The War against International Terrorism: Challenges and the Future Perspectives

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Abstract: The attack of US on 11th September, 2001, took the whole world by surprise. This therefore necessitated the need to initiate some new dimensions on the approach and methods of how to fight international terrorism. On 20/9/2001, former President Gorge Bush of US made a televised address to a joint session of Congress that ‘Our war on terror begins with Al-Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found and defeated.” In spite of this statement, terrorism is still on the increase. For example, on 10th August, 2006, the British Government made an announcement that another bomb attempt was being planned: a repeat of the attack of US on 11th September, 2001. Based on this, many arrests were made, and while investigation was still going on, on 21st, May, 2006, the British government charged eight of those arrested to court for an offence of terrorism, but the two of them were released on 23rd, September, 2006.1 This did not however deter terrorists from striking. The obvious reason of this is that certain actions and inactions of the US and its allies have made terrorism to thrive. These had therefore generated a chain of reactions and counter reactions. The overt and covert supports which the US and the West gave to Israel in the Israel/Lebanon conflict is a good example of illustration of this point. On one hand, this type of altitude has polarized the world on ethnic, religion or ideological grounds. On the other hand, the failures of UN to always act timely in crisis situations had led to self-help through the emergence of certain organizations like the Hisbollah, Al-Qaeda, among others. These organizations sprang up because the UN failed to carry out its functions as expected. Therefore, unless these injustices are addressed, any measures aimed at curbing terrorism may still not yield the desired objectives. This is therefore a food for thought for the UN, the US, the West and all other stake holders that are interested in making the world free of terrorism.

Key words: War, International Terrorism, Terrorists, and Terrorist Organizations.

1.0 Introduction

A common problem facing many parts of the world today is the crime of international terrorism. The crime of terrorism takes many forms and different dimensions. It includes such distinct offences like hijacking, kidnapping, hostage taking, political assassination, bombing and other related crimes. In the past, it used to be a crime mostly found in the Western world. This is because: …half of all the acts of terrorism committed in the 1970’s occurred in Europe.2 Now, it has spread to other parts of the world: Europe, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. In this respect, therefore, some of the countries affected by the upsurge of terrorism are Nigeria, Cameroun, Niger, Somalia, Afghanistan, The Philippines, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Kenya, Sudan, Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Venezuela, Yemen, Pakistan, and a host of others. In all these countries where acts of terrorism have occurred, innocent human lives, specifically, the vulnerable members of the society (children, women, and the elderly persons) were either killed or maimed for life. This is apart from the destruction of properties worth millions of dollars.

This work is an attempt to look at the meaning of the word terrorism, and what is the close relationship between terrorism and insurgency. Types of terrorism is looked into, the reason being that while individuals and group are involved in acts of terrorism; states have also been indicted of this offence. This work is then followed with incidences of terrorism. These include kidnapping, hostage taking, and bomb blasts, just

1. Under the British law, the Police can detain a suspect for a period of 28 days without charging him to the court, but with a proviso that the Police shall go to the court with a view to justifying the continued detention of the suspect.

to mention few. A general overview of International terrorism is also discussed. Some reasons on why we have cases of terrorism are delved into. This is followed with the future perspectives. Here, few suggestions are offered after which a concluding remark of the work is given.

2.0 Meaning and Legal Basis of International Terrorism

The term ‘terrorism’ has become a universal term, yet, there is no universal acceptable definition; each individual looking at terrorism from different perspectives. This is because what is terrorism to some people is heroism to others. At times, attempt is usually made to differentiate between terrorism and insurgency, thereby indicating that there are wide ranges of difference between the two concepts. Though, terrorism and insurgency are two separate concepts, yet, the bottom line between them is very thin. The reason of this is obvious; their common factors are the same, and they include: Terrorists and Insurgents always look for soft targets, and when they attack, it is done indiscriminately. This is aimed at causing as much as possible a large scale destruction of lives and property so as to get attention from the general public. Therefore, for purpose of this discussion, the two concepts connote one and the same meaning.

A dictionary definition of the word terrorism is: the use of violence for political reasons: used showing disapproval. Another definition is: the practice of using (threat of) violence to obtain political demands.

Paul Wilkinson defines it as a policy or as a process consisting of three basic elements

1) The decision to use terrorism as a systematic weapon;
2) The threat or acts of extra normal violence themselves;
3) The effect of this violence upon the immediate victims… and the wider national and international opinion…

Terrorism is also defined as: the unscrupulous and boundless use of violence, with a trans-national modus operandi and in trans-national concert, against person and property on the part of self-dubbed politically, religiously, socially or ethnically motivated small groups or individuals, who are ineligible for recognition under international law, with the objective of violent preparation and accomplishment of revolutionary upheavals in individual states or of changes in international situations.

In 2004, the UNSC Resolution 1566 condemned terrorist acts as follows:

3. The concept is being looked from different perspectives ranging from ideological, religious, social, economic and political, among others.
4. It may therefore not be surprising that the groups designated as terrorist organizations may be faulted in some in some situations; in this respect, those groups would preferred to be regarded as heroes in their own respects. Thus, Sami Ziedan, in his work titled, Desperately Seeking Definition: The International Community’s Quest for Identifying the Specter of Terrorism, observed: “There is no general consensus on the definition of terrorism. The difficulty of defining terrorism lies in the risk it entails of taking positions. The political value of the term currently prevails over its legal one. Left to its political meaning, terrorism easily falls prey to change that suits the interests of particular states at particular times. The Taliban and Osama bin Laden were once called freedom fighters (Mujahideen) and backed by the CIA when they were resisting the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Now they are on top of the international terrorists. Today, the United Nations views Palestinians as freedom fighters struggling against the unlawful occupation of their land by Israel, and engaged in a long established legitimate resistance, yet Israel regards them as terrorists. Israel also brands the Hisbollah of Lebanon as a terrorist group, whereas most of the international community regards it as a legitimate resistance group, fighting Israel’s occupation of Southern Lebanon. In fact, the successful ousting of Israeli forces from most of the South by the Hisbollah in 2000 made Lebanon the only Arab country to actually defeat the Israeli army. The repercussion of the current preponderance of the political over the legal value of terrorism is costly, leaving the war against terrorism selective, incomplete and ineffective. “ Quoted from International Law Journal (2004), pp. 491-492.

Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitutes offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.

The EFCC Act of Nigeria (2004) defines it as:

(a). any act which is a violation of the Criminal Code or the Penal Code and which may endanger the life, physical integrity or freedom of or cause serious injury or death to any person, any number or group of persons or causes or may cause damage to public or property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage and is calculated or intended to-

i. intimidate, put in fear, force, coerce or induce any government, body institution, the general public or any segment thereof to do or abstain from doing any act or adopt or abandon a particular stand point, or act according to certain principles, or

ii. disrupt any public service, the delivery of any essential service to the public or to create a public emergency, or

iii. create general insurrection.

b. any promotion, sponsorship of contribution to, command, aid, incitement, encouragement, attempt, threat, conspiracy, organization or procurement of any person, with the intent to commit any act referred to in paragraph (a) (i) (ii) and (iii).

Similarly, the Nigerian Terrorism Act of 2011 as amended provides as follows:

1. A person who knowingly-

   a. does, attempts or threatens to do an act preparatory to, or in furtherance of an act of terrorism; or

   b. commits to do anything that is reasonably necessary to promote an act of terrorism; or

   c. Assists or facilitates the activities of persons engaged in an act of terrorism, commits an offence under this Act.

