

## SECURITY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA IN A WORLD OF CHANGE: A PHILOSOPHICAL STUDY OF NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*This paper brings a two-dimensional approach to the discourse on security. The first is that security challenges can be natural; secondly, it can also be man-made. Africa as a continent, in this regard, is ravaged by many security challenges. This paper points out health disasters such as Ebola, environmental hazards such as earthquake to be among natural disasters. It sees terrorism, organized armed banditry and other unlawful armed groups to be among man-made security challenges. In the case of Nigeria, perennial challenges like poor leadership, corruption, religious fanaticism and bigotry including tribalism have all combined to create further security challenges that have now climaxed in Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen, Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, etc. These menaces have given Nigerians sleepless nights and continuous mourning moments. Present Nigerian Government seems to be helpless and clueless in the face of all these. Employing the philosophical methods of Analysis and Phenomenology, this paper highlights the socio-psychological foundations for most of these challenges, namely, Poverty of the pocket and stomach, poverty of the mind, poor political leadership and mass ignorance. This study concludes that for African leaders in general and Nigerian leaders in particular to get it right, there is urgent need to restructure the political structure that breeds incompetence and gross poor leadership qualities. The paper further recommends, among other things, investment in education and general human development and a radical approach that calls for action and pragmatic strategy instead of the usual foot-dragging and lip service occasioned by the abuse of power and subversion of political/humanistic values.*

**Keywords:** Security, Challenges, Africa, Nigeria, Government

## Introduction

Security is often believed to be the first law of life and this is assumed so because without a secured and preserved life, extinction is inevitable and existence would be made meaningless. A secured life thus becomes a path or leeway to existential possibilities, potentialities and actualities. It is for this reason that issues that pertain to security should not be taken lightly or treated with kid gloves.

For any human society to make progress, there has to be an entrenched security measure or strategy, so that there can be life inhabitable in such a society. Life itself is a feature or the obvious mark of “to be,” or being. To say a thing is, is to be able to point it out in concreteness and aboutness; in intentionality and definition. It has to be realized for it to become actualized. It also has to carry with it the weight of reality for it to be concretized. Thus, no matter how we see it, life has to be secured for meaning to be given. It is in this sense that we can come to see what is meant by the generally held belief that security is the first law of life. The foregoing is a metaphysical exegesis that clearly shows the exigency for security.

In Nigeria in particular and Africa in general, as in the rest of the world, the issue of security is becoming something topical we cannot lose sleep about. This is because there are a lot of security challenges. Perhaps, the first philosophical conversation is to inquire into the nature of man and since among other considerations, it seems fair *a posteriori* to say that Man's nature is sewn with the toga of interest. Behind every human action is an overriding interest guiding it. It follows that Man will continue to become a wolf against his fellow man and make existence becomes about who is strong enough to survive it (Survival of the Fittest). Thus, each man's existence becomes dependent on the ability for self-preservation. Government seems helpless in the face of these security challenges. Perhaps, they are trying but it may not be enough as statistics have shown. In Nigeria today, people are no longer safe because anything can happen. From *Boko Haram* terrorist onslaught, to Fulani Herdsmen menace to Armed Banditry and Kidnapping to Road Accidents on major roads across the country, the reality continues to be tears and fears. Only recently, we heard of about 200 persons killed in Plateau State for what some call “Herdsmen-Farmers Clashes.” We are also not to forget the killings in Benue State, which some pundits see as genocide. Again, the tanker explosion in Lagos that claimed some lives and burnt over 50

vehicles in one sweep is another recent occurrence that further raises the concern for safety and preservation of life. When also talking about security, we also take cognizance of natural disasters. While a country like Nigeria may have been free from occurrences like Earthquake and Volcanoes, it continues to have the perennial problems of flooding which falls under the sub-category of Hydrological Disaster under Natural Disaster as against Man-made security challenges.

In this paper, we will look at what security is and what security challenges can be. We will do a two-dimensional approach to the discourse on security. Within the framework of this paper, we will look into the causes of the man-made ones and how they can be averted. We will also look into precautionary measures that can be taken to forestall natural disasters and also critically look into Nigeria's security peculiarity in order to give pragmatic solution to these challenges as it affect Nigeria in particular and African countries in general.

