



**EFFECTS OF VIOLENT CONFLICTS ON THE PSYCHO-SOCIO STATUS OF  
WOMEN IN MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE, NIGERIA**

**BY**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The study assess the Effects of Violent Conflicts on the Psycho-Socio Status of Women in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. War and political violence portend great danger to the development of the nation. There is no nation that thrives well under the heat of war (armed conflict) and political violence. We can only progress and have meaningful development under the atmosphere of tranquillity, peace and harmony. Therefore, government must endeavour to avoid anything that will cause disharmony and disequilibrium in the polity. Nigerian politicians must eschew politics of bitterness, rancor, criminality and falsehood. Every individual must be given equal opportunity and level playing ground to participate in the politics without any acrimony. Demands for change in the polity should be done maturely and democratically rather than undemocratic and clandestine methods. Democratic principles and due processes should be applied at all levels of governance in electing political leaders rather than selective principle and imposition of political candidates on the electorate. The principle of equity, fairness, and justice should be our political slogan in the coming 2015 election. The adherence of these norms in our polity will go a long way in reducing areas of discontent and help in building bridges across the nation for peaceful co-existence and unity.*

**Key Words:** *Effect, Violent Conflict, Psycho-Social and Women*

## Introduction

The history of Nigeria, immediately after attaining our republican status had been greeted with various kinds of political violence and war. The implication is that men, women and children had been on the receiving end of all these problems. We note that Nigeria remains a multi-ethnic nation state, which has between 350-500 linguistics groups and may be populated by fairly half Christians and Muslims (Salawu, 2010; Paden, 2008; Hansford, Bendor-Samuel & Stanford, 2016). In fact, political violence and war affect all sections of the country and it is not particular to any ethnic group.

According to the United Nations report on the state of the world population in 2000, gender based violence is said to constitute a life – long that millions of women and girls across the globe (United Nations, 2019). Amnesty International (2004) notes that human rights situations across the region of Africa is characterized by widespread armed conflict (war) and political repression (violence) and that in all, women are at the risk end. However, men are at the forefront of these wars and political violence. Men suffer death and permanent injuries subjecting women and children to untold hardships ranging from economic stress to socio-psychological imbalance.

The threat and the experience of war and political violence are generally regarded as very distressful and traumatic for women, children and the aged of all sexes. Research shows that 60-80% people exposed to war and political violence directly or indirectly suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress. Research findings also indicate that mere living in a violent prone area where the media is filled with images and reports of horrible violence destruction as we are witnessing in Nigeria presently can result in people experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress (Stavrou, 2013). More importantly, children are more at risk than adults during political violence and war. Researches findings indicate that 80% of children had symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder one to two years later (Stavrou, 2013).

Studies have found that political violence and war have negative effects on the children, and these include heightened aggression and violence, revenge seeking, anxiety, depression, withdrawal, sleep disorder, fear and panic, poor school performance and involvement in criminal violence (Sagi-Swartz, Seginer & Adeen, 2008; Quota, Runmaki & El-Sarraj, 2008). More so, children are found to be victimized by or witness to different kinds of political violence and war especially in the community where the family lives (Richters & Martinez, 1993b). In most African countries like Liberia, Congo, Sierra Leone, Algeria, Angola, Ethiopia, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda etc, children are seen to have been recruited into militant camps and actually carry gun to kill their fellow citizens. About a third of world's children soldiers are found in Africa. It is important to understand that child soldering which is rampant in Africa is a result of war, insurgency, political violence, and others. Parents have the hard task of monitoring the behaviour and activities of children to avoid the risk of anti-social behaviour during moments of political violence and war (Mazefsky & Farrel, 2005; Okolie, 2005). The risks in which children, women and the aged are exposed to and the effects can be long lasting in the society.

