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Topic: INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

Insurgency has been said to be defined as an active revolt or uprising. It is also synonymous to the word “rebellion”. The rate of insurgency in Nigeria has been increasing lately right from the Jihadist group, Boko Haram that started an armed rebellion against the government of Nigeria in 2009. Insurgency is a condition of revolt against a government that is less than an organized revolution. Insurgency is an act of rebellion against a legitimate authority.

Insurgency has posed serious security challenges for the nation as it affects foreign and local investments which affect the economic growth of the country thereby also leaving the country to face escalating youth unemployment. Acts of terrorism and kidnapping carried out by the Boko Haram are mostly in the North East part. This has had a devastating effect on economic and social development.

We will be focusing on Boko Haram’s act of terrorism. The violent rise and resilience of Boko Haram poses enormous security, humanitarian and governance challenges. Boko Haram’s insurgency has cost more than 4000lives, destroyed a huge amount of school and government buildings, destroyed the economy in the North East and has done over hundreds of kidnappings. A series of clashes between Boko Haram members and police escalated into an armed insurrection in 2009. After this rebellion was crushed, Boko Haram went underground and a year later they launched an attack on police stations and military barracks. Since 2010, the group’s campaign has grown, targeting not only security forces and government officials but also Christians and traditional leaders. Lately it has evolved into pure terrorism with targeting of students attending secular state schools and health workers.

In 2013, Former President, Goodluck Jonathan declared an emergency in certain states such as Borno, Yobe and Adamawa and deployed troops that with the help of vigilantes drove Boko Haram from most cities and towns. One of the most popular acts of Boko Haram’s terrorism has been the kidnap of the Chibok girls which took place on the 14th April 2014. This attack happened in Borno state and it was said that about 276 female students were kidnapped. These students were raped, beaten and most of them were either killed or passed away due to the harsh conditions. This caused the world to go into an uproar demanding for the release of the Chibok girls. Over the years some were freed, rescued or escaped. It is also known that the Government Girls Secondary School was a Christian school in a village called Chibok hence the name Chibok girls.

Prior to the attack the school had been closed down but they reopened for students to write their final exams. This was when the terrorists attacked and kidnapped the girls to the Sambisa forest where Boko Haram were known to have fortified camps. The Christian students were forced to convert to Islam. The girls were forced into marriage also. On 5 May 2014, the book haram leader, Abubakar Shekau claimed responsibility for the kidnappings and also said that their god, Allah instructed them to sell the girls. He laid claims saying that the girls aren’t meant to be in school but should have been married off. Following that, Boko Haram abducted some girls from north eastern Nigeria. On 5 May 2010, 300 residents of the nearby town of Gamboru Ngala were killed in an attack by Boko Haram militants after the Nigerian security forces had left in search for the kidnapped students. On 12th May 2010, a video showing about 130 girls who were clad in Hijab and a long Islamic chador was realeased whereby they demanded prisoner exchange. All in all, Boko Haram is a terrorist group that continues to prey on women and girls as spoils of war despite the claims by the Nigerian government that it has defeated the group. Now a lot of people do not know why the Boko Haram started this act, the reason why book haram started this was due to the long standing of issues of religious violence between Nigeria’s Muslim and Christian communities and Boko Haram’s main aim is to establish an Islamic state in the region.

Furthermore, here are a list of typical conditions that causes insurgency: Injustice (inequity, persecution, discrimination, marginalization and denial of rights), Illegitimacy of the regime as when it comes to power through seizure of power, electoral fraud, tyranny or corruption, Poverty , especially when the regime is deemed to be weak and incompetent and incapable to protect the poor masses in the midst of plenty, Militarization of the society due to a long reign of the military, Lack of employment opportunities for the ever teeming school leavers and lastly Increasing circulation of small arms an light weapons(SALWs).

In conclusion, the government should start taking appropriate measures to prevent more uprisings like this such as good administration and strong willed leaders, proper provision of help to the less privileged and so on.