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Urban Violence and the Challenges of Nigeria's Foreign Policy under Jonathan's Administration

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Abstract

Against the backdrop that the internal environment of a Nation determines the effectiveness of a Nation's Foreign Policy, this paper examines the challenges encountered by the Nigerian Foreign Policy under Jonathan administration. The main objective is to find out the extent at which the violence in some parts of Nigeria affected Nigeria's foreign relations. Using the 'linkage theory approach', the paper examines the interplay between Nigerian politics and the external image. The main finding of this study is that the over 800 billion naira gulped by the security sector in 2013 would have gone a long way to improve other sectors of the economy. This will in turn improve the foreign relations since there is no sector of the economy that would not in the long run improves the nation's foreign relations. The study concluded that Jonathan administration made some impacts on the eradication of urban violence, but could have definitely done more if it had focused on resolving some of the internal contradictions in the country. This will in turn improve Nigeria's external image. The paper recommended that the war against urban violence should be intensified through much intelligence gathering so as to avoid the leakage pipe it has constituted for the nation's resources rather than diverting almost all the available resources to the sector.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, Urban Violence, Security, National Interest, Jonathan's Administration.

Introduction

Nigeria's foreign policy from its inception in 1958 has been faced with lots of challenges, which are mainly internal in origin. Many challenges have incapacitated the country's foreign relations to some extent. However, these challenges manifest in corruption, insecurity, bad leadership etc. Of these, insecurity has been a major challenge in Nigeria's foreign policy in recent times. However, the increasing violence in the society has been a major source of insecurity and it poses serious threat to governance and wellbeing of the people. The violence is usually in different forms but this work focuses on urban violence.

Urban violence is what happens in the society when the risk factors interact in a situation of conflict. Risk factor in this sense is the existing conditions that can culminate into violence. (Giulia, 2006:6). Some political scientists see violence from

political perspective as part of "contentious politics" or collective political struggle, which includes revolutions, civil war, riots and strikes, and peaceful protest movements. Crime and warfare share some attributes with political violence, but political scientists do not define them as political violence". (Patrick, 2011) In Nigeria's context, Political violence has experienced a dramatic increase in recent years. Nigeria is witnessing a record of high political attacks and insurgencies in its political scene. These series of violence and insurgencies have caused huge loss of lives and damages to properties. In addition, it has contributed immensely to the poor state of the Nigerian economy. This is explainable by the diversion of the country's resources to the security sector, since it is an agency that brings peace to the society. To buttress this, from January to March 2014, not fewer than 582 persons have been killed as reported by the media. (Obinna, 2014:8)

Generally, it has limited the growth and development of the country in various sectors; First, it deters social progress and prosperity, a state enmeshed in violence will not advance, since time and resources will be wasted on strategizing a way out of the violence in the society. Secondly, it destroys human lives, physical asset and reduces people's social relationship. In instances where the violence had consumed a member of a family, relatives of victims will not want to associate with others that may be considered as perpetrators. On the whole, these will create disunity among members of the society.

Thirdly, it tampers with the living standard of the people. This usually arises because properties are usually destroyed during violence and consequently, the citizens in the community will have to use the resources available to them in maintaining their standard of living and also strive to replace what has been destroyed by the violence. Also, the social amenities in such communities will be destroyed, thereby reducing the standards of living of the affected community members. (Salawu, 2010:338). Generally, violence in the political perspective that this study wants to examine is therefore, a situation in which a group decides to use force to ensure that other people of the community accept their decisions. This paper will examine the following objectives:

To examine the extent at which the urban violence has affected Nigeria's foreign policy.

To examine the effort put in place by Jonathan's administration to reduce violence.

Conceptualizing Urban Violence

Political corruption and dictatorial rule can be regarded as the possible causes of violence in the society. In other words, authoritarian system of government usually wants absolute obedience to authority thus tampering with individual freedom at the long run. Conversely, lack of freedom will result into violence (Jerome, 2004).

Consequently, urban violence can be described as a situation that threatens the governability and democratic consolidation of a community or country as the case may be (Singer, 2013:99). In other words, when there is violence, a community becomes difficult to govern. This usually occurs when the citizens are not satisfied with the way the society is ruled by the leaders. Furthermore, violence in most contexts is also viewed from political perspective. Indeed, Averan and Nnorom (2013:6) explained that political violence is the collective attacks within the community against the political regime. Towards this end, it can be deduced that political violence usually arises when citizens of a state do not have confidence in the government that is ruling them.

