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HUMAN SECURITY IN NIGERIA: A QUESTION OF MORALITY AND LAW

The concept «Human Security» is a very important concept that cannot and should not be over looked. Human Security can be simply defined as «freedom from violence and from the fear of violence.» Human security is an emerging paradigm for understanding global vulnerabilities whose proponents challenge the traditional notion of national security by arguing that the proper referent for security should be the individual rather than the state. Human security holds that a people-centred, multi-disciplinary understanding of security involving a number of research fields, including development studies, international relations, strategic studies, and human rights. The United Nations Development Programme's 1994 Human Development Report is considered a milestone publication in the field of human security, with its argument that insuring «freedom from want» and «freedom from fear» for all persons is the best path to tackle the problem of global insecurity [1].

Having understood the concept of human security, we shall proceed to examine the concept of human security in Nigeria. Our country, being the most populous country and largest oil producer in Africa has suffered bouts of severe social unrest, threats to human life and security, immoral acts endangering human lives and the incapability of the law to sustain human security. After six successful and numerous failed military coups, a civil war that cost over a million lives, and three inconclusive transitions to democracy, an unending battle with terrorism, militancy amidst recurrent factional violence, Nigeria rates below all other major oil nations on quality of life [2].

The issue of human security in Nigeria is a question that borders on law and morality. Although there are several laws that have been enacted to ensure the maintenance of human security, the question is «how effective are these laws and how well are they being abided to?»

The Nigerian Police Force being an organization of the government and an establishment of the Constitution is one of the primary victims of disregard to human security. The system of roadside Police officers stopping vehicles to request for certain amounts of money has become a habit if not a right that any action that depicts an intention to not give them their «dues» could attract violent reactions, some of which leads to serious injuries or even death. The right given to police to use reasonable force in the investigation and apprehension of suspected criminals has been awfully abused in the sense that the absence of a precise meaning to «reasonable force» has made the police

devise a meaning of their own. It is not rare when Police officers collect money from ordinary people and just legal practitioners may argue them. A few days ago a Police man shot dead a University student who was exercising his constitutional right of «peaceful protest.» The police are not just victims of constitutional breach but they have also abused whatever meaning is left to the concept «morality.»

Nowadays actions of the Boko Haram are dangerous and in many cases are against the provision of the Terrorism Prevention Act 2011.

Another major concern in respect of human security in Nigeria is the Niger-Delta militancy. The militant uprising that started in the early 2000's has been a major threat to human life and security. The threat and disregard to human security in this aspect can be viewed from different angles with the militant uprising having risen to be the deadliest so far. The militants uprising started as a result of environmental degradation of the Niger-Delta area as a result of the scramble for oil in the oil rich area. The federal government and the foreign oil companies that scramble oil out of the region care less about the wellbeing of the people as they leave these areas inhabitable for the residents. The uprising started as a way of fighting for their rights but has taken a major turn as it now poses serious threat to human security in the country. The uprising has led to the emergence of several violent Niger-Delta factions with the MEND (movement for the emancipation of Niger delta 2004-2014) and the Niger Delta Avengers 2016 to date being the most notorious ones [3].

The militants have no regard for the law and have no morality left in them. Another angle from which threat and neglect to human security can be viewed in these areas is the neglect by the government and Foreign companies to leave the areas where they scramble oil environmentally inhabitable and care less about how adversely these actions have affected the security and wellbeing of the inhabitants of these areas. The amnesty program of Goodluck Jonathan saw a reduction in the militancy rate as 15,000 militants willingly gave up arms. With the administration of the new government, the numbers are gradually rising again.

Conclusively, the issue of human security in Nigeria being a question of morality and law has been briefly and critically analyzed to be evident in several aspects although three aspects have been singled out to be the leading hiccups in the path of human security. This problem can be abated in a few ways some of which are: - total and critical cleansing of the Nigerian Police Force; - proper equipment of the country's army in order to be able to rise up against the sophisticated weapons of the insurgents; - peaceful and reasonable negotiation with the Niger-Delta militants; - and more importantly, using any possible method to instill the spirit of oneness, respect of moral values and the supremacy of the law into Nigerians.

Literature

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LAW AND SECURITY IN USA

There are many concepts of human security, defined and accepted by governments through centuries and cultures, but the main aspiration of the USA remains the same till our days: freedom of speech and choice should be provided to all citizens. Considering this, the United States National Security Strategy (NSS) is based on positions, turned for human protection. Various security organizations may be based on force or coercion to act, but the NSS is to protect the country's population by any means. There is a great connection between security and development, which is based on the widening of the people's choice towards politics, economy and ethnics.

The revisal of Law and Security branches in the ISA will change the country's position in society. Being able to manage lives freely, people will become open to new opportunities. In addition to it, the ability to express opinions and attitudes safely should provide them with the assuredness in the properness of people's choice. The U.S. Human Security is based on Human Rights, emphasizing the role of people in international relations. It should radically change the approach of the government to the masses in different ways. The first option is the presence of objectives for humanitarian work, which should be done correctly. Then the preventive aspect operates: the stimulation of plans for future is to enhance the people's lives. Thirdly, it raises the interdependence globally with the further mobilization of new partnership and additional resources.

In addition to it, the concept of human security adds great value in assisting planning and realization of programs. It points the variety of interacting threats