

## PHILOSOPHY, SECURITY AGENCIES AND SECURITY CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

*This paper seeks to bring out the relevance of philosophy to the development of the different security apparatus in the tackling of the numerous security challenges in Nigeria. This is premised on the different forms of crimes that are perpetrated on a daily basis that are making Nigerians live in fear. Crimes like Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), Niger Delta Avengers, armed robbery, kidnapping, vote-buying, rigging of elections and all forms of corruption in the state. As unfortunate as these may seem, this is the reality that the 'Giant of Africa' will need to overcome in order to achieve its true potentials as the greatest black nation in the world. Following Plato's political utopia, it is said that only the philosopher in the guardian class can 'stir up the ship of the State' in order to guarantee the safety of lives and properties. This paper, therefore, argues that it takes a dose of philosophy to be able to tackle most of these challenges that are capable of bringing the giant of Africa to her knees. The work concludes that the security agencies in Nigeria like the National Intelligence Agencies (NIA), State Security Services (SSS), Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI), Defense Intelligence Agency (DMI), Armed Forces and a host of others, need ideological overhauling in the intelligence and technical expertise, a thorough review of the recruitment processes, and the overall welfare of security agencies. This welfare scheme for security agencies will also feature proper language formation since Nigeria is a multi-cultural State. The paper adopts the analytic, speculative and the prescriptive methods of philosophy.*

**Keywords:** Philosophy, Security Agencies, Challenges, Nigeria

### **Introduction**

The issue of security is very sensitive and crucial to the day to the day running of the affairs of any nation. It is a constitutional role of government to safeguard the security of human life and property. They do this by maintaining law and order and the territorial integrity of the nation. These operatives have been a major panacea to stable national and international conflicts management considering the numerous violent conflicts and level of insecurity that has enveloped the country for some time now. These security agencies play a major role in the conduct of elections at all levels of governments and also conduct intelligence activities for the internal security of the state.

They are expected to do all within their powers to ensure the smooth running of the affairs of governance without any breach of the peace and order in the overall affairs of statecraft. Despite these concerted efforts by these security agencies, Nigeria and in fact the whole of the continent of Africa still suffers from so many security challenges and peace is just another far-fetched word for her citizens, in some areas mostly, who constantly live in a state of panic. These security challenges are so frightening that a lot of people look for the flimsiest excuse to leave this country, no matter how relatively poor, they are, compare to this great giant of the continent of Africa under the pretext of lack of security and protection of life and property.

This has been a source of worry and embarrassment to well-meaning scholars and philosophers hence this contribution to this issue of security and the role of security agencies in maintaining the peace that is so much desired in the overall growth and development of the country in all ramifications. The problem as it is connected to security agencies range from the process of recruitment to training, required equipment, lack of data collation and interpretation for intelligence purposes to police public relations and impressions that has spiraled down the drain for decades. Above all is our resolve in this paper to use Plato and John Locke's notion of the guardian in a state to advocate for a philosophy that may serve as a guide and policy for security agencies in their constant quest to ensure the safety of all who live in the society as a whole.

### **Conceptual Clarifications**

There is no doubt that a proper understanding of this work requires useful clarifications. This will help get rid of ambiguity when the basic tenets of this paper is being explicated. With this in view, the concepts Philosophy, Security Agencies and Security Challenges, will be duly explicated.

## **Philosophy**

The word philosophy is derived from the two Greek Word *philos* meaning *love* and *Sophia* meaning *wisdom*. Ndubisi noted that Pythagoras was the one who first coined the word 'philosophy' when he called himself a lover of wisdom. When people called him the wise one, he refused to answer the name and told them that he was not a wise one. For him, he has not attained wisdom; rather he loved wisdom (Ndubuisi, 2015). This means that philosophy means *love of wisdom*.

It is true that philosophy has no univocal definition; this is because different philosophers define it from different ideological ambience, orientations, school of thought, socio-political bents or even personal convictions. Despite the distinctiveness of thought, however, one thing that is clear and common among different philosophers' definition of philosophy, is that philosophy is a critical enterprise, something dynamic or a quest to find out the nature of reality as a whole (Akalue, 2019). This means that philosophy is a search for, or indeed a disposition for evaluative exploration. The derivation of the term shows the fact that philosophy is a search for the truth of reality.

