

**INSIGHTS FROM A METAPHYSICAL TOUR:
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES ON HOMEGROWN
TERRORISTS AND ALLIANCES WITH FOREIGN
TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS; TWENTY-THIRTY
AND BEYOND.**

Onwuchekwa Okorie (Ph.D.)

Department Of Philosophy

Faculty of Arts

University of Abuja

Email: okorie.onwuchekwa@uniabuja.edu.ng

<https://www.orcid.org/0000000233867861>

Abstract

The paper predicts a drastic formation of alliances between homegrown and foreign-based terrorist organizations by the year 2030 and beyond. This prediction is based on three major factors. First, the existence of mutual interest among members of several terrorist networks as exemplified by some plausible scenarios. Second, the unpredictability of human nature and third, the changing phases of technology. The alliances would help to strengthen some terrorist networks in terms of efficiency and technological knowledge. The aim of the study is to use the knowledge gathered from the analysis of the subject to predict the outcome of future social changes that are likely results of

alliances between homegrown terrorists with their foreign counterparts. In addition, the remote problem of mass misery and injustice, which emanates from unjust social and economic conditions, that prepares the higher ground for terrorism is addressed in this study. The study is significant as it would help to curb the problem of terrorism and keep human beings in a saner world by being ahead of the terrorists in thought and indeed. Using a swot methodology, the study concludes that, identifying the strengths, the weaknesses, opportunities and threats to any environment facing the challenge of terrorism is vital in dealing with the social menace.

Key Words: Home-grown terrorists; Terrorism; Alliances; Foreign-based terrorists; Networks.

Introduction

It has been noted that “economic deprivation and corruption often produce and exacerbate financial and social inequities in a population, which in turn ignites social and political instability” (Borum, 2003:1, Achebe, 2012:250). Under this environment, extremists of all kinds’ particularly religious zealots and other mischief-makers, find a foothold to recruit supporters and sympathizers to help them launch terrorist attacks and wreak havoc in the lives of other citizens. John F. Kennedy spoke about this view in his inaugural address as the President of the

United States, where he talked to the world in the following words:

People in huts and villages of half of the
Globe struggle to break the bonds of mass
misery...We pledge to help them help
themselves... We pledge this, not because we
seek their votes, but because it is the right
thing to do (Illich, 1999:92).

Mass misery in this sense represents the result of unjust social and economic conditions, the lack of modern education, and the prevalence of inadequate and backward technology. Kennedy believes that this bond of misery with a sense of injustice hinders independent development, increases hunger, secures corrupt regimes against popular revolutions, and the ultimate result is, it breeds political and social unrest which if not handled, prepares the ground for terrorism. The views above represents the initial impetus that often gives rise to terrorism. Terrorism according to the *British Broadcasting Corporation Dictionary* (1992:1211) is "the use of violence, especially murder, kidnapping and bombing to instill fear in order to achieve political aims, or force a government, organization or people to do something and effect a change". In like manner, the *United States Department of Defense* defines terrorism as "the calculated use of violence

or the threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or intimidate Governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological” (Mackinnon,2007:421). The immediate goal of terrorism is to create fear, while the remote goal may vary from political issues such as independence, to other issues meant to deal with perceived enemies. Terrorism and terrorist groups also may be local (homegrown) or international (foreign). They are local or homegrown when they are located within the confines of a national boundary. They are international or foreign when they cross national boundaries to international boundaries in order to form a regional or international group. The dimension of both local and international terrorism around the globe is becoming increasingly unpredictable. This is due to the very nature of human existence itself, which involves a recurring challenge of change. The chronicle of changes is oftentimes spontaneous, hence, requiring immediate tactical and strategic responses. Tactical and strategic response in this sense may come in form of an alliance. An alliance is a group of countries, political parties or organizations, which are formally united to work together for the same aim. With respect to terrorism, whether local or international, “alliance”, is a tactical measure designed to effect changes that would create a balance of terror against perceived enemies and

at the same time predict the direction of future scenarios that are likely to occur and how to mitigate them. Since prediction is the goal of policymaking, the aim of this study is to use the knowledge gathered from the analysis of this subject to predict the outcome of future social changes that are likely results of alliances between homegrown terrorists with their foreign counterparts. This prediction would be based on the belief that “there is a pattern in history” (Ryan, 1970:197), and that what has happened in the past would provide evidence about what can be expected to happen in the future. This does not imply that the future would always look like the past, but it is an attempt to make an objective quantum leap into future scenarios, trends and events to be able to develop policies that could keep the troops ahead in tackling the challenges of terrorism. By predicting the future direction of alliances between homegrown terrorists and their foreign counterparts, the study would help to resolve the remote problem of mass misery and injustice, which emanates from unjust social and economic conditions earlier identified. The purpose of the study therefore, is to curb the problem of terrorism and to keep human beings in a saner world by being ahead of the terrorists in thought and in deed. The scope of the study is on local (homegrown) terrorists and the formation of alliances with foreign (international) terrorist organizations and the

likely direction of events by the year 2030 and beyond. The delimitation of the study is that the interplay of the forces of change associated with social discourse makes an objective conclusion impossible. Therefore, a subjective assessment and conclusion based on sound argument is expected.