In situations like this, the citizens feel that the government is ruling in the interest of the few ruling class (Igwe, 2011:5). This result in violence and the society will become ungovernable. In relation to this, Ojo (2006) explained that violence is an option for multiple actors in pursuit of the goals they so much desire. This is what has led to the concept of "normalization of violence" that some scholars have tried to explain. Odion-Akhaine (2007), Ojo (2006), Soyombo (2006), and Igwe (2011) agreed that normalization of violence is a situation whereby violence is used to solve violence. This can be likened to a situation when there is violence in a society and the State decides to resort to the use of military to tackle the insurgency in that part of the country. In the contemporary world, violence has been used to describe the method by which terrorists carry out their activities. James and Groux (2011:4) postulated this to mean:

> A tactic that uses violence or the threat of violence as a coercive strategy to cause fear and political intimidation their methods includes resistance movements, military coups, political assassination and various intra and interstate wars that happens in African states (James and Groux, 2011:4).

Violence in the contemporary world has taken another dimension, which is most of the time in form of terrorism. Terrorism has become common in some parts of Nigeria. This is in form of Boko Haram insurgency in some parts of the Northern geo-political zone, Oodua People's Congress (OPC) in the South West, the Niger Delta Militant in the South South Area and NASSOP in the East. John et al (2007:240) explained that contemporary violence can be regarded has gun violence because violence in the contemporary world has been characterized by the use of weapons (John et al., 2007:420). Also, over 30% of Nigerians have been reported as victims of crime in 2007, (Ibid, 2007:420). On the whole, the idea or concept of urban violence can be said to have changed in the contemporary world since what we used to refer to urban violence is now taking another dimension, encapsulating what is referred to as Political Violence. Towards this end, this paper will be carried out on the effect of political violence, which is the direction at which urban violence has been streamlined into in this contemporary world.

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopts the Linkage Theory as a major framework for its analysis and discussion of the subject matter under consideration. An a framework of analysis, the Linkage Theory was developed and popularized by the weakness inherent in treating the domestic and external environments of a State as being separate in explaining its behavioural patterns outside its borders. Indeed, foreign policy students will not gain much if they continue to treat domestic environment like an island that is totally separate from the external environment and vice versa. The common bilateral and multilateral relations in the world, which has continued to link nations together, have strengthened the linkage school of thought.

Indeed, it has led to interdependence existing among them (Saliu, 2010:311). Conversely, the lack of relationship between domestic and international issues in the early part of 20th century has been eradicated. In other words, for a nation to excel in the international arena there must be a deep understanding and appreciation of the inter-connectedness of the two parts of the existence of a modern state. A state that takes care of its internal environment well will be able to solve most of its external problems. For instance, during the military regime of Abacha in Nigeria, the country was tripped of its membership of most international organizations. This was because Nigeria's economy was bad and corruption was the order of the day. Immediately there was transition of power from the military to a democratically elected government, there was a drastic change as Nigeria became a member of the international organizations like the Commonwealth, non-permanent member of UN Security Council to mention a few.

In addition to the above problems faced by States, that is, insecurity, economic adversity, infrastructure decay, social tension etc. if not addressed promptly could cause a problem on the international stage (Saliu, 2010b:218). This will in turn affect the push of the state's national interest in the international system. In other words, the bad image that a State portrays will continue to limit the performance of such State in the international system. For example, if a foreign investor is coming to Nigeria for the first time and he is welcomed with a total black out on reaching the Muritala Mohammed International Airport, he will be taken back by power failure and reverse his initial plan of investing in Nigeria (Saliu, 2010c:211). Consequently, a country where violence is prevalent will have its external image reversed. This is because, instead of pursuing the national interest that will improve its economy, it will have to focus on issues of security on the domestic front. This will in turn reverse its foreign policy. It is undeniable that that other theories like force theory and Concentric Circle theory can be used to explain urban violence. However, the direct impact of domestic environment with the external environment makes linkage theory the most appropriate model for this study. This theory therefore is a basis for the short and long-term effect of urban violence for Nigeria's pursuit of it national interest (Saliu, 2014:3).

Causes of Urban Violence under Jonathan's Administration

The violence in the Northeastern parts of Nigeria has resulted in huge loss of human lives and destruction of properties worth enormous amount of money. This has had much negative human and economic effects on the country. It has also dealt a deadly blow to the external image of the country. Indeed, the violence in the Northeast, Niger Delta, Plateau and Benue have eroded our social capital and further damaged our taunted image at the time the country was inviting foreign investors (Igwe, 2011:25).

