GLOBAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

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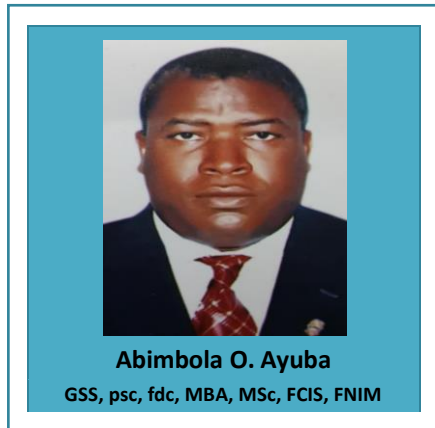
INTRODUCTION

In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and the subsequent "war on terrorism", the global security debate has become fixated on a narrow slice of security concerns and remains steeped in traditional understandings of security.[i] This is in contrast to the post-Cold War, pre-9/11 era, during which a broader definition of security had slowly gained recognition in policy-making circles—even if translating these insights into actual policies was still quite limited. The Bush administration in the United States of America had embraced the return to a security policy centred on the use of force with a relish-as manifested in its invasion of Iraq and its posture in favour of pre-emptive war. But it is true that the reaction by other governments has been more nuanced and ambiguous.

For instance, although the European Security Strategy declaration adopted by the European Council in December 2003 acknowledges that: "none of the new threats is purely military; nor can any be tackled by purely military means", the document endorses more resources for defence and the transformation of European armies "into more flexible, mobile forces." Ultimately, it gives priority to military intervention and relatively short shrift to non-military ways of dealing with security challenges. Traditionally, security has been seen as closely related to the threat or use of violence, and military means are regarded as central to the provision of security.[ii] This may once have made sense, when conflicts took place predominantly between different countries, when territorial control was a key objective, and when uniformed soldiers were the combatants. But over the last several decades, this type of conflict has become more of the exception than the norm.

Africa has experienced a significant number of conflicts which had threatened regional security. Some notable ones are the war in Mozambique, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zaire, Algeria, Morocco, and Chad. More worrisome is the war in Sudan, while the DRC war is subsiding; that of Sudan and Somalia is still raging. To further compound this problem is the impact of the 'Arab Spring' which led to popular revolt and civil war in Libya and Egypt.

Nigeria fought a bitter civil war which lasted from 1967-1970. The country is still confronted with internal insurgencies such as in Niger Delta Area, Jos, Kaduna, Maiduguri, Kano, Kaduna and Abuja, just to mention a few examples. All these conflicts are usually facilitated by use of proliferated weapons, proceeds from cross border crimes such as drug money, human trafficking and prostitution. The greatest threat confronting Nigeria today beyond kidnapping and armed robbery is the threat posed by terrorist activities. Up till mid-2009, the word terrorism was merely a word in English to many Nigerians, some even could never imagine that such an act could ever take place in Nigeria at least not to the scale of suicide bombing and increased incidence of Improvised Explosive Devices IED. The October 1, 2010 (Independence Day) bombing became the watershed

in the life of a hitherto peaceful Nation- Nigeria. What was lost on many Nigerians was that acts of terrorism had always taken place within our borders and was just been classified under many preferred words such as riots, boundary clashes, community disturbances, assassination, agitation and religious mayhem among others.

Following the October 1, 2010 bombing, Nigeria witnessed series of other bomb blasts mostly in the core North of Nigeria. These acts began to spread across the entire Northern Nigeria and up till the Middle Belt areas and up till the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, with the massive bomb attack at a major bus terminal at Nyanya, near the Abuja city. The magnitude of the dastardly bombing and the scale of devastation brought new questions which elicited quick answers to the way Nigeria approaches the control and management of terror. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the global security situation while highlighting current threats to the Nigerian Security environment.

1) AIM AND SCOPE
The aim of this paper is to provide security assessment and overview of the global environment with a view to suggesting the way forward. To achieve this, the presentation in this paper covers the following areas:

a. Conceptual Definitions/Clarifications.
b. Overview of Challenging global Security Policy Precepts.
c. Threats to Nigeria's National Security.
d. Impact of Terrorism on Society and the Church Environment.
e. Measures to curb or reduce effects on the Church.
f. Way Forward.

