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**LEVEL: 200 LEVEL**

**DEPRARTMENT: LAW**

**COURSE: PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES**

**ASSIGNMENT**

Question; write an essay on violent conflict on the geopolitical zone in where you’re from [southwest] not more than 2 pages

**ANSWER**

International cooperation and assistances are also critical to reducing the level of violence in South western, in order to better enforce existing law. Fundamentally, all levels of government must integrate strategies to cope with armed violence in their development plans. In the increase in armed in south west and other part of Nigeria was the result of an imbalance in the administration of justice and unfair distribution of resources. The frustrations caused by the lack of justice and widening economics gap between the privileged and the disadvantaged is a major impetus to armed violence incidence. The main actors involved in armed violence in the south western region includes, ethnic militias, so-called Area boys, youths, criminal gangs and the state, security apparatus itself. Ethnic militias across south western region, the dominant ethnic militia-cum-vigilante group is the OPC (Oodua People’s Congress)  
 The population of the south west region is estimated at 32.5 million people, the region`s population is predominantly Christians and Yoruba ethnic group who make 21% of the national population are concentrated in this area, The population of Lagos is an estimated 10.7m with an annual population growth rate of 3.2%. Many of the drivers of the armed violence in urban areas are amplified in a city size Lagos Armed violence in South western region is concentrated in Lagos where 55% of the recorded conflict events in the region are located. Lagos is the second most conflict – affected state in Nigeria, Although levels of political violence were highest in the 1990`s and early 2000s in the early years of the transition to civilian rule. The figure doesn’t not reflect especially criminal armed violence, which is extremely high; Nigeria arch data identifies Lagos as having the highest relative number of deaths due to crime in country

Coming from Lagos estimated to be located part of the south west, is historically and commercial capital of Nigeria, is the country`s largest urban area and one of the largest cities in Africa continent and for this Lagos is the second largest most conflict affected in Nigeria. Decentralised militias are the most common violent actor in the state, these groups operate on the border of criminal political violence and engage in opportunistic rather than strategic violence for the most part the indigenous people of Lagos state are the Yoruba subgroups of the aworis in Ikeja the Eguns in the badagry area etc. While the Lagos Island consists of a mixed of Benin and Eko Aworis as well as repatriate Yoruba and other immigrants

Armed robbery, organised crime, disproportionate use of force by the state authorities and domestic violence are perceived to be high in Lagos, it is also notorious for its ethnic militia and vigilante groups. There are 8 FORMS OF VIOLENCE in Nigeria these include the following

Inter and intra communal violence ,ethnic militia and vigilante violence , political and electoral violence, Armed criminality and gangsters, state armed violence, state sponsored violence ,Arms racing, Ethnic religious violence

This 8 violence can be said to be well administered in basically the South west region of Nigeria

The main actors involved in armed violence in the south west include ethnic militias, so called area boys, youth criminal gangs and also the state security apparatus itself

It’s being identified that the government has some solutions on the concept of violence such as The Lagos state house of assembly enacted a Domestic violence prohibition law in 2007 , However, the government`s failure to undertake genuine and radical security sector reform also predisposes the police and other security forces to violence and corruption . Also the West African Network for Peace building Nigeria (WANEP-Nigeria) a civil society network headquarters in Lagos was established to provide an organised for collaborative peace – building for conflict transformation and development in Nigeria by indigenous non-governmental organisations

Lagos has the most vibrant media presence in Nigeria, with the highest concentration of print, online and electronic media in the nation. However, Nigeria`s media lacked both a full understanding of the country armed violence problem and the skills and resources to do appropriate journalism to cover the extent of this widespread issues.

The physical efforts to battle crimes should be coupled with a socio economic war on poverty the strategy must ultimately encompass social security, it is social security that could enhance physical security, and the product of such a strategy would be a more enduring security model.

Victims of armed violence in Lagos are mainly ordinary citizens including vulnerable group such as women and children the old and the physically challenged , However, members of the Nigerian armed forces and the Nigeria police have also remained both perpetrators and victims of the armed violence.

While political violence in Lagos continues, its attendant fatalities have decreased in recent years. Rather, AOAV, found that armed violence in Lagos is often related to trade, specifically the control of land, motor parks and market places. Non- indigenes, especially those from the South-East Nigeria, who are primarily traders, often comes under attack during disputes with, indigenes. These intimidation attacks are typically carried out by armed youths under the influence of alcohol.