2. In this section, act of terrorism means an act which is deliberately done with malice, afterthought and which:

   a. may seriously harm or damage a country or an international organization;

   b. is intended or can reasonably be regarded as having been intended to-

      i. unduly compel a government or international organization to perform or abstain from performing any act;

      ii. seriously intimidate a population;

      iii. seriously destabilize or destroy the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of a country or an internal organization; or

   iv. otherwise influence such government or international organization by intimidation or coercion; and

      c. involves or causes, as the case may be-

         i. an attack upon a person’s life which may cause seriously bodily harm or death;

         ii. Kidnapping of a person,

   iii. destruction to a government or public facility, a transport system, an infrastructure facility, including an information system, a fixed platform located on the continental shelf, a public place or private property, likely to endanger human life or result in major economic loss;

   iv. the seizure of an aircraft, ship or other means of public or goods transport and diversion or the use of such means of transportation for any of the purposes in paragraph (b) (iv) of this subsection;

   v. the manufacture, possession, acquisition, transport, supply or use of weapons, explosives or of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons without lawful authority;

   vi. The release of dangerous substance or causing of fire, explosions or floods, the effect of which is to endanger human life;

   vii. interference with or disruption of the supply of water, power or any other fundamental natural resource, the effect of which is to endanger human life;

3. An act which disrupts a service but is committed in pursuance of a protest. However, demonstration or stoppage of work is not a terrorist act within the meaning of this definition provided that the
act is not intended to result in any harm referred to in subsection (2) (b) (i), (ii) or (iv) of this section.9

Meanwhile, various nations of the world have given the meaning of the word terrorism. The same thing applies under the various international conventions and treaties. The wordings of the definition sections may differ, but they all aimed at illegalising any act or acts of terrorism. However, the will to punish acts of terrorism differs between one factual situation and another, and also from one nation to another.

An important modus operandi often used by terrorists is violence or its threat against innocent civilians, their lives, property or their well-being. This is used so as to gain political goal, which ordinarily, would not have been achieved through some lawful means. No doubt, the use of violence, in whatever form is illegal. This is because the use of force that is often used does not make a distinction between legitimate and illegitimate means or the methods of warfare that would be employed. This explains why their methods of warfare often fail to make a distinction between civilian and military targets; their means and methods are not restricted. And for the purpose of distinction, Article 33 of the Civilian Convention provides: "No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited. Pillage is prohibited. Reprisals against protected persons and their property are protected."

In addition, Article 51 (2) of Additional Protocol I provides: "the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence, the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited."

From the above provisions, the principle of law in this regard is therefore very clear. That is to say that any forms of indiscriminate attacks are forbidden. In addition, civilians must not be subjected to torture or any other forms of action that will cause physical suffering or intimidation to them. All these and many others are the safeguards and guarantees that will ensure international peace and justice.

Unfortunately, Terrorists, in most situations, often jettisoned and ignored these safeguards and principles in any of their operations. Their primary concern is to use any form of violent act aimed at creating threat or inducement in the minds of their victims with a view to obtaining by force a particular demands and objectives from their perceived enemies. This is regardless of the fact that the victims may not necessarily have anything to do with their demands and objectives. Yet, this method is employed because it is part of their deliberate application of methods to seek victims (targets) not only amongst their political opponents, but innocent persons according to their "usefulness" provided that, with that, their desired results would be achieved.10

On July 7, 2005, 6 explosions rocked the city of London: 33 persons died, while 45 suffered different degrees of injuries. The attack was planned and executed by a group called “The Secret Organisation of Al Qaeda in Europe””, with a view to avenging the participation of the British Government in the US’ invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. The Group further threatened to attack Italy and Denmark, and claimed responsibility for another attack in a Computer Trans in Madrid, Spain in March, 2004, killing 191 people.

After the July 7, 2005 attack, former President Bush restated the Americans’ commitment to the global war on terrorism. Since that time till date, the fight has been on-going, yet, nothing has actually changed in terms of its reduction. Rather, indices have shown that terrorism has increased on a large scale. The US and her allies should therefore think on other best alternative methods and means on how to fight the war on terror around the globe.11

Meanwhile, regardless of the motive (good or bad) of a terrorist’s attack, terrorism is outlawed under international law,12 and by extension, the same applies under the municipal laws of all UN member nations.13 Therefore, where a breach of the laws occurs, prosecution of the offenders will follow. But, just like other offences created under the rules of international law, the

9. An offence of terrorism would therefore be committed if: (i) It involves serious violence against a person, (ii) It causes serious damage to property, (iii) It endangers a person’s life, (iv) It creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public, or (vi) It interferes with the activities of Government or an International Organization.

10. Over 70% of victims of terrorist attacks have nothing to do with the grievance of the terrorists.


12. The UN Charter provides against the use of force.

13. See section 1 of the Terrorism Act, 2011, Nigeria.
identified and listed some groups as terrorist their ideology. As at December, 9, 2015, the US states like Libya, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Lockerbie in Scotland in 1990. On many occasions, USA, Germany, and many other countries have there.

however faulted this categorization. He said: ‘Boko Chad.

16. The former US Ambassador, John Campell has however faulted this categorization. He said: ‘Boko Haram, an Islamic sect terrorizing the Northern parts of Nigeria was different from Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), such as Hisbollah, Hamas, or the Tamil Tigers, which had an organizational structure and a unified goal. Boko Haram was a highly diffuse movement with little central organization.’ Quoted from www.leadership.ng/nga/31/5/12. It was however proscribed on 4/6/13 and declared as a terrorist organization by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

3.0 Types of International Terrorism

Under this heading, two main types have been identified, and they are:

3.1 States’ Sponsored Terrorism

This is often committed by a state against another state or some other citizens with a view to furthering the interests of the state terrorist. This could be in form of assassination missions against an individual or a group of individuals in another state. Example of this was an attack launched against an Israel jet plane at Heathrow in 1986, presumably sponsored by the Syrian Government, or, the attack on an aero plane, which crashed at Lockerbie in Scotland in 1990. On many occasions, states like Libya, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, USA, Germany, and many other countries have been accused and indicted of committing this category of terrorism.

3.2 Group Terrorism

This type of terrorism is often carried out against a state by a group of individuals who have some common interests with a view to promoting their ideology. As at December, 9, 2015, the US identified and listed some groups as terrorist organizations. They include:

a. Abu Nidal Organization. They are in the Middle East, and operate fully in the Philippines.

b. Boko Haram. They are in Africa, and have followership in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroun and Chad.

c. Liberation Tigers of Tamil. They are in Asia, and their base is in Sri Lanka.

d. Hisbollah. They are in Asia, and have strong supporters in the Lebanon.

e. Al-Shabab. They are in Africa, and their stronghold is in Somalia.

f. Hamas. They are in the Middle East, and operate fully in the territories of the Palestine.

g. Gamaa al Islamiya. They are in Africa, and operate fully in Egypt.
h. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. They are scattered world-wide, and operate in Iraq, Syria, Libya and Nigeria.
i. Palestine Liberation Front. They are in the Middle East, and operate in the Palestine.
j. Euskadi Ta Askatasuna. They are found in Europe, and operate fully in Spain and France.
k. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAL). They are in the Middle East and have followership in Saudi Arabia.

In either of the two categorization of terrorism, the reasons why they often take up arms could be political, for example, self-determination or reunification with another state as it was the case of IRA or struggling for a greater autonomy, without necessarily claiming independence. Example of this is the Tamils Tiger in Sri Lanka or the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. It could also be as a result of a general dissatisfaction with the political and economic structure of a country they are fighting against, as it is the case of Boko Haram group in Nigeria. This group agitated for a carving out of certain parts of the North East of Nigeria as an Islamic Caliphate. To this end, Churches and Christians were targeted for attack and mass destruction. In this case, such action is taken from the within and against specific targets who are thought to be representatives of the structure of the system they are opposed to.

