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TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIMES AS THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE.

By

Anthonia Omosefe Ugowe*

Introduction

Prior to Osama Bin Laden's attack in the United States of America (USA), terrorism had been somewhat alien to Nigeria. The attack in the USA nevertheless brought the act to the fore as a global phenomenon more than ever before. In recent times, Nigeria started experiencing frequent and diverse terrorist activities in the forms of kidnapping, assassinations and bombings in various parts of the country, which have left many people dead by the militants group in the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram sect in the Northern part of the country now slowly creeping into the north west part of the country.

Also, the uprising of transnational criminal activities is an issue that has been of concern in Nigeria for some time. Research has shown that the globalisation of economies and improved communication technology amongst other factors have contributed to transnational organised crimes gaining roots in the economy.

The increase in terrorism and transnational organised crimes have heightened the fears of personal security in Nigeria's populace and poses a threat of national security and the economic development and growth as these crimes have gone beyond religion, love for one's ethnic group and political affiliation. Hence, the need for government to find a quick fix solution to the problem and then a lasting solution to effectively and efficiently combat these menaces.

Following from the above, this paper seeks to answer the following questions: What mechanisms have the Federal and State Government taken in the wake of terrorism and transnational organised crimes to combat same? How effective and efficient are these mechanisms? Is there a need to involve the citizens in combating same in some sort of partnership? Is there a need to seek partnership with other countries to combat terrorism and transnational organised crimes?

This paper seeks to identify the challenges Nigeria faces, in combating terrorism and national crimes and provide suggestions which if implemented will go a long way in curbing if not bringing to the barest minimum, terrorism attacks and transnational crimes, thereby giving leeway for the government of Nigeria to focus more on the development of its economy.

This paper is structured in five parts. This first part introduced the paper's topic and includes the questions it attempts to solve. The next part examines the emergence of two prominent rebel groups in Nigeria. In this part, the meaning of terrorism and the forms of

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activities performed by these groups and how they go about same will be discussed and their implications on the country. In the third part, the paper examines the emergence of transnational crimes, its forms and the characteristics of the act, not leaving out its effects on Nigeria's economy while the fourth part provides recommendations whilst highlighting the provisions of already existing Acts promulgated to warn against the commission of criminal activities and the punishment of same if carried out. The last part concludes the paper.

The Emergence of Terrorism and Transnational Crimes in Nigeria

The term terrorist was first used in 1795 to describe State terror when Edmund Burke denounced the French revolutionaries of 1793-1794 and referred to them as 'those hell-hounds called terrorist'.¹ He got the term from the Jacobins who had themselves used it to term the violence against actual enemies who schemed against the revolution and those who with their worldviews and backgrounds may contemplate scheming against the revolution.² Presently, the term terrorism has no single globally accepted definition despite many domestic and foreign policy on same.³ According to the Oxford English Dictionary, terrorism is defined as "The unofficial or unauthorized use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims (now usually) such practices used by a clandestine or expatriate organization as a means of furthering its aims."⁴ This definition falls into the accepted indicators of terrorism agreed by scholars which include, the intention to cause fear in an audience that is different from the target of violence; threatened violence or actual violence against a target to achieve an aim; civilians or non-combatants being the targets.⁵

Since Nigeria's independence in 1960 from the British colonial rule, oil has been produced in the Niger Delta parts of the country. The Niger Delta region includes all the nine oil-producing states in Nigeria namely, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers states. These states are located in the South-South, South-Western and South-Eastern geopolitical Zones of the country with a total land mass of about 75, 000 square kilometers.⁶ The area houses the world third largest wetland with extensive swamp forest and creeks which render the area a difficult terrain to live compared to other parts of the country.⁷ The primary means of living in the Niger Delta

¹ Law R D, 'The Routledge History of Terrorism', 1st Edition, New York, Routledge, 2015 1.

² *ibid.*

³ Herman P C, 'Terrorism and the Critique of American Culture: John Updike's Terrorist' 112, 4/2015 *Modern Philology* 693; Whittaker D J, 'Terrorism: Understanding the Global Threat', 2nd Edition, New York, Routledge, 2013, 9.

⁴ Oxford English Dictionary, <http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/199608?redirectedFrom=terrorism#eid> accessed 10 December 2015.

⁵ Onapajo H, Uzodike U O and Whetho A, 'Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria: The international dimension' 19 3/2012 *South African Journal of International Affairs* 339.

