INSECURITY SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION IN NIGERIA: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE

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Abstract
This study attempts to have a critical discourse on insecurity situation and human rights violation in Nigeria. It appraised the extent herders-farmers clash stimulates insecurity and human rights violation in Nigeria. This study is a qualitative research which focused on the secondary method of eliciting data from existing sources. The study reveals, among others, that herders-farmers clash have significant positive effect on human rights violation in Nigeria. The study conclude that government and other relevant stakeholders have not taken appropriate proactive measures to tackling herders-farmers clash and other human rights abuses and violations in Nigeria. The study recommends for a better synergy between the government at all levels and other relevant stakeholders in legislating and implementing anti-open grazing laws to curtail herders-farmers clash.
Keywords: Insecurity, Human rights, Violation, Herdsmen, Separatist agitation, Police brutality

Introduction

Any genuine democracy anchors its foundation on the rule of law, a principle which demands that people in positions of authority should exercise their power within a constraining framework of well-established public norms rather than in an arbitrary or purely discretionary manner on the basis of their own ideology. The rule of law requires that citizens as well, should respect and comply with the legal frameworks even when their personal interests conflicts with others'. The law should be the same for everyone, and everyone has access to the protection of law.

Nigeria is a signatory to notable international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), among others, and by voluntarily ratifying those international human rights treaties under international law, create legal obligations upon her to be bound by such treaties. Kutigi (2017) succinctly puts it that the fact that Nigeria ratified these treaties in 1993 indicates that the country is committed to ensuring that the citizens are guaranteed the rights embodied in the pact.

In recent years, we have had Boko Haram insurgents, an Islamic terrorist group in the Northern region whose jihadist agenda was to stop western education. In the

Niger Delta, there has been an unrest perpetuated by the Ogoni and Ijaw nations who feels that they are being exploited by the Nigerian government and the foreign oil companies. In the East, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) also contributed to the cases of insecurity in Nigeria in their agitation for a Biafran state. The Southwest, though less violent in nature, equally agitated for Oduduwa nation. The Middle Belt also calls for a separate nation. Some of these agitations were non-violent but some of their protests had led to fear, injury, and death (Adegoke, 2014).

Insecurity is of various forms, they include bodily insecurity, emotional insecurity, food insecurity, economic insecurity, political insecurity, environmental insecurity, physical insecurity, among others (Afolabi, 2022). The focus of this study is on the physical insecurity which produces other forms of insecurity resultingin insurgency, terrorism, and other forms of human rights violation in Nigeria.

Fundamentally, constitution of Nigeria has provisions which guarantees and ensures the safety and protection of Nigerians and their human rights. These rights includes but not limited to: freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, execution, unfair and unequal treatment, expression, association, dignity of human person, conscience and religion, as enshrined in chapter four of the 1999 Constitution as amended. These rights, as well noted by Anatsui and Azeez (2011) are universal, inalienable, indivisible, non-discriminatory and fundamental to human existence, and an attempt to violate these rights brings about insecurity.

In recent times, there has been a persistent clash between herders and farmers across the country which has resulted in the loss of loved ones, investment and absence of safety in most part of the country (Onifade, Imhonopi and Urim, 2013). In a bid to forestall peaceful co-existence among Nigerians, the Southern Governors Forum on the 19th day of October, 2021 banned open grazing across the regions and mandated all the state legislative assemblies within the region to enact the anti-grazing laws as a legal framework to back up the move. Beyond the south, Benue and Taraba states had earlier enacted the Anti- Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law, 2017 which they sincerely believed will accommodate the interest of both the herders and the farmers. Unfortunately, these laws have rather become a subject of criticisms from the public, the press, and the political and religious leaders especially the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, the surrogate of the Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria, who maintained that the laws are unconstitutional and inconsistent with certain provisions of the Land Use Act, 1978.

Besides, the issues of separatist agitations and police brutality are other dreaded monsters that have generated serious security threat to the country. The resurgence of the Biafran separatism in Nigeria is largely a reaction to a perceived ethno-religious dominance and perennial neglect orchestrated by various administrations

against the Igbo nation in Nigeria (Nwangwu, 2023). Again, the EndSARS saga was born out of call to end police brutality, extortion and extrajudicial killings by the men and officers of the Nigerian police force (Ozulumba, 2021).