Nigeria was one of the fastest growing economies in Africa between 2006 and 2014. Long before the emergence as Africa's largest economy following its statistical rebasing of GDP in 2014, real gross domestic product (GDP) growth was eclectic. Chete et al. (2016) document that during the period of 1960-70, GDP grew at 3.1% annually but grew at 6.2% annually between 1970 and 1978. In the early 1980s, they also document that growth rate was negative but increased to 4% in the period of 1998-1997. The heterogeneity in growth has continued in

the twenty first century with high rates of 6.9%, 7.8% , 4.9%, 6.2% and 2.7% in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015 respectively (Source: World Bank data). Despite the significant increases in GDP growth in the twenty first century, poverty has remained very high and poverty incidence has sometimes increased during periods of significant GDP growth. According to Eigbiremolen (2018), poverty rose from 42.7% in 1992 to 65.6% in 1996. Though poverty has been on a decline in Nigeria since the start of the twenty first century, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty is still very high. For example, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) notes that 60.9% of Nigerians in 2010 were living in "absolute poverty". According to data from 2018, nearly 46.7% of Nigerians live in extreme poverty (World Poverty Clock). While these levels of poverty incidence are lower than 2010 levels, they are higher than levels in 2017 (45.6% according to data from the World Poverty Clock). Current levels of poverty place Nigeria in the top position as the country with the most people in extreme poverty in the world (World Poverty Clock).

Many factors can impede the process of economic development resulting in persistent high levels of poverty despite significant growth in GDP. Violent conflict is one of such factors. Recent literature suggests that conflict can negatively affect various economic, health and labor related outcomes. In Nigeria, violent conflict is viewed as a critical variable impeding the development process but empirical estimates of its impact on development and welfare related outcomes are scant.

Conflict can reduce welfare for households and impose costs on individuals and the economy through several broad channels. First, conflict can lead to economic devastation resulting in economic decline. There are several cross-country studies suggesting that violent conflict has a negative effect on investment, savings and economic growth (Alesina and Perotti, 2016, Barro, 2011 and Mauro, 2015). Second, conflict can impose costs on households directly through a decline in an individual's health. In particular it can affect individuals mentally and can also cause physical and psychological harm. Third, conflict can lead to a decline in trust and an increase in fear and uncertainty. Fear and lack of trust can lead to a decline in social capital, an increase in transaction costs, a decline in school enrolment and education attainment. It can also lead to displacement, which affects economic, social outcomes and health. Justino (2009) noted that conflict can lead to a decline in access to safety nets and a decline in social, economic and political institutions, community relations, and overall levels of security. Other effects of conflict include a disruption of economic activities, a shrinkage in the productive base of a community and a decline in human capital whether health or education. All these effects of conflict can lead to a decrease in household income and/or wealth and consumption. A decline in income can lead to more households falling below the poverty line and others who are already poor falling more deeply into poverty. Investigating the potential welfare effects on households in Nigeria from being exposed to violent conflict over time is the primary focus of our current research.

The Nigerian experience since after the civil war and the current insurgency in the country coupled with political violence in the last two decades have greatly affected the citizens especially children, women and the aged. It has produced many widows, widowers, orphans, and increased mental health of citizens. For instance, Human Rights Watch (2007) estimates that a minimum of 300 Nigerians were killed in political violence in the 2007 elections which was higher than those reported in 2003 elections. However, the European Union Election Observation Mission (2007) reports that about 200 people died in political violence within two weeks between April 14 and April 21, 2007 election. The aftermath of April 2011

general election in Nigeria which claimed over 800 lives and over 65,000 displaced persons especially in Northern Nigeria (Human Right Watch, 2011) is still very fresh in our memory. We are still being ravaged by the scourge of insurgency across the country, especially the North East, Nigeria has become a battle ground which has even attracted foreign allies to rescue the citizens from the raging storms of violence in that zone.

It must be noted that political violence and war are orchestrated by the attitudes and utterances of our political elites who believes that election is won by violence and use of political thugs. Accordingly, Obasanjo (2002) asserts “we fight and sometimes shed blood to achieve and attain political power because for us in Nigeria, the political kingdom has for too long been the gateway to economic kingdom”. Thus “when they said political competition for control of the state and its political power is now a bloody warfare as the state holds the key to wealth” (Omoweh & Okanya (2005) one will understand why there is too much tension and insecurity in the country as 2015 general election approaches.