### **What is security?**

Security is both from the Latin and French roots of *Securitas* (from *Securus*) and *Securite* which entered into English Language in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and means free from care or anxiety. It is the state of being free from danger or threat. (Online Etymology Dictionary). It is also the safety of a state or organization against criminal activity such as terrorism, theft, or espionage (English Oxford Living Dictionaries). According to Buzanetal (2008) Security is freedom from, or resilience against, potential harm (or other unwanted coercive change) from external forces. Beneficiaries (technically referents) of security may be persons and social groups, objects and institutions, ecosystems, and any other entity or phenomenon vulnerable to unwanted change by its environment (p.32). Security mostly refers to protection from hostile forces, but it has a wide range of other senses: for example, as the absence of harm (For instance, freedom from want); as the presence of an essential good (For instance, food security); as resilience against potential damage or harm (For instance, secure foundations); as secrecy (For instance, a secure telephone line); as containment (For instance, a secure room or cell); and as a state of mind (For instance, emotional security). The term is also used to refer to acts and systems whose purpose may be to provide security: (Examples include: security forces; security guard; cyber security systems; security cameras; remote guarding). From the foregoing, we can infer that Security

depicts the tendency to be secure. To be safe in a way that shows no threat to life or property.

### **The Two-Dimensional Discourse to Security Challenges**

Security challenges can be two-fold. It is either natural or man-made. People often think that security challenges are only the ones caused by man but it is not. Humans are not the only threat to human security as we have seen from the extensive sufferings and damages caused by natural disasters. Due to population growth, poverty, and land shortages, people are increasingly living in areas that are more exposed to natural hazards. Let us look at this two aspect of security challenges one after the other.

- ***Natural Disasters:***

Natural Disasters are divided into geological disaster as in for instance, Earthquake; Hydrological disaster as in for instance, Flood; Meteorological disaster as in for instance, droughts; we also have Wildfire and Space disasters. We will look at some of the sub-categories, so as to expose the fact of why they are all classified as natural disasters and how they pose security challenge to man. But what is this Natural Disaster we talk about? Natural disaster is a natural event such as a flood, earthquake, or hurricane that causes great damage or loss of life. It is a major adverse effect resulting from natural processes of the Earth; examples include floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other geologic processes. A natural disaster can cause loss of life or property damage and typically leaves some economic damage in its wake, the severity of which depends on the affected population's resilience, or ability to recover and also on the infrastructure available (Bankoff*et al*, 2003). As the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake has made all too clear, natural disasters can be very difficult to predict and fully prepare against, and have incredibly far-reaching consequences for the safety and wellbeing of individuals and communities. As in previous natural disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Australian bushfires in 2009, the 2010 Haiti earthquake and the 2010 Pakistan floods, the impacts on people and society in affected areas are immediate and overwhelming. Such catastrophes tend to exacerbate pre-existing problems and inequalities, with vulnerable parts of the population often disproportionately impacted. For instance, initial estimates suggest that 65% of the deaths from the recent disaster in Japan were of people aged 60 or over. The consequences can be felt for many

years, with people suffering as refugees or being displaced within their own country, their livelihoods destroyed, and facing long-term health issues (Futamura *et al.*, 2011, para.1). Futamura *et al.* (2011) further asked: “How can we best understand and respond to the threats natural disasters pose to human safety and wellbeing?” In response, they noted:

One approach is to see these all as threats to “human security”. Since its appearance in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 1994 Human Development Report, the concept of human security has rapidly emerged in international politics, with the establishment of the Commission on Human Security in 2001. Whereas a traditional understanding of security emphasizes the military defense of state interests, human security provides an alternative, human-centered perspective that focuses on securing and protecting individuals’ “freedom from want” and “freedom from fear”. It offers a broader understanding of security, by incorporating concerns of development and human rights as well as more traditional issues. Human security promotes a bottom-up, people-centered approach, which emphasizes the needs, capacities and experiences of individuals on the ground. It has been widely applied in a number of fields such as peace building, humanitarian assistance, development, education and health.” (para.2).

Environmental security was identified as a core component of the definition of human security outlined in UNDP’s 1994 report. Nevertheless, human security debates and policies have tended to focus more on human-made disasters, such as armed conflicts and human rights abuses. At the same time, strategies for disaster risk reduction (for instance, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015) have largely avoided explicitly referring to human security. Even so, as recent catastrophes like the earthquakes in Haiti and Japan have clearly shown, the actual threats that people struggle with following a natural disaster are similar to those of a human-made crisis such as armed conflict: “fear” (such as aftershocks and deteriorating social order) and “want” (lack of food, water and shelter). Likewise, many of the same actors are involved in the response, notably the UN and humanitarian NGOs. Indeed, most of the organizations involved in natural disaster relief are working to protect human security, even if they don’t label their work as such.

