ASSIGNMENT ON THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY ADO-EKITI (ABUAD)

SUBMITTED BY NTUI FAVOUR OFA-OKORN

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An insurgency is an organized movement that seek to seize control of territories for political reason. Insurgency can also be defined as the asymmetric warfare .i.e. irregular or unbalanced war which could also be a psychological war because it is focused on avoiding the strength of the adversary and exploiting their weakness. According to the U.S military insurgency is defined as an organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government or to seize, nullify and challenge political control of region through the use of violence, subversion and armed conflict. O’Neil defines the concept as a struggle between non-ruling groups consciously use political resources (organization expertise, propaganda, demonstrations. Etc. and violence to destroy, reformulate or sustain the basis of legitimacy of one or more aspect of politics.

Insurgency is a protracted political-military struggle directed towards subverting or displacing the legitimacy of a constituted government or occupying power and completely or partially controlling the resources of a territory through the use of irregular military forces and illegal political organizations.

There are various characteristics and features of insurgency which are;

* For an insurgency group to thrive they must have popular support, an insurgency group is best sustained by the participation of the masses.
* Insurgency groups create a change for bad government and will make sure all measures are taken to ensure the change of a regime.
* Insurgents are lawful combatants
* Insurgency differ from revolutionaries because their goal is to have a specific aim of political change while revolutionaries bring general change to the government.

Insurgency is primarily a political competition for legitimacy, but the violent aspect of the struggle most often alerts observers to the insurgency’s existence. Insurgency is regarded as a protracted or prolonged political-military activities directed towards completely or partially controlling the resources of a country through the use of irregular military forces and political organization. Insurgent is as well seen as intra-state conflict but this does not imply that insurgents cannot have external support or join their cause to those of external organizations.

According to the US government the term insurgency is simply a description of the nature of conflict. The common denominator of mist insurgent groups is their objective of gaining control of a population or a particular territory.

In as much as there are characteristics/features, types and scopes of insurgency there are also stages of insurgency. Insurgency advances from various and different stages, indicators from the earlier stages will remain relevant as will the ways in which other factors will build each other. There are different stages of insurgency which are;

* Preinsurgency stage
* Incipient conflict stage
* Open insurgency stage
* Resolution stage

PREINSURGENCY STAGE:

In the preinsurgency stage it is difficult for a conflict to be identified or detected because most of its activities are underground and the insurgency will make their presence available through the use of violence. During this stage insurgents bring to organize leadership, establish a grievance and a group identity. Insurgent organizers make use of historical, societal, political, or economic conditions that may generate a discontent among a segment of the population to rally the support of their movement but most of these conditions include; inhospitable terrain, an inability of the government to provide them the basic services.etc.under the grievance stage insurgents try to identify grievance which they could rally as supporters, insurgents would generate various forms or tactics to create population around that grievance which might include; the circulation of posters, pamphlets or other form of promotional materials that would promote. Insurgents seek to create group identities that will separate the group from the national identity or most times that of the ruling elite. In this stage insurgents have limited military supplies.

INCIPIENT CONFLICT STAGE:

In the incipient stage problem arises when the insurgents decide to use violence and this stage is known to be the most dangerous stage for the insurgents because their presence will have to be felt through initial attacks even when they are weak. And as such an incipient insurgency must be able to conduct attacks to demonstrate its viability, rally supporters and provoke the government, in this stage insurgents will decide and emphasize on high terrorist acts such as kidnapping, assassinations .etc. knowing the identities of insurgency leaders and also understanding the leaders motivation for being a part of that insurgency group and also their impact on the group or movement mostly in the act of military service, political experience and so on will provide more insights on their next direction in prior insurgents. Under this stage insurgents believe they will be able to defeat the government by creating a popular support from the masses which will make the government adhere to the insurgents and make changes as well, insurgents strongly rely on the civilian support and population for some basic needs and facilities. Disunity is a strategy for government to exploit negotiations with members of the insurgent groups so it is necessary for insurgent members to be united no matter what. Insurgent members should endeavor to establish sources for supplies they cannot obtain or get from the masses such as arms, ammunition and other military equipment.to an extent the government would be able to identify insurgents and as such will take coercive actions to stop the conflict from escalating, the ability for government leaders to be able to act decisively and authoritatively and to compel all elements of state power such as security, economic, political and social to work towards a common purpose are few of the signs of an effective government leadership.

OPEN INSURGENCY STAGE:

At the open insurgency stage the government doesn’t doubt that they are facing insurgency. Under the open insurgency stage there are; political factors, military factors, external assistance, counterinsurgency approaches. From the political aspect the insurgents challenge the state authority and attempt to take control over the government. Militarily, the insurgents are planning more frequent attacks which will be more aggressive and violent and will also involve larger members of fighters, as the insurgency becomes more active external support is needed and becomes more apparent if at all it exists.

At this stage insurgency no longer tries to undermine the state authority instead they focus on replacing it, they create boundaries where government leaders cannot exceed except strong security forces intervene. On the military aspect the insurgents conduct more frequent attacks by employing terrorism and guerilla warfare tactics such as hit-and-run raids on military and police units. Insurgents are willing to include security forces more, but on the other hand insurgents will seek to avoid fights that will take too long or be long overdue and allow the military capitalize on its own advantage. A lot of factors would make the government know that insurgenst are growing militarily stronger such as; increase rate in the size, population, sophistication and geographic spread of the insurgent attacks, increase in the proportion of fighters who are armed with modern firearms, the insurgents tend to use more fascinating methods and equipment’s for communications. When the insurgents get more exposed and gain more support from foreign actors if it all it exists it becomes more evident, support from the government or external factors may include; assistance which may include diplomatic support, financial arms, nonlethal equipment, sanctuary, intelligence.etc. The patron provides insurgents services without restrictions.

REOLUTION STAGE:

In theory an insurgency will definitely have to reach its final stage it may be an insurgent victory or a negotiated settlement and this a final stage of an insurgency. Some insurgencies are able to go through the life cycle stages while the rest are trapped in one stage for more than decades. An insurgent victory is clear when the insurgents have successfully been able to gain independence for their region or seize control of the government eventually, at the final stage there are chances that insurgents are reaching their goals such as; the evidence of a sudden government willingness to seek a negotiated settlement with the insurgents, severe weakness of the national economy, withdrawal of support for the government from the foreign allies.etc. On the other hand a negotiated settlements is likely to have so many false starts, delays in implementation, and some other attempts by spoilers to undermine the agreement. Government victory on the other hand is protracted process marked by a gradual decline in violence when the insurgents lose military capabilities, external assistance, and popular support as well.

REFERENCE

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https://www.hsdl.org/?viewe&did=713599