already acquired PTSD and allow their replacements understudy how best to arrest the situation in the terror zone.
- **Replacement of the soldiers with the police:** Protracted nature of this insurgency has allowed all to know why police not army is best in quelling internal insurrections. Doctrines of local knowledge or intelligence gathering has newly been introduced to the military and may even be an "aside". Intelligence gathering is the crux of policing as they are closer to the civilian population. Use of teargas cannister (smoke) would have sufficed for 'saturation' of Sambisa forest – the terrorists' hide out, in a way that none will gather there in a long while. The police has a copyright of all these – it is cheaper than series of "hit & miss" aerial bombardments by the Air Force. Follow up or monitoring or "friendship nursing" of repentant terrorists via the criminal registers can only be practicalized by the NPF. The nourishment, patience, fraternal bonds with the intent to rehabilitate, can only be via policing and not the military. Converted ones may be used as state actors, informants or "errand boys" just for officers to keep them off their former lifestyle (terrorism).
- **Meaningful Internet Infrastructure:** Computer infrastructure can now be hosted and insurgents can be virtually tracked. They send mails, chats, though coded/encrypted. Cloud retains this, even

though they seem intractable. The role of the internet in facilitating violent extremism have been extracted from former extremists. Acceptable open source forensic tools that meet technical, legal and regulatory needs of doing such, can be deplored for this complex task. Indexing, tagging, digital formats, chain of custody, logging details, auditing, data conversion and so on must be appropriately arrested, and attendant preservation of e-evidence for admissibility in court.

- **Multidisciplinary Approach:** Challenges like terrorism are met by variant proven solutions that have been entrenched in other culture that won this subtle war. Violent radicalization will take no one no where, as those who preach such never practise it. Sociologists, psychologists, Ecumenical scholars, indigenous African cultural scholars have opined these radicals are alien to Africa communal care and affection for human life. One can only pray, there will be a win, win scenario.
- **Demographic database:** Reasons adduced for extra judicial killings are unavailability of demographic databases of Nigerians, not even that of ex-convicts, hardened/habitual criminals. When on parole for instance, they freely, mix and mingle, thus constitute much threat to free citizens. Same goes for aliens who were never Nigerians by birth or other lawful means like naturalization. Family history, DNA records and infra red fingerprints (spectroscopy), that should be in a national data base are non existent (for political reasons?) For example, Osama BinLadin morbid analysis by USA tallied with what he had in USA when he was their employee. Such records are needed so the “true” Nigerians can have a valid claim and aliens – legal and illegal, may be delineated. Opinions are rife that the terrorist are not even Nigerians but paid mercenaries from the “Maghrebs”. A system of evolving ‘who is who?’ to curtail inescapability need to be devised.
- **Foreign Policy:** This is the orthodoxically defined as action plus purposes of the State beyond her shores. Simply put, how nations relate. Every nation state has diverse interests and values. The over riding interest of Nigeria being the “big brother’ and ‘home to all’ must be jettisoned instead of compromising safety, security, and welfare of citizens and political soundness. Ghana has sent Nigerians packing from her shores twice in recent times- one in the 60s and presently (on going). This is related to the preceding reasoning that the perpetrators may not be indigenes after all.

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