Philosophy is said to have two orders, namely, The *First Order* and the *Second Order*. The philosophy of the first order on the one hand, embraces among other things, one's philosophy of life, culture, beliefs, tradition proverb, music and so on. The second order of philosophy on the other hand, is seen as something deeper and more involving, a rational venture, critical and detailed in outlook, a reflective approach, an inquiry that truly involves the commitment of the enquirer (Akalue, 2019).

It is said to have four major branches metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and logic. Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that studies and investigates the principles that pervades all reality. Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that deals with how knowledge claim is justified. Ethics as a branch of philosophy that centers on 'ought' and 'ought not' of human conduct; that is, the morality of the actions of human beings (Asekhauno & Ogbenika, 2017). Lastly, Logic as a branch of philosophy, is philosophically characterized by the skill of recognizing valid and fallacious inference so that one can distinguish logical and illogical arguments. This is not to exclude other branches of philosophy that emanated from the four main branches of philosophy. They include axiology, aesthetics, socio-political

philosophy, philosophy of art, philosophy of science and so on. Philosophy is said to have analytic, speculative and prescriptive methods.

Conclusively, philosophy has lingered on in history from the ancient era to the contemporary era. Its uniqueness and perennial nature makes its lingering in history possible

### **Security Agencies**

The meaning of security is ambiguous as its scope continues to expand every day. The elastic nature of the concept of security attracts different meanings and different views (Afolabi, 2008). Security is a broad based word which can be used in various senses. It could be the state of being free from danger or threat. It can also be a state of being protected from physical harms from theft, providing safety freedom from protection against attacking or theft. It is also freedom from vulnerability to political or military takeover (Chambers 21<sup>st</sup> Century Dictionary, 2007). It is also said to be a state of being secured, specifically, freedom from danger, risk care, poverty or apprehension. (The New International Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language, 2010).

The concept cum notion of security is premised on an existential threat to life and property. It speaks of a protection that is viewed towards assuaging or attenuating every threat to natural peaceful co-existence. This explains why Afolabi says security has to do with the process connected with the assuaging any kind of threat to people and their precious values (Afolabi, 2008). He went further to cite Buzan Bodunde who sees security as freedom from threat and ability of states to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile, while its bottom line is survival (Afolabi, 2008). This threat to life is due to the different personality traits we see around us in the society. No wonder then, Hettne sees security as a reasonable level of predictability at different levels of the social system from local communities to the global level. He went further to state that the understanding here is that at the global level, there is the presence of an order which is predicated upon the predictability of the behavior of other members within the system. (Nweke& Nwachukwu, 2014)

Nweke Prince and Nwachukwu Stephen drag this further in their concept of national security, when they held that national security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic, diplomacy, power projection and political power. For them, the concept developed mostly in the

United States of America after World War II. Initially focusing on military might alone, it now encompasses an abroad range of facets, all of which impinge on the non-military or economic security of the nation and the values espoused by the national society (Nweke& Nwachukwu, 2014).

Now there exist different security agencies that help in the safety from the threat to life and properties. These agencies differ from states to states. However, because the task of this paper is to discuss security agencies in Nigeria, we shall call only those that are in Nigeria. The security agencies in Nigeria include: National Intelligence Agencies (NIA), State Security Services (SSS), Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI), Defense Intelligence Agency (DMI), Armed Forces and a host of others. The task of these agencies, is to guarantee safety of lives and properties for those with questionable behaviors and also from external aggression.

### **Security Challenges**

This is a form of threat to a state that affect the economic, social, political, and religious confine of the state. Different states have different forms of security challenges. In Nigeria for instance, we hear of Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, armed robbery, kidnapping, vote-buying, rigging of elections, cyber-crime and so on. All of these are security challenges and, no doubt, they affect the state negatively in no small measure. Little wonder government are called to do all it takes to provide succour where necessary in order to combat these vicious acts so that the state is prevented from outright decay in the hands of the perpetrators of this security bridge. It was from this vista that Chinecherem Uzonwanne and Iregbenu Paul see security of lives and property as a dire need for any thriving country (Chinecherem & Iregbenu, 2019). Every security bridge or security challenges have a way of wrecking the very foundation of the state

### **Philosophy and the Issue of security**

Philosophy as a discipline is concerned with the ought of reality as a whole. It is a critical enquiry into the fundamental nature of things as they are in themselves. It is a systematic knowledge of both the physical and metaphysical realities of everything in existence, including man and all factors and circumstances that are related to him. (Aso, 2018). Philosophy as a discipline puts the whole of reality in question. It is a radical enquiry into the way things should be in the world. Philosophy is inclusively concerned with all aspects of all other sciences and the ultimate realities of human life. Philosophy is not just concern about a particular area of life; it is most concerned with life and being