One thing with natural disaster is that an adverse effect will not rise to the level of a disaster if it occurs in an area without vulnerable population. In a vulnerable area, however, such as Nepal during the 2015 earthquake, an earthquake can have disastrous consequences and leave lasting damage, which can require years to repair (Wisner *etal* 2004). It is important we throw some light on the kinds of natural disasters there are for the purpose of awareness and further dissemination of knowledge.

**Geological Disaster:** There are for instance, Landslides and Avalanche. Landslide is described as an outward and downward slope movement of an abundance of slope-forming materials including rock, soil, artificial, or even a combination of these things (Lynn 2017). During World War 1, an estimated 40,000 to 80,000 soldiers died as a result of avalanches during the mountain campaign in the Alps at the Austrian-Italian front. Many of the avalanches were caused by artillery fire (Davis 2008, p.7). An earthquake is the result of a sudden release of energy in the Earth's crust that creates seismic waves. At the Earth's surface, earthquakes manifest themselves by vibration, shaking, and sometimes displacement of the ground. Earthquakes are caused by slippage within geological faults. The underground point of origin of the earthquake is called the *seismic focus*. The point directly above the focus on the surface is called the *epicenter*. Earthquakes by themselves rarely kill people or wildlife. It is usually the secondary events that they trigger such as building collapse, fires, tsunamis (seismic sea waves) and volcanoes. Many of these could possibly be avoided by better construction, safety systems, early warning and planning. When natural erosion or human mining makes the ground too weak to support the structures built on it, the ground can collapse and produce a sinkhole. For example, the 2010 Guatemala City sinkhole which killed fifteen people was caused when heavy rain from *Tropical Storm Agatha*, diverted by leaking pipes into a pumice bedrock, led to the sudden collapse of the ground beneath a factory building (Wikipedia 2018, paras.3-4).

**Hydrological Disaster:** Let us take two examples for the purpose of space and time. Hydrological Disaster is a violent, sudden and destructive change either in the quality of Earth's water or in the distribution or movement of water on land below the surface or in the atmosphere. For example, Flood. A flood is an overflow of water that 'submerges' land. The EU Floods Directive defines a flood as a temporary covering by water of land which is usually not covered by water. In the sense of

'flowing water', the word may also be applied to the inflow of the tides. Flooding may result from the volume of water within a body of water, such as a river or lake, which overflows, causing some of the water to escape its usual boundaries. While the size of a lake or other body of water will vary with seasonal changes in precipitation and snow melt, it is not a significant flood unless the water covers land used by man, like a village, city or other inhabited area, roads, expanses of farmland and so on (Glossary of Meteorology 2007).

Tsunami (plural: tsunamis or tsunami; from Japanese: 津波, literally translated to mean "harbour wave," also known as a seismic sea wave or as a tidal wave, is a series of waves in a water body caused by the displacement of a large volume of water, generally in an ocean or a large lake. Tsunamis can be caused by undersea earthquakes such as the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, or by landslides such as the one in 1958 at Lituya Bay, Alaska, or by volcanic eruptions such as the ancient eruption of Santorini. On March 11, 2011, a tsunami occurred near Fukushima, Japan and spread through the Pacific (Wikipedia 2018, para. 5).

*Meteorological Disaster:* Let us also look at two of the natural disasters that fall under this category. They are Drought and Thunderstorm. Drought is the unusual dryness of soil caused by levels of rainfall significantly below average over a prolonged period. Hot dry winds, shortage of water, high temperatures and consequent evaporation of moisture from the ground can also contribute to conditions of drought. Droughts result in crop failure and shortages of water. Well-known as historical droughts include the 1997–2009 Millennium Drought in Australia led to a water supply crisis across much of the country. As a result, many desalination plants were built for the first time. In 2011, the State of Texas lived under a drought emergency declaration for the entire calendar year and severe economic losses. The Severe storms, dust clouds, and volcanic eruptions can generate lightning. Apart from the damage typically associated with storms, such as winds, hail, and flooding, the lightning itself can damage buildings, ignite fires and kill by direct contact. Especially deadly lightning incidents include a 2007 strike in *Ushari Dara*, a remote mountain village in northwestern Pakistan, that killed 30 people (Reuters 2007, paras 1-3). The crash of LANSA Flight 508 which killed 91 people, and a fuel explosion in Dronka, Egypt caused by lightning in 1994 which killed 469 (Evans, 2008). Most lightning deaths occur in the poor countries of America and Asia, where lightning is common

and adobe mud brick housing provides little protection that cause the Bastrop fires (Lakhani 2015, para.1).

