Youth Involvement in Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes, Pattern and Possible Remedies

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Abstract
This study carefully and critically discussed youth involvement in insecurity in Nigeria: pattern, causes and possible remedies. Insecurity has been one of the most discussed issues in Nigeria. By days, Nigerians are killed by bandits, Fulani terrorists and unidentified gunmen. Insecurity has been a bane to the nation development. Hitherto, there exist traces of social vices such as armed robbery ritual killings, assassinations etc but they were not as pronounced and alarming as they happen in Nigeria today. The pattern/trendof insecurity has change in its techniques, ineptitude and careless used of arms and ammunitions as this have created fear among the citizens. Pattern of insecurity includes; kidnapping, armed robberies, political assassinations, terrorism, ethnic, religious and communal clashes and other forms that are engaged and perpetuated by the youth. The paper central argument is that youth unemployment,weak social institutions/security system, lost of core societal values system, porous borders are some of the factors responsible for insecurity. Some possible solutions the paper proffers are; provision of good governance, social economic development, change in our value system and increase in surveillance and intelligence gathering. And the study recommends; jobs creations for the youths, strengthening of Nigeria weak institutions, harsh punishment for initiators of ethnics /religious clashes among others.

Keywords: Insecurity; *Security, Youth Involvement, Crime Patterns and Security Challenges*

INTRODUCTION:

In recent times, human insecurity has been one of the most discussed social problems in the Nigeria society. Almost every time people received sad news of how people are being kidnapped/abducted,   killed by the Boko Haram sect, bandits or Fulani terrorists or unknown gunmen in all parts of the country. Although, before now, there were traces of assassination , armed robbery, rape, oil theft, ritualism etc in Nigeria, but they were not as threatened, of high rate and alarming the way they occur today.

Insecurity is a major concern for the Nigerian government right now. Boko Haram's actions have wreaked havoc across the country, notably in the north. Murder of unarmed civilians, suicide bombings, arson attacks on homes, police stations, and churches, abduction of civilians (including children), sexual assault, armed robbery, political unrest, and destruction of oil facilities have all been committed by Niger Delta militants. As a result, the country's progress has been stymied, and tens of thousands of people have lost their homes, families, and jobs. After losing husbands or other family members, many house wives have been made widows, and their children have grown up without parents. Dominic & Chinyere (2023), submitted that for instance kidnapping is a familiar concept in Nigeria, but it's occurrence was not frequent the way it happened today in the country, but it was hitherto common in the Middle-East. Today the pattern, trend and the rate of human insecurity have changed. It's sophisticated nature and the openly use of armed weapons with contempt has taken a new shape in the country. Also, human insecurity has manifested itself in the areas of; political assassination, kidnapping, armed robberies, terrorism, inter/intra communal conflicts among ethnic groups, and other forms of youth violence, and these heinous crimes are being facilitated and engaged by the youths in our country Nigeria.

The involvement of young people in the development of insecurity in Nigeria has become a major source of concern for all law-abiding individuals. The majority of Nigerians are bewildered as to how this once-virtuous nation has devolved into such a calamitous situation, where no one is safe and no one knows what will happen next. Worse, rather than slowing, the problem is worsening, and it is currently fully out of control, with no sign of relief in sight. Nigeria has a continuing problem with insecurity, which endangers the health and safety of its citizens in every corner of the country. In Nigeria's South-West area, cybercrime, armed robbery, abduction, domestic crime, extrajudicial executions, herder-farmer conflicts, ritual killings, and banditry are all on the rise. Banditry is especially frequent in this area. Banditry, ritual killings, commercial crime, secessionist agitation, kidnapping, herder-farmer disputes, and attacks by unknown gunmen are all widespread in the south-east, which serves as a safe haven for all of these risky activities. The north-east region has been in the grip of a humanitarian catastrophe for more than a decade, exacerbated by the insurgency of Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province. Militancy, kidnapping, environmental agitation, and oil bunkering or theft continue to menace the south-south region. The northern region is rife with banditry, illegal mining, and assassinations committed by members of ethnic religious groups. As a result, Nigeria's condition of insecurity has become a prominent topic in the country's political discourse, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives as well as huge property damage and destruction (Samuel, 2022). It is against this background that this study deem it appropriate to engaged in a critical discourse of; Youth Involvement in Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes, Patterns and Possible Remedies.

Review of Related Studies
Historical background   of Insecurity in Nigeria
According to Samuel's (2022) description of Nigeria's history of insecurity, the corrupt system has given rise to the current condition, beginning with the 1963 crisis and continuing through military coups. The 1966 coup is certainly the terrible basis for the insecurity felt in Nigeria today.

As a result of the coup, the ethnic groupings of the Hausa and Fulani, as well as the Igbo, came to distrust one another. Today, insecurity is propelled by powerful subterranean currents born of distrust. As a result, conflicts between Igbo and other ethnic groups, particularly the Hausa and Fulani, grew. Perhaps the region's sense of exclusion from the power equation was aggravated by the fact that it was extremely difficult for a Nigerian of southeasterly descent to become president due to widespread mistrust of the democratic process.

