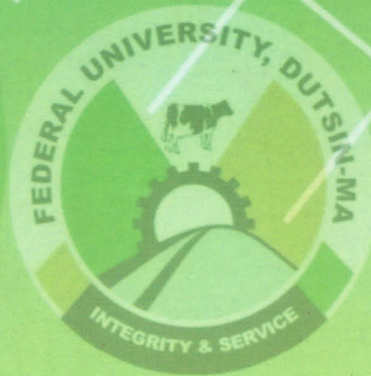




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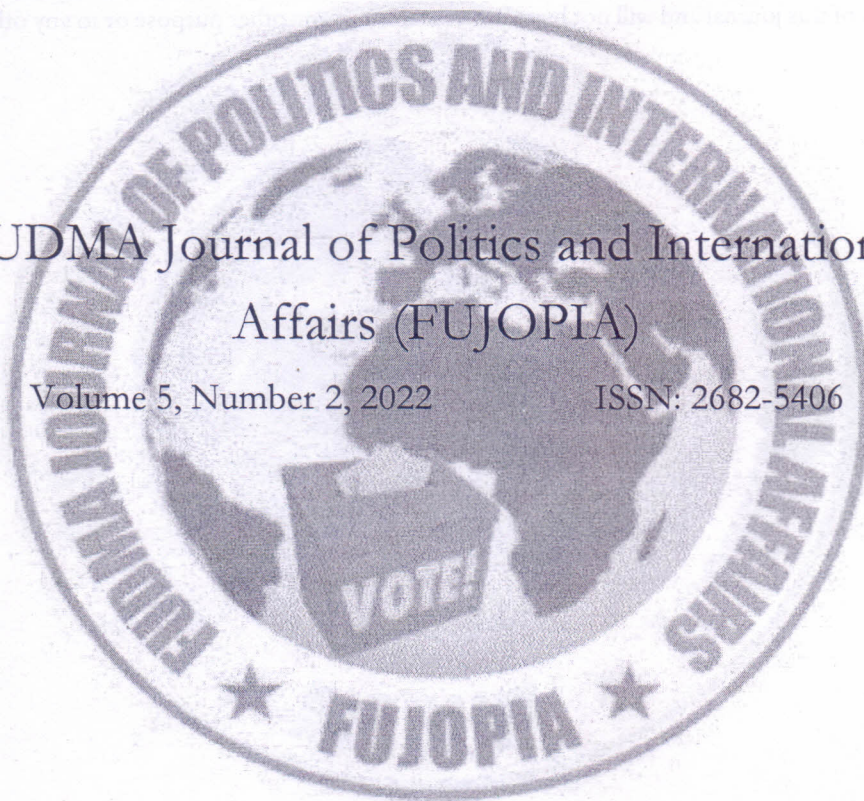
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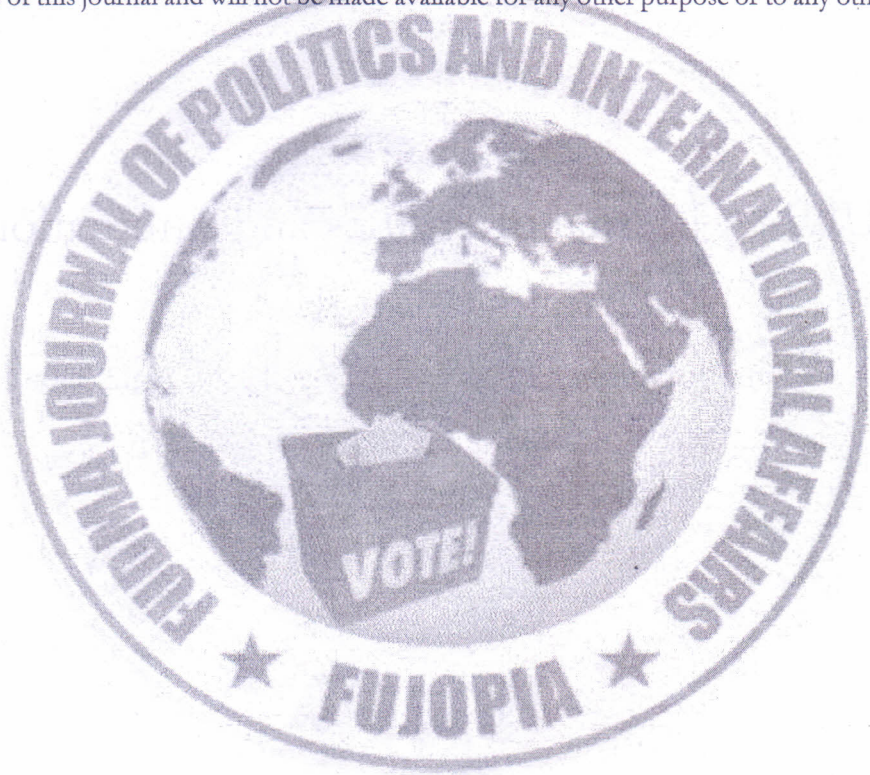
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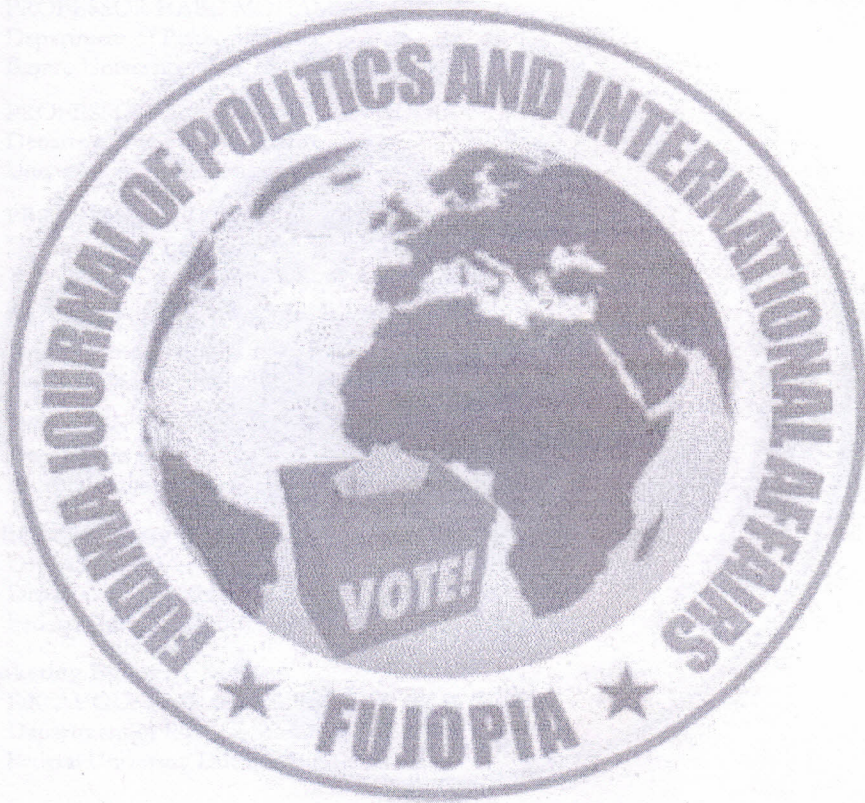
