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**VIOLENT CONFLICT ON A GEOPOLITICAL ZONE IN NIGERIA**

 **Peace** is essential for the development,stability and security of Nigeria and citizens(individuals). Aware of critical centrality within the context of the state society and intergroup relations in Nigeria,measures and processes must constantly be undertaken towards sustaining peace in the country. As a maturing democracy with huge socio-cultural and religious diversity,peace is sine-qua-non that is,it is an essential condition for democracy consolidation,effective security management and development. This is done towards providing holistic and evidence-based recommendations to Government and other critical stake holders for the sustenance of peace.

In the North-central, the zone is described as being well-endowed by nature with very rich vegetation and provides a lot of attraction to the transhumance herders from the northern states of the country as well as from neighbouring countries in the adjourning sub-regions of West Africa and Central Africa including Cameroon,Niger,Chad,Mali,Senegal among others. This zone marked ecological diversity and climatic contracts along with diverse biophysical characteristics and other conditions. The conflicts in that place have been mainly resource-based and identity-driven in nature. These conflicts become violently expressed in contexts of religious,ethno-religious,indigene-settler,chieftaincy,land and boundary struggles. The latest occurrence of intense herders-farmers conflicts,and the associated problems of cattle-rustling and other forms of criminality driven by informal networks signify the economically induced nature of conflicts in the zone.

Nevertheless,the protraction and impact of the conflict on agricultural production should be seen as a source of research and policy concern by scholars and policy markers.

In the North-East zone,political the region has been described in the field of report as very active and sometimes out rightly restive even before the escalation of the Boko Haram cries. In addition,report of this zone has clearly situated the wider political economy of the entire region.

In the South-East zone captures the pertinent scenarios and circumstances of human settlements therein. One of the effect of the accentuation of internal migration. Since the post-civil war period,making the zone to be increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-cultural,especially in the major urban centres such as Aba,Enugu,Owerri,Onitsha,Awka and others. The zone’s endowment and opportunities in agriculture,trade and commerce,have also been major attraction to people of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds,from across the country.

Necessarily,the growing urbanization and multiculturism have further had impacts on the conflict climate on the various state within the zone. In addition,rapid urbanization and high population density in major cities and towns in the zone have also lead to challenges to inadequate infrastructure,social services,leading to a whole range of social,political security and conflict-inducing issues,including congestion,intercommunal and inter-ethnic competition,employment,cultism,criminality,etc.

The South-South zone was craves out from the former Easten and the Mid-West regions in 1967. This was a fallout of the Nigeria civil war and the agitation by the southern minorities for their own separate identities from the major ethnic groups. The south-south zone began to take its present political shape through subsequent exercise in the states creation that were engineered by the Babangida and the Abacha military régimes. Five of the six states in the south-south zone, Akwa Ibom,Rivers,Delta,Baylesa, and Edo states contributes about ninety percent of oil production in the country. These five states contribute to 80-90% of Nigeria’s total earnings from oil.

The reports of the South-West zone represents the types,caused,dimensions,action period covered. For instance,also in the zone,the reported frictions and clashes between herders and the farmers were generally highlighted as a result of contemporary security and economic challenges,like the proliferation of small arms and light weapons as well as the compulsion by the herders to progressively push inland.

**IMPACT OF CONFLICT IN SOUTH-EAST STATES**

* The general experience of stagnant growth/lack of development.
* It has sent wrong signals and conveyed the wrong social values to the community youths
* The attendant fear and physiological disturbances,especially the fear of herders.

**CAUSES OF CONFLICT**

A major cause of conflicts in the state’s as noted from the LGA’s are the illegal encroachment of the herdsmen in the farmlands thereby destroying farm produce and causing conflict

**CONCLUSION**

Nigeria dimensions of the conflict phenomenon as developing nation,and an emerging political democracy and model in the African continent. The development of competence on the rigorous and precise audit of the aggregate impact of indices of conflict,the control and management of public information including the functional integration of the totality of key conflict with appreciate media roles, the obvious gender imbalance,analysis of information on the multi-dimensional variables of the phenomenon of conflict.

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