Other forms of natural disasters also include Wildfires and Space disasters. Wildfires are large fires which often start in wild land areas. Common causes include lightning and drought but wildfires may also be started by human negligence or arson. They can spread to populated areas and can thus be a threat to humans and property, as well as wildlife. Notable cases of wildfires were the 1871 Peshtigo Fire in the United States, which killed at least 1700 people, and the 2009 Victorian bushfires in Australia.

Asteroids that impact the Earth have led to several major extinction effects, including one which created the Chicxulubcrater 64.9 million years ago and which is associated with the demise of the dinosaurs. Scientists estimate that the likelihood of death for a living human from a global impact event is comparable to the probability of death from an airliner crash. No human death has been definitively attributed to an impact event, but the 1490 Ch'ing-yang event in which over 10,000 people may have died has been linked to a meteor shower. Even asteroids and comets that burn up in the atmosphere can cause significant destruction on the ground due to the air burst explosion: notable air bursts include the Tunguska event in June 1908, which devastated large areas of Siberian countryside, and the Chelyabinsk meteor on 15 February 2013, which caused widespread property damage in the city of Chelyabinsk and injured 1,491 (Wikipedia 2018, para.9).

Having briefly looked at Natural disasters in their various forms, let us also look at man-made security challenges. This is to enable us reconcile our two-dimensional approach to this discourse.

### **Man-Made Security Challenges**

Man-made security challenges include any security challenge caused by man. Examples include Terrorism, Herdsmen-Farmers clashes, Armed Banditry, Kidnapping and other man-inflicted hazards. Let us briefly look at them:

**Terrorism:** Terrorism can be seen as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims (Oxford Dictionary). According to Blackstone (2018) "Terrorism is derived

from the Latin “terrorem,” which translates as “panic,” “alarm” and “great fear.” The term’s use widened with the 1793-94 period of the French Revolution known as the “Reign of Terror,” when the revolutionary government conducted mass executions to intimidate suspected opponents” (para.5). Merriam Webster defines Terrorism as “the systematic and coercive use of terror, defined as “violent or destructive acts (such as bombing) committed by groups in order to intimidate a population or government into granting their demands.” Some Scholars feel that such definitions are not universally accepted and can be interpreted in different ways. Under the dictionary criteria, some experts would argue, the revolutionary colonist soldiers who slaughtered Native Americans allied with the British were terrorists, as were John Brown’s abolitionists who indiscriminately killed civilians in pro-slavery states before the Civil War. Palestinians regarded as terrorists by Israel are seen by their supporters as resistance fighters opposed to an occupation. Some scholars say the word terrorism can still be used objectively. They opine that it can be defined with a fair degree of precision, which does not necessarily entail judging or taking a position. Todd Gitlin, a professor at the Columbia Journalism School noted: “My definition of terrorism, which I don’t think is unusual, is a violent act in order to strike terror in the hearts of a population toward a political end” (Blackstone 2018, para. 7).

***Armed Banditry or Robbery:*** It is a robbery where the person carrying out the robbery act is armed by having a lethal weapon and threatens his victims with bodily harm (The Law Dictionary).

***Kidnapping:*** It is an act of abducting someone and holding them captive. In criminal law, kidnapping is the unlawful carrying away (asportation) and confinement of a person against his or her will. Thus, it is a composite crime. It can also be defined as false imprisonment by means of abduction, both of which are separate crimes that when committed simultaneously upon the same person merge as the single crime of kidnapping. The asportation/abduction element is typically but not necessarily conducted by means of force or fear. That is, the perpetrator may use a weapon to force the victim into a vehicle, but it is still kidnapping if the victim is enticed to enter the vehicle willingly, for instance, in the belief it is a taxicab. Kidnapping may be done to demand for ransom in exchange for releasing the victim, or for other illegal

purposes. Kidnapping can be accompanied by bodily injury which elevates the crime to aggravated kidnapping (Wikipedia 2018, paras.1-2).