2) CONCEPTUAL DEFINITIONS/CLARIFICATIONS
In addressing global security trend, three critical issues need to be out into proper perspective. These are *Global Security, National Security, Insecurity and Terrorism*.

a) Global Security
Global Security is defined as *the peaceful intercourse of all nations for a parallel advancement of individual to societal well-being and quality of life, and actions taken by nations to guarantee shared sustainability, safety, and continuing that challenges mutual security*.[iii]

b) National Security
Ogaba Oche, a small arms expert sees *National Security* as *"... the aggregation of the security interests of the individuals, political entities, human associations and social groups (including religious organizations), which make up a nation"*.[iv] Ayuba, an expert on conflict, security and small arms proliferation on his part defined National Security as, "*the totality of all the efforts taken to protect the territorial integrity and the cherished values of a nation, improve the living standards of its people, as well as securing the freedom of its citizenry from all forms of anxiety, threats to life and property and ensuring their safety from natural or man-made disasters*".[v] The definition of Ayuba is hereby adopted for use in this lecture because it is comprehensive and covers the interests of all contending stakeholders on the subject of security.

c) Insecurity

Insecurity is the exact opposite of security. Once any constituent of security is either breached or threatened, then the emergent condition is referred to as insecurity. Insecurity therefore simply means the absence or failure of security.

d) Terrorism

Kofi Anan, former United Nations Secretary General defines terrorism as *"… a global threat with global effects; … its consequences affect every aspect of the United Nations agenda – from development to peace to human rights and the rule of law. … By its very nature, terrorism is an assault on the fundamental principles of law, order, human rights, and the peaceful settlement of disputes upon which the United Nations is established. … The United Nations has an indispensable role to play in providing the legal and organizational framework within which the international campaign against terrorism can unfold."* However, the United States Department of Defense defines terrorism as: *"The calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious or ideological".* This definition is most suited for this discuss and is hereby adopted.

3) OVERVIEW OF CHALLENGING GLOBAL SECURITY POLICY PRECEPTS

There are 2 contending schools of thought on security; the militarist school or traditional school and the welfarist or humanist school of thought. Thus the new thinking is that the military school which focus on the use of armed force to ensure security is political and may not serve the entire humanity. This is true if we consider the use of military force by late Colonel Ghadafi and the current use of the military in Syria where over many Syrian citizens opposed to the government have been killed. Traditional, military-focused, approaches are often inappropriate to these global challenges for a number of reasons:

a. Weapons do not necessarily provide security. This is true for adversarial states armed with weapons of such destructive power that no defence is possible. It is true in civil wars where the easy availability of weapons empowers the ruthless but offers little defence for civilians. And it was true on September 11th, when a determined group of terrorists struck with impunity against the world's most militarily powerful country. Proliferation of weapons and military technologies is being recognized as a growing concern for global security.

b. Real security in a globalizing world cannot be provided on a purely national basis (or even on the basis of limited alliances). A multi-lateral and even global approach is needed to deal effectively with a multitude of trans-boundary challenges.

c. The traditional focus on State (or regime) security is inadequate and needs to encompass safety and well-being of the State's population. If individuals and communities are insecure, State security itself can be extremely fragile. Security without justice will not produce a stable peace. Democratic governance and a vibrant civil society may ultimately be more imperative for security than an army.

d. Non-military dimensions have an important influence on security and stability. Nations around the world particularly the weakest countries and communities, confront a multitude of pressures. They face a debilitating combination of rising competition for resources, severe environmental breakdown, the resurgence of infectious diseases, poverty and growing wealth disparities, demographic pressures, and joblessness and livelihood insecurity.

Many of today's challenges cannot be resolved by traditional (i.e. military-focused) security policies. Unlike traditional military threats emanating from a determined adversary, many of today's security challenges are risks and vulnerabilities shared across borders. While the poorest countries are most directly affected, none of these issues respect human-drawn borders, and they might be perceived as "problems without passports." The pressures facing societies and people everywhere do not automatically or necessarily trigger violence. But they can translate into political dynamics that lead to rising polarization and radicalization.