Furthermore, several Niger Delta militias were used to oppose the federal government's unfair and unequal usage of the region's natural riches. The militants set fire to government security institutions, infrastructure, and installations, as well as international oil exploration sites. They also imprisoned a large number of foreign oil workers. The Niger Delta insurgents brought in and domesticated the kidnapping-for-ransom method, which is now popular among criminals and thugs throughout the country.

Because of its oil and reputation for riches, Nigeria has attracted a wide range of travellers. Even while these migrations did not initially constitute a crime risk, many of the immigrants were Islamic missionaries seeking to Islamize Africa following the 1979 Iranian revolution. Nomadic pastoralists (herdsmen) and crop farmers clashed in the country's south and east, causing many to fear that northern forces were attempting to conquer their region.

Sub-Saharan Africa has long been a target of Afghanistan's Al-Qaeda and Pakistan's Mujahideen's rising jihadist fanaticism. Extremist Islamic missionaries from Al Qaeda and the Islamic State were present in northern Nigeria as early as 2000. The few Muslims who clung to the 1980s Maitatsine philosophy and saw Jihad as unavoidable kept the torch of inspiration burning fiercely. By 2009, Boko Haram had established themselves. Following the demise of the Islamic State a few years later, the focus switched to West Africa. In order to strengthen its grip on Nigeria, Boko Haram professed allegiance to the Islamic state.

Despite pressure from neighbouring countries to address insurgency and terrorism, the government has politicised the issues, allowing them to spread and reproduce quickly. However, there were ready pools of recruits in many northern communities who found refuge in the use of guns due to acute poverty, illiteracy, and youth mistreatment.

Concept of Security
Security, Despite its widespread use, the term "security" remains ambiguous. A sense of security is more realistically described as a mental state rather than a physical reality. It just reflects people's feelings without valuing or judging the truth of those sentiments. It is more necessary to examine one's own personal feelings about specific events than to make objective assessments of one's surroundings. According to Imobighe (1985), safety is defined as the absence of hazards, including oppression, danger, anxiety, and unjustified aggression. As a result, human beings are the focal point of any conversation about security. Indeed, a high level of security that embraces everything is required for human well-being in all sectors, including food, the environment, the economy, society, and space. Soroos and Collins (2007) describe security as the confidence that one's most basic needs will be addressed, allowing one to live a life free of anxiety. McNamara, who was Secretary of Defence under President John F. Kennedy and later became President of the World Bank, believes that security is achieved via

development rather than military troops or conventional armaments. This is something worth mentioning. According to McNamara (1968), progress is the cornerstone of security, and development is required for security. McNamara felt at peace in this area because the world was in the throes of the Cold War at the time he offered the concept. Given that developing economies are primarily unrelated to Cold War issues, he devised a yardstick that would benefit human progress in general. As a result, security is residents' belief that they are safe from danger, concern, aggression, tyranny, and severe restriction.

Investigating the Concept of Human Safety and Protection

The term "human security" appears to have first appeared in political pronouncements made by the United Nations in the mid-1990s, most notably in the UNDP Report of 1994. This book defines "human security" as a situation in which individuals are no longer fearful of the threats to humanity's growth. One definition of human security is the protection of persons against long-term threats such as famine, sickness, and mental illness. Second, it represents protection against inconvenient and unforeseen changes in one's habits at home, work, or in the community (Kerr, 2007). According to Nnoli (2006), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is credited with designing the foundation for the seven pillars of human security, which are economic, health, food, environmental, personal, community, and political security. In addition, he came to the conclusion that when interstate conflict is combined with structural violence or societal neglect (such as preventable disease and malnutrition), the probability of death in a developing nation is 33 times higher. According to Kerr (2007) and Nnoli (2006), a comprehensive plan addressing seven major components of human security is required. Economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political aspects are among them. When we talk of human security, we mean more than just the absence of war. It includes human rights, competent government, universal healthcare and education, and the freedom to pursue one's own path to fulfilment. Moving in this direction can result in poverty reduction, economic progress, and conflict prevention. The preservation of a healthy natural environment for future generations, freedom from fear, and freedom from desire are all linked (Akpan, 2016).

The Youths

It is difficult to provide an explanation for the situation of young people in Nigeria, and possibly other regions. This is due to the fact that many people have quite different viewpoints on the subject. Youths, according to Akpan, H. Ekpo, a professor of economics, are those between the ages of 17 and 35 (Niyi, 2011; Ekpo, 2012; FIFA, 1985). This definition refers to the economic output and rating that takes place within the system. People in this age group are supposed to be strong and capable of giving and receiving the most that society has to offer. As a result, it should come as no surprise that during the dubious Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, the majority of the persons brought to the Americas and Europe to serve under exceptionally terrible and inhumane conditions were young people. According to Williams (1964), Uya (2005), and Ekpo (2011), slave labour was used to build infrastructure and hence accelerate the rise of particular regions, such as the United States of America (USA) and Europe.