Having made attempts to discuss the two-dimensional ways of looking at security challenges, let us contextualize these narratives into the Nigerian experience in relation to security challenges.

### **Security Challenges and the Nigerian Experience**

It is no longer news even to the common man on the street that Nigeria is a country ravaged by security challenges. According to Ojoye (2018): “The abduction of over 100 schoolgirls, by suspected members of the Boko Haram sect, at the Government Girls’ Technical Secondary School, Dapchi, Yobe State, was the most daring act in recent times, from a group that was proclaimed as “technically defeated” by the Buhari administration” (para.1). During the Goodluck Jonathan’s administration, the murderous insurgents staged several attacks both against public and private institutions, in several cities, even going as far as desecrating Abuja, Nigeria’s capital city. They carted away several hostages including the famous Chibok girls, occupied territories (about 14 local government areas), and in an audacious move proclaimed a Caliphate in Gwoza, Borno State. The militants gave the military a bloody nose. However, Buhari’s election as President in 2015 changed the tide of the war. Boko Haram suffered one loss after another until the Minister of Information, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, boldly declared on national television that the militants had been “technically defeated”. That “technical victory”, it is apparent, is fast becoming a pyrrhic victory with the renewed wave of attacks by the insurgents on soft targets, and the recent abduction of the Dapchi schoolgirls (para.2). Boko Haram has killed over 20,000 people and displaced 2.6 million people in a wave of attacks spanning a nine-year period. Government should begin to think of long-term solutions to this menace rather than quick fixes because terrorism will not disappear from our midst overnight, as it is based on an ideology derived from a warped interpretation of religion. There is no denying the fact that Nigerians are very gullible and susceptible when it comes to the issue of religion (Ojoye 2018, para.3).

The North-East region (comprising six states) which is the epicentre of the insurgency is too large to be policed effectively by our security forces. With a landmass of 262,578 km, the North-East is bigger than all the countries in West Africa with the exception of Ivory Coast. Members of

the Armed Forces are not more than 250,000, all of whom are not stationed in the North-East. Also, the Nigeria Police currently has 381,000 members, 80 per cent of whom are on VIP Protection Duties. It is crystal clear that we do not have the requisite manpower to police the region and curb unfortunate incidents like the Dapchi abduction (Ojoye 2018, paras.4-5). During the countdown to the 2015 general elections in Nigeria, a major campaign issue which the opposition All Progressives Congress, APC, leveraged on to discredit the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, was the serious security challenges afflicting the country at the time. The most evident and pressing of these challenges was the relentless terror attacks carried out by the Islamist militant group, Boko Haram, in the North East states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, with several lives lost, billions of Naira worth of property destroyed and thousands of people forced to flee their homes and communities (Ebonugwo 2018, para.1). By 2014, the death toll had risen alarmingly, climbing to 6,644 according to the Global Terrorism Index, GTI, an increase of 317 per cent over the previous year and considered... "the largest increase in terrorist deaths ever recorded by any country". By 2015 it had reached an excess of 8,000 according to the Armed Conflict Location Data.

But in spite of military campaigns by the Nigerian Armed Forces to subdue the Boko Haram monster, a vast swathe of territory within these states was lost to the insurgents who occupied the captured areas and dared the Federal Government to do its worst. To compound the problem, the Boko Haram also continued to carry out suicide bomb attacks in many other parts of the North, including the Federal capital, Abuja. Not long after the Buhari administration was sworn in, it declared a full scale war on the murderous Boko Haram terrorists. First, President Muhammadu Buhari overhauled the hierarchy of the Nigerian military with new service chiefs appointed and the military command and operation Centre being moved to Maiduguri, Borno State for a more effective deployment of troops to confront the terrorists. Apart from that, the President had, while decorating new services chiefs in August 2015, given them a three-month deadline to eliminate the terrorists from all occupied Nigerian territories.

The popular belief is that the failure of the Jonathan's administration to rescue the Chibok school girls who were kidnapped in April 2014 by the Boko Haram contributed significantly to its loss in the 2015 presidential election. On the other hand, the succeeding Buhari administration had made the rescue of the girls a priority (Ebonugwo 2018, paras.2-5).