As a normative discipline, philosophy can be found in ethics which is one of the branches to be the investigation of sets of question that arise when considering how one ought to act, morally speaking. Most ethical questions are focused on the right and wrong; good and bad of every human action. With the aid of ethical principles, philosophy proffers solutions to societal problems via the promotion of ethical principles and ideal societal standards. It deals with value judgments on all aspects of human life, hence the study of professional ethics which proffer ethical standards for all disciplines to utilize for their experiment, investigations and operations. It is a practical aspect of philosophy which helps professionals in their various fields to use the ethics of their various fields to resolve various puzzles and problems which they face in the practice of their profession (Oruka, 2007).

In the military, there are ethical codes that guide the work of the army in the protection of the territorial integrity of any nation. So also are other security agencies whose role as governmental organizations are to conduct intelligent activities for the internal and external security of the nation. They are the domestic equivalence of foreign intelligence agencies who conduct surveillance and counterintelligence enquiries to thwart other counter foreign intelligence efforts. The role of philosophy in this regard is to ensure that the ought of what is required to function as intelligence agencies is done for the interest of the social and political stability of the nation state. It is within this context that this paper is being written in order to critically examine the state of our security as a continent and how the security agencies have fared in protecting human lives and property. But the question that easily comes to mind is, how these security agencies have coped in the face of the so many security challenges, not just in Nigeria but also in Africa as a whole?

### **History and Statutory Roles of Security Agencies in Nigeria; Police, DSS/NIA and NSCDC as Case Studies**

Under this section, we shall attempt a description of the historical evolution and statutory roles of selected Security Agencies with the aim of establishing how effective they have been in promoting the security of the nation and her citizens.

#### **The Nigeria Police Force**

The Nigeria Police Force is a product of British colonial exploits in Nigeria. It is part of the legacies and footprints of British Colonialism (Ajayi, 2008). The establishment of the Nigeria Police can be traced to the annexation of Lagos as a

British Colony in 1861 which led to the establishment of “British Consular Guards” who helped the colonial masters in the security the Lagos colony. With the creation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1900, the two Protectorates had their respective police forces. However, the Police was made a single institution with the amalgamation of 1914 but she did not become an indigenously governed institution until 1964 (Afolabi, 2017).

The duties and responsibilities of the Nigeria Police can be found in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sections 214 – 216 and the Police Act.

In Accordance with Section 4 of Police Act, Section 4 of Police Act 1958 as amended, Cap 41 as well as other Acts and Code provide the power and functions of Police Force as:

- i. Power to prosecute in any court of law
- ii. Power to Arrest
- iii. Power to arrest a person who refuses to aid Police
- iv. Power to take finger prints and photographs of a person suspected of criminal behavior; Power to dispose unclaimed property, found or otherwise;
- v. Power to search premises suspected of being used for receiving stolen goods;
- vi. Power to detain, stop and search persons being suspected of criminal behavior
- vii. Power to grant bail to persons under arrest without warrant;
- viii. Power to request a convict to be sentenced to Police Supervision;
- ix. Power to prevent a person suspected of planning to commit offence by taking such a person to court to be bound over to be of good behaviour for a period of time;
- x. Power to grant permit and regulate assemblies;
- xi. Power to issue search warrant

Based on the above provisions, the functions of the Nigeria Police Force are clearly noted to include the following: prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of offenders, preservation of law and order, protection of life and property, enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and performance of such military duties within or without Nigeria as may be required of them by, or under the authority of this or any other Act (Arase, 2015)

### **Department of State Security (DSS) and National Intelligence Agency (NIA)**

It is our decision to combine these two security agencies of the government because they have almost the same origin. The establishment of the DSS and the

NIA can be traced back to the establishment of the Nigerian Security Organization (NSO) in 1976 (Pike, 1998). However, the NSO was gravely accused by concerned citizens of the abuse of due process and infringement on civil liberties during the military administration of then Gen. Muhammadu Buhari from 1983 to 1985 (Pike, 1998). In 1986 when Gen. Ibrahim Babangida took over the reins of Nigeria's leadership, the NSO was dissolved and restructured under Decree Number 19 of the Nigerian Security Agencies Decree (Afolabi, 2017). From henceforth, the NSO was divided into three major arms that served the security of the State. They were; State Security Service (responsible for intelligence within the State), the National Intelligence Agency (responsible for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence) and Defence Intelligence Agency responsible for military related intelligence within and outside the State (Pike, 1998).