However, a common method of attack is noticeable under the two types of terrorism. In an attempt to meet both their specific and general demands, they resort to the use of force against their perceived enemies. Unfortunately, the force used is not normally made against those who will meet their demands but rather, against other people or government facilities and structures that are meant for the public use. This is often done by hijack of a plane, indiscriminate bombings of public and private buildings, kidnapping and abduction of innocent civilians, etc. All these are done with a view to forcing the state to meet their demands.

Their threats and attacks could also be in form of an attack against valuable assets such as aircrafts, ship or against some persons who as representatives of their governments are particularly valuable, for example, Diplomats as it

14. The USA has unilaterally attacked Afghanistan and Iraq, and yet no steps were taken by the international community to punish these acts of aggression.

15. The competent of the US to come out with this list may however be in doubt in view of the fact that the US itself is known as a state terror.

16. The USA has unilaterally attacked Afghanistan and Iraq, and yet no steps were taken by the international community to punish these acts of aggression.
was the case of terrorist attack against the West German Ambassador in Guatemala in 1973, or agents of the state such as armed forces as it was the case of IRA terrorist attacks against the Guards in Hyde Park and Regents park in London in 1953. Or, the attacks launched against innocent members of the civilian population as it was the case of the bomb attack on Harrods in London on 12th December 1984.

In addition, an attack by way of bombing some oil installations could be made. As part of the strategy, an attack is made, some important buildings are seized and occupied, after which a threat to bombard the entire building, if their demands are not met. Militants in the Niger Delta of Nigeria have used this method in the past with success. Hostage taking of individual or group of individuals is also another strategy to show their grievances to the authority. Once more, this has been used in the past with a lot of successes in the Niger Delta of Nigeria. In this situation, the militants would kidnap foreign nationals (workers of oil companies in the area) and then demand a huge amount of money (ransom) from them before being released.

4.0 Forms of International Terrorism

a. Kidnapping/Hostage Taking

Past experiences have shown that kidnapping or hostage taking of an individual or group of individuals by terrorists have been used with success. Thus, it is common to kidnap an important figure in the society or abduction of teenagers. The essence of this method is to play on the psychology of their perceived “enemies” by ensuring that their demands are met by the government.

b. Hijack of Aero plane

As part of their strategy, terrorists often hijack and seize an aircraft; threaten to bombard the plane together with all the passengers on board, if their demands are not met within a specified time. They could even resort to killing their captives at intervals of time. This and many others are all part of their game plans so as to show that they are serious and that refusal to meet their demands will result to dire consequences; maiming, killing, etc. of all or some of those on board the aircraft.

c. Bombardment of oil Installations

Another form of terrorist attack is to attack, capture and seize some important buildings, or some oil installations, and then threaten to bombard the entire building, if their demands are not met. In the past, in Nigeria, especially in the Niger Delta areas, militants have used this with great successes.

5.0 An Overview of International Terrorism

As it is today, the crime of terrorism is a major threat facing the entire world. No part of the world has been spared of this offence. For example, the entire world was taken by surprise when in September, 2001, the Islamic militants, (the Al-Qaeda), launched a series of deadly attacks against the US. In the operation, four air liners were hijacked; two were intentionally crashed into the Twin towers of The World Trade Centre in the New York, killing 147 civilians and ten of the hijackers on board the air liners. The buildings collapsed, and killed 192 civilians, 71 law enforcement officers and 343 fire fighters who were in the towers and on the ground. The 3rd was crashed into the Pentagon, killing 70 civilians and 55 military personnel who were in the building, and also 59 civilians and the 5 hijackers on board. The 4th one was deliberately crashed. 89 civilians; and 4 hijackers were killed. The death toll was about 3000 victims and 19 hijackers.

One of the key architects of the attack was Osama Bin Laden, who was once trained by the USA. He was trained at a time when the Cold war between the US and the defunct USSR was at its peak. At that time, the

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18. In this situation, oil installations, oil pipelines, etc. are seized, destroyed and damaged so as to press home for their demands.

19. Their grievance in this respect is based on the fact the Oil companies, as a result of their activities, have caused a lot of damages to their lands, fish ponds, well for their drinking water, etc.


21. This was the type of method used during the September 11, 2001, attack of the US by the Al-Qaeda militants.


24. That was the worst terrorist attacks to ever take place on the US soil and the worst acts of international terrorism to take place on the US soil and also the deadliest foreign attacks on US since the Japanese carried out an air raid on Pearl Harbour on 7/12/1941.
Mohammed Yusuf brought the emergence of vacuum created as a result of the death of was killed in a circumstance described by the Shariah Criminal Courts across the country. It started as a non-violent group until when some of its members were targeted and killed by the Nigerian Police. This was the beginning of their problem with the Government of Nigeria.

After many years of attempts to capture him, on May, 2, 2011, he was shot and killed in a private residence in Abbottabad, Pakistan, by the US forces. It should however be reiterated that the September, 11, 2001, attack was followed by massive bombs in Indonesia, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Casablanca in Morocco, Mombasa in Kenya, etc. As of today, terrorist attacks have gone beyond the 2001 attack. Attacks of such nature and high magnitude can now be seen across most parts of the world.

From the above background, some of the countries faced with cases of terrorist attacks include the following:

a. Nigeria:

In the Nigerian situation, terrorist activities came into limelight in 1996. The terrorists operate under the name of Jamatu Ahlil Sunna Ldawati wal Jihad, otherwise known as Boko Haram. Its leader was Mohammed Yusuf. The group aims at ensuring that an Islamic state is established in Nigeria, including the adoption of the Shariah Criminal Courts across the country. It started as a non-violent group until when some of its members were targeted and killed by the Nigerian Police. This was the beginning of their problem with the Government of Nigeria. Thereafter, Mohammed Yusuf, their spiritual leader was killed in a circumstance described by the Human Rights Watch as Extra judicial killing. The vacuum created as a result of the death of Mohammed Yusuf brought the emergence of Mohammed Shekau as the new spiritual leader of the group. Shekau came up with some radical ideas, reforms and ideologies into the group. Meanwhile, in what appears to be a reaction to the injustices done to members of the group, they began to take up arms against the Police, Government buildings, Churches, Mosques, etc. All these institutions and places were targeted, attacked, and destroyed.

Their strong hold areas in Nigeria are Borno, Yobe and Adamawa. In early 2015, they became so strong and powerful that they took control of about 14 Local Government areas of Borno state. With this control, they declared the areas an Islamic caliphate. This was a time when over 200 school girls were abducted from their school in Chibok, Borno state of Nigeria. Till date, nobody is sure of where the girls have been kept. The Boko Haram group used different methods of attacks such as bomb blasts, IED explosives, abduction of school girls, etc.

b. Somalia:

The main actor in the sphere of terrorism in Somalia is the Harakat Shabaab al-Mujahidin, and it is also known as Al-Shabab. It was a military wing of the Somali Council of Islamic Courts that forms parts of the Southern Somalia in 2006. It operates in Southern and Central Somalia. It used guerilla warfare and terrorist attacks against the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and its allies, specifically, the African Union Peace keepers and non-governmental aid organizations. Its members cut across Yemen, Sudan, Swahili Coast, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Tanzania.