One of the major objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy right from inception is maintenance of the world peace. This has made Nigeria to support the peaceful co-existence of States in Africa. Violence is regarded as a major cause of the underdevelopment of any State. By the time Nigeria became politically independent in October 1960, Agriculture was predominantly the source of income for the majority of its citizens. Indeed, it contributed about 70% of the Gross Domestic Product (Adedipe, 2004:2). It also employed the same percentage of the population and therefore accounted for the 90% of foreign earnings and Federal Government Revenue (Adedipe, 2004:2). The sudden oil boom in Nigeria in the mid 70s swept away the value that was attached to the agricultural sector. Since oil business was majorly done in the urban area, there was mass migration from the rural area to the urban areas. To be precise, according to Igwe (2011:25), the urban settlement rose drastically with about 70% of the entire population of the country. The migration resulted in over concentration in the urban areas and this later led to different economic problems. From the foregoing, the growth of cities, increased poverty, political disenfranchisement, inequality and insecurity (Igwe, 2011:25). From the foregoing, the major causes of urban violence are:

1) Insecurity
2) Inequality and political disenfranchisement
3) Poverty
4) Ethno-Religious Diversity
5) Military History and Police Presence.

Insecurity

Insecurity in this sense means when there is no adequate guard or protection in the society. Accordingly, the different types of insecurity are job insecurity, food insecurity, political insecurity, economic insecurity, financial insecurity and social insecurity to mention a few. Indeed, no matter what form of insecurity, a state might have, one must know that its genesis is traceable to bad government. A government that is characterized by high level of corruption usually forfeits the peace it has. Indeed, a country where illegal practices such as nepotism and favoritism are the order of the day, there is bound to be crisis with the adverse effects. Also, a country whose its economy is not in a good shape is prone to insecurity. For example, the high level of insecurity being experienced in Nigeria today is as a result of the bad

state of its economy. This affects the country in all aspects as its currency has suffered steady devaluation over the years. Apparently, in 2014 alone, Nigeria's currency has been under intense pressure causing her external reserves to drop by 8.7% towards the end of March 2014. This percentage worths a colossal sum of 3.78 billion US Dollars (Obinna, 2014).

Poverty

Conflict also arises in the society because of poverty. The gap between the rich and poor in the society can precipitate violence. More often than not, they are the ones that cause violence and most of the time, they become the victims. It is worthy to mention here that majority of the poor people make a living without criminalizing themselves. That is why they remain poor since most of them would have been introduced to one inappropriate business or the other. A situation where poverty becomes institutionalized and the poor citizens are marginalized is a recipe for violence (Singer, 2013:110).

Although, the cause of violence may be regarded as multifactorial, factors like size, density and age of population do influences the rate of violence in a society. According to UNDP (2005) Nigeria's population stood at 175.7 million. 55% of the population is between ages 16-64. From this statistics, it can be deduced that the higher percentage of Nigeria's population are in the active age and this can make them to be violent in nature. In addition, Nigeria has a per capital income of 2,748 US dollars, as at 2010 it has fallen below Ghana and Cameroun with $10,748 US dollars and $10,758 respectively (Akinboade, 2010).

This cannot be compared with the developed world like United States and the United Kingdom which both have $512,612 and $513,424 respectively (Akinboade, 2010). Furthermore, an over populated urban settlement can also cause violence. When there is high population rate in a particular settlement, the social amenities will be over-utilized, and when this arises, it may affect the provision of amenities, which in-turn can lead to violence.

Inequality and Political Disenfranchisement

In explaining this cause of urban violence, one must examine it from the conflict perspective. Conflict does not support development; since a society that is not living together peacefully will not develop. In some instances, such society will not agree on what social amenities the government should provide or what form of development they prefer. When conflict persists in a community, it usually leads to violence. Unlike poverty, which concentrates on the situation of those at the bottom of the society, inequality shows how resources are distributed across the whole society. It also displays the difference between the income of the rich and the poor people. Generally, countries with high levels of inequality are also likely to have high levels of poverty and those with low levels of inequality usually have low level of poverty (World Bank, 2002).