⁶ Nwagbara U, 'From Frustration-Aggression to Peace: Advancing Stakeholder Engagement through Communicative Action in Post-Conflict Niger Delta, Nigeria', 2016 *Corporate Social Responsibility in Sub-Saharan Africa* Springer International Publishing 243.

⁷ Okonkwo C N P, Kumar L and Taylor S, 'The Niger Delta wetland ecosystem: What threatens it and why should we protect it?' 9 5/2015 *African Journal of Environmental Science and Technology* 451-452; Abrakasa S, Ukaegbu V and Onojake M, 'The source kitchen of the Niger Delta oils: case study on Nembe Creek E1.0 and the Kolo Creek E2.0 reservoirs' *Journal of Petroleum Exploration and Production Technology* 2; Amaraegbu D A, 'Violence, terrorism and security threat in Nigeria's Niger Delta: An old problem taking a new dimension' 5 4/2011 *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations* 210.

economy were agriculture and fishing before the discovery of oil in 1956.⁸ During this period, the region was known for surplus supplies of palm oil and kernel, timber, rubber and cocoa to mention but a few of her commodities. This situation continued up to the 1970s when the area became the main source of foreign exchange revenue for the country as a whole.⁹ Unfortunately, despite being the main source of the economy's income, there is no news that the Niger Delta region remains the least developed in the country. This raises questions like, why has the Federal Government and oil producing companies continuously neglected their obligations to the citizens of the Niger Delta? What can the Federal Government do to resolve this problem for a region that is rich and poor, where squalor is the consequences of its splendour, whose poverty is a product of its riches?

The environmental damage caused by the exploration of oil in the Niger Delta and the inequitable distribution of oil wealth within Nigeria are the key contributing factors to violence and the formation of militants groups in the Niger Delta region.¹⁰ Less than a dozen examples of such groups are the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) whose leaders are known to be heard but not seen and Alhaji Asari Dole, the Niger Delta people's Volunteer Force (NDPVF).¹¹ These groups follow the same path that was championed by the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) led by the late human right activist Ken Saro-Wiwa who was hung in 1995 by the late General Abacha (during his tenure as president of Nigeria).¹² MEND's and its supporters' point is that the people of the Niger Delta have suffered an unprecedented degradation of their environment due to continuous pollution by the oil producing companies. As a result, many indigenes now have no ability to fish or farm thus dispossessing them from their lands in favour of foreign oil interests.¹³ These groups demonstrate their grievances by engaging in actions including theft, sabotage, guerrilla warfare, property destruction and kidnapping within the Niger Delta region.¹⁴ The only time an attack was made outside the region was when MEND carried out its attack in Lagos State on the 11th of July 2006. Militants attacked and set on fire the Atlas Cove Jetty on Tarkwa Bay, which is a major hub for Nigeria. Five workers were killed in this strike.¹⁵

Be that as it may, it is important to state that some attacks allegedly carried out by MEND or NDPVF have been denied by their leaders putting the blame on impostors.

⁸ Kadafa A A 'Oil Exploration and Spillage in the Niger Delta of Nigeria' 2 3/2012 *Civil and Environmental* 38-41.

⁹ Raji, A Y And Abejide T S, 'Shell D'arcy Exploration & The Discovery Of Oil As Important Foreign Earnings In Ijawland Of Niger Delta, C. 1940s-1970' 2 11/2013 *Arabian Journal of Business and Management (OMAN Chapter)* 27.

¹⁰ George O J, Kuye O L and Onokala U C 'Corporate Social Irresponsibility (CSI) a Catalyst to the Niger Delta: The Case of Nigerian Oil Multinational Companies versus the Militants of Niger Delta Region of Nigeria' *Journal of Management Research* 3.

¹¹ Nwankwo B O, 'The Politics of Conflict over Oil in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: A Review of the Social Responsibility Strategies of the Oil Companies' 3 4/2015 *American Journal of Educational Research* 384.

¹² *ibid* 384; Nwogwugwu N, Alao O E and Egwuonwu C, 'Militancy and Insecurity in the Niger Delta: Impact on Foreign Direct Investment to Nigeria' 2 1/2012 *Kuwait Chapter of Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review* 23 and Human Rights Watch, 'The Niger Delta: No Democratic Dividend' <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/nigeria3/nigerdelta.pdf> 2.