Definition of Key Terms

Terrorism: Terrorism is the calculated use of violence or the threat of violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or intimidate Governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological.

Alliance: An alliance is a group of countries, political parties or organizations, which are formally united to work together for the same purpose.

Homegrown Terrorists: These are terrorists located within the confines of a national boundary.

Foreign Terrorists: These are terrorists who have crossed national boundaries to international boundaries in order to form a regional or international group.

The External and Internal Challenges of Terrorism in Time Dimension

Every terrorist group is first homegrown or internal before forming alliances and migrating to external or foreign terrorist organizations. Watts (2019:1) observes,

“both foreign terrorists and homegrown terrorists congregate, coordinate, and conspire online, often without having any direct connection or physical interactions”. Both types of terrorists perpetrate violence in pursuit of political or social change on behalf of their respective ideologies. In both foreign and homegrown terrorism, successful attacks inspire further attacks by like-minded supporters. Some contemporary homegrown terrorist groups like foreign terrorist organizations stretch beyond international borders. An example is the *Boko Haram* terrorist group, which has crossed Nigerian borders to Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon. Homegrown terrorists differ from foreign-based terrorist organizations in two critical ways. First, homegrown terrorists, for the most part, particularly at the beginning of their operations, do not operate as physical, named groups in the way that Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State have in an international terrorism context. They generally lack a defined organizational structure or physical base for their operations. Second, law enforcement pursues homegrown terrorists via different rules and structures separate from foreign-based terrorists. Homegrown counterterrorism remains a reactive affair, in which investigators respond to violent massacres and then pursue criminal cases.

Having pointed out the similarities and differences between homegrown and foreign-based terrorist organizations, it is worthy to note that there are four categories of terrorists according to Sun Momah. Momah (1993:54) writes that:

The first category of terrorists is those whose object of terror are inspired by political favor. Examples include the Red Brigade of Italy, the Action Direct of France, the November 17 Group of Netherlands and the Shining path of Peru. The second category of terrorists are those inspired by nationalism or ethnic grievances. Examples include; the Basque Nationalists of Spain, the IRA of UK, the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka, and the Kashmiri and Sikh separatists of India. The third category of terrorists comprise those with religious grievances, particularly of the Islamic faith. Most prominent among them are the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), AL Qaeda network, Boko Haram, Hezbollah, Isis, and the Taliban among several others. Lastly, there is the unique case of state-sponsored terrorists such as the MOSSAD and their reprisal killing of the

Munich Olympic terrorists. Also, the TAWHID or Islamic Unification Movement based in Tripoli and Lebanon which masterminded the alleged Libya-sponsored terrorists' detonation of a Pan Am Carrier on a flight over Scotland with 259 people on board (Momah, 1993:54).

Thus, political favor, nationalism, religious grievances and state sponsorship have been identified as the four primary categories of terrorism. Notwithstanding the category of terrorism or terrorists, the incalculable damages caused by terrorism and the consequences thereafter are traumatic and wicked to say the least. It ranges from bombing, maiming, killing as all effort is geared towards achieving the same aim; the murder and destruction of innocent lives and properties. The first act of terror recorded in the twentieth century occurred in 1916(Momah, 1993:55) with the Irish nationalist uprising of the *IRA* terrorist group, which demanded independence from Britain and remained the longest terrorist campaign in Western Europe. It was followed by the terrorist assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, which became the inspiration for the First World War. Since then, the nature of terrorism has become increasingly complex and unpredictable.

Interestingly, from the point of view of the different categories of terrorism, some of the reasons that initially inspired them are becoming obsolete, hence making it easier for some categories of terrorism to become issues of the past. For instance, terrorism inspired by political favor such as the Red Army Faction of Germany were communist-oriented and so collapsed with the downfall of communism. In addition, state sponsorship of terrorism is becoming gradually reduced as the world is becoming more informed about the consequences of such acts to the states concerned. Examples of *NATO* invasion of Iraq and Libya attest to this point. Presently, the world grapples with terrorism inspired by nationalism and religious grievances, which has become more complex since the end of the cold war.