Worst-case outcomes are more likely where grievances are left to fester, where people are struggling with mass unemployment or chronic poverty, where state institutions are weak or corrupt, where arms are easily available, and where political humiliation or despair over the lack of hope for a better future may drive people into the arms of extremist movements. Insecurity can manifest itself in ways other than violent conflict. The litmus test is whether the well-being and integrity of society are so compromised that they lead to possibly prolonged periods of instability and mass suffering. As early as the 1970s and 1980s, a number of efforts were launched to challenge the dominant narrow approach to security. These efforts gained particular traction after the end of the Cold War. Several high-profile international commissions, NGOs and academics developed a range of innovative concepts refining and redefining security by including social, economic, and environmental dimensions. These became known under headings such as common security, comprehensive security and environmental security. Human security, the most encompassing of these concepts, was first spelt out in detail in the 1994 edition of the Human Development Report. The gathering discourse raised a number of critical questions which included but were not limited to the following:

   i.   What is the object of security?
   ii.   Who is to be protected?
   iii. What are the "threats"?
   iv.   Who is to provide security?
   v.   And by what means?

The unfolding discourse challenged orthodox assumptions about national security, deepening it "upwards" (from national to global security) and "downwards" (from territorial security focused on states and governments to people security-individuals and communities), and widening it by arguing that non-military dimensions, such as social well-being and environmental integrity, are important prerequisites for ensuring security.

4) THREATS TO NIGERIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

Apart from the global contending issues on security, Nigeria belongs to the African Region and is a member of the African Union. Thus, whatever affects Africa must affect Nigeria. A conflict or situation of insecurity in any part of Africa may have huge impact on Nigeria. Typical examples include the upsurge of refugees with the collateral impact on food and human security.

In the same vein, Nigeria is a leading member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nigeria's has made significant contributions to sub-regional security in the early 90's to mid-2000. The ECOMOG Forces helped to quell the war in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Cote D'Ivoire, among others. Though ECOMOG was a sub-regional body in which Nigeria played leading role, this emphasizes the fact that Nigeria does not exist in isolation; and Nigeria is indeed a

responsible member of several global, regional and sub-regional groupings and organizations which help to shape her national, economic, social-political, military and diplomatic interests; and indeed her national interest.

Current trends show that the major threats to Nigeria's National Security include the following:

i. Terrorism.
ii. Arms Proliferation.
iii. Armed Robbery.
iv. Kidnapping and Hostage Taking.
v. Drug Smuggling.
vi. Currency Trafficking.
vii. Child and Human Trafficking.
viii. Prostitution.
ix. Oil and Economic Sabotage.
x. Environmental Disaster (e.g. Earthquakes, flooding, landslides and famine).

While all each of these threats is serious in all its ramifications, this paper will however focus its discuss on Terrorism, because it constitutes the front burner in the Nation's and has a hydra-headed nature that has defied all attempts to tackle or decimate. Moreover, its extension to Church security is of paramount interest to Christians.

5) TERRORISM
The three operative words in the Terrorism defined earlier are:

a. Violence.
b. Fear.
c. Intimidation.

5.1   Objectives of Terrorism
The main objectives of terrorist groups are to influence by COERCION, work at INTIMIDATION of their target group and elicit PROVOCATION of government and their sympathizers. In order to influence an audience beyond the immediate victims, terrorists:

a. Acts of violence are committed, to draw the attention of the local populace, the government, and the world to their cause.
b. Attacks are planned to obtain the greatest publicity, choosing targets that symbolize what they oppose.
c. Effectiveness of the terrorist act lies not in the act itself, but in the public's or the government's reaction to the act.

The terrorist will do everything possible to draw the attention of the people, the government and the world to their cause by committing acts of violence. Thus:

a. Victim is seldom the target.
b. The target is general public, the government and international community.

It is noteworthy to mention that the media plays a crucial part in the terrorist strategy by giving terrorists international recognition. For instance in Nigeria today, the media gives great attention to any bombing or explosion anywhere in Nigeria than even human development issues.

5.2 Immediate Goals
The immediate goals of terrorists are:

a. Recognition for a cause.
b. Elicit government reaction/ provoke overreaction.
c. Embarrass government and military or security forces.
d. Show governments inability to protect its citizens.
e. Demonstrate threat credibility.
f. Discourage outside assistance.

5.3 Long Term Goals
Their long term goals are to:

a. Influence local, national, international policy.
b. Gain political recognition as representing a political or ethnic *group.*
c. Disrupt and discredit infrastructure to support an insurgency.
d. Cause dramatic changes in government.