In terms of social engagement, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA), the world's governing body of football, defines youths as anyone between the ages of 17 and 20. According to Obedode (2011), youth are "individuals between the ages of 15 and 24." The United Nations provides this definition. Nonetheless, young people in Nigeria are defined as anyone between 18 to 30 years old, according to the country's constitution. It explains why, at the age of eighteen, a person is able to run for, vote for, or compete for an elective post of

government office. This means that the constitutional age of 18 is deemed to be the age at which a person is grown, capable of reasoning, and capable of making independent decisions on their own. On the other hand, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development recently unveiled the Revised National Young Policy, 2019, on May 24, 2019, in Akure, Ondo, with the participation of young stakeholders. As a result of the new strategy, the age classification of young people was modified from 18 to 35 years to 15 to 29 years. The evaluation is focused on practical analysis and the need to promote the appropriate targeting of desired beneficiaries of youth intervention activities, rather than adults masquerading as youngsters. This is the reason for the review. This age classification distinguishes Nigeria from other African countries that adhere to the African Youth Charter's age classification, which specifies that persons must be between the ages of 18 and 35 (The Punch, May 28, 2019, page 20). The Ibibio ethnic nationality considers young people to be individuals between the ages of five and twenty-five, according to the Nigeria Constitution, Mfon (2012), and Nkenta and Idionomfonabasi (2012). According to Akpakpan (2016), the National Youth Development Policy document of Nigeria defines youths as members of the Nigerian population aged 18 to 35.

Concept of Insecurity: Insecurity, according to Beland (2005) and Achumba, Ighomeroho, and Akpor-Robaro (2013), is described as a state of fear or anxiety caused by a real or perceived lack of protection or inadequate freedom from risk. Another viewpoint is that Achumba et al. (2013) defines insecurity as "a state of being vulnerable to danger, exposed to risk, or experiencing worry." According to Eme and Anyadike (2013), a person or organisation is regarded secure when it is not threatened or endangered by any type of hazard or risk, including but not limited to physical or moral violence, accidents, theft, or deterioration.

We can explain the concept of insecurity as a constant threat to lives and properties, territory, countries, religious practices, social institutions, and other things, for the purposes of this study. It is crucial to note, however, that there is no universally accepted definition of insecurity because it is typically perceived from a variety of angles.

Analysts have looked into a number of potential sources of insecurity. Cameron and McCormic (1954) recognised a few main sources of insecurity. Among these are: an emotional reaction to an unexpected external danger from within; a typically consistent exterior dangerous condition; a threat from within; and a threat to values, notably religion.

According to Achumba, Ighomeroho, and Akpor-Robaro (2013), there are two (2) basic causes of insecurity: those that are physically far and those that are both instantly and proximally distant. The following are some of the remote causes: a lack of institutional capability, resulting in government failure; pervasive material disparities and unfairness; socio-religious disagreements; a conflict of perceptions between the public and the government; a bad security system; and the loss of a socio-cultural and community value system. Immediate and proximate challenges, on the other hand, include permeable borders, rural-urban drift, corporate social irresponsibility, destitution and unemployment, and terrorist activities.

Terrorism Explained: It is viewed as a part of existing threat/insecurity. Subnational groups deliberately employ threats or violence to achieve political or self-interested ends. Individuals can be intimidated, and states and territories can be attacked using various methods such as bombing, hijacking, and suicide assaults, among others. According to the United States Commission (2012) and Ogbonnaya and Ehigiamuose (2013), the violence was committed out by subnational organisations or clandestine operatives against noncombatant targets. This assault was planned and motivated by political objectives.

Studies have shown that insecurity is harmful to a country's progress and development. According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), providing security establishes the circumstances

for a nation's growth and development. Ewetan and Urhie (2014) noticed that insecurity makes it difficult for businesses to operate and discourages both domestic and international investors. According to Adegbami's (2013) research findings, insecurity is harmful to people's overall well-being, and it has also resulted in the destruction of enterprises and assets, as well as the movement of industries. Furthermore, Udeh and Ihezie (2013) stated that insecurity impedes Nigeria's efforts to attain national economic growth and, as a result, its vision 20:2020. Furthermore, it affects the country's potential to attract foreign investment and overseas investors' contributions to the country's economic progress. Terrorism, specifically international terrorist attacks, has a significant impact on growth-limiting consequences, according to Gaibulloev and Sandler (2009). They also discovered that the number of terrorist occurrences per million people in Asia results in a 1.5% decrease in GDP per capita growth. Terrorism, on the other hand, elevates the level of risk and uncertainty, which reduces investment and makes foreign direct investment more difficult (Gaibulloev, 2009; Abadie, and Gardeazabal, 2008). Terrorism has an influence on businesses such as airlines, tourism, manufacturing firms, and the export sector, which can result in a fall in GDP and growth (Enders and Sandler, 2006).

Blomberg, Hess, and Orphanides (2004) conducted a study that used pooled cross section data to evaluate data from 177 countries from 1968 to 2000. Terrorism has a negligible influence on the rise in per capita income across all samples, according to the panel's findings, and it also has a negative impact on businesses. In Tavaries study (2004), terrorism was found to have a large yet negative effect on GDP expansion, as evidenced by his findings. Gupta et al. (2004) undertook a study including 66 low- and middle-income countries to explore the influence of weapon combat and terrorism on macroeconomic variables. When there is conflict, government spending allocated to defence increases, which has been demonstrated to have an indirect negative influence on economic growth.