Ebonugwo (2018) further observed: “Efforts in this regard yielded the desired result with the return of some of the missing girls in October 2016 after negotiations between the group and the Nigerian government reportedly brokered by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Swiss government. It was celebration time again when news broke that 82 out of the about 195 still in Boko Haram custody had been released. Indeed, the news understandably sparked wild celebrations among many families in Chibok town, Borno State. It was a cheery news that resonated with hope that the over 100 girls still being held may also soon be released by their captors” (para.6). Unfortunately, the success story being told of the defeat of the Boko Haram has not stopped the group from carrying out fresh attacks at intermittent intervals. While President Buhari has declared that the insurgents have been technically defeated, it is still not yet Uhuru for people in the North east. Apart from sporadic attacks on soft targets in the area by the Boko Haram, its leader, Abubakar Shekau, the man likened to the proverbial cat with nine lives and who had been declared killed several times, continues to appear like a bad penny to issue fresh threats of overrunning more Nigerian territories to establish his desired Islamic Caliphate. In one of such attacks on Magumeri community in Borno State in March, no fewer than 20 persons were killed, including some soldiers and policemen (Ebonugwo 2018, para.7).

In a manner of calling the bluff of the Federal Government which peremptorily declared it technically defeated and to demonstrate its continued defiance of constituted authority in Nigeria, the Boko Haram had in a move reminiscent of the kidnap of the Chibok girls re-enacted the shocking episode in the town of Dapchi, Yobe State. Precisely on February 19, 2018, the AlBarnawi faction of the Boko Haram terrorist group stormed the Government Girls Technical Science College, Dapchi and abducted 110 of the students. But to the relief and cheer of all and sundry, government had last March announced the release of 104 of the school girls. But the news was soon dampened by the report that five of the girls died in the process of being kidnapped, while another girl, Leah Sharibu, is still being held by her abductors for refusing to renounce her Christian faith. The wait continues for her release even as the situation remains grim and uncertain while the Federal Government continues to prosecute the war on Boko Haram with a commendable measure of seriousness, the same, according to some observers, cannot be said of other forms of security challenges in different parts of the country. For instance, under

its watch, frequent clashes between herdsmen and farmers have continued to escalate. The Federal Government has been accused of often looking the other way while heavily armed herdsmen embark on murderous invasions of farming communities. Emboldened by this lack of action by government and security agencies, the herdsmen have since the inception of the Buhari administration, continued to carry out fresh attacks not only in the North Central states of Plateau and Benue, but have extended same to the South-West, South-South and South-East zones which are increasingly becoming their preferred theatres of wanton killings and destruction (Ebonugwo 2018, paras.8-10).

Agatu community in Benue State which has been frequently targeted witnessed some of the most horrendous killings with no fewer than 300 lives lost and seven villages razed and sacked during one of such herdsmen's invasion. As the people of Benue were counting their losses in human and material terms, it was soon the turn of people in other states, including Enugu, Delta, Ogun and Ekiti who were left to mourn their dead and the destruction of their farms following similar invasions by herdsmen.

Unimpressed by the Federal Government slow response in checking the excesses of the herdsmen, the Ekiti State governor, Ayodele Fayose had sponsored an "Anti-Grazing Bill 2016" which was subsequently passed by the state House of Assembly. In fact, the bill was specifically provoked by the killing of two persons by suspected herdsmen in Oke Ako community in Ikole Local Government Area of the state. Fayose said that the new law would check cases of incessant attacks or killings of local residents and destruction of farmlands by herdsmen and their cattle as it criminalises grazing in some places in the state. In the same vein, Benue State governor, Samuel Ortom, whose state has for years been on the receiving end of bloody herdsmen attacks, on May 22, 2017 assented to a law titled: "Open Grazing and Rearing of Livestock." The law provides for the Establishment of Ranches and Livestock Administration, Regulation and Control and Other Matters Connected Therewith 2017. This was after the state had waited for federal intervention that was late or slow in coming. Also obviously unimpressed by the poor response of the executive to the problem, the Senate on Wednesday May 24, 2017 ordered the Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Ibrahim Idris to urgently take steps to arrest killer herdsmen and all armed killers masquerading as herdsmen in communities, forests, and farms across the country.