Caption 278 Law of the Federation of Nigeria points out the statutory roles of DSS to include the following:

- i. The prevention and detection of within Nigeria of any crime against the internal security of Nigeria within the country (Nigeria);
- ii. Protection and prevention of all non-military classified matters concerning the Nigeria internal security;
- iii. Such other responsibility affecting internal security within Nigeria as in the Armed Forces Ruling Council or the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces as the case may be, may deem necessary (Adeleke, 2015; Karim, 2015).

### **The Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)**

The NSCDC has international origins and its existence dates back to the breakout of World War I when conflicts between nation states started to affect the civilian populace in Europe. Special cadets who were saddled with the responsibility of protecting the civilian population and evacuating them from dangerous zones were inaugurated and these were the first known civil defence personnel. As regards its existence in Nigeria, the NSCDC came into existence on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1967 during the Nigerian Civil War and it started in Lagos to sensitize the people about the ongoing war. However, in 1968, there was a charter which allowed States to establish their respective Corps under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (Afolabi, 2017). The NSCDC became a full-fledged paramilitary outfit with the Corps Act of 2003 and amended in 2007 during the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo (Afolabi, 2017).



According to the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps Act of 2003 and as amended in 2007, the following are the responsibilities of the agency:

- a. Assist in the maintenance of peace and order and in the protection and rescuing of the civil population during the period of emergency.
- b. Recommend to the minister the registration of private guard companies.
- c. From time to time, inspect the premises of private guard companies, their training facilities and approve same if it is up to standard.
- d. Supervise and monitor the activities of all private guard companies and keep a register for that purpose.
  - i. Seal up any private guard company which operates without a valid license.
  - ii. Maintain twenty four hour surveillance over infrastructures, sites and projects for the Federal, State and Local Government.
  - iii. Enter and search any premises and seize any material suspected to be used in vandalization or suspected proceeds of vandalization.
  - iv. Enter and search premises of any suspected illegal dealer in petroleum products or material used by power holding company of Nigeria, postal services, Nigeria telecommunication or for any other utility or infrastructure.
  - v. Have power to arrest with or without a warrant, detain, investigate and institute illegal 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 against any person who is reasonably suspected to have committed an offence under this Act or is involved in any:  
Criminal activity.
    - Chemical poisoning or oil spillage nuclear waste, poisoning.
    - Industry espionage or fraud.
    - Activity aimed at frustrating any government program or policy.
    - Riot, civil disorder, revolt, strike, or religious unrest.
    - Power transmission lines, oil pipelines, NIPOST cables, equipment, water board pipes or equipment vandalization.
    - Monitor the activities of religious bodies and trade associations.
    - Monitor, investigate and take every necessary step to forestall any planned ACT of terrorism, particularly in terms of cult and ethnic militia activities and criminal activities aimed at depriving citizens of their properties or lives. OR
- a. Syndicate activity aimed at defrauding the federal, state or local government.
- b. Monitor, investigate, and take every necessary step to forestall any act of terrorism and report same to the appropriate Federal Security Agency.
- c. Provide necessary warning for the civilian population in times of danger.
- d. Evacuate the civilian population from danger areas.
- e. Provide and manage shelters for the civilians during periods of emergency.

- f. Assist in the decontamination and in the taking of precautionary measures during any period of emergency.
- g. Carryout rescue operations and control volatile situations.
- h. Assist in the provision of emergency medical services, including first aid, during any period of emergency.
- i. Detect and demarcate any danger area.
- j. Assist the federal and state fire service in fighting fire operation.
- k. Assist in the distribution of emergency supplies.
- l. Provide assistance to restore and maintain order in distressed areas in any period of emergency.
- m. Assist in repairing indispensable public utilities during any period of emergency.
- n. Provide intelligence information to the ministry on any matter relating to the following: - Crime control generally - Riot, disorder, revolt, strike or religious unrest. - Subversive activity by members of the public aimed at frustrating any government program or policy. - Industrial action and strike aimed at paralyzing government activities. - Any other matter as may be directed by the minister. - Have power to arrange and mediate in the settlement of disputes among willing members of the public (NSCDC Act 2007).