Eckstein and Tsiddon (2004) investigated the influence of terrorism on Israel's macroeconomic climate using quarterly data spanning from 1980 to 2003. Using vector autoregression (VAR), the researchers discovered that terrorism had a significant and negative impact on GDP per capita, as well as investment and exports.

The duo Gaibulloev and Sandler (2009), found out that transnational terrorism had a major impact on growth-hindering variables. Government spending crowds out economic growth as a result of crowding. In their study on the topic of insecurity in Nigeria and its implications for business investment and sustainable development, Achumba et al. (2013) discovered that the country's insecurity issues are large and complex, and they will remain so if the situation does not improve.

Otto and Ukpere (2012) investigated the link between Nigeria's national security and its rate of growth. They noted in their study that while there exist positive relations between development and security, instability was detrimental to the production processes of many developing economies. Sandler and Ender (2008) stated in their conclusive remarks that "observing the poor intensity of most terrorist propagandas, the economic effects/implications of terrorism are usually mild and short-lived in nature." It is expected that the economic impact of terrorism will appear in businesses exposed to a higher level of terrorist risk, such as tourism or foreign direct investment (FDI). Their research findings, which concentrated on the economic implications of terrorist attacks in first world and third world countries, led them to these conclusions.

In Nigeria, there is uncertainty in terrorism. Nigeria has recently experienced unprecedented levels of insecure states and terrorist attack, which have occurred from the inception when Nigeria engaged in the practices of democracy in its administration. Militia groups in the south,

insurgency in the north, kidnapping in the east and south, ritual killings in the east and west, and political and non-political intentional assassinations across the country are all examples of a regionalized pattern of insecurity. In response to the pattern of insecurity witnessed in the region, the country has developed regional security formations in an effort to bring the dangerously high rate of insecurity under control.

Maiduguri, in Borno state, was where Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf founded the extremist fundamentalist Islamic group that would eventually be known as Boko Haram. In 2004, it relocated to Kanamma, which is located in Yobe state, and constructed a facility known as Afghanistan (Ikenga and Efebeh, 2013). The official name of the group, according to Ikenga and Efebeh (2013), Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013), and Meehan and Speier (2011), is given as"Jama'atul Alhul Sunnah Liddo' wati Wal Jihad," which means "people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and Jihad."

In addition to car devastation, these Islamic factions have set fire to house of worships, police buildings, educational institutions, medical centers, clinics, shops, residential residences, and army facilities. They have also been in charge of foreign national adoptions.

IMMEDIATE AND REMOTE CAUSES OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Chris (2021) mentioned and alluded to the following elements as direct and remote sources that led to the heightened rate of insecurity in Nigeria:

Lack of institutions framework resulting in failed government policies: Due to severely unstable backgrounds of the institutional firmness, which have created a collapse in state administration and democratic accountability, there is a paralysis of the evidence of limitations in Nigeria, in formal and legal laws inherent in the structure of social arrangement. There is a significant link between Nigeria's insecurity and the administration's failure. One example is the government's failure to meet its residents' basic needs and provide public services. Nigeria now has a population that is easily agitated by the smallest provocation due to a lack of basic necessities. The idea here is that Nigeria is in a "Paradox of Plenty" since the country has enough resources to meet the basic needs of its population, but officials at all levels of government are too corrupt to prioritise doing so. This scenario depicts a government that obtains considerable funds from oil sales but does not invest these funds in addressing residents' needs or in economic and infrastructure development. The safety of people and their belongings is jeopardised in these types of environments, and the crime rate rises as a result.

Existence of Social and Material Inequalities – The increased knowledge of socioeconomic differences is seen as one of the primary drivers of insecurity in Nigeria: many individuals hold grudges as a result of this firmly felt, widespread conviction in unfairness and inequality. A sizable proportion of the public sees government development policies and political offices as tools for marginalisation, and this perception has grown into a major source of hatred and hostility. Many Nigerians, especially young people, are tired of systemic injustices and have given up hope for a better future. They are speaking out now to express their dissatisfaction. Because oil industry revenue was low after the avengers destroyed pipelines, state governors were unable to pay employees' salaries, and the country's energy supply was disrupted as a result.

Ethno-Religious Conflicts – These have arisen as a result of hostility between the country's major religious institutions and its numerous ethnic populations. According to him, ethnoreligious tensions are one of the key reasons Nigerians feel scared. An ethno religious conflict occurs when people of different religious or ethnic backgrounds interact in a hostile,

scared, and violent manner with one another in a society that is home to people of many different religions and cultures. The resurgence of ethnic conflicts and religious tensions between the two major religions, Islam and Christianity, poses a huge security danger to the country. According to him, current and particularistic political awareness and identities have emerged in Nigeria, typically based on ethnic religious identities, resulting in ethno-religious conflicts in every region.

The Existence of Gap between the Public and the Government – since time immemorial, there exist a consistent gap between the perspectives held by the general population and those held by the government. A situation that frequently causes the general people to respond to military involvement that often time has dominated Nigeria and has remained since the end of military rules and generated a sensitivity among those in government towards public intervention in matters of state. This scenario has also developed a suspicious among those in power towards masses intervention in issues of state affairs.

