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INSURGENCY AND COUNTER INSURGENCY

**QUESTION: DISCUSS THE STAGES THE INSURGENCY**

### Definition of insurgency:

Insurgency can be defined as an organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government and challenge political control of a region through the use of violence, subversion (a means of destroying one's loyalty) and armed conflict.

According to O'Neill Insurgency can be defined as a struggle between a non-ruling group and the ruling authorities in which the non-ruling groups consciously uses political resources (e.g. organizational expertise, propaganda, demonstration etc.) and violence to destroy reformulate or sustain the basis of legitimacy of one or more aspect of politics.

Insurgency can also be described as the violent struggle of a group of people who refuse to accept their government power and it is also described as a violent attempt to oppose a country government carried out by citizens of that country.

### STAGES OF INSURGENCY:

Regarding to the main purpose of the project is the stages of insurgency, there are different stages of insurgency which include Pre-insurgency stage, Incipient conflict stage, Open insurgency stage, Resolution stage. These stages of insurgency have their various perspective in achieving their aims and objectives in insurgency.

#### Pre-insurgency stage:

This is the first stage of the insurgency and the most difficult one in the sense that it is difficult to detect conflict because insurgents' groups are underground during this stage and they have yet made its presence felt by violence. This stage of insurgency has a specific role to play in the society because it can easily be dismissed as nonviolent political activity and during this stage the insurgent's group are beginning to organize and the insurgents are establishing a grievance and a group identity. Insurgents Coordinators can use historical, societal, political, or economic conditions that produce among segments of the population to support their movement. Conditions necessary for the preexisting stage are a recent history of internal conflict that has left lingering grievances against the government or hostility among groups and that establishes violence as an accepted means of resolving political disputes, Recent or ongoing conflicts in neighboring states that generate refugees who could become recruits, make weapons available, or establish ungoverned spaces in the neighboring countries that can serve as sanctuaries for insurgents, Government policies that disadvantage a segment of the population on the basis of religion, tribe, ethnicity, region, or class, reinforcing insurgent efforts to foster a group identity. During the pre-insurgency stage, insurgents identify and publicize a grievance around which they can rally supporters. Insurgents seek to create a compelling narrative the story a party to an armed struggle uses to justify its actions in order to attain legitimacy and favor among

relevant populations Propaganda about or inclusion in the insurgent narrative of a unique history for the subgroup that sets it apart from the rest of the nation. Recruitment and training are very necessary also the disappearance of significant numbers of subgroup members, especially young men. Reports of people training with arms or the identification of nongovernment military training sites, such as sports clubs or other social groups conducting paramilitary-style physical training. The government's reaction in this and the next stage is perhaps the most important determinant of whether a movement will develop into an insurgency.

#### Incipient Conflict stage:

This is the second stage of insurgency and the insurgent's groups begin to use violence, the target government however frequently dismisses insurgent actions as the work of bandits, criminals, or terrorists, which increases the risk that the government will employ counterproductive measures. The incipient stage is the most dangerous phase for insurgents have made their presence felt through initial attacks, but they are still weak and organizing. An incipient insurgency must balance the need to conduct attacks to demonstrate its viability, publicize its cause, rally supporters, and provoke a government overreaction while limiting its exposure to government security forces. Insurgents Leadership Knowing not only the identities of the insurgent movement's leaders but also understanding the leaders' motivation for joining the insurgency and the experience they bring to the movement especially military service, political experience, or participation in prior insurgencies can provide insights into the direction and character the organization is likely to take, as well as its potential early effectiveness. Insurgents generally rely on the civilian population for food, medicine, shelter, or intelligence provided either voluntarily or under duress. Insurgents must establish sources for supplies they cannot obtain from the civilian population, including arms, ammunition, and other military equipment. The government's willingness to acknowledge the budding insurgency and take corrective actions is paramount to preventing the conflict from escalating, and effective leadership is a critical element. Understanding which people and institutions lead the counterinsurgency program is critical to assessing the effectiveness of the government's effort. The willingness and ability of government leaders to act decisively and authoritatively and to compel all elements of state power security, economic, social, and political to work toward a common purpose are the clearest signs of effective government leadership. The government's counterinsurgency effort benefits through each stage if it can enlist support from neighboring states and the broader international community to cut off the flow of funds, fighters, or supplies to the insurgents.

#### Open insurgency stage:

This is the third stage of insurgency and it is obvious that the government are facing

an insurgency and the insurgents are overtly challenging state authority and attempting to exert control over territory, the insurgency becomes more active, external support for the belligerents probably becomes more apparent. An insurgency at this stage often progresses from undermining state authority to displacing and replacing it, and also the insurgents possess some political strength. Reports of large-scale infiltration of insurgents or insurgent sympathizers into government agencies, especially at the local level, Defections of government officials to the insurgency. Indications that the insurgents have established shadow governments or are providing social or administrative services, such as education, health care, or courts. Evidence of no-go areas, sometimes labeled with color designations such as red or black by target nation security forces, De facto recognition of insurgent administration, such as neighboring governments or foreign businesses dealing with insurgents. On the military front, insurgents are conducting more frequent attacks, usually employing terrorism and guerrilla warfare tactics, including hit and-run raids on military and police units, ambushes, assassinations, improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, and attacks on infrastructure and symbols of government authority such as schools, hospitals, utilities, cell phone towers, and bridges. The external assistance is also important and its assistance including diplomatic, financial, arms, nonlethal equipment, sanctuary, intelligence, training, or advisers enhances the political or military operations of the recipient.

#### Resolution stage:

During the progress of life cycle of the insurgency this is the last stage of insurgency movement and it has been foreshadowed that any insurgency operations must have its conclusion either an insurgent victory, a negotiated settlement, or a government victory. An insurgent victory is the only potential outcome that is likely to be clear-cut, marked by the insurgents seizing control of the government, expelling a foreign occupier, or gaining independence for their region, A negotiated settlement is likely to have many false starts, delays in implementation, and attempts by spoilers to undermine the agreement. A government victory is likely to be a protracted process marked by gradual decline in violence as the insurgents lose military capabilities, external assistance, and popular support. Insurgency may have become a way of life for many fighters, and the violence may continue long after the insurgents have abandoned any hope of achieving their goals. This final phase of the insurgency indicates that either the insurgency achieves their aim and objectives or they are been defeated by the government.

#### REFERENCE:

GUIDE TO THE ANALYSIS OF INSURGENCY