It is obvious that responsibilities on the shoulders of our security agencies are quite enormous. However, we must ask ourselves some salient questions. Are they living up to their responsibilities? Are the necessary resources provided for them to carry out their responsibilities quite sufficient? How equipped and well trained are they to carry out the responsibilities that pertain to their office? What the populace is accustomed to in recent times is the thriving of corruption in most of these agencies and use of these agencies by government and other powerful individuals to molest and harass innocent citizens. Some of them are used to aid and perpetuate electoral offences ranging from thuggery, rigging and manipulation of election results. Obviously, this is not what is expected of them as seen in their respective charters.

### **The Challenge of Insecurity in Nigeria; An assessment**

Since the inception of the Fourth Republic, especially since 1999, the state of insecurity in Nigeria has assumed a hyper dimension. From the northern to the southern regions of Nigeria, different terrorist/criminal activities which have perpetuated insecurity have engulfed the polity, ranging from Niger-Delta Militant activities in the South-South, Kidnapping in the South, Fulani Herdsmen

violence in the South and North Central to fundamentalist terrorism/insurgency of Boko-Haram in the North-East and North-Central parts of the country. The unleashing of terrorist activities in Nigeria since the return to democracy has been time bombs waiting to explode. For example, one of the root causes of insecurity has to do with the issue of the allocation and sharing of profits accrued from crude oil and the refusal of past administrations to address the problems of environmental degradation arising from oil exploration in oil producing areas. The repressive tendencies of past military regimes somewhat curtailed the potential for outright rebellion and violent protests. The enabling environment created by democracy was a seed ground for erstwhile repressed grievances (Ogundiya, 2009). Added to this, some scholars also contend that the administrative style of Obasanjo who favoured a more inclusive system of government incorporating minorities and his pro-western orientation were subtle catalysts for terrorist activities which have established an atmosphere of perpetual apprehension, as the northern oligarchy who felt power was a right felt somewhat aggrieved with the person and administrative style of the Southern-Christian President (Ali, 2002).

Insecurity in Nigeria reached unprecedented heights during the administration of Obasanjo, to the extent that foreign investors and Western powers earmarked Nigeria as a danger zone. Sequel to 2007 proclamation of Nigeria as a high risk security threat by Western powers, the militants of the Niger Delta region embarked on a violent spree of irrepressible abductions, armed robbery, gang wars and violence connected with the illegal trade in stolen crude. Thousands of expatriate workers fled the region, leaving in their wake, abandoned projects and a comatose oil sector (E.C. Chinwokwu, 2013). Another dreadful terrorist sect reared its ugly head during the Jonathan administration, with the emergence of the dreadful Boko Haram sect. It all began with the execution of one Haruna by the police in connection with some bomb blasts in 2010. This Haruna was regarded as the leader of the sect and his killing was the springboard for unprecedented acts of wanton violence and massacre (E.C. Chinwokwu, 2013). Apart from the obvious root causes of the Boko Haram uprising, the sect also proclaims an abhorrent disposition towards western culture especially in terms of education and democracy. These inherent philosophies have been alluded to as part of the latent causes. From 2010-2012, over fifty bomb blasts and destruction of properties worth millions of Naira were recorded. Added to this is the transnational character of the sect's operation which has spread to encompass places such as Chad, Cameroon and Niger (Ojo, 2011). As at 2012, the Human Rights Watch estimated the deaths

caused by Boko Haram to be over a thousand (Laden 2012). Boko Haram accounted for over 4000 deaths in 2015 alone.

According to Azad, et al (2018), who carried out a survey of the North East, North Central and South South parts of Nigeria between 2010 and 2017 to ascertain the level of insecurity, explained that in the North East, terrorism accounted for 73% of insecurity issues, Cultism/Criminality accounted for 15% and land disputes for 7%. In the North Central, Terrorism - 21%, Land disputes - 55%, Cultism/Criminality - 16%. In the South South, Land Disputes - 19%, Cultism/Criminality - 36% and Personal Disputes - 32%

The above analysis shows that although terrorism is one of the major factors of insecurity in Nigeria, it is not the only threatening factor, as land disputes, cultism, kidnapping and other criminal activities are also stakeholders in the ring of insecurity in the nation. The worst perpetrators of terrorism in Nigeria right now are the Herders and Boko Haram of the North. Militant activities, under the nomenclature "Avengers" seems to have receded a little with the intervention of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo in 2017 during President Buhari's sick leave in London.

