**NAME: ANAZIA-ONYEACHOLEM DEBORAH**

**DEPARTMENT: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY**

**COLLEGE: SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**

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**ASSIGNMENT:**

**In not more than 3 pages discuss the pages of insurgency**

INTRODUCTION TO INSURGENCY

According to Bard E. O’Neil, insurgency can be defined as a struggle between non-ruling groups and ruling authorities in which the non-ruling groups consciously use political resources (organizational expertise, propaganda, demonstration and violence) to destroy, reformulate or sustain the basis of legitimacy of one or more aspects of politics. Insurgency is a political-military struggle used to displace the legitimacy of a government either completely or partially. The most common aim of most insurgent groups is to gain the popular support of the citizens of a country or community, this means that insurgency is best sustained by the masses because it is people oriented. Insurgency is common to most countries of the world and there are different types of insurgencies such as:

1. The separatist insurgency. An example of a separatist insurgency is the bolochistan insurgency in Pakistan

2. The Reformist insurgency. An example is the Iraq insurgency.

3. The Liberation insurgency

4. The Revolutionary insurgency

5. The Resistance insurgency

6. The commercialist insurgency

These types of insurgency can be categorized under two different modes of insurgency which are the guerilla and the terrorist. All these types of insurgencies have common features such as; they operate from the peripheral, the insurgent groups try to obtain popular support, they create a condition for the change of government and finally they are not lawful combatants; meaning the international law does not recognize these groups as lawful combatants. However, insurgency differs from civil wars or militancy. Militancy can be described as an aggressive or destructive groups whose purpose is to use violence to gain or obtain a political objective. Unlike the insurgent groups whose main purpose is to overthrow the government, Militancy can choose to either support the government or overthrow the government, but most times these two concepts are used interchangeably.

STAGES OF INSURGENCY

Insurgency can be categorized into four stages which include:

1. The pre-insurgency stage

2. The incipient stage

3. The Open-insurgency stage

4. The resolution stage

THE PRE-INSURGENT STAGE

During this stage most activities of the insurgent groups are carried out underground and there is no sign of violence. At this stage every open activity are overlooked, meanwhile the groups are working together, recruiting and training members and a form of group identity is being created. The insurgent groups try to use political, economic, historical or societal factors which are disadvantages to the masses of a particular segment of population in a region or country, For example; government’s decisions and policies which is not providing adequate advantage to the masses of that region. And through this, the insurgents can also recruit their members and also have popular support.

The insurgent groups can advocate their grievances through using the media, flyers, or even demonstrations to attain legitimacy and support from relevant supporters. Also they try as much as possible to disconnect national identity from their group identity, this identity may religious, ethnically or even politically based. Thereafter they train their members either illegally within the country or send them abroad to get trained for the movement. Afterwards, there is the supply of arms and weapons to the group. Most insurgent groups gets their arms and weapons through illegal means like kidnapping, robbery or illegal importation of weapons.

THE INCIPIENT STAGE

At this stage there is the introduction of violence by the insurgents. They are able to relay their motives to the government by destructive and violent measures. At this point a charismatic leader is selected to rule the insurgent groups and help them defeat the government. Meanwhile the government employ counter-insurgency and try to understand the agendas of the insurgent group and the best way to stop these movement from escalating, by putting into use all economic, social and political elements to work. Also the government needs external support from other countries to defeat or stop the insurgents. The security forces which is ever loyal to the government is used to monitor and stop the insurgents groups.

OPEN INSURGENCY STAGE

There is the involvement of weapons and it is made clear to the government that their territory is being invaded by insurgents. There is also the occurrence of frequent attacks and an increase in the number of members belonging to the insurgent groups. At this stage both military and political factors are affected and the country will be willing to welcome foreign aid for both diplomatic, arms, sanctuary, intelligence etc assistance from the countries. This leads to the creation of alliance between both countries and the foreign country helps the recipient country without constraints and restrictions.

THE RESOLUTION STAGE

This is likely noted as the final stage. Insurgency is likely to decline either by military combat or diplomatic negotiation between the state authorities and the insurgent groups. The average time span for every insurgency is 21 years. During this stage there is either an insurgent victory or government victory, the formal occurs when the insurgents are able to seize control of the territory and overthrow the government while the latter occurs when the insurgent groups decline, although there might still be a low violence carried out later in the years but the insurgent would have lost their military capabilities and popular support therefore bringing an end to the fight or struggle.

REFERENCE

1. US government. (2012). Guides to the Analysis of Insurgency (pp. 5-21). Public domain (copyright).