Poor Security Network System – The government's security apparatus is ill-equipped and inadequately trained.   In addition, it is worth noting the generally unpleasant demeanour and attitude of the security guards.   Frequently, security personnel lack the requisite expertise and resources to effectively address certain security issues and proactively avert their occurrence.

Even when there are precautions in place, staff members might still be influenced by communal, religious, or ethnic attitudes, causing them to prioritise serving their own community over the nation.   Thus, they swiftly transition from being protectors of the nation, safeguarding its interests and values, and shielding the public from wrongdoers, to becoming government agents who undermine security by, for instance, divulging confidential information or aiding criminals in obtaining weapons or evading punishment.

High Reduction of Socio-cultural and communal value in the Society – olden days Nigerian society is defined by collectivism, community and authority loyalty, honesty, hard labour, tolerance, love, mutual peace and coexistence, and identification with another person. A strong aversion to thievery and a high reverence for human life are further defining characteristics. Most African societies share these ideals. People held lives in the highest regard, and stealing was regarded as heinous. These once-cherished norms, which offered a safe sanctuary for society, have nearly vanished. As a result of "modernity and civilization," new values have increasingly supplanted them. All of our great morals and ideals have been supplanted with Western lifestyle.
Below are some of the immediate factors that do result to state of insecurity in Nigeria:

Unprotected Borders – The porous boundaries of Nigeria, in which individual movements are mostly untracked, are one of the key direct factors that have contributed to an increase in the prevailing level of insecurity in the country. Because of the porous nature of Nigeria's borders, the country faces significant threats to its national security. It is not difficult for firearms to enter Nigeria from other nations due to the open borders as well as ineffective security network for the country. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as well as the availability of these weapons, has made it possible for dangerous criminal organisations and militant organisations to gain freehand to firearms. Over seventy percent of the approximately eight million illegal firearms that are found in West Africa are believed to be in Nigeria. An further factor that has contributed to the unwarranted migration of migrants from neighbouring nations,

such as the Republic of Niger, Chad, and the Republic of Benin, is the porous nature of the borders that separate Nigeria from its neighbouring countries. These migrants, the majority of whom are young men, are among the criminals who commit crimes in society.

Rural/Urban Migration—The exodus of unemployed youth from villages to cities is a contributing element to Nigeria's precarious security situation. The rate of rural-to-urban migration is exceptionally high in Nigeria, as it is in many other nations around the world. Because most metropolitan districts in the country have expanded beyond their population carrying capacity and the social amenities that are currently in place, the quality of life in urban areas has deteriorated dramatically. Juveniles who are unhappy and angry often turn to crime as a means to express their frustration.

Unemployment/Poverty - The high rates of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, particularly among young people, make them more susceptible to engaging in violent crime. This is especially true for the younger generation. The failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address the difficulties of poverty, unemployment, and the unequal distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the primary factors that contribute to the country's state of instability.

Terrorism—The most basic cause of insecurity in Nigeria right now is terrorism, which has its main origins and supporters in religious extremism and intolerance. There is no more immediate or less debatable source of fundamental insecurity in Nigeria than terrorism. Terrorism, which has cost 13.4 percent of the world's GDP, is defined as "the use of violence by an individual or group with the expectation of using violence." It manifests itself in "the planned involvement of threat of violence to cause fear, destruction, or death, especially against unarmed targets, property, or infrastructure in a state, intended to compel those in authority to respond to the demands and expectations of the individual or group behind such violent acts." The insurgency led by the infamous sect known as Boko Haram has been causing widespread destruction in northern Nigeria since 2009, resulting in a high number of casualties for the country**.**

Patterns of Insecurity and Youth Involvement in Nigeria
What appears to be a fresh development in this century's security challenges may not be all that different from prior centuries' events. There is a significant difference in size and dimensions. We will investigate the concerns concurrently in order to gain a better understanding of them.

Nigeria's northeast and west represent the greatest threat to the country. Given its location, Northern Nigeria is a corridor where armed men and terrorists might have a field day. The reason for this is that there were only about 80 legal entry points into the region in 2014, despite the fact that there are approximately 1,140 illicit routes flowing from Cameroon to Niger Republic. At the same time, there were militants in Nigeria's northeast and central regions, but the government may have neglected them. The militant crackdown, on the other hand, followed the cold-blooded execution of over fifty police officers and DSS agents in Nasarawa State by the Ombatse religious cult. The security guards were ambushed by a mob in the town of Alakyo in that state. Bama, a town in Bornu State, was the scene of devastation the day before the Nasarawa incident, all due to the operations of Boko Haram. Boko Haram's violence targeted prisons, military posts, and troops. At the end of the battle, fifty people were killed, including

rebels, army, and police. Previously, nearly 180 people were killed in a gun battle between insurgents and security personnel in Baga, Bornu (The Source, May 27, 2013).