Talking about terrorism inspired by nationalism or ethnic grievances, the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka readily comes to mind. In this case, the Tamils were said to have migrated from India about ten centuries ago, adapted easily to British ways and were known for their pursuit of education and business. The Tamil minority of Sri Lanka make up about only twenty percent of the fifteen million Sri Lankans, while the remaining eighty percent are Sinhalese. Attempts by the Sinhalese to make the Sinhalese language and the Buddhist religion the only

official ones recognized by the state, incurred the wrath of the Tamils, who then called for a separate Tamil state of Elam made up of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. The Sinhalese finally accepted to relinquish the Northern territory but not the Eastern territory, claiming that the Tamils were not in the majority there. The Tamil Tigers rejected the offer and continued the struggle for the creation of Elam state. A twenty thousand strong Indian intervention force was not enough to stop them. The Sinhalese on the other hand continued to fight for the creation of Khalistan. Ever since, inter-communal fighting had persisted which led to the murder of the then Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi by one of her Sikh bodyguards in October 1984.

In addition, terrorist groups with religious grievances include *AL-Qaeda* network founded by Osama Bin Ladin, Hezbollah and ISIS, which are devoted to Islamic revolution in the entire Middle East and the elimination of anybody or group of persons that are against this ideology. This ideology has pitched them against the Western world, which seeks a world with unhindered access to freedom. It culminated in the September 11, 2001 attack at the Pentagon and the twin towers of the world trade center, which led to the death of about three thousand people. Since then, nothing has remained the

same for these terrorist organizations. Specifically, *Al-Qaeda* and *ISIS* have been decimated and have lost the leadership of their organizations to the intelligent elimination of the United States security forces. At the same time, the United States authorities have vowed to destroy terrorist groups anywhere in the world especially where the United States interest is directly affected. They have lived up to that promise with the dismantling of *Al-Qaeda* network, *ISIS* and the Taliban around the Middle East.

Another terrorist group with religious grievances, which is an example of a domestic or internal organization, is the Boko Haram Sect. This terrorist group became noticeable in Nigeria since 1999 when the Nigerian Police extra-judicially murdered the founder and leader of the group, Mohammed Yusuf. Abubakar Shekau later succeeded Yusuf. Their ultimate aim is to stop Western education and anything informed by the West, which they claim, is evil. They also wish to make Nigeria an Islamic State. They have continued to attack many territories especially around the North Eastern Part of Nigeria while being engaged by the Nigerian troops of operation “Lafiya Dole”. Since strategic assessments are the first order of business in military operations, the two cases above are cited as a base to scan the Nigerian environment in order

to carry out a proper net assessment. First, Nigeria is a homogenous country with an estimated population of about two hundred million people, with over four hundred ethnic groups (Oduwobi and Iwuagwu, 1997:4). Ideally, this large population ought to be an asset if all the ethnic groups are united. However, the history of Nigeria right from her independence on October 1, 1960 attest to the fact that the various ethnic groups are not united. There is so much ethnic rivalry in politics and the sharing of national resources. Each ethnic group wants to dominate others and have the largest chunk of national resources. Any ethnic group that gains ascendancy to the seat of power behaves as if they own the country. Strict adherence to the rule of law is not followed to the letter. Most of the indices that creates room for poverty and injustice and which lays the foundation for terrorism are often neglected. Secondly, Nigeria is a third world country. So is Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq and most countries of the Middle East region. This means that all the indices for meaningful development are presently lacking in these countries due to the presence of poor leadership. Ethnic bigotry, official and unofficial corruption and religious fanaticism are at their extremes. Quality education and all other necessities for wealth creation such as good infrastructures are absent, and where they exist, they are meant for the few wealthy

individuals who dominate others in the population. This environment prepares the ground for the thriving of terrorism.

On the positive side however, Nigeria has very large-scale arable land for agriculture, good climatic conditions and quite a good number of mineral resources necessary for engaging her youthful population. The challenge however is on getting a charismatic and benevolent leadership to manage these positive assets. In addition, Nigeria possesses a strong, youthful and able military might in need of the desired technology to take the country to greater heights. Presently, Nigeria lives on imported technology to pilot the affairs of her security forces. This is not too good for the country as foreign countries sometimes denies them access to the importation of necessary equipment to wage war against terror. The good news is that the necessary raw materials for the production of these hard wares are readily available if Nigeria improves her knowledge and technological base. Nigeria is strategically located on the west coast of Africa and shares borders in the north with Chad and Niger Republic and in the south with Cameroon and Benin Republic. It has vast oceans, which joins the Atlantic in the south and a near desert in the north with vast spaces of land. Culturally, Nigeria is rich but lacks a

homogeneous culture. It is a secular state on paper. Nigeria does not have a dominant religion as a state religion but the religion of those in position of leadership influences many things such as appointments to high position in government. Nigeria at present is economically average. It is a mono product economy. The main source of income is crude oil. It exports crude oil and imports the by-products. Industries are few and some are dilapidated. Energy demand is high but the generation and supply is low. There is availability of local technology and human capacity is equally high with stable workforce. Nigeria practices a democratic system of governance with a strong will for collective action. However, this collective will is often hindered by ethnic rivalry depending on, which ethnic group is in control of the government. There is also large number of school dropouts and millions of out of schoolchildren on the streets of Nigeria.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to The Growth of Terrorism in Nigeria.