It is worrisome that these national issues have continued to rumble across the country, and the perceived lack of political will to addressing them gave birth to this study. It's against this backdrop that the researcher put forward the following questions;

1. How do herders-farmers clashes stimulate insecurity and human rights violation in Nigeria?
2. Why does separatist agitation heighten insecurity and human rights violation in Nigeria?
3. To what extent has police brutality contributed to human rights violation in Nigeria?

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Insecurity

Over time, there have been divergent views among scholars on insecurity. Nevertheless, the researcher carefully selected and considered a few perceptions which are relevant to this discourse. Insecurity, according to Aondofa and Mwuese (2017) is the absence of security of lives and property. It connotes anything which inhibits the feeling of safety, freedom, protection of one's life, property, trade, movement or other activities of life that promote man's happiness and welfare in and around his immediate environment. In furtherance, they assert that factors which leads to insecurity in any society are manifold, ranging from religious strife, political wrangling, ethnic rivalry, disputes over resource control. Citing Section 33-46 of the Constitution the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended, they observed that any of the above mentioned factors poses national security threat which affects a plethora of rights guaranteed to the citizens such as right to life, respect to the human dignity of their persons, right to personal liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of assembly and association, right to private and family life, freedom to own and dispose of their movable and immovable properties.

As per Beland (2005), insecurity is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. The scholar went further to assert that insecurity connotes lack or inadequate freedom from danger. It is obvious to highlight that this definition pinpoints physical insecurity which is an aspect of insecurity which is the most viable. Though, Beland's definition equally has some elements of economic and social security as well. Achumba, Ighomereho and Akpan-Robaro (2013) corroborated with the position of Beland(2005) when they

postulate that insecurity is an absence of protection or safety. They argue further that insecurity entails peril, death-trap, ambiguity, dearth of fortification, and lack of security. They equally viewed the problems of insecurity on two but related perspectives: First, insecurity is the state of being prone or vulnerable to danger or threat of danger. In this situation, the tendency of experiencing hurt based on insufficient measures against danger is very bright. Second, insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety. The exposure could be as a result of inadequate measures against insecurity by the state or by a group of people. This, according to them, happens when the law enforcement agents are poorly educated, trained, remunerated and motivated. It could also occur when people's basic necessities of life are lacking. This assertion is indeed the true position of the vulnerable Nigerians who are on the daily basis exposed to the unprovoked attacks from the marauding miscreants.

Oputa (1991); Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) attributed insecurity in Nigeria to the unfriendly, brutal, trigger-happy, extortion, crime collaboration, gross violation of human rights, among others which characterizes the activities of some Nigerian police officers. They went further to assert that the rising crime rate, especially violent crimes involving kidnapping, armed robbery, ritual murders, political assassinations, ethnic and religious violence, election violence, farmers-herders violence have dampened the hope of the public on the capacity of the police to ensuring the safety of people's lives and property. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics as cited in Ogah, Fanimo, Ebosele and Adepetun (2011), on the other hand, attributed the high spate of insecurity in Nigeria to a poor economy with high poverty and unemployment index. According to the study, different institutions of higher learning, on the yearly basis, churn out graduates into the labour market without job security which regrettably exposes them into violent and criminal acts such as kidnapping, militancy, armed robbery, and terrorism. Nwagbosa (2012) in a related view observed that insecurity in Nigeria was hinged on the failures of successive governments to put in place measures that will reduce unemployment, poverty and human rights abuses. The scholar, in buttressing his view, attributed the amazing peace and tranquility recorded in the Niger Delta region during the time of Umaru Musa Yar' Adua and Goodluck Jonathan administrations to the introduction of amnesty which unemployed and poverty-stricken youths who laid down their arms were sent to training centres for vocational and educational purposes.

Ezeoba (2011) highlighted that suspicion and mutual distrust among the various ethnic nationalities as well as the major religions in Nigeria tended to be the source of frequent and persistent security threat in the land. According to him, the current state of insecurity in most parts of the country today is a product of the Boko Haram insurgence. Besides, he went further to argue that prior to the advent of this dreaded religious sect, there were instances of security crises in the Northern Nigeria

attributed to the activities of religious fanatics. Some of them, according to the scholar include, the Maitatsine riot in Kano (1980), Kaitungo crisis (2000), Kala-Kato violence in Bauchi state (2009), Madala, burning of Churches in Niger state (2011) and series of arson and other violent attacks against Christians in the North. In a related development, Alagba, Ugwu and Eme (2012) observed that ethno-religious conflict intensifies insecurity in Nigeria. And this, according to them, is characterized by lack of cordiality, mutual suspicion and fear, and a tendency towards violent confrontations to settle grievances. The researchers went further to assert that these conflicts also revolve around who gets what and how in the state especially as it concerns the distribution of scarce resources, power, land, chieftaincy tittles, local government councils, control of markets, and expansion of religious territories, among others, which have resulted in large-scale killings and violence in the country.