The Fulanis have always been known for their mobility across the country. The Constitutional provision of free movement across every part of the country (cf. 1999 Constitution, Section 41) has been of immense benefit to these groups of persons most especially. Herdsmen, however, have appeared to be more vicious since the assumption of President Buhari to power, who unfortunately is of their ethnic cleavage. Many factors have been identified as indices or characteristics of the novel kind of Herdsmen terrorism. These include accelerated migration due to situations like desertification and Boko Haram insurgency (Premium Times News, May11 2016). Others include cattle rustling, possession of sophisticated weapons, land tussle, violent murdering spree, kidnapping and the likes (O. Atoyebi et al, 2016).

### **Issues that Reinforce Security Problems in Nigeria**

**Corruption:** It is a known fact the way and manner corruption has become the norm in the Nigerian political/social life. The phenomenon has greatly hindered development in many ways, as resources allocated for the development of various aspects of the economy have been appropriated for private use. For instance, the monies paid by multinational oil companies to Niger Delta elders and statesmen

for the development of the region over the years have been converted to private use by certain individuals, thereby leading to agitations by the people. Some politicians have also been accused of using their ill-gotten wealth and looted money to fund terrorist activities across the countries (Bloom, 2007). For example, some northern elites have been accused of sponsoring Boko Haram, while militants have also enjoyed the patronage of wealthy politicians. Some have also engaged in illegal activities such as oil bunkering. These have been used to fund the purchase of weapons and ammunition. Another prominent issue under this regard is the alleged corruption among the military/police elite as they have been accused of laundering the money and resources disbursed for purchase/upgrade of military equipment, thereby making the fight against crime quite ineffective and unfruitful.

**Social Injustice:** Insecurity, especially in the Southern parts of Nigeria, can be traced to agitations as regards the uneven distribution of socio-economic privileges among ethnic groups within the country, and the failure of many multinational corporations to live up to their social and corporate responsibilities. Also, northern dominance over the political order within the country is part of the agitations that have often led to violent uprisings among the militants of the Niger Delta (A. Ishyaku, 2013). For example, the failure of the government and national oil companies to see to the environmental degradation in Niger Delta, thereby killing their sources of economic activity, is partly due to the spate of kidnappings and bombings that have been experienced in that region. The issue of corruption is also closely associated with this because some private individuals have deliberately syphoned the resources allocated for the development of the region in times past.

**Discrimination:** This plays a crucial role in the exacerbation of terrorist activities especially in the North. One of the major reasons alluded to for the rise of Boko Haram under Jonathan administration has to do with the fact that a northern and Muslim oligarchy was greatly compromised under a Christian President. Religious and ethnic differences between the Muslims and Christians in the North is partly responsible for the terrorist rampage in the northern area as many Muslim northerners see themselves as ethnically and religiously superior to Christians. They even lay claim to some divine right of leadership in the country. Hence, they see any political occurrence contradictory to their basic philosophy as a grave threat and make all attempts to maintain the *status quo* (A. Ishyaku, 2013).

**Failed or Weak State Syndrome:** This appendage is often used to refer to states which are characterized by negative indices such as: institutional and political weakness, lack of coercive capacity on the part of the government, economic

failure, and technological and structural incapacity. Many Third World countries fit this category, Nigeria inclusive. Many scholars opine that terrorist groups often take advantage of the political weakness of these states to challenge state authority and compromise state power. They do this by making strange demands of which, if the governments refuse to cooperate, these become alibis for unleashing terror on innocent victims (J.F. Forest, 2006). This almost played out in Nigeria when the incapacity of government during the Boko Haram rampages between 2011 and 2014 gave more impetus to the terrorists, even to the extent state boundaries were wantonly violated and appropriated by the sect in the quest to establish caliphates until recently. It is also common knowledge that despite the murderous spree embarked upon by Herdsmen, the government continues to pay lip service to the curtailment of their activities and protection of lives and property. Till date, no news that a single criminal herdsman has been convicted for his crimes. The government appears helpless and incapacitated.

**Technological Deficiency/Obsolete Methods of Combating Crime:** One of the reasons why criminals seem to overpower government security operatives is the large disparity between the sophistication in arms of these criminals and security operatives, the Nigerian military inclusive. The government has to pay more attention to the proper equipment of security operatives to make them capable of combating crime and terrorism. This equipping is not only in terms of arms and ammunition, but also the technological know-how of how to operate data-bases and keep proper records of criminal activities around the country. The identities of these criminals seem elusive as a result of our anachronistic record keeping methods and our failure to take advantage of advancements in Information Communications Technology to the extent we ought to (E.C. Chinwokwu, 2013). An effective way of combating terrorism is not, the medicine after death approach we often adopt, but the ability to prevent the occurrence of such heinous activities before they take place and this is only possible if we have a solid technological base.