This year, precisely on April 17, 2018, the Senate demonstrated its exasperation with the relentless and senseless killings of Nigerians by calling for the sack of the Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces. The Upper Legislative Chamber has also been having a running battle with the Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, who repeatedly ignored their summons to appear before them to explain police inability to rein in armed herdsmen and other killer gangs operating freely across the country. The seeming unrestrained reign of killer herdsmen had so infuriated former Chief of Army Staff, retired Lt-General Theophilus Danjuma, that he had used the opportunity of a public function in Jalingo, Taraba State to accuse the Nigerian military of complicity in the killings while urging the populace to rise up and defend themselves. Although the Nigerian Army has set up a panel to probe Danjuma's allegations, herdsmen sponsored and executed killings continue unabated in Benue and other North Central states. In fact, it would appear that the killer herdsmen have upped their ante for chilling effect by routinely attacking churches and other places of worship at their most vulnerable moments. This was the case when faceless gun men, fresh from slaughtering 10 persons in the Guma area of the state, attacked St. Ignatius Catholic Church Ukpom-Mbalom in Gwer East Local Government Area in Benue State, killing two priests and 17 parishioners. Less than 24 hours later, the marauders again launched fresh coordinated attacks in Guma Local Government Area of the state killing no fewer than 39 persons. As if not satisfied with this orgy of killings, the gun men had the following day invaded another church, the African Church in Logo Local Government Area of the state, killing seven persons in the process (Ebonugwo 2018, paras.11-18). In a serial analytic fashion, Ebonugwo (2018) reported:

Government's response in launching Operation Cat Race, Ayem Akpatuma, has provided scant consolation to those affected who see it as too little too late. This feeling was strongly on display across the country on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, the day slain Catholic priests and other killed along with them were buried. Indeed, the Catholic Church had staged a nationwide protest on the day through which it demanded of the Federal Government to end the senseless killings in the country. While security agencies continue to battle various forms of violent crimes, they obviously were not prepared for the upsurge of hostage-taking activities in the country. Between 2013 and 2016, abduction for ransom had escalated in the country, occurring at an alarming frequency. It soon created a palpable feeling of insecurity among the populace who cried out to

government for urgent intervention. While waiting for a coordinated federal response to this, some state governments decided to take matters into their hands. For instance, Governor Akinwunmi Ambode of Lagos State had on February 1, 2017, signed into law the state's "Kidnapping Prohibition Bill 2016". The major thrust of the law is the prescription of death penalty for convicted kidnappers whose victims die in custody or in the course of being abducted (paras.19-21).

Other states that have promulgated similar laws include Bayelsa, Ebonyi, Edo, Kano, Ogun and Oyo. But it would seem that the advent of this law is yet to curtail the rampaging kidnappers as cases of kidnapping, including those involving school children, continue to be recorded on regular basis. Apart from kidnappers, other criminal elements have also in recent time been on rampage. For instance, going by media reports, violent robberies have been on a steady increase across the country.

The Buhari administration is also burdened by security challenges bordering on inter-ethnic and communal crises. Among the most prominent in this regard is the Southern Kaduna crisis that has resulted in many killings. While efforts are reportedly being made by the Federal and Kaduna State governments to get to the root of the problem, its resolution has so far remained out of sight. At the same time, government is also in search of solution to inter-communal crises involving communities across state borders, including clashes between communities in Cross River, Ebonyi and Akwa Ibom resulting in deaths and destruction. In the meantime, President Muhammadu Buhari's spokesmen have had their hands full responding to numerous complaints and issues raised about the administration's performance in three years. Even the Vice President, Yemi Osibanjo, has similarly found himself in uncomfortable situations where he has to defend the performance of the administration in the area of security. With particular reference to security and the Boko Haram challenges, he had last year said: "... With new leadership and renewed confidence our gallant military immediately began to put Boko Haram on the back foot. We have restored broken-down relations with our neighbours: Chad, Cameroon and Niger - allies without whom the war against terror would have been extremely difficult to win. We have re-organised and equipped our Armed Forces, and inspired them to heroic feats; we have also revitalised the regional Multinational Joint Task Force, by providing the required funding and leadership." (See Ebonugwo 2018,

paras.21-23). The point here is that Ebonugwo succinctly captured our national security challenges and experience with some high sense of clarity and up-to-datedness. This is the current situation of Nigeria's security challenge and we are bewildered on why things are getting out of hand with no pragmatic solution in sight.