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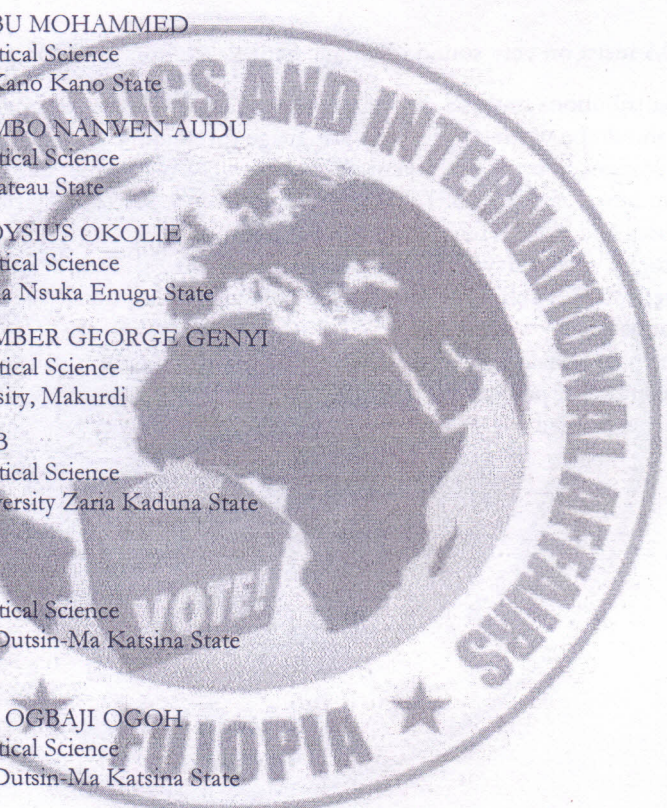
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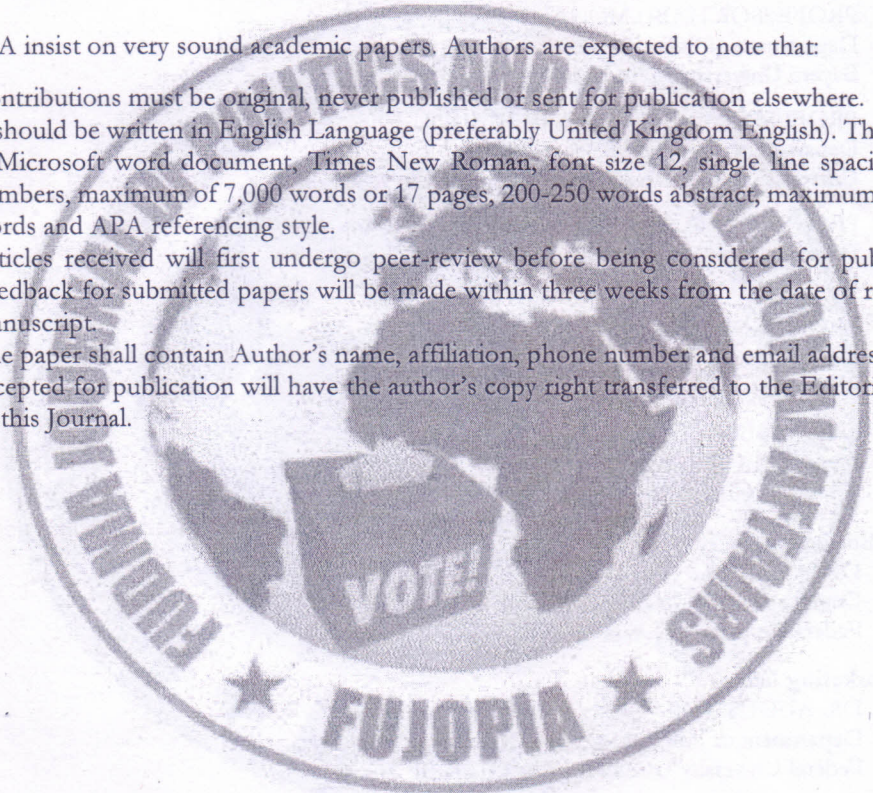
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The Impact of the US and Nigeria's Security Relations, 2015 – 2020