¹³ Nwankwo (n 11) 385-386.

¹⁴ *ibid*.

¹⁵ The Adaka Borno Centre, 'Nine die as Men attacks Atlas Cove' <http://adakaboro.org/crises/gbramatumassacre/141-ninedie> accessed 5 December 2016.

Having discussed the reason for the formation of the militant groups, it is submitted nevertheless, that nowhere has it been reported that the huge ransom paid by companies to free their workers held hostage was used to better communities instead such monies went into the pockets of the militants. Hence this paper's submission that the militants acted for their selfish pockets although with good reasons as their excuse because of the Federal Government and oil producing companies callousness to the people of the Niger Delta. It is important to note that in 2011, British Petroleum (BP) polluted the water in the Gulf of Mexico. They not only treated the water, they also paid hugely for the pollution. This is a far cry from the treatment meted out to the indigenes of the Niger Delta. Have the indigenes of the Niger Delta been blessed with a preponderance of pleasure or wretchedness, or burden by being part of the Nigerian country? How has the Nigerian government responded to the condition it has deliberately or cunningly afflicted on the Niger Deltans?

Another terrorist group pertinent to mention is the *Jama'atu Ahlus-Sunnah Lidda'awati Waljihad*, meaning people committed to the propagation of the prophet's teachings and Jihad.¹⁶ Otherwise called Boko Haram (Western Education is sinful/forbidden in Hausa language)¹⁷ It earned its nickname from the teachings of its founder Ustaz Mohammed Yussuf in the early 2000s, in the restive north-eastern city of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state.¹⁸ Yussuf posited that western education (boko) had brought hardship and poverty to his region hence forbidden (haram) in Islam.¹⁹ Even though its leader started his teaching peacefully, he caught the attention of authorities when it was hinted that the sect was amassing weapons.²⁰ The first face off it had with authorities was in 2009 when its members violated the government law for motorcyclists to wear helmets. Because of the authorities brush with its members, police stations and government offices in Borno were burnt and hundreds of criminals were released in a prison break.²¹ The authorities not only retaliated with force but it captured Mohammed Yussuf and shot him while in custody.²² Yussuf's death however did not put an end to the sect. His followers are still resentful of government and authorities.

In the sect's early days, the sect attacked with machetes, small arms and clubs but by late 2010, it added simple Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Molotov cocktails to its weapons.²³ These weapons were used in the sect's attack against Christian targets in Jos, Plateau State.²⁴ This pattern of attack changed in the attack of 16th of June 2011 where the

¹⁶ Obi C K, 'Challenges of Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for National Development' 8 2/2015 *OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development* 13.

¹⁷ Idub S, 'The key challenges to peace in Nigeria' 3 8/2011 *International Journal of Vocational and Technical Education* 121; Omede J and Omede A A, 'Terrorism and Insecurity in Nigeria: Moral, Values and Religious Education as Panaceas' 6 11/2015 120.

¹⁸ Okpaga A, Chijioke U S and Eme O I, 'Activities of Boko Haram and Insecurity Question in Nigeria' 1 2012 *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review (OMAN Chapter)* 82.

¹⁹ Onapajo H, Uzodike U O and Whetho A, 'Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria: The international dimension' 19 3/2012 *South African Journal of International Affairs* 343; Mu'azu A, 'Understanding the Emerging Trends of Terrorism in Nigeria: A Case study of Boko Haram and Similar Groups' 16 2011 *CLEEN Foundation* 16.

²⁰ Adesoji A, 'The Boko Haram Uprising and Islamic Revivalism in Nigeria' 45 2010 *German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Institute of African Affairs* 98.

²¹ Okpaga, Chijioke and Eme (n 18) 83.

²² *ibid.*

²³ Brig General Azazi A (Rtd), 'Responding To The Emerging Trends Of Terrorism In Nigeria (Conference Proceedings)' 16 2011 *CLEEN Foundation* 5.

²⁴ Okpaga, Chijioke and Eme (n 18) 83.

sect's launched a suicide Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED) attack against the headquarters of the Nigerian National Police in Abuja.²⁵ Though not overly successful as security measures kept the device away from the headquarters building and it exploded in a parking lot, the sect's successful deployment of a large VBIED and a suicide operative represented a dramatic high in Boko Haram's capability.