It has link with the Al-Qaeda group, and was responsible for the bombings and suicide attacks in Mogadishu, Central and Northern Somalia. It was also responsible for the 5 coordinated car bombings that occurred on October, 2008, in the two cities of Northern Somalia, killing about 26 people. It conducted the twin suicide bombings in Kampala, Uganda, on 11th July, 2010, killing more than 70 people. It also attacked the AU Peace Keeper Troops in Mogadishu. It killed the Somali Peace Activists,

25. In a similar situation, on 7/6/2012, the US made several offers of money on whoever has information that will lead to the capture of many of the senior commanders of the Al-Shabab.

26. Included in the list of these are: The 2nd /10/15 multiple suicide bombings in Yanya and Kuje, both sub-burbs in Abuja, Nigeria. In the attack, about 20 people were killed, while about 40 others were injured.

27. As at the time of this research, they are no longer in control of any territory in Nigeria, having been seriously defeated by the Nigerian soldiers.

aid workers, civil society groups and journalists.\textsuperscript{29} The porous borders and closeness of Somalia to the Arabian Peninsula made it possible for foreign fighters and members of the group to move freely, conduct training and planning of terrorist attacks within and around the country.

In April, 2015, it attacked a university campus in the Kenyan town of Garissa. 147 died in the attack. In September, 2015, it attacked the Westgate shopping mall, Nairobi, Kenya, killing about 67 people. And before this time, in July, 2010, it killed more than 70 people in Kampala, Uganda, when it bombed a bar and restaurant, where people were watching the world cup final.\textsuperscript{30}

c. Afghanistan:

During the mid-1990s, the Taliban regime, and many radical Islamic fighters used Afghanistan as their training grounds. Thus, the Al-Qaeda militants recruited terrorist groups from both Pakistan, and Afghanistan, and then trained them inside Afghanistan. The groups that operated in the region include the Al-Qaeda, Al-jihad, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Islamic movement of Uzbekistan, etc. Because the country lacked enough security forces that would patrol and control some of its border territories in the North and East Afghanistan, Al-Qaeda had some freedoms of movement in Kunar and Nuristan provinces. Therefore, Weapon of Mass Destructions (WMD), were freely trafficked on.

d. Pakistan:

Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan made some remnants of the terrorist groups to flee Afghanistan, and take refuge in Pakistan. Its secret service was once accused of training and funding the terrorist groups that were operating in Indian Kashmir and Mumbai. The Pakistani terrorist group has some kind of collaborations with the Al-Qaeda, which is based in Pakistan. These are the groups that were responsible for the attacks in Afghanistan, Europe and North America. These groups include Lashkare-Taiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Lashkare-e-Jhangvi, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, etc. Certain areas of Pakistan are safe havens for the terrorists in Pakistan. The terrorists exploited the failure and inability of the security forces to control some portions of its territory to plan and execute terrorist attacks from these areas. Other areas where they have launched attacks are Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) or Pakistani Taliban.

e. Kenya:

Kenya was bombed on August, 7, 1998. The same was the Tanzanian Embassies where many lives were lost. The key actors of these attacks were the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. The attack was launched in retaliation for the US torture of their members and the extraditing of others to Albania for trial. Another terrorist attack was the one launched against Paradise Hotel Mombasa, on November, 2002. Their targets were the Israeli tourists. The key actors of the attack were the Lebanese Jihadist group called the Army of Palestine. There was also another one in 1980, in which the Palestine Liberal Organization (PLO) bombed the Nortfolk Hotel in Nairobi. This attack was launched in retaliation of Kenya allowing the Israeli Military planes to refuel in Nairobi during the raid to free the Israelis that were held hostages at Uganda`s Entebe Airport.

f. Algeria:

A group known as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) operates in Algeria. It is a Sunni Muslim Jihadist that was formed in 1998. It joined Al-Qaeda in September, 2006. Most of its terrorist attacks were targeted against the Algerian security personnel and its facilities. The aim of the group is to establish an Islamic Caliphate in Algeria. Between 2006 and 2007, it attacked convoys of foreign nationals, and also attacked the UN forces in Algiers with a car bomb. In 2008, it attacked the Israeli Embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania.\textsuperscript{31} It operates in Northern Coastal areas of Algeria, parts of Southern Algeria, and Northern Mali. It employs guerrilla tactics and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks. Its sources of funds include extortion, kidnapping, etc. In April, 2007, it attacked and bombed Government Ministry and Police buildings in Algiers killing more than 30 people.\textsuperscript{32} It was also responsible for the attack that took place on 11\textsuperscript{th} July, 2007. It targeted the military barracks in Algeria, in which about 8 soldiers were killed with more than 20 people injured. In 2011, Mauritanian court sentenced a member of the group to death for a US murder. A Joint French-Mauritanian raid of July, 2010, led to the death of some of its members. In 2011, it killed 2 French hostages in an attempted rescue operation.\textsuperscript{33} The group was also responsible for an attack that was launched on 19/11/15. It attacked a hotel in Bamako, Mali, killing 19 people.

g. Yemen:

Yemen partners with the US on counter terrorism during the tenure of President Mansour Hadi. He gave an order to the military to dislodge the Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in the Abyan and Aden areas. Others are Zinjibar, Jaar, and Sugra.

h. Libya:

\textsuperscript{27} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{30} See Daily Trust of Nov.17, 2015, p. 35.
\textsuperscript{31} J.E Alubo, note 26, pp. 48- 50.
\textsuperscript{32} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{33} Ibid.
Since the fall and death of late Muhammar Ghaddafi of Libya, Libya has been unable to control its border posts in the East and South. It sought for assistance of US in the area of border patrol.

i. Sudan:

Sudan is a training ground for terrorist groups. These groups are the Hisballah, Palestine Islamic Jihad, Abu Nidal Organization, and the Hammas.

j. Syria:

The terrorist groups that operate freely in Syria are the Hammas, PIJ, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and the Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine.

k. Iraq:

The US attack of Iraq and the subsequent presence of the US troops led to the influx of some Islamic terrorist groups from the Middle East. These are the Al-Qaeda, Ansar al Islam, Al Faruq Brigades, Al Mahdi Army, Iraq Resistance Islamic Front (JAMI), Jamaat al Tawhid wal Jihad, Jaysh Muhammad, Kurdistan Peoples Congress (KHK).

Iraq collaborates with the US in counter terrorism. It prevents the proliferation and trafficking in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) within and across its borders. In February, 2012, it passed the Non Proliferation Act. It established a radio-active source regulatory infrastructure, the Iraq Radioactive Source Regulatory Authority.

l. Iran:

In the past, the Government of Iran has been accused of Islamic terrorism. It has also been speculated that it gives support of subversive activities in Iraq. Groups such as Hisbollah, Hammas, Palestine Islamic Jihad, etc. get their funds and training from the Government of Iran.

m. Lebanon:

The Lebanese Government has no effective measure of control of its borders with Syria and Israel. This explains why the Hisbollah group controls certain areas, thereby enabling the terrorist groups to be in firm control of some certain areas in the country. It was also said that the Palestine refugee camps were used for storage of weapons for use of the terrorists. The government has partnered with the US in training and denoting of equipment.

6.0 International Terrorism and its Challenges

In view of the recent upsurge in terrorist acts throughout the world, attempt would be advanced on why we have the prevalence of terrorism around the globe. Many reasons could be advanced for this specie of crime, and some of which include:

a. Freedom Fighters

Liberation of homelands, states or countries is a good example of the causes of international terrorism. In the past, such liberation movements by way of armed attacks against the government of the day were used with successes against foreign domination, or against racist regimes. In this context, the cause of the attack is known, and the objective is clearly stated. Thus, terrorism towards liberation of certain sect of people became a good weapon against the colonial masters when the call for independence did not yield fruitful results. In this regard, countries such as Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, etc. got their self-determinations through armed struggle. The same device was also employed with great success against the racist regimes of the former apartheid South Africa.