Hence, Abbass (2008) described election in Nigeria as warfare. Cervellati and Sunde (2011) argue that “democratization process may trigger political violence because the scenario under which democratization takes place especially during democratic transitions provides convenient platforms for violent conflicts, especially among groups within a polity” (cited in Segun, 2013, 328). It is not also out of place to aver that the myriad of conflicts across the country is engineered by the political class who only stands to benefit from the violence.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In this paper, our question of interest is the impact of recent exposure to conflict, and accumulated exposure to conflict over a long period of time on households' welfare. In particular we examine the impact of conflict on households' per capita income, total income, poverty incidence, poverty gap and poverty severity. Violent conflict is part of Nigeria's history. It began with civil war in the 60s, which claimed thousands of lives, and has evolved over time to new threats in different regions and communities in Nigeria. The ACLED database reports a total number of 9998 conflict events in Nigeria between 1997 and 2016. Violence against civilians is a substantial chunk of the violent events overtime in Nigeria. In this paper, we measure exposure to conflict using deaths linked with conflict in a local government area (LGA).

### **Literature Review**

#### **Conceptualization of Terms**

Although political violence has become a global phenomenon, getting scholars to accept a common definition for the phenomenon has been awfully difficult. Thus, attempts to define the concept have aroused argument among members of the intellectual community. Dumouchel (2014) contends that political violence is a violence that is committed in the context of a political conflict, or that which can be related, either through its cause or motive, to political issues. According to Dumouchel (2014:119), political violence is “public and rather than private violence” However, Cohan (2006:925) defines political violence as “a legitimate, justifiable means to wage a long term ideological battle against a hostile government”. Cohan sees political violence from the ideological point of view and presupposes that it is always carried out against a constituted hostile government. It ignored political violence that is committed against citizens by government. Political violence has been classified as official violence against citizens (police brutality); violence that results from the nature of the state (patrichial nature) and violence resulting from the nature of political structure (politics of bitterness (Okome, 2014). Others have classified political

violence as counter-insurgency, terrorism, rioting and civil war (Hewitt, 1993; Dumouchel, 2014), coup d'état (Theodore, 1998), revolution, rebellion, insurgency (Scharf, 1993, Harris, 1974; Cohan, 2002). Meanwhile, other scholars are not comfortable with the classification of terrorism as a political violence. They argued that terrorism should be excluded because of the subjective definition attached to it (Said, 1988; Jenkins, 1990). For some other scholars Like Young (1977), political violence is justifiable when it is interpreted in the concept of just war in which:

There is a failure to grant citizens effective means of peacefully gaining redress against tyrannical abuse of power; when these matters are not respected revolutionary activity will be justified if there is a strong likelihood the government (or sovereign) can be toppled without ensuing tyranny or anarchy and bloodshed of an inordinate extent.(cited in Cohan, 2006:917). Thus, we may tend to agree that terrorism is an aspect of political violence, which is regarded as “a substitute for conventional war” (Hare, 1979 cited in Cohan, 2006:926). War is a state of organized, armed, and often-prolonged conflict carried on between states, nations and other parties. It is often intensive and characterized by extreme aggression, social disruption and followed by high mortality, which involves all genders (Merriam Webster Dictionary, 1998). War is simply a “military conflict between nations or parties” (Webster’s Universal Dictionary and Thesaurus, 2010:513). War or otherwise known as armed violence is defined as “the intentional use (threatened or otherwise) against oneself, another person, or against a group or community of any material thing that is designed, used or usable as an instrument for inflicting bodily harm that either results in or has likelihood to result in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation” (Perouse de Montclos, 2011:7). It is certain that Nigerian state is at war with a fundamental religious sect known as Boko Haram. Conflict is described as the resort to the use of force and armed struggle in the pursuit of incompatible and particular interest and goals by contending groups or individual (Oraegbunam, 2006). Thus, Shehu (2007) argues that conflict is inevitable in social life process and even in well developed human societies such as United States and Britain conflict occurs. Conflict may also be described as “a period of intense pursuit of incompatible goals by different groups” (Reychler, 2001:15). It must be stressed that in Nigeria, conflict of interest between groups be it in the political, economic, religious or social arena have most times ended violently resulting to great casualties. And in most cases, the effects on victims have remained permanently. Conflict refers to clash, contention, confrontation, a battle or struggle or quarrel between two or more individual, groups or nations (Nwolise, 1997). Zartman (1991:300), argues that conflict is “the violent exhibition or expression of incompatibility, though conflict may become violent, however violence is not inherent aspect of conflict but rather a potential form which conflict may take. We agree that violence is not inherent aspect of conflict, but there has been no war (armed conflict) or political violence which has not ended in bloody conflict. Thus, Dahrendorf (1958) maintained that conflict is intrinsic to all societies and association due to perpetual competition for authority within such groups. Conflict is therefore inevitable in all human societies.

