HUMAN SECURITY: A CRUCIAL AND DESIRABLE COMPONENT OF SECURITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY NIGERIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract:
Security is a very important aspect of all human societies and states. However the traditional understanding of the term security is limited to the State Security alone at the expense of some important aspects that deal directly with the humans in the state. Issues like poverty, unemployment, corruption, child labour, kidnapping, etc. undermine the worth and dignity of human person; and their prevalence in any society becomes a human security threat. This paper focused on the importance of Human Security as a major component of security in contemporary Nigeria. It also brought to light that human security is a global concern considering the various steps taken internationally to promote it.

Key words: Human Security, State Security, Security threat, Contemporary Nigerian Society.

INTRODUCTION
The term ‘Human Security’ is an emerging concept in an effort by the academics, policy makers, human right activists and security stakeholders to broaden the meaning of security. This is because it is realized in the contemporary times that the traditional meaning of security is very direct and narrow. Traditionally, security meant protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states from external military threats (Amitav Acharya). Security therefore was all about national security. However, the concept gradually broadened as many factors both natural and man-made were taken into consideration as capable of undermining state security. In the 1970s and 1980s, academic literature on security, responding to the Middle East oil crises and the growing awareness of worldwide environmental degradation, began to think on security in broader, non-military terms (Amitav Acharya).
In simplest term therefore, human security means security for the people, rather than security for the state or its territory. Those advocating for human security believe strongly that redirecting attention to such issues as disease, poverty, human rights abuses, corruption, structural violence, environmental stress as well as armed conflicts will expose the conditions that serve as threats to humans which will in turn undermine the freedom and dignity and the overall development of human capacity and growth. The contemporary Nigerian society no doubt is gasping for enhanced human security considering the conditions and circumstances of human insecurity.

OBJECTIVE
The Nigerian society no doubt is passing through a turbulent times considering the heightening of insecurity day by day. Efforts have been made by the authorities to strengthen national security whereas another salient aspect of security is somewhat not attended to. The general objective of this paper therefore is to bring to light this salient aspect – The Human Security. While the specific objectives are:

1. To emphasize the need for human security as an important component of security in contemporary Nigeria;
2. To de-emphasize holding unto the traditional meaning and mode of security but to take into cognizance the overall well-being of humans which is a vital part of security;
3. To alert the authorities and the general public on the growing human insecurity and the need to address them.

CONCEPTUAL DEFINITION OF HUMAN SECURITY
The Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme reports that the human security approach was introduced in the 1994 global Human Development Report (HDR), which led to a range of literature and initiatives building on the idea ( ).
The Commission on Human Security (CHS), in its final report *Human Security Now*, defines human security as: “…to protect the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment. Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people’s strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity.” (CHS: 2003: 4, Cited in).

Overall, the definition proposed by the CHS re-conceptualizes security in a fundamental way by:

(i) moving away from traditional, state-centric conceptions of security that focused primarily on the safety of states from military aggression, to one that concentrates on the security of the individuals, their protection and empowerment;

(ii) drawing attention to a multitude of threats that cut across different aspects of human life and thus highlighting the interface between security, development and human rights; and

(iii) promoting a new integrated, coordinated and people-centered approach to advancing peace, security and development within and across nations.

Dr. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, in a paper titled “*Human Security*: Looking back before Looking forward” commented that Human security, in its broadest term, means freedom from want, freedom from fear and a life of dignity. He further stated that although there is no widely accepted universal definition of human security, there are three schools of thought at the moment:

1) A first school, mostly of the realist and neo-realist tradition for whom human security lacks analytical rigor, is not an analytically useful paradigm but a political agenda. To this group, human security is not a new or acceptable paradigm worthy of study. 2) A second school, which while accepting the term, insists on limiting it to a narrow definition focusing on “freedom from fear” and factors that perpetuate violence; 3) A third approach for whom a broad definition, based on “freedom from want”, “freedom from fear” and freedom from indignity is an essential tool for understanding contemporary crises.