Inequality can also be linked to how resources are being distributed in the society. For instance, some communities are usually favoured because their members hold important offices in Government. This is not supposed to be so. However, if there is high rate of disparity in the inequality, it can precipitate conflict and later violence. Political disenfranchisement on the other hand is the revocation of the right of suffrage of a person or group of people, or rendering a person's vote less effective, or ineffective. Disfranchisement may occur explicitly through law or implicitly by intimidation or by introducing unreasonable requirements (Jeff, 2006:10). The end result of it is usually violence agitation by the affected persons or groups.

Ethno-Religion Diversity

Ethnic and religious differences remain one of the major causes of conflict in Nigeria. Ultimately, Nigeria has over 250 ethnic groups. Though conflict in Nigeria results from a variety of sources, ethnic identification presents one of the most volatile roots of tension. Thus, ethnic factors play a very critical role in the country's national life. This is because Nigerians uphold strong ethnic and tribal ties, which usually supersede the affection they have for other citizens outside their ethnic groups. The ethnic problem in Nigeria can be traced to the colonial era. The British colonial government divided Nigeria into different regions, on ethnic basis in order to make it easy for them to govern. This division made the Nigeria citizens to be deeply polarized into different ethnic cleavages. Nigerians feel safe with their ethnic groups than with Nigeria as a whole (Huber, 2013:4).

The ethnic composition of Nigeria is particularly challenging, since there are only three (3) recognized dominant ethnic groups in Nigeria whereas there are other minority ethnic groups that are not given much prominence. Problem usually arises when one ethnic group feels another dominates it. This usually causes conflict, and later leads to violence. Furthermore, ethnic tension is usually connected with religious relations. Some conflicts have been identified with certain religions. Also, sometimes a conflict that has an ethnic colouration usually has religious background (Salawu, 2010:336).

Military History and Police

The incursion of the military into Nigerian Politics is traceable to the weakness of the Unitarian government. The first time the military ceased power in Nigeria was on the 18th of January, 1966 with the Coup d'état staged by Major General Kaduna Nzeogwu. This coup brought in Major General Johnson Aguiyi Ironsi as the first Military Head of State. This incursion has significantly been responsible for the problems being experienced by the Nigerian state. The Nigerian Civil War that occurred from 1967 – 1970 resulted to a huge loss of lives and properties. There has been a wide gap between the military and civilian since the country transited from military to civil rule in 1999. The police have also been referred to as a major cause of violence, since some citizens that want to destabilize

the society get arms and ammunition from them. They sometimes join the civilians to disrupt the peace of the society.

Table 1.1: Categories, Types and Manifestations of Violence in Urban Areas
The table below shows the different types and categories of urban violence and how they are manifested.

Category of Violence	Types of Violence by Perpetrators and Victims	Manifestation
Political	• State and non-state violence.	• Guerrilla conflict. • Paramilitary conflict. • Political Assassinations • Armed Conflicts between Political Parties.
Institutional	• Violence of state and other informal institutions. • Including private sector.	• Extra-judicial killings by police. • Physical or psychological abuse by health and education workers. • State and community vigilante-direct social cleansing of gangs and street children. • Lyndring of suspected criminals by community members.
Economic	• Organized crime. • Business interest. • Delinquents. • Robbers.	• Intimidation and violence as a means of resolving economic disputes. • Street theft, robbery and crime. • Kidnapping. • Armed robbery. • Drug trafficking • Car theft and contraband activities. • Small arms dealing. • Assaults including killing and rape in the course of economic crimes. • Trafficking in prostitution.

		• Conflict over scarce resources.
Economic/ Social	• Gangs • Street children (boys and girls). • Ethnic violence.	• Territorial or identity-based turf' violence: robbery, theft. • Communal riots.
Social	• Intimate partner violence inside the home. • Sexual violence (including rape in public area). • Child abuse: boys and girls • Inter-generational conflict between parent and children. • Gratuities/routine daily violence.	• Physical or psychological male-female abuse. • Physical sexual abuse, particularly prevalent in the case of step fathers but also uncles. • Physical and psychological abuse. • Incivility in areas such as traffic, road rage, bar fights and street confrontations. • Arguments that get out of control.

Source: www.UNDPenviromentandurbanization.com (Retrieved on 21/03/2014)

The Effect of Urban Violence on Nigeria Foreign Policy

The Nigerian economy is dependent on the flow of foreign investment and natural resources (Bamidele, 2010:32). And foreign investors contribute immensely to the gross domestic products of most Northern States of Nigeria. Indeed, foreign direct investment was the fastest growing sector in the Northern areas. The Northern zone of Nigeria is also reputed as being a major producer of agricultural products. The violence in the Northern part of country will reduce the foreign investment since no investor will like to stay in a place where the safety of its workers cannot be guaranteed. Expectedly, it will also affect agricultural activities and general food supply.