According to Stoller (2018) ‘gender is a term that has psychological and cultural connotations; if the proper terms for sex are male and female, the corresponding terms for gender are masculine and feminine; these latter terms might be quite independent of biological sex’ (Haralambos, 2007). Attah (2006) argues that gender is a social construction which is culturally determined. However, Idyorough (2005) contends that “gender issues are not women issues alone, they are issues of men and women and the attendant power relations

between the sexes". Thus, political violence and war will negatively influence on the socio-psychological makeup of both genders.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Extant literature has shown that conflict is inherent in every human society (Marx, 1977, Dahrendorf, 2009)) and that peace can exist separately of conflict, violence and war. However, war (armed conflict) is the only one aspect of violence which is "physical, open and direct (Galtung, 2009). Galtung (2009) went further to argue that a society cannot be described as peaceful where structural poverty, exclusion, intimidation, oppression, want, inequality, unemployment, fear and all sundry types of psycho-social pressures still constitute the society's mainstay. In sociological perspective, peace can be viewed as a condition of social harmony in which there are no social antagonisms; in which case individuals and groups are able to meet their social needs and expectation such as food, cloth, housing and social amenities for a worthy life (Haralambos and Holborn, 2008). The implication is that where these are lacking, there is contention between those who have and those who have not for the available resources in the society. Two basic theories structural functionalism and dialectical materialism could be derived from the above. The paper will be discussed on these theories.

Scholars of structural functionalist looked at conflict as a function of the structural constituents of the society. Thus, poverty, unemployment, crime, social inequality, marginalization, relative deprivation, corruption, injustice, oppression and exploitation are regarded as sources of conflict which could lead to political violence and war. The general thought therefore, is that conflict exists in the society as a result of struggle for scarce resources (Ake, 1981, Coser, 1956; Chinwizu, 1975; Lenin, 1972; Engels, 1970; Marx, 1977). Thus, peace is achieved where existing social structures perform their functions adequately, and supported by the requisite culture, social norms, and values (Haralambos & Holborn, 2008; Goffman, 2004). On the other hand, the dialectical materialism which is propounded by Karl Marx (1818- 1883) argues that peace can only be achieved on the basis that there are classless people in the society (Haralambos & Holborn, 2008). The implication is that there should be a redistribution of resources which are heavily domiciled in the hands of few men in the society. It calls for a rethink in our political and economic structure to address the imbalance in the society. The consequence is that, political violence and war will continue to exist in society so long as unequal reviewed in order for societies to live in peace and harmony.

### **Boko Haram Insurgency/Displacement**

The most recent Boko Haram insurgency has subjected many Nigerian women to displacements, physical distortion and most of all psychological trauma. These women, as a result of series of terrorist attacks they encountered, lost their homes, jobs, children, husbands, relatives, loved ones etc. The trauma of witnessing such dreadful events is what some scholars described as extremely traumatizing. Female survivors of Boko Haram are immensely traumatized. Thus, according to the associated press of CTV News reported in the News article "Nigerian Women Rescued from Boko Haram Face Trauma and Stigma" "that, the situation of women rescued from Boko Haram as "traumatizing and horrifying" (Aja-Okorie, 2014). This means that traumatic events can fundamentally change not only victims' way of life, but also their psychological outlook for people who has faced 'act of god' natural disasters and man-made catastrophes of terrorism and war. It has a range of different cognitive, emotional, physical, and behavioral effects on individuals.

In a post election ethno-religious violent conflict victims IDP camp in Kaduna in April 2011, a study of the prevalence of PTSD, types of psycho-trauma experienced by the IDPs, factors associated with PTSD and their psychosocial adjustment was carried out among 258 respondents. It was found that, destruction of personal property, being evacuated from town, witnessing violence, reported death of a family member, and suffering ill health were the most frequent psycho-trauma experienced by the IDPs (Sheikh et al., 2014).

In a study among IDPs of Boko Haram insurgency in three camps in Abuja, Nigeria, viz: Oronzo, New Kuchingoro and Old Kuchingoro camps, it was found that their experience escaping the insurgency is a very traumatic one. The IDPs spoke of how a number of their family members were left behind and killed, some ran towards the Camerounian border while others ran up the mountains towards the Nigerian side of the border. Families were separated across two countries as a result. They stayed for days without food and were exposed to the elements. Finding showed that they were going through a lot of mental trauma. A chat with 8 boys aged 13-20 years and they spoke about how they have been abandoned by the government and exploited by employers in Abuja. A few of them are orphans left to fend for themselves. one 20-year old young man was quite emphatic that he would not go back home again, being the sole survivor of 11 family members after insurgents attacked his home, adding that he does not want anything to do with his village ever again (Nsofor 2015).