Achumba, and Akpor-Robaro (2013) took this argument a step further by outlining the proximate factors that have contributed to the state of insecurity in Nigeria to porous borders, rural-urban drift, and social irresponsibility companies resulting in negative externalities which provoke social unrest within their host communities, unemployment, poverty and terrorism, among others.

Ibenegbu and Adrianna (2022) reiterated that insecurity in Nigeria is a significant reason why the growth and development has eluded Nigeria overtime. The study bemoaned unemployment, corruption, imbalance, weak judicial system, high influx of arms, among other factors which led to the uncontrollable rise of insecurity in Nigeria. Citing corruption index for instance, the study quoted Transparency International, 2021, that Nigeria is placed 146th position out of 180th countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index. And as Nnoli (2003) captures it, since the civil war, Nigeria has never recorded the amount of waste of lives and property as it has done since 1999 till date.

Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) affirmed that insecurity in Nigeria is traceable to systematic and political corruption. These, according to them, are twin evil and hydra-headed monster that has held the Nigerian state captive. Quite often, funds meant for developmental projects ends up in the pockets of a few individuals. And worst of it all, employment opportunities and democratic dividends are swindled by a few political elites thereby exposing the larger populace vulnerable to hunger and unemployment.

Human Rights

Human rights are those inalienable rights to which a person inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being. These rights are inherent in all human beings regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any

other status (Ehindero, 1998; Kanu, 2017). Ndubuisi (2002) had affirmed that these rights are applicable everywhere and are the same for everyone. They are rights which are believed to have been with man right from creation in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1). It is against this backdrop that a famous Jurist, cited by Aondofa and Mwuese (2018), on delivering judgment in a case remarked that, even God did not condemn Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, without granting them the opportunity to be heard. They went further to assert that human rights are those rights accorded to man right from creation. They are selected rights that have followed man from one historical stage to another.

To ensure the freedom, protection or security of Nigeria citizens in carrying out their socio-economic and political activities, and against any form of deprivation, the constitution has provided for a number of rights which indeed cover the right to life, the right to the dignity of human person, which guarantees citizens free from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment; the holding of any person in slavery or servitude and the subjugation of any person to force and compulsory labour (as encapsulated in Section 34 of CFRN, 1999 (as amended)).

Agwunobi and Oyedolapo (2012) opined that human rights are rights which stand above the ordinary law of the land and predecessor to the political society and a prime disorder to a refined existence. It is on this premise that Adetoro and Omiyefa (2014) defined human rights as civil liberties which all human beings have by quality of their humankind, such as the right to life, dignity of human person, personal liberty, fair-hearing and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. By implication, human rights provide a common standard of actions among the global community. They are normal cogent, unbreakable, and unchangeable, the disposition of which would establish a grave insult to one's sense of justice. Saqib (2015) in corroboration with the foregoing asserted that human rights are those rights a person possesses by his simple characteristics of being a human.

Akintola (2013) conceived that the concern of human rights in the world today stems from the perception widely shared by J. Rousseau that man though born free is everywhere in chain. Today, the increasing awareness couple with the preoccupation on how best to safeguard them from rampant violation has made the term human rights a song on almost everyone's lips, yet the contradiction, inconsistency, confusion, misinterpretation, and absurdity that pervade the motion is quite telling (Vance, 2001). In other words, it's instructive to note that the spate of security challenges in Nigeria has been a threatening factor to the fundamental human rights in spite of all the provisions made available in the constitution.

Impacts of Herders-Farmers Clashes on Human Rights Violation and Food Insecurity in Nigeria

Depagne (2018) argued that Africa's arable land is being taken up by infrastructure, farmers and multinational agricultural firms seeking to produce food for a growing population, depriving herders of grazing reserves. He went further to submit that more people to feed means more agricultural settlement and less available land and water for herders, and this triggers conflicts. Herders-farmers conflict in Nigeria could be attributed to the above assumption since the astronomicalgrowth rate of the population is expected to be bigger than that of the United States by 2050, according to the United Nations estimates.