5.4 Terrorist Targets
Terrorist targets include the following:
a. Anyone or anything can be a target/victim of a terrorist attack
b. Military at risk because it represents entrenched power
c. Possible military targets (targets may change as security is heightened). Arms and Ammunition, Command & Control Facilities, key leaders and persons perceived to be supporting government.

5.5 Terrorist Tactics
Some common terrorist tactics are:
Bombing: cheap, easy to produce and has variable uses. As a matter of fact, NATO has classified all terrorist bombs as Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). IED Sub-classifications include:
- **Delivery means:** vehicle, laid charges, postal, bicycle, suicide bombing, car bombs.
- **Activation means:** command, action by target, time delay
- **Usage:** Tactical (against an individual) Strategic (aircraft/mall)
- **Hoaxes:** To further complicate counter-terrorist operations
- **Arson:** Incendiary devices are cheap/easy to make; most popular method of starting fires is with a time delay incendiary device…often in a cigarette packet or cassette tape container
- **Hijacking***:* Often the hijacked vehicle will be associated with a future terrorist act.
- **Ambushes:** Well planned ambushes seldom fail.
- **Kidnapping**: For ransom or prisoner exchange.
- **Hostage Taking:** Relatively new and popular tactic.
- **Assassinations:** Oldest tactic but still being used.

5.6 Understanding Terrorism and Terrorist Self-Image
It is important to note that Terrorists:

❖ Do not see themselves as "evil".
❖ Believe they are legitimate combatants, fighting for what they believe in by whatever means possible.
❖ Want to see acceptance of phrase "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter".
❖ Will take pains to foster a "Robin Hood" image in hopes of swaying public opinion to their cause.

5.7 Categories of Terrorist Groups
A Terrorist group's choice of targets and tactics is often a function of the group's government affiliation. Understanding this helps security planners foresee potential targets, sophistication of intelligence & weaponry:

- **Non-State supported:** a terrorist group that operates autonomously, receives no support from any government
- **State-supported:** a terrorist group that operates alone but receives support from one or more governments
- **State-directed:** a terrorist group that operates as an agent of a government, receives substantial intelligence, logistics, and operational support

5.8 Impact of Terrorism on Society and the Church Environment
The discussion here will be focussed on the impact of terrorism on the society and the church environment.

Society
A terrorist dominated society leads to sudden change in the occupational and societal patterns in that given society. For instance, States in Nigeria which have been afflicted with terrorist gangs have lost their character, night life, economic lifelines. Expatriates and diplomats are usually the first to flee. They will be followed by non-indigenes. Businesses gradually collapse as lives and properties become threatened. Consequently, a terrorist-ridden area becomes a pariah area, no-go area while the terrorists' cells begin to appear more to carry out daring assaults; collect royalties and punish or kill perceived government sympathizers. Now let's take a look at the Church.

The Church
Since the church is a sub-sector of a larger society, any act of terrorism that affects the society would equally have collateral impact on the church. Once the fear factor is rooted in the society, fear of bomb attacks or assassination takes root attendance of church and worshippers would automatically dwindle.

The situation may be further exasperated when terrorist attacks are targeted at Churches as it is now a common feature in Borno, Nasarawa, Kaduna, Bauchi and Yobe. Thus, it should be understood that the church is neither insulated from terrorist attacks nor is it immune to being infiltrated by terrorist cells. Conflicts within the Church groups may lead some disgruntled members to join terrorist groups or gain their sympathy to inflict havoc on church properties,

thereby reducing patronage. There is need for the church to be more vigilant and responsive to emerging security situation in the society.

6) HINTS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

The following precautions may assist preventing one to become a target of opportunity. These precautions may provide some degree of protection, and can serve as practical and psychological deterrents to would-be terrorists:

a. Schedule direct flights if possible and avoid stops in high-risk airports or areas. Consider other options for travel, such as trains.
b. Be aware of what you discuss with strangers or what may be overheard by others.
c. Try to minimize the time spent in the public area of an airport, which is a less protected area. Move quickly from the check-in counter to the secured areas. On arrival, leave the airport as soon as possible.
d. As much as possible, avoid luggage tags, dress and behavior that may identify you as a soft target national such as an American.
e. Keep an eye out for suspicious abandoned packages or briefcases. Report them to airport security or other authorities and leave the area promptly.
f. Avoid obvious terrorist targets such as places where Americans and Westerners are known to congregate.