Strengths: The factors influencing the strength of Nigeria in the fight against terror include but not limited to the following: 1. Youthful, strong and stable military might that can take on any opposition. 2. Strategic location within the west coast of Africa. 3. Availability of local technology that can be properly harnessed. 4. High energy

demand and supply. 5. High diplomatic culture and close ties with foreign nations within and outside Africa. 6. Strong and bold spirit in the face of hardship, inventiveness, perseverance and adaptability to changes in time. 7. Availability of raw materials.

Weaknesses: The factors influencing the weaknesses of Nigeria in the fight against terror include but not limited to the following: 1. Lack of ethnic unity. People try to put ethnic interest before national interest. 2. Lack of homogenous culture that can arouse passion. 3. Absence of accountability, integrity and discipline in leadership. 4. High dependence on imported goods. 5. Few and dilapidated industries. 6. A mono product economy. 7. Low energy generation and supply. 8. Lack of patriotism.

Opportunities: The factors influencing the opportunities of Nigeria in the fight against terror include but not limited to the following: 1. Adequate workforce to pilot the affairs of the economy and create wealth for the country. 2. Very high population density, which translates to a good market for any consumer product. 3. Democratic system of government with a strong will for collective action. 4. Large arable land for agriculture. 5. Positioned as a very high center of commerce. 6. Potential for greatness with good leadership. 7. Good climatic condition for all kinds of businesses.

Threats: The factors threatening the success of Nigeria in the fight against terror include but not limited to the following: 1. Large number of school dropouts and millions of out of schoolchildren on the streets. 2. Ethnic bigotry. 3. Religious fanaticism. 4. Official and unofficial corruption. 5. Lack of diversification of the economy. 6. Lack of quality infrastructure. 7. Shares border in the north with landlocked countries. 8. Accepting mediocrity in place of meritocracy. 9. Godfatherism in politics and national life. 10. High level of poverty.

Strategic Options Based on Swot Analysis of Nigeria's Capacity to Deal with Homegrown and Foreign-Based Terrorists

Strategic location within the west coast of Africa implies that Nigeria is a country of interest in this region and anything that affects it will have a huge impact on the rest of Africa. The success of internal or external terrorism in Nigeria is the success of it in Africa. Any attack on Nigeria will have ripple effects on Benin Republic, Niger Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Ghana, Togo and the rest of the countries surrounding Nigeria. The survival of the Boko Haram sect, for instance, will be a huge burden on Nigeria's economy, which will directly affect negatively on the economies of these other countries, which depends heavily on Nigeria for energy and the supply of raw

materials. The successful alliance of the Boko Haram sect with any other foreign-based terrorist group will even increase and complicate this burden. In addition, since Nigeria has strong diplomatic relations with the United States of America, Britain and France and Iran is a known sponsor of state terrorism, it implies that any conflict of interest about Africa involving the United States of America, Britain, France and Iran would likely spell doom for Nigeria. Iran could use any of the landlocked countries of Niger Republic or Chad which shares boarder with Nigeria and which are highly impoverished with predominantly large Muslim population to unleash mayhem against Nigeria. Either Chad, Niger Republic or both, which are well located in the Sahel desert could become a base for foreign-based terrorists to form alliance with the Boko Haram sect and attack Nigeria. In fact, it would be easy for either the Boko Haram sect or any other foreign-based terrorist group to form an alliance and recruit members because of the large number of out of schoolchildren on the streets of Nigeria, Chad and Niger Republic. In addition, the post covid-19 era would have thrown many people in these countries into unimaginable levels of poverty. As a matter of urgency, Nigeria must involve the United States of America to extend her military base into Chad or Niger Republic and form a strong alliance with the United States security forces in

order to protect Nigeria and destroy any alliance between home-based and foreign-based terrorist groups in this region.