¹Aliu, Fatima Omotayo

Abstract

The study examines the impact of the security relationship between USA and Nigeria from 2015 to 2020. The aim of the study was to understand the pros and cons of security relations between the US and Nigeria between 2015 and 2020. Within this period, Nigeria faced many security challenges that have not been experienced in over 50 years of its existence as an independent nation. The method of data analysis is thematic analysis, where themes are found in the secondary data that was gathered and adequately analysed to find patterns in achieving the objectives. The study discovered that the advantages of this relationship include the fact that it has helped in combating insecurity and helped train security personnel in the nation as well as reducing the impact of the aftermath of a terrorist act on the affected communities. However, the major strain of this relationship is that it impedes the sovereignty of Nigeria and rarely addresses the root causes of the insecurity issues in the country. With these, the study recommended that the Nigerian government should look elsewhere for help while continuing the relations with the US. At the same time, the US is advised to tailor its programs towards reducing poverty and unemployment in Nigeria.

Key Words: Impact, Security, Relationship, Maintenance, Peace

Introduction

There is no doubt that Nigeria and the US are two of the most powerful countries in their respective regions of influence (Omotosho, 2016). These two regional powers have a long history of cooperation. Grants, direct financial aid, and assistance with World Bank loans were provided by the United States throughout this period in support of Nigeria's restoration to democracy, resulting in increased commerce between the two countries in the area of natural resources (Obiozo, 1992).

As Africa's most populated country, Nigeria is also the continent's largest economy and has the continent's greatest oil resource (Terwase, Abdul-Talib and Zengeni, 2014). Since Nigeria is the United States' second-largest commercial partner and third-largest target for US foreign

direct investment in Sub-Saharan Africa, the relationship between the two countries has been recognised as one of the most crucial because Nigeria is a prominent African political and economic players (Ayam, 2008). In the US, Nigerians are the largest African ethnic group, according to the Census Bureau in the US (2020).

There are several security concerns in Nigeria. There have been more than a hundred thousand deaths, millions of people displaced, and an ongoing humanitarian crisis in the northeastern region of Nigeria as a result of military clashes with the ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa Province) and the Boko Haram, which are both affiliated with the Islamic State (Sergei and Johnson, 2015). Nigeria's northwest has recently

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seen a rise in pastoralist-farmer violence amid a general decline in security, including cattle rustling, abduction, and ethnic massacres, as well as the emergence of Islamist extremist activities. Herders and farmers' violence is rising in the Middle Belt's central region, where resource access concerns and ethnoreligious schisms between Muslim and Christian populations collide. Long-term progress has been impeded, and safety has been jeopardised in the Niger Delta area, where oil is abundant.

Large oil reserves, agricultural potential, and a fast-expanding population make Nigeria an ideal location for a global economic powerhouse. However, political instability, infrastructural problems, corruption, and overdependence on revenues from oil have hindered economic growth and advancement in the country. The COVID-19 epidemic and falling oil prices have led to a recession in Nigeria, and because of this, the country's government finances and economic health are in jeopardy (IMF, 2020).

Nigeria is essential to preserving US security and economy for two primary reasons: regional influence and economic interests. Given Nigeria's big population, expanding economic system, and abundance of natural resources, opportunities for enhanced collaboration are enormous (Christopher, Aaron & Charles, 2013). After receiving \$600 million from the United States in 2011, Nigeria is Africa's largest recipient of US aid (Lauren, 2013). Oil imports from Nigeria account for 53% of all US oil importations from the region of Africa, or roughly 8% of the total United States oil imports from the rest of the world (Vivian, 2009). US imports from Nigeria reached \$31 billion in 2011, according to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (Williams, 2015), with a balance of \$52.9 million in 2014.

