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Assignment: Discuss the tactics employed in counter-insurgency operations

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In layman language, counterinsurgency is basically the opposite of insurgency. It basically is the opposite but it uses the other side of the conflict. Counterinsurgency is basically the government taking action against the insurgent groups.

According to *The Oxford Dictionary*, counterinsurgency is military or political action taken against the activities of guerrillas or revolutionaries.

This means that basically insurgency and counterinsurgency is a mental battle that considers the people of a state and their responses to each of the groups. The insurgents use little cracks in the shield of the government and try to take advantage of it but the government also does the same.

Counterinsurgency has its definitions, scope, types, characteristics, dimensions and effects on the international society. The only difference between insurgency and counterinsurgency are the strategies, challenges and obstacles, and principles. Our main focus this time is the strategies and a few definitions, but we would do a brief summary of the rest.

**Definitions of Counterinsurgency**

Just like other concepts in IR counterinsurgency has many definitions. Though they are all accepted, there has been no general definition for the concept.

According to the *Central Intelligence Agency* in the book *Guide to Insurgency (2012),* Counterinsurgency (COIN) is the combination of measures undertaken by a government to defeat an insurgency. Effective counterinsurgency integrates and synchronizes political, security, legal, economic, development, and psychological activities to create a holistic approach aimed at weakening the insurgents while bolstering the government’s legitimacy in the eyes of the population.

According to *Tactics of Counterinsurgencies (March 2009),* Counterinsurgency is those military, paramilitary, economic, psychological and civil actions taken by a government to defeat an insurgency

**Tactics of Counterinsurgency**

When formulating tactics to counter insurgents, there is a major thing to consider; *The Public.* Every action that the two opposing groups take are being watched by the public so a major tactic to put in place first is to *Maintain a forward presence with the population.* Take the Boko Haram attacks of 2011, the bombings scared a lot of citizens into thinking Nigeria wasn’t safe anymore. On top of that there was the kidnapping of the Chibok girls earlier around 2012. Nigerians were then reassured that the country wasn’t in good hands anymore. The Boko Haram were extremists that later brought more people to their cause through their actions.

The media is considered the most efficient and most dangerous source of information. The media could include; television, the social media, newspapers, radio stations, etc. once information has been caught in the web, it can circulate to over three hundred states in different countries in just 20 minutes. Which is why the state’s government should employ two tactics for this; *ensuring that the media gains the correct information* and *avoiding overreaction to insurgent activity.* This ensures that the insurgents don’t get the upper hand to instill fear in the public as this would wane their trust in the government. A case study example; when a particular media station has inaccurate information and spreads it, the public would begin to complain that the government is doing nothing against the insurgents. This would cause the government to crumble under pressure and fail.

Insurgents have a major habit of having more than one location for their base and firearms. This is because they need a safe place to go to when things go haywire in their current state. The measure or tactic taken is the use of border patrol. For this tactic to be put in place a large troop of army officials must be put at borders carrying out inspections for every vehicle passing the borders.

**Conclusion**

These tactics have already been put in place in several countries. The insurgents may be rising but the government is putting in place several measures to curb it

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