In another respect, the Israel/Palestine conflict has led to international terrorism and counter terrorism from amongst the two sides. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), an official organ for the liberation of the Palestines, had employed series of terrorist attacks against the state of Israel. The same thing is applicable to the Government of Israel that is pursuing the course of the Jews state in Israel. Till date the attacks and counter attacks are still on going with no peaceful solutions in the years ahead.

As regards terrorism, the general principle of international law is that the use of force is forbidden. The only exception to his law is that a minimum force used by the states in self-defence in case of an armed attack is allowed. Sequel to this, the UN General Assembly gave its supports to some National Liberation Movements in their struggle for independence and self-determination. Under the UN Charter, the General Assembly observed that their goal is consistent with international law. In this direction, colonialism was formally declared as international crime, and went further to re-affirm the right of peoples to struggle against it “by all necessary means at their

34. This led to the independence of most African countries, among which are Angola, Mozambique, and Algeria am, etc.
35. This led to the final collapse and disintegration of the racist regime in the former apartheid South Africa.
36. Other terrorist attacks were also launched by certain organizations like Hammas, Al-Qaeda, etc.
37. See the UN Charter.
38. Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter.
disposal.” 39 Pursuant to this, in 1969, the UN recognized the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine.40 In 1974, the UN declared these rights to include “the right to self-determination without external interference and “the right to national independence and sovereignty.”

In view of these provisions, certain oppressed people such as the Palestinian people have tried all means with a view to regaining their lost lands and above all their independence as a nation from the hands of the Government of Israel. But this has failed. Perhaps they are using this exception to press for their demands within the ambit of the law. Thus, though, are being referred to terrorists,41 but in the eyes of some other people, they are heroes who are agitating for a legitimate demand of their rights.

b. Problems related with the UN

There is no doubt that the UN has a greater role to play in conflict resolutions and the issue of security throughout the world. In fact, since 1945, it has performed creditably well in this regard. On the issue of security, no nation has the right to unilateral action; the world body must agree on what to do and how to do it.42 But in a situation where a state unilaterally attacks another state without the UN mandate,43 that act would amount to a disgrace to the UN and a ridicule of the international principles of law. Unfortunately, this is what is happening now in view of the way the US and her close allies had in the past unilaterally embarked on some matters bordering on world affairs. These acts and many others have therefore created a general frustration and dissatisfaction among members of the world community. A case in point was the unilateral bombing of Libya, overthrow of the Taliban government in Afghanistan, invasion of Iraq and the consequent deposition of Saddam Hussein, etc. The world expected the UN to act by calling the US to order, but it cannot do it. For failing to do it, the use of self-help is usually used as an option i.e. by way of terrorist attacks so as to show their annoyance and grievance to the system. This is therefore one major cause of international terrorism.

c. Division within the UN Members

A problem related to the above argument is the division among the UN nations on the ground of ideological divides. This is not surprising because this is rather a kind of a carry-over of the old cold war rivalry between the US and the defunct USSR. Before the final collapse of the former USSR, the world was polarized along Socialism and Capitalism, and, controlled by the USSR and USA respectively. Now, the polarization is based on economic and political reasons, among others. And with the American declaration of war on terrorism, there is a further polarization based on ethnic and religious grounds. A case in point was the conflict between Israel and Lebanon. Commentaries on the legality or otherwise of the conflict were either based on economic, political or religious grounds, which may either be true or false. Therefore, taking an action on world event is often difficult. This explained why the Israel/Lebanon conflict continued for up to the time it lasted, yet, the UN was unable to pass a resolution with a view to stopping the two parties from fighting. This is against the background of the fact that the US and its allies have a different agenda in the conflict. Therefore, it was only with pressures and diplomatic manoeuvres that the UN voted for a cease-fire.44

d. The Crisis in the Middle East

One other major reason why terrorism has been in the increase is the Middle East conflicts, i.e. Israel/Palestine conflicts. Today, Palestinians and the people of the Middle East know that the strongest supporter of Israel is America. They are aware that Israel is the largest recipient of US foreign aid. This in turn is what is being used to buy arms and ammunitions with which the Israeli government used in fighting the Palestine. Hence, those people who have concluded that America is in full support of Israel would be justified.

From the above conclusion, the conduct of the US also leaves much to be desired. Israel has consistently violated all UN resolutions with impunity and each time a move is made to call Israel to order, it is always impossible. This is because the US is always there to block the resolution. Example of this was the Israeli’s attack on Gaza in December, 2008. At the earlier commencement of the conflict, the UN could not stop the Israeli’s incursion because the US came out openly in support of what Israel did, and when
the UN Resolution finally came, Israel was not deterred. It continued with the attack until when it thought it was time for it to stop the war. 45

With all these glaring facts, the Palestinians and other people in support of their course have therefore find it easy to launch terrorist attacks against the US. This explains why the US has become the largest recipient of terrorist attacks. The September, 11th, 2001 attack 46 of the US is a good point of illustration of this argument. In a swift reaction, the US introduced the Patriot Act which in its form and substance is against the private rights of the citizens. Under the Act, the Government can secretly listen to telephone conversations of the citizens or check mails and correspondeances being sent into or going outside the country. However, in making reference to the Act, on 17th August, 2006, a court in the US ruled that the law which tampered with the private communications of the citizens on the ground that it wants to combat terrorism is illegal and unconstitutional.47

In another respect, the January 2006, election into the legislative houses in the Palestine brought the Hammas into victory. The US was not comfortable with the results. Its actions and inactions have shown this. Thus, it vowed to withdraw its aids to the new government, and this put the Hammas' government in a tight corner. Some months after it took over the affairs of government, it could not pay the salary of its workers. This therefore led to demonstrations because the workers did not find things easy. The withdrawal of the aids by the US was deliberate so as to force the Hammas government to desist from violence. However, the Hammas vowed to continue with violence. But, one thing is certain, and that is the fact that these actions of the US may not yield any positive results. Rather, it will only increase tensions and terrorist activities in the region. Therefore, it is submitted that since 2006 when the US took this decision, terrorist attacks have not reduced.

i. Israel/Libanon War

Akin to the crisis in the Middle East is the war between Israel and the Government of Lebanon, with Hisbollah armies as one major party in the war. On 12th July, 2006, the cold war between Israel and Lebanon was brought into focus when the soldiers of Hisbollah captured two Israel soldiers. This action formed the basis of the 30 days war, which started in July, 2006, and came to an end on 12th, August, 2006. Although, the war is over, but many issues were left unresolved. This is in view of the war crimes and other related offences that were committed while the war was in progress. Examples of these offences include using human beings as shields as well as the use of offensive weapons, among others. In a report published in August, 2006, by the Amnesty International, it accused Israel of targeting the civilians, and civilian objects for purpose of attack, even though the Government of Israel had denied the contents of this report. 48

Meanwhile, another report published by the Amnesty International on 13th, September, 2006, indicted the Hisbollah of targeting the civilians. However, Hisbollah had tried to justify this attack and argued that it was done in retaliation of what Israeli soldiers did to its civilians. The report therefore recommended that the UN should make a thorough investigation into the entire conflict with a view to prosecuting all those guilty of the rules of laws of warfare. 49

If the reports published are anything to go by, all the two parties to the war have violated all the rules of international law to which they should be made culpable for the various offences committed by them. On the basis of these reports, it is suggested that the UN should make a thorough investigation with a view to prosecuting all those guilty of the rules of international humanitarian law by a tribunal set up for that purpose.