## **Conclusion**

In the course of this work, we have highlighted the two types of security challenges. The causes of these Challenges are manifold. In as much as nature takes its course at times, Man can play his own part, especially in the area of natural disaster. Look at Ebola for instance, what causes Ebola? It is a deadly transmittive virus found in bush animals. Man can limit his intake of meats to domestic and examined animals. Same as Lassa Fever, allegedly gotten from Rodents. It is better for the storerooms of domestic foods like garri to be kept clean and fumigated before storage. The Food Regulatory Agencies across the continent have it as a duty to ensure that best practices are adhered to by Wholesalers and Retailers who pass this food to the consumers. On Flooding, for instance, there is no point building houses in places close to water or water-logged lands except when they are properly filled. Deep canals and gutters more than six feet can be built to avoid water not being properly channelled. In the case of Nigeria, it is no longer news that citizens throw dirt from their homes into the gutter when it starts raining. This is not good, as it can block the flow of water which may lead to sporadic littering of water everywhere that invariably leads to flooding. More so, man-made security challenges are hinged on government's failure to understand the dynamics of open society and act accordingly in a way that shows benevolent expediency not laxity or ruthlessness in the Machiavellian fashion.

Terrorism, Armed Robbery, Kidnapping, Cyber-crime and so on are reflections of societal failure or indifference. A society that has a strong moral leaning cannot be so loose as to unleash monsters upon itself no matter the ideologies it is projecting. Again, the path of extremism whether of religion or politics would be avoided. Terrorism in as much as there is more to it than meets the eyes on the global scale, in the case of Nigeria could have been averted if Nigeria is a functional society. It was this dysfunctionality that allowed immorality and corruption to set in. People become so corrupt and malicious just to survive and dominate. The idea is not to build a country where peace and justice reigned but

where individualism, indifference bore crime and now to a higher level terrorism. Government actions and inactions are all times, led many to the path of despair, of destruction and violence and of national threshold of perdition. Unemployment, lack of opportunities, poor education/orientation, a non-enabling environment are some of the peculiar things that have bred terrorism, armed robbery and Kidnapping in a country like Nigeria.

On the strength of what we have discussed so far, we recommend the following from our philosophical study of Nigeria thus far:

1. Government must understand the importance of governance. A good government and a good leader defines reality for his people. It is something that is often missing in this part of our world. Here politics is seen as a do or die affair. A business worth spending on and recouping for the next couples of years and thus, pilfering the treasury (The recent gubernatorial elections of Ekiti and Anambra States come to mind). These are monies that could have been used in building industries, build and equip health care centres, good roads and other pressing infrastructures that could have landed us in the annals of development. Government should do well to remedy its approach to governance to make headway in combating these menaces staring us in the face.
2. To fight these man-made security challenges, competence and not sentiment should be enthroned. Sentiment breeds politicization and propaganda. Competence brings results, pragmatism and solutions. The best and competent individuals should be allowed to man security agencies for greater efficiency, strategy and result. They should also be adequately equipped with modern weapons that could help fast-track the demolition of these terrorist groups and other organized crimes that pose as security threats.
3. The life of citizens should matter. It is quite unfortunate that in Nigeria for instance, it seems fair to say that Nigeria has become one of the hardest countries to live in and one of the easiest to die. In other countries, the loss of life of one citizen could cause outrage. Not so here. Here thousands may die and nothing may truly be done except lip service consolations. Government again seems so far removed from the people and their everyday struggles. A change in orientation is needed. In the present day Nigeria, common belief in the streets is that cows are now more valued than human beings.

4. Government should invest in Education and create an enabling environment for self-realization and actualization. A society without quality education is on the countdown to perdition and can never produce proactive and problem solving individuals. When individuals are not formed, they develop by instinct than by reason and this overnight spring forth the ghetto and brutish nature in them which becomes spring boards for crime and violence.
5. Government must strive to eradicate poverty. The poverty of the pocket is directly proportional to the poverty of the mind. If people are meaningfully engaged and directed to channel their thoughts to meaningful things, they will do much better in the society and grow the economy.

What we generally need in Nigeria in particular and Africa in general is a thinking cap buoyed by Reason and the need for progress and advancement as against unnecessary titles (chieftaincy titles, for instance) that adds nothing to human development and societal growth. Finally, we submit that Security challenges in Nigeria nay Africa can be tackled and drastically reduced when we see Nigeria and African continent as projects that were not properly done due to historical and existential factors. In that way, we can collectively work towards its reconstruction and completion and this is how security challenges can pave way to a safe haven that can secure lives and properties and a general societal growth and development.

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