To further understand the effect of urban violence on Nigeria's foreign policy the problem that Nigeria's foreign policy is facing in the world needs to be examined. All the problems lead to low productivity of its foreign policy; the Nigerian foreign policy has suffered some setbacks on account of challenges it is battling with (Saliu, 2010:208). The country has walked into a stigmatized world. Whenever a black man commits a crime in any part of the world, people of the world are usually almost certain that it is a Nigerian even before proper investigation commences. Surprisingly, this bad image created for Nigeria is generally accepted by the world (Saliu, 2013).

A country attracts investors if it has a good image. No matter how active Nigeria is on the international stage; what other nations feel about Nigeria is very important. Other nation's interactions with Nigeria depends on what they feel about the country. Even, some African countries feel that Nigeria has not been a good representative of the continent (Huber, 2013). In addition, a point worthy of mentioning here is the uneasy relationship that existed between Nigeria and America. This made President Obama to avoid Nigeria when he visited Africa (Saliu, 2010). Furthermore, on 26th February 2014, two Nigerian British men, Michael Adebolajo aged 29 and Michael Adebowale, 22 were given life sentence and 45 years jail term respectively for the murder of a British Soldier, Lee Rigby. This has affected the already dented image of Nigeria Negatively (Yusuf, 2014:2).

With the incessant religious and sectarian crises in the Northern part of Nigeria, United States of America and her allies might see Nigeria as a threat to the global peace. This will limit the investment and philanthropic interests of the United States in Nigeria. Furthermore, on November 13, 2013, the State Department Terrorist Group listed Boko Haram and Ansaru has a foreign terrorist organizations. The United States Department of State said it had to place the two groups on the terrorist list because Boko Haram alone has killed over 3,000 people in Nigeria (Brown, 2013).

Nigerians who had another perspective to the inclusion criticized the listing; some said it was the climax of the uneasy relationship that had existed between USA and Nigeria. It is believed that right from Obasanjo's administration, Nigeria ceased to have good relations with the United States. Although, the government through its then Information Minister, Labaran Maku tried to sell and embrace the development, they argued that this would enable the United States to support Nigeria in its fight against terrorism. The patterns of reactions of Nigerians can be categorized into two; the Nigeria executive and legislatures supported the listing as it has been mentioned earlier, by the response of the Information Minister. The opposition party in Nigeria All Progressive Congress (APC) condemned the listing, adding that Nigeria did not need the support of western power, all what Nigeria needed was the support of the neighboring countries especially Niger Republic from where the terrorists entered the country (Elombah, 2014:2).

Some Nigerians also have the same view with the opposition party. However, the Government stood its ground on applauding the United States for deeming it fit to include Boko Haram as part of the terrorist groups. Nevertheless, none of the views should be totally rejected; this is because the Government of Nigeria has its own reason, which is that it needs the United States of America to push its interest at the United Nations. If the United States finally castigates Nigeria, it might encourage the other countries from the West to boycott Nigeria in the pursuit of its international interests. This will in turn reduce the flow of foreign direct investment. In addition, this might also affect Nigeria's crude oil sales, since oil is the mainstay of Nigeria economy and the major importer of Nigeria's Crude Oil is

United States.

Also, the support Nigeria gets from the donor agencies might be stopped and if this is stopped, it will definitely affect all the sectors of the Nigeria economy. This is because there is no key sector in the Nigeria economy that is not being supported by donors. The country will not be able to push its interest further on the international scene, especially its intention of being a permanent member of UN Security Council in the nearest future.

On the whole, the effect of urban violence on Nigeria Foreign Policy can be extracted as follows. First, the urban violence in Nigeria might worsen the relationship between Nigeria and United States if United States decides to boycott Nigeria in all its activities. This can happen if Nigeria is seen as a promoter of terrorists' act. The second point is that, since the US is a very powerful country and directs most of the affairs on the international agencies i.e. Department for International Development (DFID) supporting health and education and the World Bank supporting the Agricultural and Educational sectors of Nigeria. If the United State stops all this support, it will definitely affect the economy negatively.