Meanwhile, the way the UN kept silent and folded its arms while the war was going on calls for question. This is nothing, but, hypocrisy of the US and the West that gave overt and covert support to the Israel soldiers. In fact, when the UN ceasefire came through Resolution 1701 of 13th August, 2006, a lot of damages had already been done. Women, children, as well as many civilians lost their lives. This type of altitude, if repeated in future will frustrate the peace efforts needed in that part of the world.

ii. Race to acquire Nuclear Programmes

The race for acquisition of nuclear programme among committee of nations has been on-going for some years. The West and its allies have acquired this technology, but others in some parts of the world have been denied to possess

45. Israeli Government stopped the war some few days before President Barrak Obama’s inauguration so that the inauguration will not be disrupted.
46. In the attack, about 3000 people lost their lives, while properties worth billions of dollars were destroyed.
47. BBC, Hausa Service of 18th August, 2006.
same. This is where the Iran nuclear programme is in issue. Iran has been denied this right, but all its neighbours in the region are in possession of same. This is largely attributable to the way and manner the International Atomic and Energy Agency (IAEA) has been structured to ensure the promotion of the interests of the West and its allies. This is unjust and so may therefore spark up some terrorist attacks in the region or other parts of the world, if not well handled. The reason being that the US may attack Iran, as can be seen from the statements made by the US that with or without the UN approval, it will wage war against Iran. As a matter of fact, the US and Britain had since 2003 nursed the intention of attacking Iran over the same issue.

If this threat is carried out, Iran will not fold its arms. Rather, it will retaliate, and, its sympathisers from the within and outside Iran will join in this counter attack. Their targets would be the US and its nationals at where ever they may be. Its allies and their nationals would also not be spared. The US’ attack of Iraq in the previous years and its dire consequences are still fresh on our minds. Therefore, to avoid this, it is the hope of this writer that this problem is better resolved amicably.

**e. States’ Sponsored Terrorism**

This subheading is best understood against the background of the following questions. What is terrorism? Who is a terrorist? What action constitutes terrorism? Who decides that an action amounts to terrorism? Who decides when, and what punishment is to be passed against a terrorist? e.t.c. In answering these questions, it should be noted that the US has developed a double standard approach in dealing with the issues relating to terrorism around the globe. In other words, there is the American standard, the American feelings, values and yardsticks, and then the rest of the world. Anything sanctioned by the US is good even if the rest of the world says no. Hence, the US determines what is terrorism, who is a terrorist or which group is engaged in terrorism or what punishment is to be passed, and at what time? Yet, the same US is guilty of state’s terrorism. Thus, quoting the US News and World Report, it was revealed that:

“The CIA had carried through close on 900 major undercover operations against ‘undesirable’ individuals and governments from 1951 to 1976. Among those operations- the assassination of Iran’s Premier Mossadegh and the overthrow of his government in 1953, the toppling of the government of Guatemala in1954 and of those of the Dominican Republic in 1965, Ghana in 1966, and Chile in1973…to recall the names of politicians assassinated by CIA agents: Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, Ernesto Che Guevara, President Salvador Allende of Chile, Orlando Letelier, General Carlos Prats, Juan Torres, a former President of Bolivia, Amilcar Cabral, General Secretary of the African Party for Independence in Guinea and Cape Verde Islands, Eduardo Mondlane, leader of the struggle of the people of Mozambique, and Prime Minister, Solomon Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka.”

It went further: “CIA agents have made over 20 assassination attempts on Fidel Castrol, trying to kill him with fire arms, hand-grenades, shell mines, poisoned cigarettes, poison pills, a diving suit with tubercle bacilli.”

Against the background of the above observations, the US declared wars on terror because of the events in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, etc. Yet, the same US could not see anything wrong in the action taken by Israel against the Palestinians. Instead, the US has misused its veto in the UN to condone Israel’s violations of the human rights of the Palestinians.

It is these injustices and double standards that have resulted in such a devastating loss of international credibility of the UN. This, in turn created hatred of the people against the US. For this reason, the world has witnessed terrorist attacks in a large scale. One of these was the attack against the constitutional government of Iraq which was set up by the US. In the attack, the leader of the constitutional government and 13 others were killed. The main cause of the attack was to show the US and the international community that Iraq cannot be governed by imposing a puppet leader on the people of Iraq. In this respect, nothing good came out from the general election which took place on 30th January, 2005, in Iraq.

50. North Korea also has this problem of denial of its right to develop a nuclear programme.
51. This relates to state’s terrorism as a type of terrorism. The states indicted under this heading include the US, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, etc.
52. I. Blishcenko and N. Zhdanov: Terrorism and International Law, Progress Publishers, Moscow, p.12.
53. Ibid. This explained why it was not until 2015 when diplomatic relations was restored between the two nations. Before now, in the fall of 1989, the US violated all known principle of international law by abducting a sitting president of Panama, General Manuel Noriega, took him to the US soil and arraigned him of drug related offence. This is a high level case of international abduction and state’s terrorism.
Meanwhile, US, the supposed champion of combating terrorism has refused to admit that it is number one terrorist state in the whole world. This is because by secret, the US had sponsored terrorist attacks against Iran during the Iran/Iraq war. It is also a known fact that during that war, the late Ronald Reagan sold ammunitions to the government of Iran even as it was harming Iraq.\textsuperscript{55} Namibia suffered extensively from the activities of Jonas Savimbi (UNITA) sponsored by US right from the struggle for independence in the mid 70’s. Funding of UNITA was channelled via Mobutu Sesse Seko of Zaire.\textsuperscript{56}

Through its secret services and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the US sponsored state terrorism in some parts of the world, and even at times killed. A case in point was the assassination attempt by the CIA to kill President Fidel Castro of Cuba.\textsuperscript{57}

The CIA has different modes of operation. To control the political situation in a country, it maintains secret contacts with terrorist organizations so as to create political instability in any part of the country. That implied the participation of armed stooges in demonstrations to stir up trouble and provoke clashes with police; actions aimed at discrediting the authorities and the police, penetrating government offices, organizing explosions, and killing policemen.\textsuperscript{58}

In July, 1981, the Minister of Defence of the Philippines, Juan. P. Enrile, remarked, that there was a training centre in operation in California for terrorists to be smuggled in to the Philippines to conduct subversive activity.\textsuperscript{59} That another of this kind was situated outside Phoenix, Arizona.\textsuperscript{60} The Philippine Press observed that the extreme right organization, the Movement for the Free Philippines, responsible for the terrorist attacks, was financed by the American CIA.\textsuperscript{61}

The Washington Quarterly, published some confessions made by the former CIA Chiefs: Richard Hellins, George Bush, and William Colby in early 1981, where they admitted that the CIA had carried out large scale operations back in the 50’s to wipe out the left forces in the Philippines.\textsuperscript{62}

That in the US itself, there are terrorist organizations. This includes Omega-7 or the Jewish Defence League. That these organisations had committed terrorist attacks against Cuba, Chilean Patriots, Arab and Socialist Countries.\textsuperscript{63}

f. The US’ War on Terrorism\textsuperscript{64}

After the 11\textsuperscript{th}, September, 2001, attack of the US, the US came out with a policy of war on terror. With this, it listed some states as harbouring and promoting terrorism. In the list are organizations like the \textit{Hamas} and \textit{Al-Qaeda}. Thereafter, it attacked Afghanistan and Iraq thereby effecting regime changes in the two countries.

