

**NATIONAL SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES.
HUMAN SECURITY AS ANTIDOTE TO INSECURITY.**

By

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Abstract

The prevalent notion of insecurity as inadequate 'policing' and protection misses the point. Without tackling the underlying drivers of abject poverty and lack of opportunities, efforts aimed at 'investing' billions of naira at national security challenges can only produce same result as in the past money down the drains. If the national responses to security challenges are to be effective and sustainable, approach to insecurity has to be reviewed to contain one that addresses the forgotten issues...Human Security. This unrecognised aspect of national security is what this paper seeks to shed light on.

INTRODUCTION

The dominant view on national security is the primacy of the security of a federation and its sovereignty and territorial integrity in addition to the lives, liberties and property. According to Abubakar, "Some of the major security problems currently confronting the nation include: political and electioneering conflicts, socio-economic agitations, ethno-religious crises, ethnic militias, boundary disputes, cultism, criminality and organised crimes" (2007).

The prevailing notion above illustrates security as need for adequate policing for defence and protection of the nation from threats. This notion is not all inclusive as national security is also a state or condition where our values, beliefs, governance, unity, way of life, welfare and well-being as a nation and people are protected and

continuously enhanced. It should also be noted that focus on protection alone is not the way forward for national security. Rather, continuous enhancement also extends to prevention, response and rebuilding.

Equating security to policing highlights security to be focused on the armament of the governmental protection agencies, i.e. military, police and secret service and emphasises defence. This view is narrow and seems to contain all other existing insecurity issues in the blind spot. There is need for the redefinition of national security to one more people-centred, one which recognises the need to protect a nation's people from threats other than just physical insecurity, and one which not only protects but also empowers people and societies. All of these in a manner which will result in tackling the causative aspect of insecurity as opposed to focusing on defence which is more of a reactive attitude. This is human security.

This unrecognised aspect of national security is what this paper seeks to shed light on. The justification is that human security is the aspect which focuses on poverty, lack of opportunities, poor education, unemployment, and many more are actually representations of the root causes of insecurity.

The stance this paper takes is that human security, i.e. a people-centred view and approach is necessary to achieve national security. If the causes of insecurities are not tackled, then the government continuing to put huge sums into what it perceives as national security will only produce the same results witnessed in the past, money down the drains.

The immense importance of national security is evident in Esiemokhai's statement that "in an environment where development is security, and security is development, the consequences of such (insecurity) acts catch up very quickly with the system" (2010). The contribution this presentation seeks to make is to bring forth new insights within the context of national security beyond: physical insecurity, events seeking military or police intervention and into human security, a more encompassing and effective method to address national security given its 'from the beginning to the end' approach. The ultimate objective of this paper is to describe

how human security can be more effective and sustainable solution to insecurity. The format of this paper hereon, is to describe the current perception of what national security is, then highlight the realistic view of what national security truly entails, and then a look on how human security is the way forward.

The National Security Question - Perception

When most discuss national insecurity, their perception of addressing it is usually through policing and military armament. A typical example is Esiemokhai (2007) who suggested overt and covert military and under-cover operations measures should be taken. This has led to huge financial implications given the amount being invested in security institutions.

The proof of this is evident in Nigeria's budgetary proposal allocations. In 2012, out of a total of 4.74trillion Naira proposal, a whopping 921.91billion Naira was allocated to security. This is for the ministries, departments and agencies under the institution (Abubakar & Hassan 2011; Iredia 2011). Meanwhile in 2010, with a total budget of 4.07trillion naira, total allocation for security was 448.39billion Naira (with 231.99 towards defence and 216.4 billion naira towards police formation) (Sammyshow 2010). That is, within 2 years national security requirements in Nigeria have raised 473.52billion Naira.

Basically, from the allocation, it seems when it comes to security, government only spends on the ministries, departments and agencies. This in Nigeria is typically managing and acquiring staffs and weapons for the agencies. These are, the Military, the police, the State Secret Service, the National Intelligence Agency and the National Security Adviser Agency. Please note that no allocation is towards the people in the society.

It is apparent that the government is a subscriber to the tired liberal argument that spending more equals better results. It is however apparent that this is not necessarily true given the continual and even in some cases increment in insecurity which are being experienced through robbery, armed violence and organised acts of