In another perspective, the arrest and detention of the Shiite leader, Mallam Ibrahim El-Zakzaky and his wife by the Nigerian Government despite several court orders to release them can ignite tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Saudi Arabia and Iran, though predominantly Muslim countries, are not on the same page in matters of religious doctrine as one is Sunni and the other, Shiite. If this happens, it could lead to religious war between the Sunnis and the Shiites Muslims in Nigeria on one hand, and the Christians on the other depending on which side the Christians support. This religious war could be fueled by religious differences and fanaticism, which is already a dominant characteristic of existential life in Nigeria. It would also be heightened by ethnic bigotry, injustice and most especially mass poverty and general insecurity, which is fast assuming a normal status in Nigeria. Should this be the case, the Boko Haram terrorist group could take advantage of this scenario to cause mayhem in Nigeria and even take up territories for themselves since they are looking for an Islamic state. At the same time, foreign terrorist organizations could be sponsored by either Saudi Arabia or Iran to form an alliance with the Boko Haram terrorist group in order to gain an upper

hand and achieve whatever goal they have in mind. The Nigerian State needs to invest heavily on the education of her citizens, rebuild infrastructure, reduce mass poverty, eliminate injustice and create wealth. This is the best way to fight homegrown terrorism and stop any form of alliance with foreign-based terrorist organization. Tony Campolo, referring to the war against terror in Afghanistan agrees with this when he said:

If we are going to wipe out terrorism, it is not going to be because we are lobbing bombs or rockets into Afghanistan and it will not even be because we send the troops in to weed out the terrorists in those caves. It will be because we changed the situation in the world today. You know very well that if we kill Bin Laden and every terrorist alive today, it will only be another couple of years before a new group of terrorists rise up to take their place because we have done nothing about the conditions that create terrorism (Campolo,2001:15-16).

When asked about the conditions that create terrorism Campolo says, "You've got to attack poverty. Poverty breeds terrorism. We have to address those issues. We

must work for justice. We must work to end poverty” (Campolo, 2001:19). One cannot but agree with Campolo in this regard.

Some Plausible Scenarios of Homegrown and Foreign-Based Terrorist Organizations

Why do the bombers keep coming? The possible answer to this question can be summarized in two words, “efficiency and desperation”.

This is demonstrated in the following account of a terrorist incident by (Time, December 17, 2001). Osama Bahar, twenty-five-year-old Palestinian, was jailed by Israel for four years in connection with the militant Hamas movement. His friend named Hassan reported that while Osama was in Israeli prison, the interrogators hung him by his arms suspended to the ceiling, spat on his face and mocked Islam. “He always said he would avenge the mistreatment”, says Hassan. Osama Bahar does not wear a beard. He was a devout Muslim but not a fundamentalist. He plays soccer and took karate lessons. He had a job at four hundred and fifty dollars a month as a bank guard. One day, after a Ramadan breaking of the fast dinner with his family and prayer at the mosque across the street, Osama found his way to the Ben Yeshuda pedestrian mall in downtown Jerusalem and blew himself up. Few seconds later, his best friend Nabil

Halabiyeh, did the same. At the end of it all, ten Israelis died and one hundred and eighty-eight people were wounded. Suicide bombing is a terrorist strategy, which undergoes constant refinement. The Shiite Muslim extremist group called Hizballah in the early 1980 pioneered it and was inspired by Iran's use of human minesweepers during its war with Iraq. Starting from 1994, Hamas and other Palestinian groups took up the practice. One reason for adopting terrorist suicide bombing is the recognition of the method's efficiency. Once it is launched, it is very difficult to intercept. Another reason is that it helps the terrorist satisfy his desperation. In addition, Islam lauds martyrdom. The traditions of Muhammed states that a shahid's sins will be forgiven when he shed his first drop of blood. Also, he would admit seventy relatives to paradise and will be married to seventy-two beautiful virgins. This is the mentality of the terrorist suicide bombing strategy that must be checked.

In another development, "AL-Qaeda Outsources in Turkey", is the story of an alliance between the Hizballah terrorist group and the Al-Qaeda network. On November 20, 2003, suicide bombers in Istanbul, Turkey destroyed several British interests. About sixty-one people died in the terrorist attacks. As a result, eleven terror suspects were taken into custody in Western Europe- three in Italy,

seven in Britain and one in Germany. The Turkish Hizballah claimed responsibility. The Hizballah is a loose association of some twenty thousand Islamic extremists based in Bingol, an impoverished province on the Iraqi border. This indicates that Hizballah was the latest group to have joined the Al-Qaeda's roster of terrorist network. "Mutual interest is key to this partnership", reports Andrew Purvis of Time Magazine. Al-Qaeda wants to hit U.S, Britain and Israeli interests; Hizballah wants to prove it is back. This is the underground reason for this alliance. On December 21, 1988, Pan American flight 103 blew apart in mid air and rained fire, debris and bodies onto the town of Lockerbie Scotland killing two hundred and seventy people, including eleven residents of Lockerbie. The terrorist attack was the work of conspiracy involving Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi, head of security for Libyan Arab Airlines, and Al Amin Khalifa Fhima, the airline's station chief in Malta. Both men were said to be members of the Libyan intelligence services. They were accused of commissioning a Swiss company to make electronic timers, one of which was attached to plastic explosives and hidden in a Toshiba radio-cassette player. The resulting time bomb ended up along with clothing bought in Malta, concealed in a brown Samsonite suitcase, tagged with stolen Malta air luggage tags and placed aboard a Malta Air flight to Frankfurt. The suitcase was

