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**DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY**

**COURSE: IRD 214**

**ASSIGNMENT**

**IN NOT MORE THAN THREE PAGES DISCUSS THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY**

The term insurgency does not have one widely accepted definition. The oxford dictionary defines it as an attempt to take control of the government by force. The U.S military have defined it as an organized movement aimed the overthrow of the government or to nullify and challenge the political control of a region. It can also be seen as asymmetric warfare. This is because it is focused on avoiding the strength of the adversary while in turn exploiting their weakness. What is actually common in these definitions, is the fact that insurgents seek to gain control of the government and overthrow the current regime in order to freely implement their various policies. Insurgencies must take various steps in order to be successful but the results and time frame for these steps to take action may differ. These steps or stages are as follows;

**Preinurgency stage**

This is the first and beginning stage. Here, the insurgency is still just developing, essential requirements must be taken care of. Such as selection of leaders, sourcing of arms and various much needed supplies. After this, the insurgency will then decide on a grievance to be used. By grievance we mean those things that either has been or haven’t been done by the government that has caused the populace some form of unease. These feelings are exploited by the insurgency. Grievances could include; the inability of the government to provide the basic amenities of life, or a crippling economic condition that has led o increase in poverty rates etc. the list is endless. After a grievance has been identified, they further go ahead to publicize it, in order to gain more attention to their cause.

Furthermore, they will now begin to create an identity unique to themselves. These mentioned identity could be based on ethnicity, religion, etc. in this stage, no attention is paid to the insurgency by the government, because this is a preparatory stage. The reaction of the government in this stage is honestly very crucial because this is the determinant as to whether the group will become an insurgency or not. If the government were to strike at this point, the insurgents can be nullified but if not, it gives the insurgency room to grow.

**Incipient stage**

At this point, the insurgents will get violent. The first attack is usually to create some form of alert, even though there are mostly discarded as work of criminals, bandits etc. in this stage, they make use of asymmetric attacks and terrorist attacks also seen as guerrilla warfare like kidnapping, small scale bombings etc. the goal is to instigate a reaction from the government without fully exposing themselves. The insurgents believe that at the end of the day, the government will be defeated and spark a popular uprising that forces the government to adhere to their demands. Understanding which people

In order to tackle this, there has to be effective leadership, as well as understanding which people and institutions are key in the counterinsurgency program. However the best path for the government to pick, would be to put in place low level military actions, amnesty programs in their favor. the government will be able to succeed if all these are done effectively

**Open insurgency stage**

This is the final stage of the insurgency development. At this point, the insurgency has fully emerged like a caterpillar to a butterfly. The insurgency attacks are becoming more violent and sophisticated, they challenge state authority. They need immense support in order to take the government down politically and militarily. The government has to set up various military operations in order to tackle the insurgency. If the government is weak, the insurgents may end up taking full control. Support from external factors can be used to curb this plight. Even though most insurgencies never reach this stage before being eradicated, the level of critical importance cannot be over stressed and as such, requires the full attention of the government.

**References**

Guide To The Analysis Of Insurgency (5 January 2009). PDF