In addition to militancy, terrorism, abduction, and drug trafficking, Nigeria suffers from a slew of additional security challenges. It is not just the Nigerian security services that Boko Haram has

overtaken, but it has also publicly threatened the US (Abubakar, 2014). The April 2014 tragic kidnapping of over 200 Chibok schoolgirls in Borno State, Nigeria, garnered international attention (Amy, 2014). Nigeria's stability and its role as a West African anchor state are jeopardised due to these crimes, which directly impact the United States (James, 2014).

With the support of the US, Nigeria's security concerns have been alleviated a bit. United States January 2014 global threat assessment found that security agencies in Nigeria are not proactive but reactive; thus, the country cannot address the numerous security challenges that have plagued it. This group includes Marines from the United States who travelled to Nigeria in early May 2014 to assist with intelligence gathering and training. Through organisations like AFRICOM and ACOTA, the United States and Nigeria routinely engage in military training and capacity-building programs (Berschinski, 2007). ACOTA's principal goal is to help member countries improve their capabilities for humanitarian and peacekeeping missions (Williams, 2011). Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) and marine exercises like the African Partnership Station (APS) are also part of AFRICOM initiatives (APS). Exercise OBANGAME EXPRESS, an anti-piracy and maritime law enforcement simulation, has been held in Nigeria. The United States built a marine domain awareness system for Nigeria to monitor the Gulf of Guinea for transnational maritime crimes such as piracy (Abubakar, 2014).

Why is there no improvement in Nigerian security and stability despite increased US security efforts and programs? Ultimately, this is the central question of our investigation. What are the major causes of Nigeria's insecurity, and how do they hinder US efforts to keep the country safe? Finally, what issues or stumbling

blocks should be addressed to make progress in ties between the United States and Nigeria?

Overview of the Security Challenges Facing Nigeria

National security is one of the most important challenges that Nigeria has had to deal with recently. For several causes, the country's instability has led to a wide range of problems. Nigeria is currently dealing with the following security issues:

i. The Boko Haram Insurgency

Jama'atul Alhul Sunnah Lidda and Jihad, or "those devoted to disseminating the Prophet's teachings and Jihad," was created in Maiduguri in 2002 as Boko Haram. This militant Islamist group has waged an insurgency in Nigeria since 2009 (Abolurin, 2012). The term "Boko" (Hausa) denotes "book", while Haram (Arabic) means "forbidden". Therefore, Boko Haram means "Western education is evil" in Hausa (Gilbert, 2014). There is a possibility that Boko Haram originated as a fundamental Islamic sect to replace government organisations in northern Nigeria that have politicised, perverted, and bastardised legitimate Sharia application and to build an Islamic dictatorship where Sharia law is obeyed to the letter (Idowu, 2013). Despite the thousands of deaths and destruction of property, their intentions remain ambiguous, and their insurgency has continued to grow in recent months. Many young people have dropped out of school to join the cult because of poverty, unemployment, and frequent strikes, to mention a few. Boko Haram's violent extremism, recruitment, and support have all been linked to economic hardship, according to Olojo (2013). Boko Haram insurgency is a multi-faceted phenomenon that has political, social, economic, cultural, and religious underpinnings, as opposed to the more easily understood Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) and Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND) terror activities (Idowu, 2013).

Ethnicity, poverty/inequality, state issues, political culture and institutions, and external influence were also cited as reasons for the Boko Haram insurgency. The insurgency's ramifications are grave and wide-ranging. Aside from the obvious human toll, it has exacerbated the country's financial problems by causing investors to pull their money out of the country and instead invest elsewhere. It has also halted food distribution, bred suspicion, antagonism, and division among Nigeria's Christians and Muslims, and resulted in a significant drop in population in the north, causing overcrowding in the south. This article is mostly concerned with human needs for basic sustenance (human security).

The consequences of violence can be devastating and long-lasting. Agriculture has suffered because of the Boko Haram conflict, which has targeted some of Nigeria's most significant food-growing regions. Cowpeas, corns, tomatoes, rice, onions, millet, yams, sorghum, fish, and cattle are all staples in the worst-affected states, Adamawa, Yobe, and Borno. The fear of being attacked has plagued the farmers. Violence by the group might lead to a long-term and permanent food scarcity crisis in the country if it continues (Amalu, 2015).

The Boko Haram battle has led to the death of thousands of people and the injury of many more. An explosion in Abuja's Nyanya District on Monday, April 14, 2014, killed at least 75 persons and injured at least 215 more (Awortu, 2015). Numerous persons were killed and injured when two explosions happened on the same day in Abuja's Kuje and Nyanya areas on October 2, 2015. Overcrowding in healthcare institutions and hospitals is putting undue strain on machinery and pushing medical workers to work overtime due to the increasing number of injuries.