**The Urgency of Language Formation among Security Agencies:** Every security agencies' success is guaranteed majorly with information. However, the retrieval of information with which to attack or tackle security challenges is on the proper use of language; whether sign language or vocal language. Giving the fact that Nigeria is a multi-cultural state, the urgency of language formation should be expedited. This is because different agents are sent to different regions to work and a deficiency or a lack of understanding of the language of that region can

impede success. For instance, an Edo security agent who has never been in the north all his or her life, and eventually sent there will almost be at a lost when agents of discord are planning to hunt. Some scholars might say this language formation isn't possible, giving the fact of an interpreter or the use of someone in the locality to help in the hunt since it is expected that such a person understand the language. The question we will ask such scholar is: giving the level of betrayers, do you trust anybody to give information? Can one really vouch for most of the people in the locality to give accurate and sincere information for the apprehension of culprits? Do you not think that most of the people that are even asked to help could be security risks themselves? How do you think such a person will give credible information that will jeopardize his or her operation? With these possibilities, one will come to note that a proper grasp of the language of every region is a necessary tool for an independent success.

## **Philosophy and the Security Situation in Nigeria**

### **Promotion of Justice/Equality**

There is a general tendency to think that it is absolutely unnecessary to bring philosophy into security issues. This is largely due to the erroneous understanding that philosophers are people who merely raise dust and then complain that they cannot see. They simply create issues where there are none. Contrary to these erroneous opinions, it is interesting to note that philosophers have generally attempted to study different issues and problems with the view to providing lasting solutions to them. One of such issues is the problem of security. For the sake of this paper, we shall limit ourselves to just three of these philosophers- Plato, Aristotle and John Locke.

Plato speaks of the three divisions in the society. He advocated that the most functional state is built around the division of labour. For him, if justice in the individual soul is the balanced harmony of all the elements in the person, then justice in the state will have the same structure (Lawhead, 2002). The three kinds of people in the society are the producers, the guardians and the auxiliary. The security personnel fall under the category of the auxiliary who support and enforce the policies of the rulers.

In his thesis on Natural law and human rights, Locke opined that our fundamental human rights are not bestowed on us by the government. But "in this state men are perfectly free to order their actions, and dispose of their possessions and themselves, in any way they like, without asking anyone's permission – subject

only to the limits set by the law of nature ((Locke, 1689)". Locke was of the opinion that even without civil laws, everyone has got Natural God-given rights. (Lawhead, 2002) As a result, all are equal and should be justly treated. A primary law of nature is that no one ought to harm another in life, liberty or possessions. He stated that the power of government may not extend beyond that required by the common good.

Aristotle speaks of practical wisdom which has to do with the intellectual activity of deliberating correctly. For him, a state must be based on justice, since justice is something essential to the state (Omoregbe, 1995).

### **Re-Enforcement of Developmental Principle/State Monopoly on Power**

The need for the society is natural for the satisfaction of his human needs. Man needs to be involved in promoting harmony and peaceful co-existence with his fellow men. This idea of man's involvement with the state in procuring for the security of members of its society entails the makeup of the state both as individuals and groups in controlling every aspect of the society for the protection of lives and property. This clarion call for peace, order and harmony is for its development so as to improve the welfare and standard of living for members of the society which can only be achieved when members (individuals) that makes up the society are concerned in matters for the common interest of all not for egoistic purpose but for the altruistic good for all members of the society.

One of the reasons for the approach of state monopoly for national development is the fact that as all enjoys equal rights and are morally bound to respect the rights of others, it does not necessarily follow that all actually respect the rights of others. Therefore, it is man's interest to form an organized society for the more effective preservation of their liberties and rights. Since individuals forms the society, they also need continuity in securing existence against violence and all forms of criminal's altitudes that threatens the society.

Taking a leap from John Locke social contract theory, the great and chief end of man, uniting and forming themselves is for the preservation of their lives, liberties and estates. This entails all that affects the life of man. Therefore, the only way of achieving this natural right and liberty of all individuals, is when people in agreeing with each other, forms a communal force for enforcing their comfort, safety and peaceful living among others in securing enjoyment of their property and great security against any that are not of it or does not seek this goal.