The simplest definition of security is “absence of insecurity and threats”. To be secure is to be free from both fear (of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, violence, persecution, or death) and from want (of gainful employment, food, and health). Human security therefore deals with the capacity to identify threats, to avoid them when possible, and to mitigate their effects when they do occur. (Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh,

**MAJOR APPROACHES TO HUMAN SECURITY**

Literatures in human security studies reveal that there are basic questions to be asked; answers to these questions have become vital ways of approaching human security. The United Nations Development Programme (Human Development Report, 1994) gave an insight to these approaches:

- Whose security? Human security work focuses on the security of people not the state. Particular reports may focus on certain target (i.e. vulnerable) groups and individuals, but should explain their selection criteria.
- Security of what? What values are in need of protection? The human security approach considers the ‘survival, livelihood and dignity’ of individuals.
- Security from what? What threats are most relevant at a particular time and place? One must also decide on the number of issues to be included and how they interrelate. Consider as well the perception of threats compared to their actual occurrence. Human security threats include both objective, tangible elements, such as insufficient income, chronic unemployment, dismal access to adequate health care and quality education, etc., as well as subjective perceptions, such as the inability to control one’s destiny, indignity, fear of crime and violent conflict, etc. (Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, 2009)
- Who can play a role? While recognizing the state’s primary role, many actors can and should play a part, including individuals, businesses, communities and international Organisations.
- What means for promoting human security can be used? While some common tools/ strategies are suggested (e.g. the principles of being comprehensive, contextual, participatory, and preventive), reports should be creative, innovative, and differentiate according to the context.
- Target levels – are there examples of too little or too much (human) security? One should preferably use some form of cost-benefit analysis to explore trade-offs implicit in focusing on one threat rather than another, and on one type of response compared to another (Jolly and Basu Ray 2006).
Another consideration at this juncture is whether to focus primarily on institutional consolidation or institutional innovation. These approaches are not exclusive, but the choice will have an impact on many aspects of the report.

THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE OF HUMAN INSECURITY AND THE NEED FOR HUMAN SECURITY
It is important at this juncture to bring to light some key human security threats in Nigeria so as to appreciate its devastating effects and the general impediment to human freedom, dignity and capacity for overall development. Some of the human security threats are highlighted as follows:

Unemployment
Unemployment is a major human security threat in Nigeria considering the population of people in their active ages who are willing to work but are not gainfully employed or involved in businesses in one form or the other due to acute poverty. A quick look at what unemployment is will help bring to light and chart the course for understanding this human security threat.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines the unemployed as members of the economically active population who are without work but available for and seeking work, including people who have lost their jobs or who have voluntarily left work (IBRD, 2009). Morio and Zoctizoum (1980) defined unemployment as workers available for employment whose contract of employment has terminated or been temporarily suspended and who are without a job and seeking paid employment; persons never previously employed whose most recent status was other than that of employee, together with persons who had been in retirement, who were available for work during the specified period and were seeking paid employment; persons without a job and currently available for work who have made arrangements to start a new job at a date subsequent to the specified period; and persons temporarily or indefinitely laid off without pay. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), (2005) illustrates that administrative data indicates that the country generates about 4.5 million new entrants into the labour market annually. This figure is made up of people out of the school system (1 million); primary school leavers not proceeding to secondary school (2.2 million); secondary school leavers not proceeding to the tertiary level (1 million); and tertiary graduates (300,000). Most often the labour market absorbs about 10% of the new entrants, thereby leaving about four million (4 million) people who are either openly unemployed or underemployed. The incredible large number accounts for the rapid growth in Nigeria’s informal economy (E. J. Nwagwu, 2014).

The NBS also gave a highlight of unemployment rate for the last quarter of 2016 as this: The economically active population or working age population (persons within ages 15 and 64) increased from 108.03 million to 108.59 million, this represents a 0.5% increase over the previous quarter and a 3.4% increase when compared to Q4 2015. In Q4 2016, the labour force population (i.e. those within the working age population willing, able and actively looking for work) increased to 81.15 million from 80.67 million in Q3 2016, representing an increase of 0.6% in the labour force during the quarter. This means about 482,689 persons from the economically active population entered the labour force during the quarter that is individuals that were able, willing and actively looking for work. The magnitude of this increase between Q3 and Q4 2016 is smaller when compared to Q2 and Q3 2016, which recorded an increase of 782,886 in the Labour force population. Within the reference period, the total number of persons in full time employment (did any form of work for at least 40 hours) decreased by 977,876 or 1.8% when compared to the previous quarter, and decreased by 1.92 million or 3.5% when compared to Q4 of 2015, making a total of 52.58 million persons in full time employment. With an economically active or working age population of 108.59 million and labour force population of 81.15 million. Accordingly, there were a total of 28.58 million persons in the Nigerian labour force in Q4 2016, that were either unemployed or underemployed compared to compared to 27.12 million in Q3, 26.06 million in Q2 and 24.5 million in Q1 2016. (NBS June, 2017).