As part of the war, it made a lot of arrests of suspects and detained them in various prisons without trial. These prisoners were subjected to various forms of human rights abuses. Yet, the US deceived the world and said that it is promoting human rights. As part of this deceit, it made public its yearly report on human rights issues covering about 191 nations. Top on this list are China, Cuba, Sudan, etc. This report was however countered by another UN report which indicted the same US of human rights abuses, example of which was its continuous detention of suspects without trial. Its Abu Ghuraib and Guantanamo-Bay prisons are examples of where suspects have been illegally detained and subjected to various forms of tortures by the US soldiers.

In the past, these prison centres have been subject of condemnation on account of their notoriety for human rights abuses and violations. On 8\textsuperscript{th} June, 2006, three detainees (two Saudis and a citizen of Jordan) committed suicide.\textsuperscript{65} This may

\textsuperscript{55} In the same token, the US armed Saddam Hussein to the teeth to fight Iran during the Iran/Iraq war. Hence, the US should not have later on complained of the man it had once regarded as a hero in the region.

\textsuperscript{56} Ibid, note 2.

\textsuperscript{57} Ibid, note 2, p. 42.

\textsuperscript{58} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{59} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{60} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{61} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{62} Ibid, pp. 42-43.

\textsuperscript{63} Ibid, p. 46.

\textsuperscript{64} As an aftermath of the attack, the US came out with The Authorization for the use of Military Force Against Terrorists (AUMF). It was a law made on 14/9/2001. It authorizes the US Armed Forces against those that are responsible for the attacks of 11, September, 2001. It authorized the President of US to use all necessary and appropriate forces against those nations, organizations, or persons that determined, planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September, 11, 2001, or haboured such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the US by such nations, organizations, or persons. The Congress declared that this is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5 (b) of the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

\textsuperscript{65} BBC Hausa Service of 19\textsuperscript{th} June, 2006.
not be unconnected with the way they were treated in the prison. This ugly incident is different from series of similar tortures that were committed in the past against other detainees. Therefore, it was observed that the US should close the prison. Whether the US will heed to this advice, only time shall tell? However, it should be noted that this has embarrassed the US before the eyes of the international community. Following this report of the suicide, the International Committee of the Red Cross said that it will send its staff to visit the centre.

Meanwhile, it needs be pointed out that the report had caused chain of reactions, that is, terrorism, on a large scale, but the US did not want to admit this obvious fact. For example, a BBC survey conducted in 35 countries showed that the annexation of Iraq by the US has increased incidences of terrorism throughout the world.66

g. Poor Leadership

This has led to abject poverty, unemployment67, corruption68, insecurity69, etc. All these and many others are some of the major problems facing most African and other third world countries. And what all these translated into is the general dissatisfactions of the citizenry with the way and manner they are being governed. If we could recall, the Mohammed Bouhazizi event which happened in Tunisia, in 2010, and later spread to Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, etc. were all caused as a result of poor leadership in the affected countries.

As counter reactions to these general dissatisfactions, the citizens look elsewhere for some alternative satisfactions, though in most cases, in a positive manner. It is therefore not surprising that some of the youths easily fall prey to being lured and recruited into some of the social vices in the society. At the recruitment level, some of them are being promised and offered what their governments have denied them.70

7.0 International Terrorism and the Future Perspectives

No doubt, why the offence of terrorism has been on the increase as discussed above showed that urgent solutions are needed to tackle the offence. In addition, it showed that the methods and approaches being used to curtail international terrorism are faulty. It may therefore mean that other methods and measures should be looked into with a view to achieving minimum success in the fight against international terrorism in the years ahead. Some of these measures, among others, include the following:

a. De-radicalization of the Extremists

As a matter of fact, the religion of Islam is oneness of God as preached by Prophet Muhammed (PBUH). Violence, hate speeches71, etc. against anybody (Muslims or Christians) are all forms of acts which the religion of Islam frowns against. Burning of Churches, Mosques or any sacred house is anti-Islam. However, the emergence of some religious sects72 came in with many radicalization of many ideas and teachings. This is not surprising in view of a Prophetic Hadith that says: “My Ummah will split into 73 sects but only one of them is the true religion of Islam.” 73 The emergence of these sects had further led to certain introduction of ideologies and doctrines which are at variance with the teachings of Islam as initially brought and preached by the Prophet of Allah. Thus, burning of Churches,74 forceful conversion of a Christian to Islamic

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67. One of its recruitment’s strategies is that the youths are promised employment opportunities.
68. The revelations in the Dasuki Arms Gate scandal showed that if the money meant for the procurement of arms and ammunition had been properly used, the problem of insurgency in the North East of Nigeria would have since been effectively tackled.
69. As a strategy, the Boko Haram group portrays a picture that the Nigerian government cannot provide security to the citizens. To some extent, this really worked, against the background of the fact that the group once controlled about 14 Local Government areas of Borno state. This is in addition to the fact the Nigerian soldiers suffered a defeat and had to run into Cameroun, a weak defence which the Nigerian soldiers referred to as part of a military strategy to regroup with a view to reengaging the militants with full force.
70. A substantial number of the youths were also forced into joining membership of the terrorist organizations.
71. Preaching in Mosques and all other places is allowed, but not to the extent of making derogatory remarks against the listeners.
72. The largest of those sects are the Sunnis, Shiite, followed by the Sufis, etc.
73. See Q: 23, verses 52 and 53. It provides: ‘And surely this your religion is one religion and I am your Lord, therefore be careful (of your duty to me. But they cut off their religion among themselves into sects, each part rejoicing in that which is with them.’
74. Mosques, Churches and all other places of worship are sacred houses and so must be respected as such.
Having said this, the government at all levels should see how it would de-radicalize the minds of these youths. This is against the background of the fact that most of the followership of these sects are the youths. And because of their tender nature of minds, they are easily manipulated for selfish interests. Thus, it is at this younger age that the Government at all levels should monitor them so as to ensure that wrong religious ideas are not imparted unto them. At the same time, they need to be engaged into some form of useful activities, because an idle mind is a devil’s workshop.

b. Sharing of Intelligence Network

Terrorism is a common threat that is affecting all nations of the world. Free movement of people from one nation to another, the emergence of the advance in technology, etc. have further compounded the problem. For example, a terrorist in Cameroun can effectively communicate with his co-terrorist in Nigeria on how to plan and execute a terrorist attack in Ghana. This is possible as a result of globalization. Thus, because the offence of terrorism takes many dimensions, fighting it on a broad view will mean collaboration and synergy of efforts amongst many countries of the world. This could be at the regional, sub-regional, international or a combination of all these. Thus, Bilateral and Multi-lateral agreements could be signed between two or more countries on how to gather and share vital information for effective tackling of international terrorism. It also includes training, retraining of personnel, procurement of modern arms and ammunitions, extradition of terrorists from one country to another for effective prosecution, etc. All these would be possible if there are existing bilateral and multi-lateral agreements between two or more nations. Thus, atmosphere of trust and confidentiality should be built amongst these nations, as hoarding of certain vital information could be very damaging and counter-productive to the whole idea of a fight against terrorism.

c. Effective Control and Monitoring of the Boarders

Most of the countries where incidences of terrorism have taken place have boarders bounded with one another. This therefore makes it easy for terrorist to move freely from one country to another. For example, in Nigeria, where the Boko Haram groups have their root, attempts to engage them militarily often made them to go into hiding to countries that boarder Nigeria for cover and strategy. These countries are Cameroun, Niger, and Chad. This is also the case in Afghanistan, that boarders Pakistan. Whenever the Taliban groups are chased by the government, they easily sneak into Pakistan. The effects of these two illustrations are that effective control of terrorist groups in a country that has incidences of terrorism is always very difficult because of common boarders that they share with other countries. It is even worse, if these countries not very friendly. Thus, a good and friendly relationship of countries that have common boarders is very important in any fight against international terrorism.