Furthermore, Boko Haram rebels and terrorists are hell-bent on establishing domination over a chunk of Nigeria and, eventually, the entire country. They had demolished the Nigerian flag and other symbols of official power in various locations, replacing them with strange banners that signified the assertion of alternate sovereignty. The most recent trend is that law enforcement officers who have put their lives in danger to protect the nation are now being targeted by criminals who are willing to murder them without hesitation. This indicates that these criminals preyed on security professionals like as troops, secret service agents, cops, and others. Because of Boko Haram's transformation into a hydra, President Goodluck Jonathan was forced to declare a state of emergency in the three northern states of Bornu, Yobe, and Adamawa (The Source, May 27, 2013). Between 2009 and 2020, around 7 million people were displaced and over 100,000 were killed by Boko Haram. Despite the country's tragic past following the civil war, there has never been an instance of internally displaced persons staying in Nigeria for more than a year or two. For nearly eight years, Northerners, Westerners, and Central Nigerians have been internally displaced or refugees in Niger and Cameroon. Nigeria is experiencing a new phase in human security.

Residents of Sokoto, Zamfara, Kaduna, and Katsina are living in constant fear as another ruthless group emerges in northwestern Nigeria. They come from a remote location and are known as bandits. They are young, enthusiastic individuals who are inflicting havoc on their homeland; some claim to be foreigners, while others claim to be Nigerians. Thousands of civilians have been displaced as insurgents invade farmlands armed with modern weapons, murdering both young and old. Governor Aminu Masari, on the other hand, recently stated that his administration let the people down because he is fatigued from protecting them. He claims: *They are the people of the state, and I am at a loss for words to express my feelings to them. It is impossible for me to look them in the face because we have failed to protect them, which is in direct contradiction to our promise to maintain the safety of both lives and property throughout the duration of our presence. The Punch, Thursday, June 18, 2020, page 3 (in the year 2020).* What is truly common is that the attacks carried out by bandits are typically characterised by the loss of life, the theft of animals, and the sexual abuse or kidnapping of women and young girls, as well as the burning of dwellings.

Herdsmen and Security Challenges in Nigeria

The relationship between Nigerian farmers and herders was amicable prior to 2015. This in no way negated the fact that they had disagreements on some matters. Cattle might occasionally eat crops, but that was always resolved in a peaceful manner. However, things started to heat up around 2015 when farmers started to demand respect from the cattle herders. When farmers tried to stop the herders from grazing openly on their land, the herders would slay the farmers and, in extreme cases, kidnap and rape the women. The police and security forces have done nothing to stop this. Where security forces did step in, it was all for show; neither the herders nor anybody else would take action to prevent a recurrence of the criminal behaviour. Because to these herdsmen, many people have lost their lives, become orphans, and have been forced to leave their homes. It is prevalent in the states of Adamawa, Benue, Plateau, and Niger. As noted in the Punch Editorial on June 18, 2020: *Sadly, these herders who brazenly hold AK-47 rifles and other weapons are in violation of the Firearms Act of 2004, which prevents certain categories of firearms and ammunition from being in the possession of individuals and makes*

it illegal to possess lethal weapons without a licence. In addition to committing murder or setting communities on fire, Fulani herders are also responsible for raping and kidnapping Nigerians, regardless of their social status, age, or occupation. Despite the fact that the Fulani herdsmen are ranked as one of the five most awful terror groups in the world by the worldwide Terrorism Index, the Federal Government has not recognised them as terrorists. This is an appalling decision that has been made. According to the GTI's assessment for the year 2018, they were responsible for the deaths of 1,700 Nigerians (The Punch, June 18, 2020, page 19). Meanwhile, the figure given was in 2018, today it is much higher and there is no hope that it would soonend. All these are carried out by youths and the impact is enormous especially in farming communities whose source of livelihood is entirely farming. Besides, it has spread fear and distrust among indigenouspeople.

Meanwhile, challenges such as armed robberies, kidnapping, assassinations, terrorism, ritualism and otherforms of security indices were there. Armed robberies are not a new phenomenon in the Nigerian State.Armed robberies were experienced mainly in the southern states of Nigeria – in Lagos and Bendel (todayEdo and Delta States). Like any other violent means they used to rob with impunity. They were very violent, and the first reported armed robbery incident that captured local and international attention waswhen about 16 armed men were killed through firing squad in Port Harcourt in Rivers State after the CivilWar. Since then killing of armed robbers by firing squad became part of the society until it was abrogated inthe 1980s. After the Civil War arms were readily available, and life was a little difficult for most familiesbecause of the effect of the war. Some youths then resorted to making ends meet through crime. Indeed, the criminal minded youths formed themselves into a terrorist band and began their nefarious activities. Someof those famous armed robbers at the time were Anini in Bendel (now Edo and Delta), Oyenisi of Lagos.Their targets were banks and other firms, and sometimes individuals that were financially wealthy. The robbers used guns that were sophisticated by that era standard (Newswatch, September 29, 1986; Newswatch March 12, 1990).