A not to be soon forgotten attack by this group was its subsequent attack on the 26th August 2011 on the United Nations secretariat in Abuja. This attack was more deadly than the attack on the police headquarters because this time, the perpetrator gained entrance into the compound and drove to the parking lot where he denoted the device near the building's entrance.²⁶ This attack on the United Nation's building again marked a change in the traditional targets of the sect from government and Christian facilities. In 2014, the sect kidnapped over 250 girls from their secondary school in Chibok, a town in Borno State.²⁷ This abduction was condemned both in Nigeria and globally. In very recent times, the sect started using female suicide bombers in its attacks.²⁸ Some have argued that the secondary school girls kidnapped are the female suicide bombers. Below is a summary of some of Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria.

S/N	Year of attack	States attacked	Causalities
1	2009	Bauchi, Borno, Kano, and Yobe	Killed over 800 persons
2	2010	Abuja, Borno, and Plateau	Killed over 330 persons and freed 700 prison inmates
3	2011	Abuja, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kastina, Niger, Plateau, and Yobe	Killed over 425 persons, and over 300 persons injured. Bombed UN building in Abuja.
4	2012	Abuja, Adamawa, Bauchi, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina Kogi, Plateau, Sokoto, and Yobe	Killed over 1047 and many persons injured.
5	2013	Adamawa Bauchi Borno, Gombe, Kano, Plateau, and Yobe	Killed over 732 persons and several persons injured.
6	2014	Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe	Kidnapped of Over 270 girls from chibok village in Borno State, Kidnap of some women in Adamawa state, killed over 200 persons and several injured

²⁵ *ibid.*

²⁶ *ibid.*

²⁷ Weeraratne S, 'Theorizing the Expansion of the Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria' 2015 *Terrorism and Political Violence* 2.

²⁸ *ibid.*

Hence the question, what does Boko Haram really want? This shift in targeting raised worry that the sect may have contacts with al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and / or al Shabaab and or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and such involvement may have influenced their means of attack.²⁹ However, one thing is clear from their mode of recent operations which is to put fear in every Nigerian and undermine the ability of the government of Nigeria to provide security for her citizens and from all indications, they have achieved their goal so far. The insecurity was made worse by the immediate past President who stated that some members of his cabinet as well as the security forces and legislatures are accomplices to Boko Haram. Thus, some have argued that Boko Haram is a political rather than a religious sect used by some political elites in the north to cause unrest. Hence the past government moves to dialogue with them was a waste of time.³⁰

As it is, going by the latest records of the Human Rights Watch at the time of printing this paper, the Boko Haram sect has killed about 6,000 civilians since it began its attack in 2009.³¹ This situation is regrettable as the security agencies and present Government of Nigeria have been unable to disarm this sect even as they have become the target of this sect who have never hidden their scorn for the intelligence and law enforcement community.³² This presupposes that whatever means the agencies are seeking to tackle the sect is either inadequate or ineffectual or both. The populace demands a relief from this state of fear and insecurity. The coordinated assaults from the Boko Haram sect in the northern part of the country, besides making life miserable for Nigerians, is a danger to the unity and co-operative existence of Nigeria. Hence the urgent need for the government to change tactics in suppressing the sect even if it means utilizing a multidimensional approach to tackle their threat.

Transnational Crimes

It is agreed that there can be no-good governance without rule of law and organised crime weakens the very underpinning of democracy. This knowledge is quite accurate for the situation in Nigeria, as the nation faces the challenges of nurturing a stable democracy. Transnational crimes may be defined as the movement of persons, goods and services across sovereign national jurisdiction in a manner not acceptable of the required standards and norms.³³ The following reasons maybe given to its emergence³⁴:

- a. Removal of trade barriers and emergence of regional co-operation;
- b. The wealth gained in reaching the demand of another country's need for an illegal product. E.g. cocaine, heroine or prostitution;
- c. The weakness in the provision of services or products in another's country;
- d. Advancement in technology; efficient communication and transport systems which have aided the easy transfer of money, people, products and services and of course, crime;

²⁹ Thomson V, 'Boko Haram and Islamic Fundamentalism in Nigeria' 3 2012 *Global Security Studies* 53-55.

³⁰ Gray S and Adeakin I, 'The Evolution of Boko Haram: From Missionary Activism to Transnational Jihad and the Failure of the Nigerian Security Intelligence Agencies' 8 3/2015 *African Security* 186.

³¹ Human Rights Watch, 'World Report 2015: Nigeria' <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/nigeria> accessed 22 January 2016.