J.S Mill in his utilitarianism asserts that the need of happiness is not for an individual purpose, but, for the very good of every member of the society. This means that individuals should form cohesive means for the full demand of liberty for members of the state in a legitimate ground. This denotes that in a civilized community the only legitimate ground for the exercise of coercion in regard to a group of individuals in a state is to prevent harm to others and thus injuries to others should be limited and in the end view lives and properties of members in the society is safeguarded.

### **The Sense of Patriotism among Security Agents**

The menace of insecurity in our country calls for the attention of every citizen, but most especially security agencies are to be jingoistic in discharging their professional obligations which they owe to the country they have accepted to serve.

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, patriotism is to love one's country and to be proud of it. In this light, security agencies are to hold their country with greater prestige bearing in mind that they are to work for the progress of their country and in doing this they are not only protecting the lives and properties of the citizens but they are also protecting their own life through the effort they are making. However, history has it that in the great Greek city the philosopher Socrates also fought as a soldier to defend his state; this action can be seen as an act of "love" which is a virtue. Therefore, security agencies are challenged to be devoted to the service of their country. In Kantian understanding, the action of the security personnel, which must be underlined with patriotism, is a categorical imperative (Kant, Trans by Paton, 1964). In this he tries to promote the ethical theory of altruism while condemning egoism, since our actions must be a maxim.

In conclusion, we can say that the idea of patriotism is not only restricted to security agencies alone but to all citizens who ought to see it as a point of duty to serve their country just as we always recite in the Nigerian national pledge that "I pledge to Nigeria my country to be faithful, loyal and honest, to serve Nigeria with all my strength, to defend her unity and uphold her honor and glory so help with God Amen".

Crimes abound and threaten security in the state. In response, strategy to ensure security must be pragmatic. Pragmatism is a philosophical theory of meaning and truth. That is, it is a theory which offers us a method of determining the meaning and truth value of any idea, for “pragmatists focused significantly on theorizing inquiry, meaning and the nature of truth” (Legg & Hookway). It was founded by C. S. Peirce, developed by William James and John Dewey. This theory is primarily concerned with “what really works” for a situation. Considering the Nigeria problem of insecurity, we shall at this juncture look at the provision of adequate resources; intelligence network, genuine data collection and modern tools for combating crime and conflict should be provided by the government as a means of combating insecurity in the nation as against mere “paper talk”. It is not just enough to send personnel of these agencies to the field; their welfare should be given utmost priority so that they can be motivated to do their work effectively.

The activities of the Boko Haram, kidnappers, 419’s, ritualists, cultists to mention but a few, which seem difficult for the Nigerian security agencies to combat, is as a result of poor security strategy and execution that can be solved by provisions of adequate and sufficient resources. Take for instance, our security personnel who have to fight insurgency without good arms and a situation where the vehicles of those perpetuating crime is better than the security personnel’s.

The role of technology in combating insecurity cannot be over emphasized. Take for instance, if this nation has good cameras and computer agents that can track crime perpetrators, things will be easy for them. A situation where a phone is used by kidnappers to make calls and engage in negotiation and the police cannot locate the location of that phone is a complete show of systemic failure in the database of our country. Nigeria as a nation engages in so much paper talk, proposal of policies, which are sometimes never applied and even when some of these are applied, they are ineffective. A pragmatic approach that is experiential as advocated by C.S. Peirce will help curtain this enigma.

### **Emphasis on Communal Responsibility**

The African ‘world’ being founded on solidarity and cohesion on the basic level, is one that displaces insecurity because the man tends to the need of his brother and the need of one is the need of all. Julius Nyerere puts this nicely in his Ujamaa when he says “the true African socialism does not look on one class of men as his enemies. He does not form an alliance with the brethren for the extermination of

the non-brethren. He regards all men as his brethren, as members of his extended family (Nyerere J, 1968)”

In conclusion, in traditional African society, there is no concept of individualism; it is a strange notion because the one is seen in the whole, as such, it is the duty of all to attend to the matters of all. The community thus, is more secure when everyone looks out for the other because there is general view that “I am because we are” and in securing ours I secure mine. In this light, the police community relationship should be strengthened, security level at the grassroots level should be enhanced and the idea of policing at the concurrent and residual levels should be considered for effective security network.

Finally, in African communalism, there is no private ownership of goods and services, the community, village or group collectively owns goods and through this means its care and security is optimum. “African communalism presupposes that equal dignity is offered to all irrespective of social class, which is almost non-existent. In this way it banishes envy and greed which often drive men to seek more and secures the rights and need of all” (Nyerere J, 1968).

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