Historically, herders and sedentary farming communities used to live in a harmonious symbiotic relationship with herders 'cattle fertilizing the farmers' land in exchange for grazing rights (Chukwuemeka, 2019). However, relations between the nomadic Fulani herders and farming communities in Nigeria have been chaotic over the past decade with fights over cropland, grazing, water and migration routes (Mwanza, 2018). Again, climate change, which brings about extreme weather droughts and desertification, have degraded pastures and dried up many natural water sources across the northern states, forcing herders south in search of grassland thereby increasing conflict over land.

Moreover, rural banditry which has its link to poverty, inequality, and religious extremism have forced large population, including herders, displaced southwards in search of safety and greener pasture (Daily Post, January 12, 2017). Other theories as to why there has been persistent herders-farmers conflict is attributed to easy access to small arms, including assault rifles sourced from black markets across West and Central Africa, defense against armed rustlers and other criminal gangs in farming communities (Crisis Group Report, September 17, 2016).However, whatever the justifications and motivations, the ever increasing prevalence of weapons vis-à-vis conflict has amplified the human cost.

These conflicts have enormous humanitarian toll with thousands killed and tens of thousands displaced. As estimated by the International Crisis Group (2018), at least 2,000 lost their lives annually in Nigeria's Middle Belt due to communal land conflicts between cattle herders and farmers between 2011 and 2016.The Group further estimated thatabout 2,500 were killed countrywide in 2016 only arising from the same dreaded herders-farmers conflict. In Benue, one of the hardest-hit states, the former governor, Samuel Ortom reports more than 1,878 people were killed between 2014 and 2016 with tens of thousands also displaced (Premium Times, 5 July, 2017). From January 2015 to February 2017, at least 62,000 people were displaced in Kaduna, Benue and Plateau states; in the absence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps, most seek shelter in other poor, rural communities,

straining their already scarce resources (SBM IntelligenceReport, 2017; Council on Foreign Relations' Nigeria Security Tracker, Report, 2017; Sun Newspaper, 2017). From the economic perspective, the conflict has taken a huge toll. According to a study carried out by Mercy Corps, 2015,the federal government was losing $13.7 billion in revenue annually because of herder-farmer conflicts in Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Plateau states. The study found that on average these four states lost 47 per cent of their internally-generated revenues. In March 2017, Samuel Ortom asserted that attacks by herders coming from more northerly states, and possibly also from Cameroon and Niger, had cost Benue state N95 billion (about $634 million at that time) between 2012 and 2014 (Nations Newspaper, 2017).

Communities and households also pay a heavy price. The ethnic Nzor-Tiv Global Association estimated its Agatu communities in Benue state lost N65 billion in property ($204 million) during the early 2016 herder attacks. This was according to the president general of Nzor-Tiv Global Associates, Edward Ujege, at a public hearing convened by the House of Representatives in Abuja, 25 May 2016. The loss of large cattle herds, crops (due to population displacements and damage to irrigation facilities), as well as increases in transport and labour costs in post-conflict environments all increase poverty and food insecurity in affected communities – and beyond (Crisis Group Report, 2016).

Further review of related literature shows those herders-farmers clasheshave severe effects on food security in Nigeria. In recent times, the unprecedented level of security threat in the country has affected food production and supply to a very large extent. For instance, Asoya and Obi (2021) specifically pointed the following impacts:

1. Low productivity: Fear of attacks by herdsmen, terrorists, and kidnappers, many farmers have abandoned their farmlands. Available studies from the National Bureau of Statistics show that a whopping sum of N258.3b was spent on the importation of wheat in the first three months of 2021. This sudden increase was as a result of herders' attack on farmers and insurgency especially in the Northeast
2. Reduced labour available for farming activities: The current wave of security threat cum the killing of able bodied youths and men in Nigeria has led to the reduction of labour in Nigeria. Kumenyi et al (2014) agreed to the foregoing when he posited that the lack of labour was due to the threat of attacks on farmers on their way to their fields or bombs planted on the road to their farms, which has caused inadequate and improperly timed weeding and harvesting of crops.
3. Inflation of food prices: Food prices in our markets have gone very high due to insecurity. The World Bank report in 2021 on Nigeria shows that on the

supply side, a combination of unfavorable weather, insecurity and conflict, pandemic and other related shocks affecting food production is pushing food prices high. Report from the National Bureau of Statistics also reveals that Nigeria's food inflation stood at 21.79% in February, 2021, the highest rate recorded in over 15 years. This increase is largely due to limited supply of food to the market.