³² *ibid.*

³³ Albanese J S, 'Deciphering the Linkages between Organized Crime and Transnational Crime' 66 1/2012 *Journal of International Affairs* 1-2.

³⁴ *ibid* 4-5.

- e. Criminals are making increasing use of the international system and are particularly attracted to jurisdictions which help to disguise their activities, such as economies with established banking and corporate security;
- f. Criminals can exploit weakness in the provision of products or services in another country,
- g. The forging of international letters of credit or bearer bonds, which can be presented and accepted at series of financial institutions around the world in an effort to exploit the tax internal checking procedure.

There are key factors fundamentally responsible for the menace of transnational crimes:

- a. The deregulation of the financial systems of many developed countries where many bottlenecks in international commerce and trade are removed;
- b. The development of international markets;
- c. Political developments, especially the end of the old authoritarian regimes of the East and Central Europe and the emergence of new markets oriented democracies, causing existing international criminal organizations to seek new frontiers;
- d. The increased volume of complexity in international transactions which aid the disguise of criminal activities,
- e. The depressed economy of most developing economies which creates the conducive fertile ground for the development and growth of crime networks and operation.

Transnational crimes are extremely sophisticated and are usually performed by syndicates across countries hence the need for both national and international cooperation to tackle. Fortunately, the international committee has been proactive in the bid to tackle this crime.³⁵ Examples of these crimes that have transnational characteristics include:

- a. Illegal drug trafficking
- b. Illicit firearms trafficking
- c. Human (women and children) trafficking
- d. Trafficking stolen vehicles
- e. Card fraud
- f. Money laundering
- g. Smuggling
- h. Trafficking in stolen work of arts
- i. Advance fee fraud (a.k.a. 419)

From the foregoing, it can be submitted that the major difference between terrorism and transnational crimes is that, while terrorist are ideologically driven, perpetrators of transnational crimes are financially driven.

This paper admits that combating these crimes is fraught with problems. It recognises that the advancement in technology will certainly enhance the planning and execution of transnational crime. Perpetrators will advance from the basic modes of communication

³⁵ Parrish A L, 'Domestic Responses To Transnational Crime: The Limits Of National Law' 23 4/2012 *Criminal Law Forum* 277; Paulose R M, 'Beyond the Core: Incorporating Transnational Crimes into the Rome Statute' 21 1/2012-2013 *Cardozo Journal of International and Comparative Law* 90.

³⁶ Paulose (n 35) 78.

like ordinary mail, telephone to more sophisticated means and facilities, thereby making identification and investigation of such crimes really difficult.

Be that as it may, the negative impact of transnational organised crime on global economies cannot be over emphasised. Consequently, to effectively fight transnational organised crime, its structural characteristics and operational schemes should be taken into account in working out legislation, strategies, policies, and other actions designed to fight it.

Recommendations on How to Tackle Terrorism

So far, the amnesty programme is the only action visible to have been taken by the Nigerian government in curbing terrorism. The programme aimed mainly at ensuring unconditional pardon and cash payments monthly to rebels who agreed to lay down their arms within a stipulated time given by the government when it was proposed. The programme included the disarmament, rehabilitation and reintegration of the militants within the Labour market in Nigeria. The militants of the Niger Delta presently enjoy the benefits of the programme.³⁷ It is no news that the Boko Haram sect and the federal Government are yet to reach a compromise of any sort.

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) on behalf of its 500 member organisations spread across the 15 member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has expressed deep concern and apprehension at the growing insecurity in Nigeria because of Boko Haram's activities as it affects not just the peaceful coexistence of the Nigerian people and the stability of the country but also to the entire ECOWAS sub region.³⁸ They recommend the following which this paper adopts as the way forward:

- a. The Institutions of the Federal Republic with a mandate to promote peace should take the leadership in the design of joint problem solving approaches that should engage various levels of ethnic leaderships and groups in the country. Nigerian government should create platforms for effective government-civil society collaborations to address the root and proximate causes of insecurity in Nigeria.
- b. That the time has not been more right than now for religious leaders in Nigeria particularly Muslim and Christian Leaders to reach out to one another with a new sense of purpose for unity, love for humanity and peace. In this regard, Religious leaders should go beyond making solidarity visits to the president and engaging the media with statements that mitigate tensions and anxiety and work collectively and explore the opportunities for dialogue; the only means towards finding a sustainable solution to the growing religious crises in the country.
- c. The Federal Government should be firm and have the boldness/political will power to prosecute any political office holder indicted as a supporter or accomplice to the Boko Haram sect.