As a result of Boko Haram's attacks on educational institutions, which have resulted in the injury, death, or kidnapping of students and

employees, and the destruction of structures, the educational sector has been severely affected. Children's access to school, educational facilities and resources, and the capacity of instructors, have all been negatively impacted by conflict and instability, according to the HNO (2014). On October 5, 2015, the National President of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, Michael Olukoya, stated that 600 teachers had been killed in the Boko Haram conflict (Kukogho, 2015). 882 classrooms in Borno State had been demolished as of August 2013; all schools in Yobe State had been closed from June to September of that year (Awortu, 2015). Parents have been unable to enrol their children and wards in school because of the kidnapping of roughly 200 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok on April 14, 2014. (Hassan, 2014). Even before the insurgency began, the region had a low literacy level and a large number of jobless youngsters who may be recruited to commit suicide bombings and other terrorist acts. Additional assaults will only worsen this situation and further weaken the educational system in the region. As a result, according to Awortu (2015), violence in Nigeria tends to grow and continue when schools drop out, and illiteracy rates are high.

ii. Farmer-Herders Intercommunal Crises

There has been increased violence between nomadic herders and sedentary farmers in recent years in the Middle Belt area of Nigeria. Experts estimate that between 2011 and 2016, 2,000 Nigerians were killed each year due to the farmer-herder conflict in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria (International Crisis Group, 2018). Violence between different ethnic groups in the northwest of the country has resulted in the deaths of more than 8,000 people since 2011, with an estimated 200,000 people displaced. Local communities, criminal gangs, and herder-affiliated militias are said to have helped Islamist extremist groups establish themselves in the northwest in recent years (Congressional

Research Service, 2020). While US Special Operations Command-chief Africa's stated in August of this year that the US military was seeing "some progress" by al-Qaeda in the northwest, he did not disclose any further details (State Department, 2020).

Farmers and herders have fought over resources, crop damage, and cattle theft, but ecological, demographic, and socioeconomic restrictions strain inter-communal relations in rural areas of the country. In recent years, the Middle Belt has seen an increase in farming activities that has severely reduced the quantity of land accessible for livestock grazing, as reported by Reuters in 2018 (Akwagiyiram and McNeill, 2018). Cattle rustling and other criminal activities have been encouraged by rising livestock prices, forcing herders to arm themselves extensively for self-defence and protection (Luizza, 2019). There has been a rise in sophistication in the use of weapons given by national military stockpiles or imported from elsewhere (Conflict Armament Research, 2020).

The conflict between farmers and herders in Nigeria usually intersects with ethnic and religious differences, which increases the risk of escalation and complicates efforts to resolve conflicts. There has been a lot of fighting between Christian farmers of all ethnicities and predominantly Muslim Fulani herders in the Middle Belt region. Central and West Africa is home to a huge and diverse population known as the Fulani (Bassey, Effiong and Ekwutosi, 2021). Disputes between herders and farmers in Nigeria "may occasionally be depicted as occurring between religious groups or might lead to reprisals that target individuals based on their faith (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, 2020).

Violence between farmers and herders and resource access concerns have so far failed to be addressed. Buhari's administration established a 10-year National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) in 2018, including investments in

agricultural and sedentary grazing farms. The NLTP is now being tried in various states, despite detractors' claims that it unfairly favours herder groups (Adepegba 2019). As a result of politicians' use of hate rhetoric and a restriction on open grazing, herders feel their livelihoods are in jeopardy (Kwaja and Ademola-Adelehin, 2017).

iii. Religious Freedom Issues, Sharia Law, and the Shia Minority

Worries about the state of religious freedom in Nigeria have been stoked by the prevalence of Islamist terrorism and farmer-herder conflicts in the country's Middle Belt. There are almost as many Christians as Muslims in Nigeria. The Trump administration, citing the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, has determined that Nigeria had "serious violations of religious freedom" in 2019. US Committee for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has been advocating annually since 2009 for a change in Nigeria's designation as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC), which might limit some kinds of US foreign aid (Weber, 2022).

Americans' worries about religious liberty stem partly from the northwestern Nigerian state's implementation of Sharia (Islamic law). Even though Sharia courts have existed in Northern Nigeria since 1960, they had only jurisdiction over civil cases until Northern Nigerian government officials began extending Sharia's reach to criminal cases in 1999. Twelve northern states and the Federal Capital Territory, which includes the nation's capital, now have Sharia criminal courts (Bourbeau, Umar, and Bauman, 2019). Due in part to the extreme punishments given by Sharia criminal law in Nigeria, there was some anxiety about its implementation. Since the death penalty was handed down to a Muslim singer for blasphemy in the Kano State Sharia court in 2020, human rights organisations have been outraged (Amnesty International, 2020). A prominent atheist was arrested for blasphemy in Kaduna in 2020 and transferred to Kano for

trial, which sparked more worries about religious freedom trends and stoked suspicions about non-Muslims' statutory protections under Sharia law (USCIRF, 2020).