From these reports and analyses, it is rather alarming to note that from 2005, 4.5 million are generated into the labour market annually while 27 to 28 million people within the labour force are unemployed as at 2016. One can just imagine the number of the unemployed in the year 2018 if only 10% of the 4.5 million are absorbed into various available jobs annually. The question is if these people are not employed, what else would they do?

The irony of this situation is that massive unemployment subsist in a country endowed with abundance of wealth and natural resources because of the greed, corruption and in some cases structural injustice. The unemployed feels cheated, abrogated and marginalized; this feeling alone is a security threat. They can also be available tools for different criminal and anti-social activities hence the urgent need to tackle unemployment.
Corruption

This is another reality that threaten human security. If corruption prevails in a society, it has the capacity of denying people the basic amenities such as primary health care facilities, good drinking water, roads, electricity, primary education, etc.

The World Bank defines corruption as “The abuse of public office for private gains. Public office is abused for private gain when official accepts, edicts or extorts a bribe. It is also abused when private agents actively offer bribes to circumvent public policies and processes for competitive advantage and profit. Public office can also be abused for the personal benefits even if no bribery occurs through patronage and nepotism, the theft of state assets or the diversion of state revenue.” O. N Awojobi, (2014).

PWC says corruption is defined and perceived across a spectrum of illegal payments and transactions such as bribes, embezzlement, and money laundering among others. Going by this definition, there is no doubt, corruption is a social evil that has a devastating impact on people in Nigeria. Corruption undermined merit and encouraged mediocrity; it deprived many of meaningful average life as resources meant for them are diverted for personal use thereby reducing them to a mere demographic variables but not humans with dignity and self-worth. Therefore it is a human security threat.

Kidnapping

Kidnapping is one of the many prevailing social vices in Nigeria which started in the Niger-Delta oil region but has gradually engulfed the whole nation. Kidnapping is the unlawful taking away of a person against the person’s will, usually to hold the person in false imprisonment for ransom or in furtherance of another crime. (I. L. Chidi et. al, 2015). The crime has become endemic to the extent that Nigeria in the year 2008 was placed sixth on the global kidnapping index by online tourism site. (I. L. Chidi et. al, 2015).

The North Carolina kidnapping act defines kidnapping as “the unlawful confinement, restraint, or removal from one place to another of any person sixteen years of age or over without the person’s consent for the purpose of obtaining a ransom, holding the victim hostage, facilitating the commission of felony or flight after the commission of the felony or for doing serious bodily harm to or terrorizing the victim, (Arewa, 2013).

Going by a brief analyses on the prevalence of kidnapping in Nigeria, it is glaring that it is increasing day by day. I. L. Chidi et. al (2015) revealed in their work that 353 cases of kidnapping were recorded in 2008 and 512 cases of kidnapping and 30 dead persons in kidnapping den was recorded in 2009. The Nigerian police record shows also that in 2009, kidnappers and hostage keepers got N15 million ransom and about N100 million from 2006 – 2008.

Kidnapping is a serious human security threat. The victims are treated more like animals: they are beaten, left in hunger and are sometimes killed. It is also a means of extorting money from the victims’ relations. All these leave people in psychological and emotional trauma. If one is a political figure, belonging to a royalty, wealthy or an Academic, the person is a potential target of the kidnappers. As such, peoples freedom and security is jeopardized, hence the urgent need to tackle this human security threat.