³⁷ Aghedo I, 'Winning the War, Losing the Peace: Amnesty and the Challenges of Post Conflict Peace-Building in the Niger Delta, Nigeria' 48 3/2012 *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 267.

³⁸ The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, 'Insecurity in Nigeria – A Call for Urgent Collaborative Effort' http://www.wanep.org/wanep/attachments/article/308/pr_2012_jan_nig.pdf accessed 3 January 2016. See also the group's quarterly highlights of January-March 2014, http://www.wanep.org/wanep/files/2014/may/qh_jan-mar_2014.pdf accessed 3 January 2016.

- d. Within the context of the Federal Government of Nigeria responsibility to protect her citizens, she must take the steps necessary in a rapid improvement in the coordination of security for the protection of civilians including seeking international support for such protection to be effected in a timely manner.
- e. A overhaul program on arms control with a view to managing proliferation of arms and production of locally made arms in Nigeria.

Finally, WANEP recommends a strong sense of solidarity and support from the governments and peoples of the Economic Community of West African States to the Government and people of Nigeria to give meaning to the ECOWAS principles, vision and values of a West Africa sub-region and ECOWAS of the people.

In addition to the above, this paper suggests the following recommendations:

- a. Identify, arrest and prosecute their sponsors and leaders. Usually sponsors and leaders of such groups are cowards and do not want to die. Hence their reason for brainwashing their followers. If martyrdom was such a blessing, why are they not carrying out their operations themselves?
- b. Deploy more soldiers to patrol states where they have operated with so much recklessness to defend citizens,
- c. Frequently attack their bases and hideouts.

Recommendations on How to Tackle Transnational Crimes

There is a general saying that for every six black men in the world, four are Nigerians. Therefore, Nigeria has a vital role to play in the international effort to curtail transnational organised crime. In Nigeria, participation at the local level of organized groups can be best described as basic. However, with international link, the operational base of organised crime in Nigeria has broadened beyond an immediate boundary which is a source of great concern to government. Hence the Nigerian government has over the years mapped out policies and strategies to deal decisively with crimes that are transnational in nature and scope. Some of such strategies include:

- a. Penal Code and Criminal Code Acts: These two Acts cover criminal offences in the Northern and Southern parts Nigeria respectively. In relation to prostituting of minor girls and trafficking in women, the Penal Code, codified laws of Northern Nigeria provides in section 275:

"Whoever, by any means whatsoever, induces any girl under the age of eighteen years to go from any place or to do any act with intent that such girl may be, or knowing that it is likely that she will be, forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine".³⁹

- b. Section 276 bothers on importation of girls from foreign country. It provides:
"Whoever imports into Northern Nigeria from any country outside Nigeria any girl under the age of twenty-one years with intent that she may be, or knowing it to be likely that she will be forced or seduced to illicit intercourse with another person shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine".⁴⁰

- c. The section that deals with trafficking of women is Section 281. It provides:

³⁹ Penal Code 1960 s 275. Cap89 The Laws of Northern Nigeria 1963.

⁴⁰ ibid s 276.

"Whoever, in order to gratify the passions of another person, procures, entices or leads away, even with her consent, any woman or girl for immoral purposes shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine".⁴¹

The Criminal Code, the codified laws for Southern Nigeria, provides in section 419, with regards to Advance Fee Fraud thus:

"Any person who by any false pretence and with intent to defraud, obtains from any other person anything capable of being, stolen or induces any other person to deliver to any person anything capable of being stolen is guilty of a felony, and is liable to imprisonment for three years". If the thing is of the value of one thousand naira upwards, he is liable to imprisonment for seven years".⁴²

Also, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) established to enforce laws against drug trafficking provides in Section 11:

"Any person who without lawful authority - (a) Imports, manufactures, produces, processes, plants or grows the drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroine or any other similar drugs shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to be sentenced to imprisonment for life; or (b) Exports, transports or otherwise traffics in the drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroine or any other similar drugs shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to be sentenced to imprisonment for life; or (c) Sells, buys, exposes or offers for sale or otherwise deals in or with the drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroine or any other similar drugs shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to be sentenced to imprisonment for life; or (d) Knowingly possesses or use the drugs popularly known as cocaine, LSD, heroine or any other similar drugs by smoking, inhaling or injecting the said drugs shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than fifteen years but not exceeding twenty-five years".⁴³