The new trend is that armed robbers are found in every state in Nigeria. They kill and maim innocent peoplein homes, banks, highways and everywhere. Like in the old trend, usually police and their stations are targets – because once the police station is attacked there is that diversion on the part of the police – theybecome demobilized, hence the armed men then would face their targets. The recent attack of a police station at Nsulu in Kogi State is a case in point. Besides, the armed robbers do not only use sophisticatedweapons such as AK 47, in most instances they use grenade. They would go with generators to facilitate theopening of banks vaults and other places of their interest. In the process security operatives, bank customers and others are usually killed.

Today, armed robbers have made lives very difficult; our towns and villages are no longer safe – Kogi- Abuja, Abuja-Kaduna roads are death traps for motorists and passengers. In Owerri, Umuahia, Port Harcourt, Benin, Sokoto, the story is the same. It is really difficult to really have the number of people whose lives have been terminated by the activities of armed robbers.

Kidnapping Incidence
Kidnapping was unknown in the Nigerian state not until the late 1990s when it was introduced by the youths of the Niger Delta. The youths were pressing home their demands for the federal government to look into the degradation of the environment by the multinational companies in the process of oil exploration and exploitation. For some reasons the federal government was

slow to act on their demands,to draw the federal government attention, some youths began to abduct or kidnap white oil workers and later they extended to others. The idea paid off. However, the federal government acceded to their demands, and they began to withdraw and call-off their activities for peace to reign. That was the scenario upto the time the Goodluck Jonathan administration came on board.

Nonetheless, kidnapping became a business under the Jonathan administration, its root again was traced to Akwa Ibom and Abia States. Youths kidnapped for ransom. What started as a 'child's play' has now become part of the people's culture. Every part of Nigeria has experienced and is still experiencing it; the youthswield dangerous weapons and their captors are taken to either forests or houses away from the public. Contacts were made later with the families for ransom. Their demands are always in millions of Naira. Many people have been killed in the process whether ransom was paid or not. It has become a new trendbecause it is now seen as part of our culture with very high impact factor – on internal trade, farming, recreation and even tourism. In all kidnappers do not select their captors, old and young people, poor andrich, ministers and non ministers of God; it has become a burden on the society.

Ritual Killings Menace

Ritual killings have been part of the society for a long period, since the traditional priests usually make useof human parts for their sacrifices. That had been so before the modern age. But ritual killing has returnedfully and it is making headlines everywhere. One of such instances was the Otokoto Hotel incident in Owerri. Otokoto ritual killing is symbolic, an 11 year old boy, Ikechukwu Okoronkwo's headless corpse was exhumed in the premises of the hotel. The proprietor of the hotel Innocent Duru was said to be behind the whole scene. Ritualists are everywhere especially in places such as Lagos, Edo, Akwa Ibom, Anambra,Delta, Ogun, etc. Ritual killing is not a 21st century business, it has been there, but the speed and ruthlessness in dimension is intense and alarming (Newswatch, October 19, 1998).

Political Assassinations Issue

Political assassination is not a novelty in the political history of Nigeria. Many have been assassinated during the first and second republics. There were high profile assassinations such as Harry Marshall of Peoples Democratic Party, Bola Ige of the same party. Bola Ige goes down in Nigeria's political history asthe only serving minister to be assassinated in office. He was killed in his Ibadan home by unknown assassins. Many youths today are being hired by desperate politicians who arm them to do their bidding.These youths are rewarded handsomely when their tasks have been accomplished. A recall could also bemade of the assassination of Dele Giwa, a Newswatch Editor through a parcel bomb. Today, many are stillafraid even to act when and where necessary for fear of being eliminated by agents of death (Newswatch Magazine, November 10, 1986; NewsAfrica, January 14, 2002).

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Chris (2021) identified the following as solutions to insecurity:

Good Leadership Building – According to this perspective, Nigeria needs leaders who can see the big picture and work to remove tribalism from power. Those who can inspire their followers to see Nigerian citizenship as more important than ethnicity, gender, religion, or socioeconomic status should be considered for positions of leadership. We need leaders who care about the well-being of all Americans, not just their own state, tribe, or religious group. Their words and deeds should inspire confidence and change for the better. It is believed that

these world leaders will "assist in moulding the warring religious and ethnic groups into unity and aid in eradicating the perceived mutual suspicion among them."" Leadership that is both visionary and committed to the nation's transformation that is fostered "by involving social institutions of the country's constitution as a primary ground to groom leaders that has national outlook and a religious zeal to change the counrty" (Nigerian constitution), no matter how difficult the path may be**.**

Good governance – Nigeria requires competent administration to address its security issues. He believes that the only way to defeat insecurity is to strengthen governance standards, which entails cultivating a culture of good governance in which the government is held accountable to its population. In his opinion, good governance is inextricably linked to security engagement. Many others have drawn the same conclusion about governance and security. According to popular view, good leadership determines peace and security. Good governance, on the other hand, is the consequence of credible political leadership that is effective, transparent, trustworthy, and visionary in their quest of increasing people's collective welfare through well-planned and executed human development programmes and economic policies. Individuals should be the focus of attention, according to the principle of good governance.