4. Discouragement of prospective agro-based investors: Quite number of local and foreign investors that previously had intentions to invest in Nigeria is no longer interested due to insecurity. Omole (2020) blamed this lack of confidence on weak and ineffective government response to security challenges. The uncertainty made the potential agro-based investors to lose interest in investing in Nigeria, thereby worsening the problems of food production, supply and the general economic growth.
5. Displacement of persons: There is increase in the issue of internal displacement in Nigeria attributably to insurgence, herders' attacks, banditry, terrorism, among others, particularly in the Northeast, North Central, and other parts of the country (Nwozor., 2019). For instance, only the Boko Haram insurgency led to the displacement of about 1.7m people in the Northeastern Nigeria and caused food challenges for 4.5m people from Nigeria, Cameroun, Chad and Niger Republic (Adebola, 2018). These displaced persons are currently at the IDPs camps and as such cannot contribute meaningfully to economic and agricultural growth.

Instances of Selected Attacks and Human Rights Violation in Nigeria

There has been increase of unwarranted attacks at different parts of the country in recent times as indicated in the table below.

TABLE 1: Incidences of Attacks and Killings In Nigeria (2012-2022)

S/N	DATE	INCIDENTS OF ATTACKS/KILLINGS	STATE
1.	12/7/2012	Over 200 people were killed by herdsmen in	Plateau
2.	6/12/2012	Matse and Kakuru	
		Herders killed 5 Gbagyi farmers and displaced	Plateau
3.	23/4/2013	over 1500 others with 27 farm settlements	Benue
4.	7/5/2013	destroyed	
		Herdsmen killed 10 Mbasenge indigenes of	Benue
5.	12/5/2013	Guma Local Council	Benue
6.	5/7/2013	47 mourners of Agatu residents were killed	Benue
7.	July, 2013	while burying 2 policemen killed in the	Yobe
8.	27/3/2014	neighbouring Nasarawa state by herdsmen	
		40 people killed atEkwo-Okpachenyi, Agatu,	Benue
9.	29/3/2014	by over 200 herdsmen	

10.	4/2014	60 people killed at Nzorov during Tiv-Fulani herdsmen clash	Kaduna
11.	12/4/2016	42 people, mostly students killed during Yobe school shooting	Borno Taraba
12.	25/4/2016	55 people were killed at Gbajimba; houses	Enugu
13.	1/4/2017	burnt, over 52,000 displaced and camped by	Cross River
14.	19/2/2018	the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi More than 200 people killed by herdsmen in army camouflage in Kaduna metropolis	Yobe
15.	27/2/2018	276 Chibok schoolgirls were abducted in their dormitories by Boko Haram terrorist group	Ebonyi
16.	28/2/2018	15 people were killed in two villages at	Ebonyi
17.	12/3/2018	Gashaka by herdsmen	Ebonyi
18.	6/4/2019	About 40 people killed at Ukpabi-Nimbo in UzoUwani by herders	Anambra
19.	14/6/2019	10 persons killed in a raid on ObioUsiere in EniongAbatim village	
20.	Jan. 2020	110 schoolgirls aged 11-19 years were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorist group from Government Girls' Science and	Enugu Anambra
21.	5/4/2021	Technical School, Dapchi. Herders unleashed carnage on the residents of Akaeze destroying crops and other valuable	Imo
22.	12/4/2021	property worth hundreds of million. 4 persons were injured in a clash between	Ebonyi
23.	30/5/2021	herders and farmers in Ivo	Niger
24.	30/5/2021	4 persons were killed at Enyibichiri community in Izzi by herdsmen.	Ebonyi
25.	30/5/2021	Herdsmen attacked farmers' settlement, killed men and raped women at Anambra East Area Council.	
26.	19/4/2022	Horrible attack on women traders along Agbani-Ugbawka road, killing and injured many; butchered a whole family and a Catholic Seminarian on Apostolic work- all in Nkanu East. 7 people killed while scores sustained various degrees of injury through gunshots and machete injuries at Nzam.	Imo Abia