Advance Fee Fraud and other related offences Act: This law was enacted to check sharp practices of unethical local and international businessmen. It states in Section 11:

"In addition to any other penalty prescribed under this Act, the High Court shall order a person convicted of an offence under this Act to make restitution to the victim of the false pretence or fraud by directing that person to do the following, a. Where the property involved is money, to pay to the victim, An amount equivalent to the loss sustained by the victim, and

b. In any other case; i. To return the property to the victim or to a person designated by him or ii. To pay an amount equal to the value of the property, where the return of the property is impossible or impracticable".⁴⁴

⁴¹ *ibid* s 281.

⁴² Criminal Code Act 1916 s 419. Cap. C38 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria Act 2004.

⁴³ National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act 1989 s 11. Cap. N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria Act 2004.

⁴⁴ Advance Fee Fraud and other related offences Act 2006 s 11. Cap. A6 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria Act 2004.

Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act was promulgated for the prevention of Money Laundering. Section 14 provides:

"Any person who: a. converts or transfers resources or property derived directly or indirectly from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psycho tropic substances or any illegal act, with the aim of either concealing or disguising the illicit origin of the resources or property, or aiding any person involved in the illicit traffic of narcotic drugs or psycho tropic substances or any other crime or illegal act to evade the legal consequences of his action or b. Collaborates in concealing or disguising the genuine nature, origin, location, disposition, movement or ownership of the resources, property or rights thereto derived directly or indirectly from illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psycho tropic substances or any other crime or illegal act commits an offence under the s e c t i o n a n d i s l i a b l e o n conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years or more than three years".⁴⁵

Further to the above, this paper submits that in order to get rid of the negative consequences of organised crime, international cooperation in criminal matters is imperative and should be hinged on the following forms⁴⁶:

- a. Mutual Legal Assistance;
- b. Extradition;
- c. Transfer of Criminal Proceedings;
- d. Regulations and enforcement of foreign criminal judgments and sentences which may include:
 - (i) Transfer of prisoners;
 - (ii) Transfer of supervision of persons conditionally sentenced or released;
 - (iii) Enforcement of other sanctions:
 - Hunt, seizure and confiscation of criminal proceeds of crime;
 - Exchange of information and training,
 - Special investigation on techniques.

In addition, international organizations such as the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, ICPO-INTERPOL, the Universal Postal Union and the World Customs Organization, should be used to full advantage in global law enforcement. Transnational organised criminal organisations are not only sophisticated but also heavily financed hence the need for harmonisation of relevant laws, also countries should make adequate and sufficient budgetary allocation to crime prevention and detection. The negative consequences of transnational organised crime transcend the government, public and private sectors. Therefore, the burden should not be left to government alone to bear. The public and private sector should be encouraged to fund law enforcement cooperation programmes with the aim at eradicating or bringing to the barest minimum organized crimes.

Conclusion

This paper sought to proffer solutions to the challenges Nigeria faces in tackling terrorism and transnational organised crimes as these affect the country's peace, security and more importantly, development and growth of her economy.

⁴⁵ Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2003, s 14. Cap. M18 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria Act 2004.

⁴⁶ Parrish (n 35) 280.

The paper examined two radical rebel groups in the country namely; the militants of the Niger Delta which allegedly fight for the alleviation of the livelihood for the people of the Niger Delta and the Boko Haram sect warring against westernisation in the North.

To this end, the paper examined the forms and characteristics of transnational crimes. In this part, the advance in technology and co-operation between nations among others was listed as the reasons for the prevalence of the crime.

Following from this, the paper sought to proffer suggestions to the challenges Nigeria is facing in combating terrorism and transnational crimes. It called for change in tactics in her fight against the criminals, effective dialogue amongst religious and community leaders and the involvement of private citizens and other nations if need be to combat the menaces of terrorism and transnational crimes. Undoubtedly, no effort in the direction of fighting these ills with their huge and devastating results on Nigeria's economy and the world's would be too great. For if an economy allows criminals to reign free, they would not attract the much needed foreign investment necessary for all-round development. Hence to ensure peace, tranquillity and a globally secured life, Nigeria and the global world must take the issues of terrorism and transnational crimes, and combating same very seriously.