From the above observations, one of the best methods to be applied in curbing terrorism is to have an effective joint boarder-patrol amongst

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75 The Quran is very specific on this. See Q: 2, verse 256. It says: ‘Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth has been made clear from error. Whoever rejects false worship and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks. And God hears and knows all things.’ Again, Q: 10, verse 99. It reads: ‘If it had been your Lord’s will, all of the people on Earth would have believed. Would you then compel the people to have them believe? ’” In addition there is freedom of religion in most national constitutions of states. Therefore, as a secular state, section 38 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for freedom of religion.

76 A large number of those recruited into the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are the youths from across the Middle East countries, Asia and Africa. For example, a large number of Kenyans are being recruited by the Al-Shabab militants. And about 2000 Russians are in Syria, fighting for the ISIS. In another development, some Nigerians are in (Sirte), Libya, Syria, etc. fighting on the side of the ISIS. It may therefore not be surprising that on 10/2/2016, the Department of State Security (DSS) of Nigeria reported the arrest of a Nigerian student for questioning over his role in the recruitment exercise of some youths into the ISIS fighters.

77 Most of these youths are unemployed. Thus, employment opportunities should be created so as to divert their minds from evil acts.

78 This could include training and retraining of personnel, exchange of modern equipment that would help in detecting and fighting terrorism.

79 The US has partnered with a lot of nations like Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Nigeria, etc. Nigeria has also done same with UK and a number of other countries.
the affected countries. This should be based on trust and mutual understanding of all the stakeholders. Thus, the efforts made so far by the Government of Nigeria in tackling insurgency and terrorism is a welcome development. Having come to power in May, 2015, the President of Nigeria held series of security meetings with the heads of Government of Chad, Cameroun, and Niger. The outcome of these meetings was the Multi National Task Force on how to effectively fight the Boko Haram groups. Its civilian counterpart is meant to rehabilitate those victims affected by the insurgency in the North East of Nigeria.

d. Good Governance

A common problem facing most of the African countries is poor leadership. This is equally the same in respect of some countries in the Middle East. The adverse effects of this include corruption, poverty, unemployment, weak judicial system, etc. Taking corruption as an example, the little resources which should have been used for developmental purposes are diverted into private pockets. For example, under the Corruption Perception Index, the Transparency International pockets. For example, u under the Corruption developmental purposes are diverted into private resources which should have been used for

Taking corruption as an example, the little resources which should have been used for developmental purposes are diverted into private pockets. For example, under the Corruption Perception Index, the Transparency International pockets. For example, under the Corruption Perception Index, the Transparency International (2010), Yemen was ranked as the 146th country. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is about 40%. While in Libya, 20.74% of the youths are unemployed. What this translates into is abject poverty amongst the citizenry. Thus, a substantial number of the citizens in the African countries live on less than 1 US Dollar per day.

To reverse the above trends, we must have leaders that have focus and vision that would help in pulling the countries out of the problems facing the continent today. In this respect, the leaders must have zero tolerance to corruption and impunity. Job opportunities must be made available to the unemployed youths that formed a substantial number of the population. If they are engaged positively, there would be no tendency for them to be used for negative acts. This is against the background of the fact that most of the youths being recruited by the terrorists are forced into it as a result of frustrations with life.

e. Initiation of Court Proceedings

i. Criminal Trial

Undoubtedly, terrorism is a crime in international law. It is also an offence under domestic laws of all UN members. From this, it presupposes that those found guilty of the offence

should be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with either the domestic laws of the state that were violated, or under the rules of international law. In this regard, a demarcation could be made between less grievous offences or heinous crimes that were committed when the terrorist attacks were executed. The former can be conveniently prosecuted using the domestic courts and laws of the affected states. On the other hand, the latter can be referred to the International Criminal Court for prosecution as the offence of terrorism is also within its jurisdiction.

ii. Civil Proceedings

In addition to criminal trial, civil trial could as well be initiated for any civil rights of the citizenry that were violated during the course of the terrorist attacks. This is to be initiated by the person who feels that his civil rights have been violated during the terrorist attacks.

Above all, in addition to court trials, reconciliation commission could as well be established. The reason of this is obvious. Court proceedings may not adequately heal the wounds of the victims or families of the victims affected by the terrorist attacks.

f. Policy of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation

This includes reconstruction, rehabilitation, and reconciliation. To start with, any state faced with the challenge of terrorism is prone to destruction of some infrastructure and other valuables. This is in addition to displacement of the victims affected by this calamity. These people are normally found in camps as refugees. Thus, once the terrorist acts end, all the damaged infrastructure would need to be repaired or replaced as the case may be. Once this is done, the next thing to do is to rehabilitate those affected negatively by the terrorist attacks. In this regard, they should be taken back to areas of their domains so as to start their normal lives. In doing this, they need to be assisted financially. Thus, in the Nigerian situation, a Bill, North East Development Commission to assist the displaced persons in that area is in the right direction. It could be recalled that a similar effort was initiated for the people of Niger Delta of Nigeria.

80. This is good in the sense that the Force would help in the effective tackling of terrorism in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroun, and Chad.

81. This in turn leads to high rate of unemployment among the youths.

82. See The ICC Statute.

83. Meanwhile, the US, Japan, Turkey, Canada, and Australia, as well as 8 European countries had pledged to support Nigeria on the rehabilitation of the insurgency-ridden North East.
Above all, there is what is known and called as reconciliation. While the terrorist attacks are on-going, many lives are bound to have been killed on a large scale; others, maimed for life. In this respect, once terrorism is over, a truth commission can be established so as to bring before the general public what went wrong so that the country affected with the ravage of terrorism can forge ahead as a nation. This will no doubt create a kind of comfort in the minds of the victims of the terrorist attacks. After all, no proceedings can bring back the loss of lives that are caused as a result of the terrorist attacks. It could be recalled that a similar ones were created in South Africa, Argentina, etc. and they were done with great successes. Though, the situations in these countries were not as a result of terrorism, yet, lessons and inferences can be drawn from them to the situations at hand so as to achieve the desired results.

8.0 Conclusion

In this work, meaning of the word terrorism has been highlighted, pointing out the fact that there is no acceptable universal definition of the word. Acts which amount to terrorism were discussed. Few causes of terrorism were also ex-rayed. Finally, recommendations on measures of how to curb the offence were offered. In spite of these suggestions however, there must be some genuine efforts and the political will which will indicate that the global war against terrorism is real and genuine. The war is a collective one that must be fought by all and sundry for the common benefits of all members of the international community. It is not a war that should be left in the hands and control of few nations to fight, and this is why we have faulted the approach of the US and its allies. They have tried to wage the war alone, but failed because they have their own hidden agenda. This approach is counter-productive and must therefore change, if we are really sincere in fighting the war against terrorism.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

84 Example of this is the massive arrest and detain of suspects on alleged commission of the offence of terrorism. These suspects are held in custody in the US Detention Centers at Guantanamo-Bay and Abu Ghuraib for years without trial. This type of approach, rather than curtailing terrorism, often leads to reactions and counter-reactions from across the globe.