Poverty

Poverty is not an easy concept to define because it has many dimensions. However, effort is made to show how that a great number of people suffer from poverty in Nigeria and the negative effects it has on them. The Nigeria Poverty Profile (2010) as published by the National Bureau of Statistics NBS, gave a number of ways of measuring poverty which is referred to as “Poverty Line”. They include the following:

i) Food Poverty line is N39, 759.49. This Food Poverty is an aspect of Absolute Poverty Measure which considers only food expenditure for the affected Households.

ii) Absolute Poverty line is N54, 401.16. This is the second step in Absolute (Objective) Poverty measure. Here, this method considers both food expenditure and non-food expenditure using the per capita expenditure approach

iii) The Relative Poverty line is N66, 802.20. This line separates the poor from the non-poor. All persons whose per capita expenditure is less than the above are considered to be poor while those above the stated amount are considered to be non-poor.

iv) The Dollar Per day Poverty line is N54, 750. This measures, consider all individuals whose expenditure per day is less than a dollar per day using the exchange rate of Naira to Dollar in 2009/2010.

v) The Subjective Poverty Measure is the perception of the citizenry. It is neither related to Per Capita Expenditure of household nor the Country adult – equivalent scale. From the survey result, the core poor is 46.7 percent, Moderate poor is 47.2 percent while the non-poor is 6.1 percent
Another critical measure of poverty is the Gini Coefficient (Inequality Measurement). This measure can explain the spread of income or expenditure yet cannot explain increase or decrease of individuals or persons in poverty. In 2004, the Gini Coefficient was 0.4296 whereas in 2010 it was 0.4470 indicating that inequality increased by 4.1 percent nationally. See Table 7

Through the above measurements, the NBS was able to show the prevalence and increase in poverty in Nigeria from 1980 to 2010. The table below shows that poverty is on a persistent increase with no sign of decrease whatsoever. By now it would have escalated outrageously.

### Table 1: Relative Poverty Headcount from 1980 - 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Poverty Incidence (%)</th>
<th>Estimated Population (million)</th>
<th>Population in poverty (million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>17.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>39.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>102.3</td>
<td>67.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>126.3</td>
<td>68.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>112.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Bureau of Statistics HNLSS 2010

The impact of poverty on the poor cannot be overemphasized. The poor cannot afford three square meal; and even the available meal lacks the required diet for the human health. Again, poverty constrain individuals from getting a good shelter as many people sleep under the bridge or in an open space with highly poor hygiene. The poor cannot send their wards to school because they are first of all preoccupied with survival. They can also be easily manipulated into prostitution, child labour, drugs, terrorism and many other social and criminal vices. This is also a clear state of human insecurity.

### Herdsmen/Farmers clashes

This is another critical aspect of human insecurity faced in Nigeria. Most farmers in Nigeria are peasants who solely depend on their farm produce for food, welfare and general needs. The herders also are so reliant on their cattle for source of livelihood. Historically, relations between herdsmen and sedentaristic farming communities have been harmonious. By and large, they lived in a peaceful, symbiotic relationship: herders’ cattle would fertilize the farmers’ land in exchange for grazing rights. But tensions have grown over the past decade, with increasingly violent flare-ups spreading throughout central and southern states; incidents have occurred in at least 22 of the country’s 36 states (Crisis Group Interview, 2 June, 2017). According to one report, in 2016 over 2,000 people were killed and tens of thousands displaced in Benue and Kaduna states alone (Crisis Group, 21 March, 2017). One of the reasons for the increased clashes was the introduction of irrigation farming in savannah belt of Nigeria in order to enhance food security to support the growing population in the country, as a result more land was put to farming activities. This limited the access to the vast area which was initially used by Fulani herdsmen for rearing their herds especially along the river banks of savannah belts in the northern part of the country (S.D. Musa et. al 2014). There arose the need for grazing movement to access pasture across regions in order to support herds (Tenuche and Ifatimehin, 2009, Solagberu and Oluwasegun, 2010).

Crisis Group, 2014 also summarized the reasons for the clashes to include climatic changes (frequent droughts and desertification); population growth (loss of northern grazing lands to the expansion of human settlements); technological and economic changes (new livestock and farming practices); crime (rural banditry and cattle rustling); political and ethnic strife (intensified by the spread of illicit firearms); and cultural changes (the collapse of traditional conflict management mechanisms). A dysfunctional legal regime that allows crime to go unpunished has encouraged both farmers and pastoralists to take matters into their own hands.

The incessant herdsmen/farmers clashes has resulted to untold loss of lives, damage on the economy and several social, psychological and emotional consequences. Tens of thousands have been displaced. 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 (IDP) camps, most seek shelter in other poor, rural communities, straining their already scarce resources (Crisis group, 2014).