7) TRAVEL TO HIGH-RISK AREAS

If you must travel in an area where there has been a history of terrorist attacks or kidnapping, make it a habit to:

a. Discuss with your family what they would do in the event of an emergency. Make sure your affairs are in order before leaving home.
b. Register with your embassy or consulate upon arrival.
c. Remain friendly but be cautious about discussing personal matters, your itinerary or program.
d. Leave no personal or business papers in your hotel room.
e. Watch for people following you or "loiterers" observing your movements.
f. Keep a mental note of safe havens such as police stations, hotels, hospitals.
g. Avoid predictable times and routes of travel and report any suspicious activity to local police, and the nearest embassy or consulate of your country.
h. Select your own taxi cabs at random. Don't take a vehicle that is not clearly identified as a taxi. Compare the face of the driver with the one posted on his or her license.
i. If possible, travel with others.
j. Be sure of the identity of visitors before opening the door of your hotel room. Don't meet strangers at unknown or remote locations.
k. Refuse unexpected packages.
l. Formulate a plan of action for what you will do if a bomb explodes or there is gunfire nearby.
m. Check for loose wires or other suspicious activity around your car.
n. Be sure your vehicle is in good operating condition in case you need to resort to high-speed or evasive driving.
o. Drive with car windows closed in crowded streets. Bombs can be thrown through open windows.

p. If you are ever in a situation where somebody starts shooting, drop to the floor or get down as low as possible. Don't move until you are sure the danger has passed. Do not attempt to help rescuers and do not pick up a weapon. If possible, shield yourself behind or under a solid object. If you must move, crawl on your stomach.

8) MEASURES TO CURB OR REDUCE EFFECTS OF TERRORISM ON THE CHURCH

The Church needs to rise up and urgently begin to consider proactive measures aimed at dealing with emergent threats to the Church's properties, worshippers and consider better protection measures. This may require a total overhaul of the current arrangements and select an empirically tested model which would re-position the church to dealing with threats by undertaking adequate threat evaluation, analysis; and providing standard early-warning system which would guide the Church's Security Council in dealing with insecurity.

9) THE WAY FORWARD

The way forward is for the Church to reconsider the following:

a. The idea of members carrying heavy personal items into the Church premises needs to be discouraged. Many Church members engage in trading openly and clandestinely. Thus, they bring items meant for sale during services or cloth items or provisions. They need to be discouraged. This practise, if it remains unchecked or unsupervised, may be exploited by enemies of the Church or other evil-doers.
b. The Church needs to adequately fund its Security Council to effectively plan, train and equip its leadership and followership for rapid response to emergencies.
c. The Church needs to improve on its intelligence gathering and monitoring capacities. Fitting of surveillance systems and infra red devices may be helpful to aid physically security efforts.
d. The Church needs to increase capacity for inter-agency cooperation and improve on capacity to achieved synergy among its constituent parts.
e. The Church membership requires constant education on the need for stricter measures to be emplaced.

10) CONCLUSION

This paper has attempted to expose the contending global security precepts. It was mentioned that there are 2 contending schools of thought on security; the militarist school or traditional school and the welfarist or humanist school of thought. It was also emphasized that the new thinking is for more focus to be placed on the welfarist or humanist ideology which could prevent insecurity ab-initio. The paper further examined some threats to Nigeria's National Security which included terrorism, arms proliferation, smuggling, drug peddling and natural disasters to name a few.

Terrorism was further discussed in details while stating that the main objectives of terrorist groups was to influence by COERCION, work at INTIMIDATION of their target group and elicit PROVOCATION of government and their sympathizers. Other measures to provide better understanding of the nature of terrorists, their objectives and strategies were discussed while mention was made of the impact of terrorism on the society and the Church It was mentioned that the Church, being a sub-sector of the larger society, is not immune to threats of terrorism and would therefore need to adopt proactive measures to improve on her capacity to deal with emerging threats. Some of the suggested ways forward included recommendations that the

Church would critically review the safety culture of members bringing heavy bags and sacks into the Church premises which might become a potential soft target for terrorist to sneak in weapons during services. Robust funding of security activities was solicited while a more pragmatic and proactive measure was advocated.

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