There has been a lot of attention recently given to the maltreatment and oppression of Shia Muslims in northern Nigeria, which is mostly Sunni. The Islamic Organisation of Nigeria (IMN), a Shia movement led by Iranian-trained preacher Ibrahim Zakzaky, lost more than 350 members in 2015 (USCIRF, 2017). According to a government investigation, the army was found to be culpable for the massacre, but no soldiers were held accountable. In connection with the murder of a soldier at the event, Zakzaky is imprisoned on charges of unlawful assembly and homicide. Security forces have forcefully quashed many demonstrations asking for his release, killing or imprisoning dozens of IMN members in the process (Human rights Watch, 2018).

iv. Insecurity in the Niger Delta: Criminality, Oil Theft and Militancy

insurgencies connected to environmental concerns have plagued the oil-rich Niger Delta region in the south for decades because of political upheaval, criminal activity, and occasional outbursts of insurrection. Despite the Niger Delta's large oil reserves, poverty and unemployment are widespread. While oil companies blame vandalism for decades of oil spills, human rights groups blame oil companies' irresponsibility for the damage done to local businesses and the environment and health of the people who live there (Bruederle and Hodler, 2019). While the UN Environment Program (UNEP) advised in 2011 that significant swathes of the Niger Delta be restored, such efforts have stalled due to allegations of corruption and incompetence against the governmental institutions tasked with organising the clean-up. According to human rights advocates, UNEP-designated hazardous zones are nonetheless contaminated

to an alarming degree (Amnesty International, 2020).

Amnesty and monthly payments were offered to militants after a series of attacks on oil installations seriously slowed production in 2009. Oil installations have seen a decrease in large-scale attacks because of this approach. But the roots of insecurity persist, and ex-militants often threaten violence again. Oil output fell to a 30-year low in 2016 because of renewed assaults on oil infrastructure. In addition, oil theft for black market sales is a big problem that involves criminal networks, political leaders, security officers, and oil employees (Transparency International, 2020). Nigeria's Niger Delta region is also the heart of maritime instability since the waterways off Nigeria have been among the most hazardous in the world for several years (Husted, 2019). A typical occurrence in the area is kidnapping cargo personnel, which thieves conceal while negotiating ransoms in the vast river networks.

US-Nigeria Security Relations (2015-2020)

Regarding security and friendship, the US and Nigeria have had a long-standing partnership for more than 50 years. Due to their shared democratic beliefs, the United States and Nigeria have one of the most important relationships in Sub-Saharan Africa due to Nigeria's population, economy, and oil production (Garba, Izah and Akuva, 2022). Some regional and international fora where the United States engages with Nigeria include the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), ECOWAS, the African Union and the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh/ISIS. Their joint efforts are aimed at various things, including maritime and border security, defence trade, military professionalisation, anti-terrorist operations against ISIS and Boko Haram in West Africa, and sector governance. The United States Department of State (2022) has reported that between 2016 and 2020, the Nigerian armed forces received \$6 million in International Military Education and Training (IMET)

funding from the United States Department of State. Since 2016, Nigeria's military schools have received \$1.1 million in funding from the Africa Military Education Program (AMEP). Maritime security, military professionalisation, and counterterrorism programs received \$1.8 million from Nigeria between 2016 and 2020. The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership would provide Nigeria with \$10.6 million in counterterrorism training, equipment, and guidance over the next three years (TSCTP) (US Department of State, 2022).

As part of the FMS system, the United States has \$590 million of intergovernmental sales with Nigeria. The Nigerian military has purchased four A-29 Super Tucano planes for \$497 million to aid in the fight against Boko Haram and ISIS in the West African area. Training on the Law of Armed Conflict and International Humanitarian Law is included in the case. Air-to-Ground Integration is an important strategy for Nigeria in preventing civilian casualties (AGI). To retain long-term light attack and ISR capabilities, Nigeria will need competent personnel and a sustainment infrastructure to sustain the aircraft's operational capability throughout its service life. In addition, the United States authorised the export to Nigeria 2020 of defensive equipment worth roughly \$1.2 million under the Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) channel. Firearms, aeroplanes, military training and equipment, military electronics, and fire control equipment were Nigeria's most popular DCS categories (Reliefweb, 2021).

Nigeria received 24 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and two Hamilton-class high endurance cutters (USCGC Chase and USCGC Gallatin), renamed Thunder and Okpabana, respectively, via the Excess Defense Article program between 2011 and 2015. In 2016, the United States and Nigeria struck an agreement to facilitate common aid flow, including oil, food, ammunition, transportation, and equipment. Agreement for the Purchase and

Sale of Goods and Services The US military presence in Nigeria has been governed by the Status of Forces Agreement between the US and Nigeria since 2000. Since 2009, the two countries have collaborated on a C-130 repair project and a multiyear capacity-building program to assist Nigeria's Ministry of Defense in creating policies and doctrines (Congressional Research Service, 2022).

Since 1993, the United States has given \$2.14 million to Nigeria's efforts to eliminate conventional weapons and respond to humanitarian mines. Military equipment for demining and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) was given to Nigeria in March 2017, and training for EOD soldiers was provided in Nigeria by the Nigerian School of Military Engineering (NSME). Northeast Nigeria is home to one of the world's most difficult and multifaceted humanitarian situations, owing to various factors, including the country's poor security and severe food shortages. Providing more than \$2.1 billion in humanitarian help to two million homes impacted by violence since 2015, the United States has surpassed all other countries as the largest humanitarian donor. In 2021, the United States will provide more than \$364 million in life-saving aid to vulnerable populations, such as internally displaced people, refugees, and food-insecure households. Banditry and abduction, counter-narcotics, cybercrime, and intellectual property rights protection are only some difficulties that the United States assists law enforcement and judicial professionals in dealing with through technological support. Capacity building for civilian security actors such as the Nigerian Police Force, the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency, and Nigerian Customs is facilitated by US law enforcement programming (Reliefweb, 2021).