For women and girls, the impact is frequently magnified. The relatives of men killed in the violence often evict widows from their farmland. Moreover, post-conflict economic and social disenfranchisement renders women and girls even more vulnerable to sexual and economic predation. (Crisis Group, 2014).
These consequences and many more have endangered many lives. Media has reported several herdsmen and farmers in illegal possession and use of firearms. This ugly trend is actually a human security threat.

**PROMOTING HUMAN SECURITY AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL AND THE ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR**

It is worthy of mention that human security is not an issue that borders Nigeria alone or Africa as a continent. It is a global concern and as such various security stakeholders at the international scene have made several strides to promote and if possible, institutionalize human security. Below is the chronological account of steps taken at the international level in promoting human security as contained in a document by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security:

- In 1992, Boutros-Boutros Ghali’s Agenda for Peace makes the first explicit reference of human security within the UN. In this report, the concept was used in relation to preventative diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict recovery. The report drew attention to the broad scope of challenges in post-conflict settings and highlighted the need to address root causes of conflict through a common international moral perception and a wide network of actors under “an integrated approach to human security”.

- In 1994, the UNDP Human Development Report was the seminal text to stress the need for human security, broadly defining it as ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘freedom from want’. The 1994 HDR further characterized human security as “safety from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and repression as well as protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities” (UNDP, 1994:23).

- In the late 1990s, human security was adopted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan as part of the new UN mandate in the 1999 Millennium Declaration and his call at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit, addressing the international community to work towards the advancement of the twin objectives of ‘freedom from fear’ and ‘freedom from want’.

- In 1999, the Government of Japan and the UN launched the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), taking a concrete step towards operationalizing the concept. The UNTFHS has been primarily funded by the government of Japan with the governments of Slovenia and Thailand joining the Fund since 2007. The UNTFHS funds projects relating to key thematic human security areas, such as, post-conflict peacebuilding, persistent and chronic poverty, disaster risk reduction, human trafficking and food security. Projects are selected with a view to further “translate the concept of human security into operational activities that provide concrete and sustainable benefits to peoples and communities threatened in their survival, livelihood and dignity.”

- Meanwhile, in 1999, a number of additional governments joined efforts to engage with the concept as part of the Human Security Network (HSN). Launched by Canada, the Network comprises a total of twelve ‘like-minded’ countries - Austria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland, Slovenia, Thailand and South Africa as an observer. Committed to applying the human security perspective to international problems, the Network’s efforts include steps towards the application of human security, including the Ottawa Convention on Anti-personnel Landmines and the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

- In 2000, in contribution to the above efforts and in direct response to the Secretary-General’s call at the Millennium Summit, the independent Commission on Human Security (CHS) was established under the chairmanship of Sadako Ogata, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Amartya Sen, Nobel Economics Prize Laureate (1998). Aiming to mobilize support and provide a concrete framework for the operationalization of human security, in 2003, the CHS produced its final report Human Security Now. The report offers a working definition of human security and reaches a number of respective policy conclusions covering issues such as violent conflict, small arms, refugees and internally displaced persons, post-conflict recovery, health, poverty, trade and education.

- Following the conclusion of the activities of the CHS and as per its recommendations, the Advisory Board on Human Security (ABHS) was created as an advisory body to the Secretary General and to...
follow-up the policy recommendations of the CHS. In specific, the ABHS has undertaken the role to (i) advise the UN Secretary-General on issues relating to the management of the UNTFHS, (ii) further promote the human security concept and (iii) increase the impact of human security projects funded by the Trust Fund.

- The ABHS has been instrumental in the establishment, in 2004, of the Human Security Unit (HSU) at the UN Secretariat. The overall objective of the Unit is twofold: (i) management of the UNTFHS and (ii) the development of the Trust Fund into a major vehicle for the acceptance and advancement of human security within and outside the UN. Since its establishment in 1999, the UNTFHS has funded more than 175 projects in approximately 70 countries.

CONCLUSION
So far we have seen that human security is not just the concern of the Nigerian society but a global one. To catch up with the international best practices in security matters therefore, Nigeria need to step up in tackling issues that directly deal with the development and the dignity of human person. Efforts should be geared towards fighting corruption, poverty, unemployment, kidnapping, terrorism, human trafficking and many other threats to human security in order to realize the desired atmosphere for peace, security and progress.

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