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**ASSIGNMENT: IN NOT MORE THAN 3 PAGES, DISCUSS  
THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY**

## THE STAGES OF INSURGENCY

Insurgency is regarded as a protracted/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. The main aim of insurgents is to change the government in power, but insurgents often go through some certain common stages of development not every insurgent group pass through each of them some will skip while others will simply ignore them. Some of these stages of insurgency include;

### **Pre-insurgency stages**

As the name implies this stage has to do with the organization of the insurgency group the insurgents are yet to make their presence known through their violent acts and ways of conducting their operations. Actions conducted in the open can simply be regarded as a rally or non- protest and won't be taken seriously (for example the Niger delta avengers became public in 2016 but they were not taken seriously because they were considered as mere oppositions against the government). During this stage the insurgents are still trying to organize themselves in the aspects of leadership, weapon supply, creating a group identity most insurgents seek to create an identity for themselves which could be done on region, tribal affiliation, regionalism, political affiliation or class., recruitment and training emerges in this stage the insurgents solicit for people with the same motives and goals as their leaders. In this stage the insurgent is still weak, disorganized and vulnerable to non-violent counter measures, also insurgents publicize a grievance against the government to rally supporters who will join in their fight to overthrow the government in power.

### **Incipient conflict stage**

At this stage the insurgents are already organized and have started to use violence, the aim of the insurgents at this stage is to make the government look bad when the government decides to respond it will be used against them for example if the Nigerian armed force kills a Nigerian citizen while chasing after BOKO HARAM it will be used against them as a case of human rights abuse. Insurgency is usually very dangerous in the incipient stage because the insurgents are still not yet well organized and weak, also in this stage they have made their presence known to both the

people and the government. The government will try to decipher the insurgents motive by starting with their leader knowing his past experience, motive for joining the insurgents, job before the insurgent group started so that the government can have a better insight on what these insurgents group was into prior to their emergence. Any competing motivation of members within an insurgent group or of different groups within an insurgents coalition. When there is disunity in the group it will be an opportunity for the government to exploit the group and encourage defections. Insurgents must establish sources and ways of obtaining from civilian citizens these supplies include weapons and food also their informants in the government can give an account on the government's counter insurgency activities. The government can also gain support from an ally in the form of weapons, material and combat troops.

### **Open insurgency stage**

This is the last and final stage, As the name implies the insurgents are already widely known and are marked as terrorists, the government knows that they are facing an insurgency, they are already challenging the government and also exerting control over government territories for example in 2014 BOKO HARAM took over Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states in the northern region of Nigeria. In this stage the insurgents are becoming more aggressive, violent and hostile towards the government in power, there are more cases of bombing, killing and attacking of the citizens in order to get a response from the government also the insurgent group are already more active in this stage and have also gained external supporters. The insurgents at this stage also create a shadow government for the people by mirroring the responsibilities of government to his people, the insurgents usually employ terrorism and guerilla warfare tactics on the government's military.

### **REFERENCE:**

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The U.S government, (2012), Guide to the analysis of insurgency.