**Name:Adeyanju Oyindamola Oluwanifemi**

**Matric No:18/sms09/005**

**Department: International Relations and Diplomacy**

**Level:200L**

**Course code:IRD 214**

**Course Title: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency**

**In not more than three pages discuss the stages of Insurgency.**

Insurgency means an organised movement to seize control of a territory. Insurgency can be said to be a symmetric warfare( an irregular war) because it is focused on avoiding the strength of the adversary and exploiting their weakness .Hence, insurgency connotes a strategy of offensive action against that of mass force action to tackle weaker enemies at decisive moment. For the United state military Insurgency is defined as an organised movement aimed at the overthrown of a constituted government or to seize and challenge political control of a region through the use of violence Subversion and armed conflicts.

While O’Neill defines the concept as a struggle between Non ruling groups and ruling authorities in which the non ruling group consciously use political resources ( Organisational expertise ,propaganda, Demonstrations) and violent to destroy ,reformulate or sustain the basis of legitimacy of one or more aspect of politics. Insurgency differs from other movement in the use of violence to achieve political goals as such Insurgency are usually internal struggles between states which normally connotes a protracted political and military struggle designed to weaken the existing government power, control and legitimacy while increasing those of the insurgency .

Hence, Insurgency is seen as intrastate conflict this not mean that insurgent cannot have external support or join their cause to those of external organisation if they are in line with their aspiration) As a result of such, modern insurgency can cross multiple borders.

Successful Insurgencies usually pass through certain common stages of development .Not all Insurgencies, however, experience every stage ,the sequence may not be the same in all cases and the evolution of any stage may extend over a long period of time .An Insurgency may take decade to start,mature and finally succeed. The stages in which insurgencies are carried out are:

**Pre insurgency Stage**

A conflict in the pre insurgency stage is difficult to detect because most activities are underground and the insurgency has yet to make its presence felt through the use of violence. Moreover, actions conducted in the open can easily be dismissed as nonviolent political activity. During this stage, an insurgent movement is beginning to organize: leadership is emerging, and the insurgents are establishing a grievance and a group identity, beginning to recruit and train members, and stockpiling arms and supplies.

**Pre-existing Conditions**

Insurgent organizers can use historical, societal, political, or economic conditions that generate discontent among a segment of the population to rally support for their movement. These conditions, most of which are exacerbated if they affect one subgroup disproportionately, include:

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 neighbouring states that generate refugees who could become recruits, make weapons available, or establish ungoverned spaces in the neighbouring countries that can serve as sanctuaries for insurgents.

Societal factors such as a strong warrior or conspiratorial culture or a youth bulge (a high proportion of 15- to 25-year-olds relative to the adult population), which can provide a pool of potential recruits.

**Grievance**

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 favour among relevant populations. Specific indicators that insurgents are seeking to mobilize the population around a grievance might include:

Emergence of websites or the circulation of flyers, pamphlets, DVDs, or other promotional materials that generate popular discussion of the grievance.

Media articles or opinion pieces on the issue.

Espousal of the grievance by legitimate political or social organizations.

Demonstrations or protests in which the issue plays a prominent rallying role.

**Government Reaction**

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. During these early stages, a potential insurgent group is weak, disorganized, and vulnerable to nonviolent government countermeasures. For these reasons, however, the government is likely to err either by dismissing the problem and failing to address the grievances behind the unrest—which gives the insurgents unchallenged space to organize—or by overreacting and cracking down hard—which can alienate the population and generate support for the insurgents.

**Incipient Conflict Stage**

A struggle enters the incipient conflict stage when the insurgents begin to use violence. Often these initial attacks provide analysts the first alert to the potential for an insurgency. 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; they 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 may emphasize highly asymmetric and terrorist tactics, such as kidnappings, small bombings, assassinations, and night letters during this phase. Understanding the characteristics, capabilities, and actions of both the insurgents and the government can help analysts assess whether an incipient conflict is likely to sputter out or expand into a full-blown insurgency.

**Open Insurgency Stage**

At this stage, no doubt exists that the government is facing an insurgency. Politically, the insurgents are overtly challenging state authority and attempting to exert control over territory. Militarily, the insurgents are staging more frequent attacks, which have probably become more aggressive, violent, and sophisticated and involve larger numbers of fighters. As the insurgency becomes more active, external support for the belligerents probably becomes more apparent, if it exists.

**Resolution Stage**

Some insurgencies progress steadily through the life cycle stages; many grow in fits and starts, occasionally regressing to earlier stages; and others remain mired in one stage for decades. In theory, an insurgency will eventually reach a conclusion, either an insurgent victory, a negotiated settlement, or a government victory. At least 130 insurgent conflicts have occurred since World War II estimations vary widely and go as high as nearly 300 insurgent-government conflicts and at least two dozen were ongoing as of late 2011.

**Stalemated or Stagnant Insurgencies**

Many insurgencies linger for years or decades as low-level security nuisances to the governments they oppose. Often during these stretches, the goals of the insurgency will shift or evolve. In some cases, the insurgents become more radical, in others, more moderate. Sometimes, the insurgency becomes an end unto itself for the fighters providing a sense of meaning to their lives, status that would otherwise be unattainable for them, and income from criminal activities associated with the insurgency. In some cases, it is difficult to discern whether the group’s primary motivation remains political or has become criminal a change that reduces the chance of resolving the conflict through negotiations or political reform.