A number of studies have also reported that women and girls were victims of physical and sexual violence in IDP camps. (Stark et al., 2016; Amowitz, 2002). Thus, women are at higher risk of unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal morbidity and mortality. In addition, it has been reported that the IDPs in Boko Haram camps in Nigeria were experiencing "incidents of unwanted pregnancies, rape, child labor/ trafficking and sexually transmitted diseases (Nsofor. 2015). "The negative impacts of sexual violence are significant and long term. These may include physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, unwanted pregnancies and mental health effects (Austin, 2008).

Moreover, IDPs, particularly those affected by conflict, are at a high risk of mental health problems. The commonly reported psychological reactions are post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSDs) in reaction to violence, depression and loss (Getanda, Papadopoulos & Evans). The psychological distress occurring in the post-conflict environment also contributes to harmful health behaviors such as hazardous drinking and increased smoking. These behaviors are linked to an increased burden of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancers (Saxon, Makhashvili, Chikovani, Seguin, McKee & Patel). This article has so far demonstrated some of the areas where Nigerian women have experienced and continued to experience traumatic events. It is also important to review some of the risk and protective factors associated with Nigerian women's experience of traumatic events.

### **Effects of Political Violence and War on Gender**

Political violence and armed conflict (war) has a variety of devastating effect on genders ranging from physical, social and psychological. The following are some of major consequences of political violence and war (armed conflict) on genders.

#### ***Loss of life***

Political violence and war are parts and parcel of broader plague of violence that have ravaged the lives of tens of thousands of Nigerians since the country's return to civilian rule in 1999. We have to note that Nigeria recorded over 200,000 cases of death in the last two decades occasioned by political and religious precipitated wars or violence (Albin-Lackey, 2007; Olasebikan, 2011; Soriwei, 2012; Obe, 2012; Chinwokwu, 2012c). More so, the Human Rights Watch (2013) reported that more than 1,000 lives were lost in North Central Nigeria between December 2013 and March, 2014 as a result of political and tribal wars in the Zone. This is aside the cases of death recorded since April, 2014 in the North East, Nigeria occasioned by religious war being carried out by Boko Haram. As a result many children became orphans during periods of political violence and war while men and women end up as widows and widowers. The pain of losing either children or parents affects individuals concerned socially and emotionally especially children because they are deprived of parental care, protection and love. We must emphasize that armed conflict (war) is a major threat to the aged and children lives, because they are considered as the most vulnerable when wars break out in any society.

### ***Displacement of People***

One of the social effects political violence and war have on gender is the displacement of people from their historical native homes and lands. In fact, between October 2010 and October 2011, the National Emergency Management Agency in Nigeria declared a total of 377,701 internally displaced persons (IDPs) as a result of violent conflicts with ethnic, religious and political undertones (Laden, 2012). According to Laden (2012), further statistical data on the volume and spread of IDS across the geographical landscape of Nigeria reveals the existence of about 1.4 million displaced persons as a result of conflict violence. Laden further stated that the North-East in terms of geographical zone or location has remained the home of the poorest zone in Nigeria since 1985, with the highest incidence of poverty (ranging below 54.9% to 72.0%). We should be reminded that this does not include the records of holocaust being caused by Boko Haram across Northern Nigeria. Social dislocation and displacement affect all gender groups of all ages, although, the weak and vulnerable members of the society – the aged, women and children suffer the most. In many instances women and young girls are subjected to sexual violence (rape) by even our very law enforcement officers that) are sent to protect them in areas of crisis. Families are sometimes disorganized especially the absence of real parents. Children are left without guardians or anyone to fend for them while young girls and women are forced into sexual trades.

### ***Separation from Family members***

In time of political violence and armed conflict (war), children of both sexes are separated from their parents. Children suffer most during crisis of any kind. Children are lost in the process of running away from attacks while others may be abandoned either because the aged parents or the children are regarded as weak to carry on with life. This was what happened during the 1967-1970 civil wars in Nigeria and in the reprisal attacks which followed after the killing of Ibos in Northern States of Nigeria in 1990. It is obvious that children were missing during time of war never get reunited with their parents. The implication is that such children end up being adopted if found alive while others end up growing up as slaves in the hands of their masters.