transferred to Pan Am's Frankfurt-London-New York flight, two-thirds of whose passengers were Americans returning home for the Christmas holidays. The United States investigators revealed that the perpetrators were not the Libyan defendants but Syrian-backed Palestinian terrorists. It is suspected to be a case of state-sponsored terrorism as Libya insisted that the trial must be held outside Scotland.

Scenario-Based Strategic Options from Plausible Scenarios of Homegrown and Foreign-Based Terrorist Organizations

The first scenario indicates that "brain-washing" is a terrorist strategy common among terrorists with religious inclinations. The promise of paradise for oneself and relatives as well as marriage to seventy-two virgins in paradise is not a joke. It is captivating, attractive and deceitful. Option is to counter such with proper basic education about the realities of the universe. Even if there is a paradise, there is no evidence that it is for those who shed innocent blood and no evidence of virgins in paradise. All nations, including Nigeria must watch out for the religious inclinations of terrorist groups to understand the kind of messages they pass out to indoctrinate their members. This is a strategy for overcoming them. In the case of Nigeria, the Boko Haram

terrorist group have their base in the North East of Nigeria. Their religious inclination is Islam as they claim. It means that there is likelihood of their alliance with any terrorist group with the same inclination either at home or abroad. What matters to them is the efficiency of their plans and the level of desperation for achieving their goals. Secondly, appearance does not matter in the case of terrorism. Dressing, mood, job or lifestyle is not enough yardstick to determine who is a terrorist and who is not. The less suspicious a terrorist network appears the better for the success of their mission. Therefore, counterterrorism agencies must look up to everyone as a possible suspect until an environment is properly secured. In addition, since the Boko Haram terrorists have their religious inclination as Islam, they can easily form alliance with Palestinian terrorist groups. Should that happen, Christians who are sympathetic to Israel at home or abroad, or who go to Jerusalem for pilgrimages could become possible targets of these terrorist groups. In the event of that happening, if Israel responds in favour of Christians either in Nigeria or abroad, it would be an extension of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to other environments. Therefore, Nigeria must watch to avoid that.

In the second scenario, a terrorist attack happened in Istanbul Turkey against British interest. Sixty-one persons

were killed. Eleven terrorist suspects were arrested, three in Italy, seven in Britain and one in Germany. Turkish Hizballah claims responsibility. Hizballah has its original base around the Iraqi border with some twenty thousand members. This scenario shows how fast terrorist networks can go with intelligence to form alliances. Hizballah has alliance with other Al-Qaeda terrorist groups in Turkey and around Western Europe. This implies that once a terrorist group exist at home, the likelihood of alliances with other foreign-based terrorist organizations cannot be ruled out, as long as there is mutual interest. The Boko Haram terrorist group in Nigeria is not an exception. The Nigerian troops must watch out for this, gather enough intelligence to nip their activities in the bud, lest they make life miserable for their innocent victims. The troops must be able to look beyond Nigerian borders in dealing with Terrorist networks by exploring diplomatic relations with other nations to achieve this.

Lastly, the third scenario demonstrates a high level of technological involvement in terrorist campaigns. This confirms the words of Elaigwu (2004:107) who observes that, "technological revolution is transforming every sector of the global society... it will also create new forms of insecurity and new side effects". In the same vein, Rourke (1997:345) insist, "one of the factors that determines a country's military power is the technological

sophistication of its weapons". Though alleged to be state-sponsored, it shows a deployment of high level of intelligence that is needed to make terrorism successful. It involves intelligence and aviation experts, which signifies the level of desperation that terrorists can go through in order to achieve their mission. This contributed to the level of efficiency of the operation, which led to the death of two hundred and seventy people. Nations must take a lesson on this. In international politics, what matters is interest. Once there is a conflict of interest, anything can happen. Nations can go to any extent to undermine the interest of the other, and state sponsorship of terrorism can be one of the strategies to undermine each other's interest. Nigeria must find out the sponsors of Boko Haram and know exactly what they want and crush them completely. Greene (1998:107) observes, "All great leaders since Moses have known that a feared enemy must be crushed completely". This is one counterterrorism strategy to avoid fighting endless war against terror. In addition, the advanced use of technology in terrorist attacks implies that counterterrorism efforts must involve the use of technology in intelligence gathering and prevention of possible terrorist attacks. Online and offline, terrorists are looking for the most obscure and seamless means of executing terror attacks through the use of technology since it is considered the most efficient and