The Threat Assessment Models effort was initiated in Nigeria by the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism with backing from the

United States. This initiative intends to relieve concerns by connecting countermeasures for aviation security to actual threats to civil air travel. Terrorist threat inputs are incorporated and processed into aviation security risk management operations with the help of UN member states' national interagency coordination bodies. MIDAS, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) program in Nigeria, also received funds from the United States in the year 2021. Nigeria's border management authorities would benefit from IOM's efforts to develop MIDAS, a fully functional information system that will help them better utilise and manage their data. Nigeria has received around \$650 million in security assistance and \$500 million in Foreign Military Sales from the United States since 2017. Nigeria is also home to the largest military education and training program in Sub-Saharan Africa (Congressional Research Service, 2022).

US Security Programs in Nigeria and their Effectiveness

i. U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM)

By cooperating with African partners, AFRICOM's goal is to support US strategic objectives and safeguard US interests by enhancing African military capabilities so that they can contribute to regional stability and security," according to the Department of Defense. This command's goal is furthered through the work of its five subsidiary commands. Several United States military units are involved in the debate: the CJTF-HOA and the Special Operations Command Africa of the United States Army. When it comes to addressing Africa's security challenges, AFRICOM takes on a variety of tasks to help partner countries develop the necessary capabilities (U.S. Africa Command, 2022).

The AFRICOM program has been criticised for not being country-specific and not being concise enough to tackle particular challenges in these countries, especially in Nigeria. For instance, the

program does not consider the Boko Haram insurgency a local problem that needs local solutions. Every culture is different, but the AFRICOM program sought to tackle different problems with the same solution, thereby having a one-size fits all approach which solves next to nothing.

ii. Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA)

A major purpose of ACOTA is to improve regional peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and disaster assistance throughout Africa. For the US to fulfil its foreign policy objectives, these capabilities are designed to better equip African governments to assume responsibility for catastrophes or humanitarian crises. Through international training programs and a common ideology, ACOTA can improve the collaboration between its partner countries. Non-lethal equipment and training have been provided to Nigeria, one of ACOTA's 25 partner countries. More than 250,000 soldiers from 257 units are thought to have received military training. Jaji Military Cantonment, Kaduna, has been designated as a peacekeeping training facility by ACOTA (Abubakar, 2014).

Training military officers and providing them with arms and ammunition may not be enough to tackle the Boko-Haram insurgency and the Nigeria Delta crises, as the root causes of these challenges have not been taken care of. For instance, the challenge of poverty and chronic illiteracy in the Northern and South-eastern parts of Nigeria have been adduced to be major causes of an increase in these insurgent acts. After Boko Haram, Nigerian security forces have played a significant role in regional and sub-regional peacekeeping operations. However, ACOTA training may not always provide the necessary abilities to combat terrorism.

iii. Counterterrorism Programs and Training

The mission is to assist partner nations in enhancing their ability to combat violent extremism and their border and customs operations. It is a joint effort of the Departments of State, USAID, and the Department of Defense to implement the TSCTP program. Peacekeeping, economic assistance, demining, counterterrorism, and other related programs provide funding for TSCTP. TSCTP pledged funds were distributed in 2007: 74% went to the Sahel region, 8% went to Nigeria and Senegal, and 3% went to Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia (Globalsecurity.org, 2022).

TSCTP regional terrorism training programs in medical, logistical, communications, and intelligence have been conducted in Nigeria. Training in civil-military interactions, counter-IED training, border security, and crisis management have all been offered by TSCTP in Nigeria at the national level (US Department of State, 2014).

Counterterrorism efforts are being called into question due to increased terrorist attacks in Nigeria. TSCTP initially focused on the Sahel area, which raises the question of whether the initiatives have addressed the problem in Nigeria. The regional and bilateral approaches appear to be absent in the TSCTP strategy. It was only after Boko Haram's most recent kidnappings the United States dispatched special counterterrorism soldiers to Nigeria, which means that the program was never meant for a specific country like Nigeria.

Pros and Cons of US Security Relations with Nigeria (2015-2020)

Support for peacekeeping, marine and border safety, transnational crime prevention and criminal justice reform, and counterterrorism has been provided by the United States of America to the Nigerian government. US

training and equipment have also been a help to Nigeria, which is part of the Lake Chad Basin Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). Violence and instability in central and northern Nigeria are addressed through the United States of America's international development programs (USAID). Civil society organisations, government officials, and religious leaders benefit from these programs. They assist them in dealing with local tensions and violent situations. The following are some of the advantages of Nigeria and the United States working together on security:

i. Saves Lives and Relieves Pain

Helping people affected by war, natural catastrophes, or poverty is the most convincing argument for the humanitarian aid rendered to Nigeria by the US. It has helped people get their lives back on track by lessening the toll crises have on local populations, especially in the Northern part of Nigeria (even though many are still displaced), thereby minimising the number of people killed and injured.