### ***Physical injury and starvation***

War affects both children and adults of both genders. Adults and children suffer starvation, hunger, malnutrition and diseases. Although, children suffer more from malnutrition, hunger, starvation and diseases than the adults. It is on record that Igbo children were victims of malnutrition, kwashiorkor, diarrhoea and many diseases during the civil war. In some cases, children suffer permanent injuries – lost their limbs or legs while others died due to lack of medical care. A visit to the camps where displaced persons are kept in Benue and Nasarawa states as a result of the Fulani – Tiv attacks will speak volumes of the kind of conditions that people passes during periods of arm conflict and political violence.

### ***Abduction and Sexual Abuse***

During political violence and war, boys and girls suffer varying degrees of sexual abuses. According to Craddle (2007), during armed conflict, it is a common practice to have girls and boys recruited for sexual purposes ranging from force marriage, child sex slaves, child girl early marriage and rape. Nigeria is currently battling to rescue over 200 teenage school girls and 64 women abducted by Boko Haram from Chibok in Borno state of North East, Nigeria. The tale of those girls who have escaped from Boko Haram den is quite unsavory. It is an experience no sane parents would like their daughters to pass through in life no matter what. We note that paragraph 135 of Beijing Platform of Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 condemns sexual slavery, rape, sexual abuse and forced pregnancy (Population

Reference Bureau, 1996), however political violence and war (armed conflicts) have taken great toll on these and government are a crisis situation at checkmating the trend. The psychological effects can be devastating and life-long unless it is timely and appropriately addressed.

### ***Disruption of Social Services***

One of the social effects of political violence and war is the disruption of social services like education, hospitals and trade. Today, school buildings have been destroyed and schools have been closed down in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, Nigeria due to insecurity occasioned by the activities of Boko Haram insurgency. The implication is that genders of all age descriptions especially the youths have been denied of basic education and their fundamental rights completely infringed. The long-term effect is that the future of these children in the affected states is bleak. It will take decades for the states to recover from this waste of human capital. Furthermore, war brings about shortage in food, production, distribution and supply as homelands and farms are abandoned, consequently leading to great hunger and starvation. For example, it is observed that during the Fulani herdsmen and Tiv war in Benue and Nasarawa states, the Tivs abandoned their homes and farms leading to scarcity of food in the states. A visit to Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states will also indicate the disruption in trade activities as Igbo traders have left the area to more states that are peaceful.

### ***Emotional and Psychological Sufferings***

Political violence and war affect the genders, although children suffer the most. Young boys and girls who suffer sexual abuses are left completely traumatized. Aside from the physical health problems injury, chronic pain syndrome, HIV/AIDS, permanent disability and range of mental health issues, the psychological effects of sexual abuse are considered more serious and dangerous than its physical effects. The experience is rather demeaning and humiliating and affects the girl's self esteem and put them at greater risks of mental problems like

depression, post traumatic stress disorder, phobia and suicide, alcohol and drug abuse. Further emotional and psychological effects will include: mistrust, shame, and guilt, fear of sexual activities, revenge and withdrawal from society. Aside from these, one of the effects of political violence and war is the generation of fear. Fear generated by war or rumours of war produce great tension, anxiety, insecurity which can easily be manipulated by the political class to their advantage. The case of Boko Haram bombing extending to the South and East, Nigeria and the psychological stress and trauma had generated in the minds of the citizenry across the country is better imagined. Thus “the fear of Boko Haram is the beginning of safety” is the slogan making waves in the country.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Maiduguri, also called Yerwa by its inhabitants is the capital and the largest city of Borno State in North-Eastern Nigeria. The city is along the seasonal Ngadda River which disappears into the *Frikio* swamps in the areas around Lake Chad. Maiduguri was founded in 1907 as a military outpost by the British and has since grown rapidly with a population exceeding a million by 2007. The highest record temperature was 47°C (117 °F) on 28 May 1983, while the lowest record temperature was 5°C (41 °F) on 26 December 1979. Maiduguri is home to three markets which include an ultra-modern “Monday Market” that has a spectacular satellite image view. There is an ancient museum, and the city is served by the Maiduguri International Airport. Maiduguri is the principal trading hub for North- Eastern Nigeria. Its economy is largely based on services and trade with a small share of manufacturing. The city lies at the end of a railway line connecting Port Harcourt, Enugu, Kafanchan, Kuru, Bauchi and finally Maiduguri. Maiduguri has one of the best-equipped universities and hospital in Nigeria: The University of Maiduguri attracts foreign students from neighboring countries especially Cameroon and Niger Republic. The College of Medical Sciences is amongst the top five best medical schools in Nigeria. Other higher institutions include Ramat Polytechnic, College of Agriculture and College of Education, and El-Kanemi College of Islamic Theology. According to the 2006 census, Maiduguri is estimated to have a population of 1,197,497 (NPC, 2008).