devastating means to do so. This further implies that technology could be another reason for the formation of alliances between homegrown and foreign-based terrorist organizations. Terrorist organizations with less technological sophistication would like to form alliance with those with high technological knowledge to educate their members and improve their knowledge base if they share a common interest. To this extent, counterterrorism efforts must be able to study the level of technological sophistication of terrorist groups in order to be able to overcome them. The Nigerian troops engaging the Boko Haram terrorist group in the North East must begin to pay serious attention to the group's use of technology in carrying out their campaigns. In addition, they need to also deploy their own technological knowledge to intelligence gathering and prevention of terrorist attacks against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

Collated Swot-Based and Scenario-Based Strategies for Homegrown and Foreign-Based Terrorist Organizations.

Swot-based Strategies: Nigeria's strategic location within the West coast of Africa calls for increased counterterrorism. Whatever affects her affects all other ECOWAS countries. Nigeria must be wary about any conflict of interest involving the United States, Britain and

Iran. Iran is capable of using the landlocked countries of Chad or Niger Republic to recruit terrorists and attack Nigeria. This is due to the high level of poor and ignorant people along this axis. Alliances between the Boko Haram terrorists and other foreign-based terrorist organizations could happen along the Chad-Niger axis also. Nigeria needs to guard against igniting tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia because of the Ibrahim El-zakzaky case. This can dovetail into religious conflict, which would be heightened by mass poverty and illiteracy, injustice and general insecurity. Nigeria needs to invest heavily on education, public infrastructure, eliminate injustice, reduce mass poverty and create wealth.

Scenario-based Strategies: There is need to determine the religious inclination of any terrorist group to know what kind of ideology they propagate. This is a pointer to knowing what to expect from them and how to counter it. It is also a basis for forming alliances between different terrorist groups as the plausible scenarios indicate. In the fight against terrorism, less attention must be paid to appearance. Appearance can deceive completely. Anyone is a possible suspect until security is certain. Nigeria must be careful to avoid a replica of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which could result from deep religious fanaticism. Intelligence gathering is highly necessary in the security architecture of Nigeria and everywhere

around the world. Alliances are formed between homegrown and foreign-based terrorist groups once there is common mutual interest. High level of technological knowledge must be involved in intelligence gathering and prevention of terrorist agenda. Intelligence gathering in this sense refers to a “clear awareness of the capabilities of one’s forces, the vulnerabilities of opponents and the lay of the land”. Tzu (2005: xlvi) insist, “When you know yourself and others, victory is not in danger; when you know sky and earth, victory is inexhaustible”.

Conclusion

The contemporary nature of global terrorism indicates that there would be a drastic formation of alliances between homegrown and foreign-based terrorist organizations by the year 2030. This is due to several factors among which are the existence of mutual interest among members of several terrorist networks as exemplified by some plausible scenarios, the unpredictability of human nature and the changing phase of technology. The alliances would help to strengthen some terrorist networks in terms of efficiency and technological knowledge. Terrorism is a common problem facing the Global community. The inspiration to form a terrorist group ranges from political, ethnic to religious inspirations depending on the ideology of the

group and the mission they want to achieve. They also differ based on regions and territories. In addition, terrorist groups are homegrown because they arise from a particular location and have their targets at that location, before they begin to form alliances and eventually turn to an international network with other terrorist groups with whom they share a mutual interest. In every human environment, there are identifiable common threats that form the basis for terrorism such as, mass poverty, ethnic or racist injustice, official corruption, religious fanaticism, gross illiteracy among several other threats. There are also several opportunities to either avoid terrorism or overcome it in every environment such as adequate wealth creation, justice for all, good climatic conditions and manageable population density. Therefore, identifying the strengths, the weaknesses, opportunities and threats to any environment facing the challenge of terrorism is vital in dealing with the social menace. These can be discovered after a Swot-based analysis of an environment has been carried out to determine them. This analysis is an environmental impact assessment that must be carried out before embarking on the project of defeating terrorism. In addition, building some plausible scenarios would help to design a strategy necessary to overcome terrorism in an environment. A Swot-based analysis of Nigeria's capacity to deal with terrorism as

well as some plausible scenarios of homegrown and foreign-based terrorist networks reveals a lot to us in this research. It shows that despite some possible threats, Nigeria has all the dynamics of power within a given state to her favour. These dynamics of power ranges from population, natural resources, education, geographical location and political leadership. If adequately managed, Nigeria should have no business with terrorism and has adequate measures to deal with it when it arises. The possible alliance of the Boko Haram terrorist group with other foreign-based terrorist networks for instance, can be pursued with mass literacy while dealing with other strategic issues of national security.