	Unknown gunmen attacked both headquarters of the Imo state police command and the correctional centre in Owerri killing and freeing inmates and razing buildings
	Herders invaded Otuebu, killed six, injured hundreds, displaced residents and burnt property worth hundreds of million naira
	Armed bandits kidnapped 136 Islamic students
	Fulani herdsmen attacked 7 villages in Izzi left 60 people dead with over 3000 people displaced.
	Gulak, a former political advisor to Ex-President Goodluck Jonathan, was killed in Owerri on his way to the airport by suspected Unknown Gunmen.
	A divisional police station in Uzuakoli, was razed in the early hours of that day, freed suspects in police custody

***Source**: Adapted from Ukwayi and Anam (2017), Ezeonwuka and Igwe (2016), Idowu (2017), Oli, Ibekwe & Nwankwo (2018), Aondofa and Mwuese (2018).*

Impact of Separatist Agitations on Insecurity, Human Rights and Economic Losses in Nigeria.

There has been a resurgence of agitations for self -determination across different ethnic nationalities in Nigeria in recent times. Every part of the country is facing one security threat or another, but the most notable one is the existential threats to lives and property in the Southeast geopolitical zone of the country where there is a coordinated attack on the state facilities by the unknown gunmen and the brutal military response of the Nigerian state to the neo-Biafra separatist agitators (Nwangwu, 2023). The Biafran agitation in the Southeast has received substantial attention both locally and internationally owing to the repressive approach adopted by the Nigerian government such as harassment, prosecutions, proscription, arrests, extraordinary rendition, torture, mass killing, among others (Chiluwa, 2018).

The perceived marginalization and feeling of collective victimhood amongst the Igbo (Ibeanu et al., 2016), traumas and documentaries associated with memories of the civil war (Ugwueze, 2019), the lopsided structure of the Nigeria's federalism (Adibe, 2017), the deployment of Operation Python Dance 11 in September, 2017 (Ujumadu,2017), abductions and extra-judicial killings of IPOB members by the Nigerian security outfits (Iroegbu, 2016), discovery of over fifty dead bodies believed to be IPOB supporters afloat in Ezu river in Anambra state in January, 2013

(Mamah et al., 2013) and the ineffective implementation of the post-war peace building initiatives including the 3Rs-Reconciliation, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (Johnson and Olaniyan, 2017; Nwangwu et al., 2020) are some of the perceived reasons for the resurgent agitation of Biafran state.

On the economic perspective, the agitation for self-government has taken a devastating toll on Nigerians, particularly the southeasterners. For many resident of South-East Nigeria, Monday is part of the weekend. Financial institutions like commercial banks, shops, transport companies, churches, schools and government offices are under lock and key due to the continuous incarceration of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu by the Buhari led administration.The International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) on August, 2022 carried a study to ascertain the amount of economic losses in a year in the South-East region as a result of the self-imposed Monday sit-at-home. The ICIR relied on the figures from the two prestigious government agencies: The National Bureau of Statistics and SMEDAN who, in their survey, listed Nigerian businesses into four categories: Nano, Micro, Small, and Medium businesses. Investigations from the studies shows that operators of these categories of businesses in the five South-East states of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo lost an estimated N4.618 trillion ($10.495 billion), which represents the amount lost by the region annually for sitting at home every Monday (Odinaka, 2023). As at December, 2022, the total nominal revenue lost by micro-businesses within the 71-Monday period was N5.375 trillion ($12.215 billion), according to the ICIR's computations.

Transportation is an important sector in the region as the region hosts the Onitsha main market, Ariara Aba market, Ogbete main, main market, Abakaliki International market, among others. This necessitates a huge inflow and outflow of people in the region. However, the report states that transporters lose a huge sum of N10bn for each sit-at-home day in the region (Aligwekwe, 2022). He further cited that the region loses similar cash inflow in the area of hospitality and tourism on Mondays since tourists and travelers avoid the South-East region for fear of insecurity.