The Socio-Economic Development- This is often believed to be the most important component in ensuring safety and stability in Nigeria. In order to address the issue of insecurity in Nigeria, it is necessary to quicken the rate of development. With this definition of development in mind, it is necessary to build an economy that has the requisites economic, solid political system and social amenities to aids commercial activities that can increased companies expansion in society; this will allow for the provision of high-quality healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

Eradication of Corruption Practices and Enthronement of Social Justice – Some citizens are of the view that people involvement in corrupt practices is an integral part of Nigeria's development and success. Our civilization is plagued by it. As a social and economic beast, it is monstrous. The fundamental reason for the discontent among Nigerians is the unequal distribution of the nation's resources and the resulting inequality. Wedging war against corruption and succeeding it,, according to many, can lead to an enlightenment community in which everyone's rights will be equal, no one's privileges will be special treatment, and where every Nigerian citizen will be given equal opportunity and can be promoted based on merit, not on ethnic and other sentiments.

Critical Changes in our Value System – Our value system in government, leadership development objectives, and anti-corruption actions, many have called for a drastic change in the existing value system. It is contended that unless our principles are correct, our nation will fail miserably in all the areas listed. Failing that, the people will remain subjected to injustice and deprivation, leading to discontent and insecurity and ultimately establishing an unsafe environment.

Increase Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering Networks:
To combat insecurity, law enforcement must be proactive and fairly forecast potential crimes with near-perfect precision, rather than reactive. This requires information collecting and surveillance. To address the problem of insecurity, a new strategy based on reliable intelligence collecting is unquestionably required. More than ever, the government must recognise the

importance of investing in intelligence gathering, improving proper means to meet global best practice standards, in acquiring current technology, in addition to continuing to engage security specialists. To bring security services up to speed, training, information sharing, cutting-edge technology, logistics, motivation, and a shift in focus are all required. This project would strengthen the operational capacities of Nigerian security agencies by determining how to react swiftly to internal security threats and other security challenges. To prevent similar security breaches, the country's security institutions must undergo fundamental transformation in order to align with global best practices. In particular, the intelligence community's slowness in preventing recurring security breaches. Security forces regularly respond to threats to national security after the fact due to a lack of proactive intelligence.

Creation of Institutionalized Approach and Response to Security Challenges:
Rather than reacting to attacks haphazardly and reactively, the government should take a more planned strategy. No level of government should ever waver in its commitment to upholding the law strictly. In corruption trials, there should be no wriggle room, let alone an extended deferral. According to the judiciary, we should have developed case timetables by now. Time should have passed to demonstrate guilt, close the case, and impose sanctions. Corruption and insecurity have repeatedly been compromised in Nigeria. As a result, the law's deterrence effect has been made ineffective. As a result, it is critical that our police forces remain unbiased and devoid of corruption. All of this requires incentives, fair working conditions, and social security. Finally, addressing only the aforementioned issues will not get to the root of the problem of insecurity. The chances of a programme succeeding are reduced when it narrowly targets a specific branch of government, such as the security apparatus or the legislative process. Military strategies and legal institutions must be reinforced with a concerted preventative effort in its stead. According to him, in order to establish effective conflict avoidance and management tactics, current objectives must be reevaluated, and the dynamics and core causes of the country's insecurity must be investigated.

Conclusion
 Youth involvement in insecurity has done more harm than good in the country. The youth had engaged in lives threatening activities andactions such as armed robbery, terrorism, kidnapping, ritual killings, and other social vices that have increase insecurity. The high level of illiteracy among youth also contributed to the increase rate of the nation's insecurity. Weak security/ social institutions, , injustices and oppression, ethno- religious conflicts, unemployment/poverty, lost of core value system and porous borders were identified as some of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Kidnapping, herdsmen attack, ritual killings, armed robbery, political assassinations were considered as some of the trends/ patterns of insecurity in Nigeria. The paper identified jobs creations especially for youth,   increase surveillance and intelligence gathering network, good governance, rapid social economic development, strengthening of weak institutions and changes in attitudes and core values as some of the plausible panaceas to insecurity challenge in the country. The paper advocates for severe punishments for youths that indulge in these criminal activities that heighten the level and rate of insecurity in the country , as swift punishment of offenders will serves as deterrent (specific and general) for would-be offender. There should be capital punishment for those engaging in criminal/ illegal acts of; terrorism, killer herdsmen attacks, kidnapping, armed robbery, assassination, cyber crime, arson and other heinous crimes in the country as this will help to abate the insecurity situation in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The study recommends as follows;

1) Creation of job opportunity for youths, this will help to reduce youth involvement in acts that can lead to insecurity in the country.

2) Strengthen of Nigeria social institutions; weak Nigeria social institution should be strengthen to help curb insecurity problem in the country.

3) Our cultural value system should be restored back as the collapse of cultural value / norms has increase insecurity rate in the country.

4) Religious bodies should preach against ethnic and religious killings that is common in the Northern part of Nigeria.

5) Stringent punishment should be meted and inflicted on those that engage in capital offense such as murder, kidnapping, ritual killing, terrorism and others.

6) Government should provide avenues for the reformation of repentant offenders as this will help to reduce insecurity rate in the country.

7) Government should also focus on youth education as illiteracy is one of the major factors that encourage youth to engage in criminal act that causes insecurity in the country.

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