Recommendations

Based on the outcome of the collated strategies, the paper hereby recommends the following:

1. Nigeria should keep an aerial surveillance of its porous land borders to checkmate the influx of criminals into the country. It should do same at least ninety nautical miles into the Atlantic within the southern part of the country. This would help to monitor the activities of the Boko Haram terrorist groups who work to form alliance with foreign-based terrorists in order to prevent them.
2. Nigeria should as a matter of urgency improve her technological skills especially in the area of intelligence gathering. Technological skill is the currency of the

twenty first century and actors in the Global system who possess it have a head start over those who do not. They can penetrate the boundaries of nation-states and make a real mockery of the sovereignty of nations.

3. Nigeria needs to improve the education of her citizen qualitatively and quantitatively. This would help to reduce the danger of “brainwashing” and improve the economic and social status of the citizens. Education is a necessity and not a luxury, a right, not a privilege.

4. Nigeria must deal with the problem of mass poverty and illiteracy, as well as improve infrastructure. She must invest heavily in agriculture and put all the arable lands to good use. This is the only way to create genuine wealth and resolve the problem of terrorism.

5. In any conflict of interest between Britain and Iran, the United States and Iran or Saudi Arabia and Iran, Nigeria must maintain the principle of neutrality to avoid attracting enemies to herself that would help to aggravate her already bad situation. Nigeria’s foreign policy should be directed towards pursuing her core interests. No more “father Christmas” foreign policy in the twenty first century.

6. Nigeria is a secular state in line with her constitution. It must continue to maintain this secularity status to avoid sending wrong signals that can ignite religious conflicts likely to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Religious

fanaticism is a terrible disease on its own that is capable of destroying the human race.

7. Lastly, Nigeria needs to invest heavily in research and development, particularly in the area of strategic intelligence support, such as spying against opponents. Intelligence gathering is everything to security. No security outfit can succeed without proper intelligence. Such strategic intelligence support provided information that led to the capture of Saddam Hussein in 2003. For instance, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) organizes what it calls “strategic support teams”, groups of ten or fewer agents who can be sent anywhere in the world to collect intelligence for commanders in the field. Nigeria can invest resources to intelligence gathering and do better.

References

- Achebe, C. (2012) *There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra*, New York: Penguin Press.
- B.B.C. (1992) *English Dictionary*, London: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.
- Biema, D.V. (2001) "Why the Bombers Keep Coming", *Time*, December 17, 2001. P.25
- Borum, R. (2003) "Understanding the Terrorist Mind-Set", *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, July 2003, Pp.1-10.
- Campolo, T. (2001) "It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming", in Lawrence, T.D (compil.) (2005) *The Greatest Sermons Ever Preached*, Tennessee: W Publishing Group.
- Elaigwu, J.I. (2004) "From Might to Money: The Changing Dimensions of Global Transition to the 21st Century", in Alubo, O.S and Briggs, D.A (Eds.) (2004) *Agenda for a Better Society: Reflections from the National Institute*, Vol.1, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru.
- Graff, J. (2000) "Lockerbie: The Trial Begins", *Time*, May 15, 2000. P.24
- Greene, R. (1998) *The 48 Laws of Power*, New York: Penguin Books.
- Illich, I. (1999) "Needs", in Sachs, W. (Ed.) *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*, London: Zed Books Ltd.
- Mackinnon, B. (2007) *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*, Australia: Thomson Wadsworth.

Momah, S. (1993) *Global Disorders and the New World Order*, Lagos: Vista Books Ltd.

Oduwobi, T. and Iwuagwu, O. (1997) "Nigeria: An Ethno-Historical Survey", in Osuntokun, A. and Olukoju, A. (Eds.) *Nigerian Peoples and Cultures*, Ibadan: Davidson Press.

Purvis, A. (2003) "Al-Qaeda Outsources in Turkey", *Time*, December 8, 2003. P.18

Rourke, J.T. (1997) *International Politics on the World Stage 6th Edition*, Connecticut: McGraw-Hill.

Ryan, A. (1970) *The Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, London: Macmillan Press Ltd.

Tzu, S. (2005) *The Art of War*, Boston, Massachusetts: Shambhala Publications Inc.

Waller, D. (2005) "How Rumsfeld Plans to Shake Up the Spy Game", *Time*, February 7, 2005.

Watts, C. (2019) "Countering Domestic Terrorism: Examining the Evolving Threat", Philadelphia: Foreign Policy Research Institute.