Impacts of Police Brutality on Insecurity and Human Rights Violation in Nigeria

Under the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended and under the African Charter on Human Rights, persons in any part of Nigeria have the fundamental human right which should be protected. The Constitution and the Charter guarantees those human rights that are constantly in violation (Okoye, 2021). The Nigerian Police Force is under obligation to adhere strictly to the provisions of those international treaties and the constitution of the land. However, it's worrisome that cases of persistence police brutality and violation of human rights in Nigeria is in the increase.

U.S Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour in its 2020 reports on human rights practices in Nigeria pointed out some of the human rights abuses which include: harsh and life threatening prison conditions; unlawful and arbitrary killings by both government and non-state actors; forced disappearances of suspects; torture and cases of cruel, arbitrary detention by the government; problems with the independence of the judiciary's unlawful interference with people's privacy; serious restrictions on freedom of expression, the internet and the press; serious abuses in an internal conflict, including torture and killing of civilians; existence of criminal label laws; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; severe restrictions on religious freedom; inadequate investigation and accountability for violence against women, serious acts of corruption and trafficking of persons.

One of the most pronounced police brutality in Nigeria was the EndSARS saga in October 2020 at Lekki, Lagos where several international bodies, agencies and media like CNN, BBC Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch accused the security agencies (The Nigerian military and police) for indiscriminately shooting the defenseless EndSARS protesters. In November 2021, a nine-member panel set by the Lagos State Government to investigate the peaceful protest submitted that there were about 48 casualties of which 9 were confirmed dead (Punch Newspaper, 22 November, 2021). Though, the Nigerian government through the then Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed in collaboration with the Lagos State Government faulted the report. The image of the Nigerian police force is further dented owing to the uncivil display of some men and officers of the force

Methodology

It is a qualitative study that examines Nigeria in relation to issues of insecurity and human rights violation. The study depends on secondary data sources, including books, journals, and publications of relevant international and national bodies. This method enhanced adequate and systematic identification and elucidation of meaning and drawing of realistic conclusions from the contents of the qualitative secondary data collected.

Results and Discussion

The findings of the study attributed the proximate factors that have contributed to the state of insecurity in Nigeria. This finding is in line with the research findings of Achumba and Akpor-Robaro (2013) who affirmed that such negative externalities provoke social unrest, and create unemployment, poverty and terrorism, among others.

The findings indicate that separatist agitation is one of the major issues that contributes to human right violation in Nigeria. Over time, it is perceived that successive governments have failed to run an inclusive government where the

Southeast is given an equal stake in governance, hence the increase in agitation. This observation is in synchronization with the research findings of Nwangwu (2023), Kanu (2017) who frowned at the poor attitude of government towards fighting human rights violation in Nigeria.

Police brutality, as revealed by the study also stimulates human rights violation in Nigeria. Amongst those forms of human rights violation orchestrated by the Nigerian police force and other security agents are extra-judicial killings, torture to extract confession and information, kick-back/bribery/corruption, disobedience of court orders and others. This finding are in harmony with findings of Oni, Momoh and Nwadioha (2021) whose study not only affirmed the above position but further cited the popular ENDSARS saga which, according to them, was a gross violation of human rights across Nigeria.

Summary of Findings

The study evaluated Insecurity Situation and Human Rights Violation in Nigeria. This study found the following:

1. Herders-farmers clash has significant positive effect on human rights violation in Nigeria.
2. Separatist agitation has a positive and insignificant effect on human rights violation in Nigeria.
3. Police brutality has a significant positive effect on human rights violation in Nigeria.

Conclusion

From the study, it is obvious that issues of herders-farmers clash, separatist agitations and police brutality among others are situations that create insecurity leading to human rights violation in Nigeria. The unfortunate scenario has devastating effect on the unity, economy and the general well-being of the country. Based on the findings, the study concluded that appropriate proactive measures have not been sincerely deployed by the governments and other relevant stakeholders to curtailing human rights abuses and violation in the country. Therefore, adequate strategic measures that would ensure lasting solutions to issues that contributed to human rights violation in Nigeria should be employed to enhance national unity, cohesion and human rights protection.

Recommendations

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. Government at all levels should legislate and gazette enabling laws against open grazing in Nigeria to curtail farmers-herders clash.

2. To curb separatist agitations in Nigeria, government at the centre should adopt an inclusive approach where all the regions in the country will be given equal opportunity in decision-making and governance.
3. It is also recommended that there should be proper training and retraining of the Nigerian police force on effective policing devoid of unnecessary intimidation and brutality.

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