Furthermore, the climate of hostility that characterizes the Nigeria foreign policy might continue. The way Nigerians are being treated abroad might continue, this is because Nigerians are fast wearing the terrorist tag globally. This might even get to a stage where Nigerian citizens will not be allowed to visit some countries.

Eradication of Urban Violence in Jonathan's Administration: An Assessment

The current war against urban violence in Nigeria has exposed itself to many criticisms. Most Nigerians believe that the war against the violence in the Northeastern part of Nigeria is for the selfish interest of the Presidency. This is because most Nigerians believe that the state of emergency declared in the three North Eastern states of Yobe, Borno and Adamawa was because the Presidency has realized that it will not be able to win election in those states come 2015. To buttress this, the President himself disclosed that there is a rise of insurgent violence in eight other states as well including Nasarawa, where scores of Police Officers were killed. This statement made the citizens of Nigeria to believe that there must be a political undertone behind the declaration of State of Emergency in the aforementioned three states (Botelho, 2013).

Furthermore, the war against urban violence in Nigeria has been parochial in nature, though efforts have been made to eradicate the menace. Suspects caught are usually abused, tortured and subjected to other inhumane methods in order to extort information from them. Though it helps sometimes, but most of the time, it doesn't. For instance, some citizens were wrongly and selfishly labeled by some 'ambitious' military personnel as terrorists'. This was what led to the killing of seven (7) occupants of an uncompleted building on Bamanga Tukur Street, Abuja. These occupants that were later identified as bicycle riders were taught to be insurgent members.

Notwithstanding, it is important to mention the achievements of the Jonathan administration in curbing the excesses of urban violence especially the terrorist attacks. This is because the security sector of the nation has been fully harmed, this made Jonathan's adviser on media, Dr. Doyin Okupe to say in an interview with some journalists that 'the progress of the armed forces is quite encouraging and they believe that if things go on like how it was the end of Boko Haram was about to come' (www.Thisday.com retrieved 17/03/2014). It is worthy to mention that the effect of the security vote was displayed when a terrorist group attacked Maiduguri town on March 6, 2014. At this point in time, fighter jets from the Air Force overpowered the invaders; this made the joint task force to kill over 200 members of the Boko Haram sect, several others were captured at Polo and Sulimants (They are communities close to Maiduguri) (Mamah et al, 2014).

From the foregoing, it can be deduced that the effort of eradicating urban violence has been intensified by the Goodluck Jonathan's administration since it recognizes it effects on the external image and foreign investment which is key to the development of Nigerian economy.

Conclusion

In this paper, we have attempted a study of urban violence and its challenges on Nigerian foreign policy under Jonathan's administration. It was observed that some factors usually cause violence and that there are different types of violence. As can be clearly seen in the paper, urban violence poses a serious challenge to the country's foreign policy, which is germane to the achievement of its national interest. The Nigeria foreign policy, which was the toast of its citizens because of its profound focus on its citizen's welfare, has suddenly been faced with bad image.

However, Jonathan administration has made some impacts on the eradication of urban, violence, but can definitely do more if it focuses on resolving some internal contradictions. This will go a long way to improve the external image of the country. To eradicate urban violence, a number of measures have been recommended. The most notable one put forward by the study is that employing more intelligence gathering so as to put an end to the massive drain of the nation's resources caused by the menace.

Recommendations

The main cause of urban violence, which is poverty, and unequal distribution of resources should be tackled. If this is resolved to a certain extent and a fair number of youths are employed they will not have time for violence. An identity should be created for the illegal groups, that is street boys. Their social exclusion from the society frustrates them. This prompts them to be violent in nature. Resources dedicated to education should be increased. When the citizens are highly educated, most of those who involve in violence today will not do so. Education should be made affordable to all the Citizens of Nigeria. This will also reduce the rate at which

children will go for street begging. Infrastructural facilities should be provided by all local authorities, the residents of a community should be involved in the governing of their community. This will not only create a sense of involvement and belonging but will also go a long way in discouraging the aggrieved citizens from embarking on any destructive activity since they were part of those that contributed or supervised the construction of the facilities in the community.

The capacity to innovate, the quality of Nigeria's democracy and the ability to build consensus and resolve internal contradictions specifically the insurgency in the North would go a long way to redeem the image of the country and also attract foreign investment. Intelligence gathering, infiltration and related activities should be directed at points of vulnerability of urban violence. This will go a long way to eradicate the menace of urban violence and also avoid the leakage pipe it has constituted.

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