### **Method of Data Collection**

The research work used survey method and use of available document to generate data. The use of available document relied on the secondary sources of data are that information originally designed not for the purpose of the research but found to be useful and relevant to this research. The secondary data include: textbooks, publications, organizations record, internet and government gazette etc.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The study utilized both descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistical tools used includes tables, frequencies and simple percentage. Inferential statistics such as chi-square will be used. The secondary data on the other hand was analysed through simple descriptive technique known as document Analysis.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

War and political violence portend great danger to the development of the nation. There is no nation that thrives well under the heat of war (armed conflict) and political violence. We can only progress and have meaningful development under the atmosphere of tranquillity, peace and harmony. Therefore, government must endeavour to avoid anything that will cause disharmony and disequilibrium in the polity. Nigerian politicians must eschew politics of bitterness, rancor, criminality and falsehood. Every individual must be given equal

opportunity and level playing ground to participate in the politics without any acrimony. Demands for change in the polity should be done maturely and democratically rather than undemocratic and clandestine methods. Democratic principles and due processes should be applied at all levels of governance in electing political leaders rather than selective principle and imposition of political candidates on the electorate. The principle of equity, fairness, and justice should be our political slogan in the coming 2015 election. The adherence of these norms in our polity will go a long way in reducing areas of discontent and help in building bridges across the nation for peaceful co-existence and unity.

Government must create developmental programmes towards the elimination of poverty and empowerment of the youth. There is frustration, misery, stress, economic imbalance and inequitable distribution of wealth which has given rise to unemployment in the country. The result is that only a handful of the people are rich while majority are languishing in abject poverty.

Government must address urgently the rising profile of Boko Haram insurgency and general insecurity in the country. The masses of this country especially school children, women and physically challenged in the society must be assured of their safety. Students in Nigerian colleges must be secured and protected. The fundamental human rights of the child especially the girl child must be protected by all government agencies. Police brutality and government use of force to quell riots must be reviewed especially in a democratic setting.

Government a matter of urgency should as liaise with foreign partners and stakeholders in the country to ensure that Chibok school girls and other Boko Haram women abducted by are rescued to wipe out the national shame this news has brought to the nation. Our security agencies should be adequately equipped to be able to execute their constitutional duties without constraint. We must not leave the security of the country in the hands of foreigners, our sovereignty as a country must be maintained.

There should be a synergy of all security agencies in the country to ensure that intelligence are shared for prompt action in order to curb conflict at its bud. In this line, the society needs some kind of security awareness to enable them police their environment and report properly issues of security threat to appropriate agencies. There should be an integrative approach in handling issues of conflicts in Nigeria for the survival of our nascent democracy. Government must continue to engage in dialogue with all key stakeholders in involved in any conflict situation to ensure contending issues are resolved peacefully. Consequently, women themselves should be involved in conflict resolution and be trained to be security conscious and above all encourage relying on their creator as this will lead to emotional stability.

There is no alternative to peace, except war and destruction. Government must endeavour to engage in meaningful developments to avoid issues of mistrust, marginalization, poverty, unemployment, corruption, inequality etc. in the country.

Motivation of security agents are important method to carry out their work diligently and ensure stability in the country, government should motivate them interns of:

- (i) Paying them good salary
- (ii) Provision of incentives to the security agents
- (iii) Promotion at when due
- (iv) Review of recruitment procedure in order to fish out the bad eggs among the security agents and sack them.
- (v) Creation of workable criminal data base for the police and other security agencies

Fast tracking the development of rural communities in Borno State, especially in the area of job creation and development projects in the all local government of the state.

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