NAME: IROEGBU JENNIFER AMARACHI

DEPARTMENT: LAW

MATRIC NUMBER: 19/LAW01/123

COURSE TITLE: PEACE STUDIES AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

COURSE CODE: GST 201

Question: Write an essay on violent conflict on a geopolitical in Nigeria

Answer...

Firstly violence is using or involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something. As elsewhere in Nigeria, politics and armed violence have been closely interlinked in the South East region, with formal political processes and electoral cycles frequently accompanied by violence. Arms made available to political thugs during election periods have a deep link to post-election violence in the region. It is relatively rare to have specific violence during voter registrations and even during elections in the South East. Rather it is the anger of being disenfranchised and the arming of thugs as a whole that fuels armed violence in the region. Across a range of poverty measures, the South East performs relatively poorly. The South East region has an infant mortality rate of 95, the second highest (following the North East) of all national regions. The region, however, has a relatively low number reporting they have no education whatsoever. These aggregate regional rates obscure considerable variation in poverty levels within the zone: Ebonyi state has an absolute poverty rate of 82.9%, putting it among the five highest rates in the country, and the only state of those five which is outside the northern regions. States in the region which are significant producers of crude oil and natural gas (such as Imo and Abia) share similarities in terms of the political economy of the petroleum industry and its relationship with politics and armed violence as detailed in the South South. The South East also has the least numbers of publicly quoted companies in Nigeria. Overall, the South East economy is more informal and employs less graduates than other regions. Armed violence in the region has been characterised by spikes in communal violence and more persistent low-grade struggle amongst vigilante and criminal networks. This has been partly fuelled by the high levels of drug consumption in the region, the long-term legacies of the civil war and also by Inter-religious clashes. In 2000, for instance, religious tension spread to Abia and Anambra following rioting in the northern state of Kaduna – resulting in a wave of reprisal killings.. Land disputes have also been a source of tension 100% between rival communal groups: in 2012, at least 50 people were killed as a result of violent clashes between Ezza and Ezilo groups in the state of Ebonyi. In the early 2000s, vigilante violence was widespread in the region, with the most prominent militant vigilante group, the Bakassi Boys, active in the large market towns in Abia, Anambra and Imo states. Vigilante violence has persisted at a lower rate in recent years,335 but still remains a major concern in the region. Imo is relatively less affected by violence than other states in Nigeria and the South East. The Nigeria Security Tracker recorded 17 violence-related deaths in Imo between May 2011 and August 2013. The ACLED political violence research project also recorded 59 separate explicitly political incidents of armed violence in the state between 1998 and August 2013. How- ever, the dearth of armed violence observatories in this region may mean that there may well be a higher level of armed violence than recorded publicly. An additional form of violence, perhaps influenced by the militancy in the South South, is kidnapping, which has persisted beyond the introduction of a 2009 amnesty for militant groups in the Niger Delta. As of 2011, there have been at least 350 recorded kidnappings of expatriates, and although the number of national staff kidnapped is not accurately known, it is likely to dwarf that of expatriates. Finally, there is very high gun ownership (both licensed and illegal) in the South East in relation to other states. Violence per capita in Imo is among the lowest in the region, as is the number of fatalities per capita. Incidences of violence largely occurred in the LGAs surrounding the capital city of Owerri, many of which were inter-personal in nature. Between January 2012 and December 2013, incidents reported included criminality, abductions and vigilante/mob justice. There were also a number of fatalities associated with public unrest and reports of ritual killings in the state. The first half of 2014 was the most violent of the two-year period with clashes that reportedly killed dozens.