ii. Reduces Human Rights Violations

The US has accused Nigeria of human rights abuse in the past and in recent times. The intervention and training of the military personnel in Nigeria have helped in reducing human rights abuse in the country as these military officials now understand better how to treat civilians during a crisis. In addition, the US refusal to sell war aircraft to Nigeria has helped reduce the crises of human rights abuse in the country.

iii. Anticipates and Protects Against Future Crimes

Terrorism in Nigeria has become a huge challenge, with Boko Haram and the IPOB insurgents distorting the country's peace and economic prosperity. The relations between the two countries can assist in preventing future atrocities by these armed groups. It is a deterrent to human rights abuses for oppressive armed

organisations and insurgents to know that the international community will step in.

iv. Increased Military Training

One of the major reasons that US and Nigeria relate in terms of security is the training provided by the US military to different military sectors of Nigeria, namely the Navy, the army, etc. Training of military personnel in Nigeria has helped Nigeria combat various insurgencies, such as the Boko-Haram. The famous take over of Sambisa, a major base of the Boko-Haram in Borno State, by the Nigerian military can be attributed to the intelligence training by the US army and Navy.

Cons of US Security Relations with Nigeria

While the actions of the terrorist group Boko Haram have been considered a danger to Nigeria's territorial integrity, the deployment of foreign forces from adjacent countries has also been doctored to undermine the country's sovereignty. Political instability can result from foreign interference. A military infrastructure might threaten the host country's sovereignty, undermine regional security, and expose the host country to terrorist threats over time. On the other hand, being a host nation implies handing over a section of one's land to another (Peterson, 1992).

Due to Nigeria's current security concerns and the consequent need for foreign aid in fighting terrorism, some nations have offered assistance in counterinsurgency operations against Boko Haram, for instance. In the global war against terrorism, the United States is the undisputed leader. Regarding combating terrorist groups and other global threats, Nigeria has strong relations with the West while working closely with the United Nations and international leaders. Robert-Okah (2014) noted that the non-governmental organisation Muslims Right Concern (MRC) warned that the United States' desire to build a military installation in the nation would worsen the already difficult security

situation and undermine the country's sovereignty.

Nigeria's anti-terrorist campaign entails more than just fighting; it also involves monitoring acts that affect the country's sovereignty. Western powers' involvement in Nigeria has prompted several disagreements and tensions among the population. There have been far too many innocent fatalities and a worsening of adverse stereotyping of identifiable communities and their members due to foreign interference in the fight against terrorism. This stereotyping has been seen in various ways in which foreign media portrays some states and communities in Nigeria as terrorist areas. This deters foreign investors in the country as a whole because of the stereotype that has been induced in the potential investors.

Other disadvantages of the US-Nigeria security relations include the following:

i. Can Distort Economic Markets

Humanitarian initiatives are often criticised for having a negative influence on economics. Humanitarian aid frequently displaces the local market in disaster zones. This might harm the local economy and businesses because the food and other necessities to be sold are given for free. It is usually assumed that people in a disaster zone or affected areas have little or no purchasing power. However, this can affect the local market negatively because sale reduces, leading to poverty.

ii. Too Western Focused

The western viewpoint of interventions may not fully understand the environment in which they work. Humanitarian groups may fail to consider local conditions (Timothy et al., 2013). In this vein, it should be noted that every problem is different from another. Therefore, there is the need to take situations one by one. The US assistance to Nigerian security problems focuses on western solutions to an ethnoreligious problem. For instance, the Boko-Haram

challenge is both ethnic and religious, while that of IPOB is an ethnic challenge. Therefore, the ethnic and religious factors that the US security interventions have failed to consider must be considered.

iii. Not A Long-Term Solution

One of the reasons against foreign security intervention is that it is not a long-term solution. When calamity strikes, foreign help may make a huge difference in saving lives and easing suffering. However, it does not necessarily cure long-term and systemic problems (Gray, 2019). This is because the root causes of these security challenges, such as poverty, unemployment etc., are not taken care of. Therefore, the solutions provided by the US cannot be lasting because as long as the root causes of these problems still exist, there will always be terrorism and security issues in the country.

Conclusion

Nigeria and the US have had a long-term relationship in the security sector and many other sectors. The relations have yielded and are still yielding both positive and negative consequences. On the positive side, the relations have helped Nigeria increase its military intelligence and human capacity, reduce terrorism, and reduce the impact on the affected communities. However, it has its negative consequences in the sense that it threatens the country's sovereignty, disrupts the local economy, deters foreign investors, and does not provide a lasting solution to Nigeria's security challenges.

Recommendations

The study recommends, based on these findings, that:

- i. The Nigerian government should employ strategic measures to reduce the overreliance on the US for security interventions.
- ii. Furthermore, the US government should extend its aid to programs that could reduce

poverty and unemployment in Nigeria because these are the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Therefore, if these root causes are taken care of, there may be a reduction in the country's security challenges.

- iii. Nigeria can explore other trade relations with other countries of the world. China has been extending its trade relations to Africa, and Nigeria can explore this for the nation's development.

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