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Question: Write an essay on violent conflict on the geopolitical zone you're from... not less than 2 pages... times new roman and send to his email; balogunnoah@abuad.edu.ng

ANSWER

My name is AKINOLA Mariam and I am from the south western Nigeria particularly Oyo state Ibadan. In the south west the major form of violence is usually politically based. There is usually fight of power between people the quest for power in the south western region is very high which has some negative impact on the people living in this region. States within this region are Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo.

Political Conflict

The South West region is home to two of Nigeria’s three largest cities: Lagos and Ibadan. As a national and continental economic hub, Lagos sees a high level of political demonstrating, some of which has turned violent. The city saw high rates of rioting in January 2012, when violent demonstrations broke out against the federal government’s proposed cuts to a fuel subsidy, prompting some analysts to discuss the possibility of a ‘Nigerian Spring’.As elsewhere in the country, security forces have been accused of responding with excessive force against demonstrators. Osun, in the South West, was the only state in southern Nigeria that was not won by the current President Goodluck Jonathan of the PDP in the most recent 2011 general elections; having been won by the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) candidate, Nuhu Ribadu.

Economic Conflict

Across a range of poverty measures, the South West region performs relatively well. The region has an infant mortality rate of 59, the lowest of all national regions.The South West also has one of the lowest rate of respondents reporting no educational attainment whatsoever. In spite of Lagos’ status as a national and regional economic hub, many city residents struggle with poor living conditions. Nearly two-fifths of the population lives in overcrowded housing, and a quarter have no access to adequate sanitation. In 2006, Lagos was recorded as having a Gini coefficient of 0.64, making it among the most unequal cities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Armed Violence

Armed violence in the South West region is concentrated in Lagos, where over 55% of the recorded conflict events in the region are located.355 Lagos is the second most conflict-affected state in Nigeria, although levels of political violence were highest in the 1990s and early 2000s, in the early years of the transition to civilian rule. This figure does not reflect explicitly criminal armed violence, which is extremely high: Nigeria Watch data identifies Lagos as having the highest relative number of deaths due to crime in the country.

Armed robbery, organized crime, disproportionate use of force by state authorities and domestic violence are perceived to be high in Lagos. It is also notorious for its ethnic militia and vigilante groups. According to the 2012 CLEEN victimization survey, 23% of Lagos’s inhabitants were victims of crime in 2010. Among these, 13% have experienced robbery.

A 2005 assessment by Wale Adebanwi put the number of armed violence outbreaks recorded in Nigeria between 1999 and 2003 at over 50, with Lagos accounting for at least 15. Ginifer (2005) identifies at least 8 forms of armed violence in Nigeria, including Lagos. These include inter and intra-communal violence, ethnic militia and vigilante violence, political and electoral violence, armed criminality and ‘gang- sterism,’ state armed violence, state-sponsored violence, arms racing and ethno-religious violence.

Few cases of domestic violence have also been reported in Lagos compared with states in other zones. According to the CLEEN Foundation, a non- governmental organization headquartered in Lagos, 33 per cent of respondents in the South South said they had suffered or are suffering from it while the North East came in second with 26 per cent. Fewer cases were recorded in the South West region (including Lagos).Victims of armed violence in Lagos are mainly ordinary citizens, including vulnerable groups such as women and children, the old and the physically challenged. However, members of the Nigerian armed forces and the Nigerian Police have also remained both perpetrators and victims of armed violence.

Reference

www.aoav.org.uk - the violent road:Nigerian South West.