# Africa and Insecurity: A Retrogressive Phenomenon in the African Continent.

**By**

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**Abstract**

The essence of life is to live peacefully in an environment devoid of rancour, conflicts, bloody clashes, wickedness, chaos, man`s inhumanity to man; a jungle where might is right and survival of the fittest. Such a situation is better seen in the land where order is not of any value. It is not only to an individual, but to Africa as a Continent. It is no news that She is engulfed in wars, both national and intra-national. This is the problem facing the Continent now. The Paper used Historical and Phenomenological Methods. Data collection came through Primary and Secondary sources. Personal observations came to the fore on the former, while Journals, Text books, Periodicals and Internet were the latter. Descriptive style was employed to elucidate the findings. The work found out that this atmosphere has brought unprecedented loss of life, revenue, property and relationship. It has made people `strangers` in their land or outside their land as refugees; brought Food scarcity and loss of man power. It is the opinion of this work that government in all levels should give peace a chance and the citizenry; leaders should abide with the oath of their leadership, serve the people and not to lord it over them. Security guarantees safety and enhances the joy of living.

**Keywords: Insecurity, Retrogressive Phenomenon, Refugee, Peace, African Continent**

## Introduction

Africa is one of the Continents in the world. It is inhabited by both black and white people. The white people are mainly seen in North Africa. Also "there are Arabs and people of Arab stock like the Sudanese, Chadians, Nigereins, Malians and

other nationals who are fair-skinned. They owe their ancestry to Arabs." (Ayodeji, 2023,p.18) Isaac Anumihe (2022) said that Aremu said that "Africa…has the largest reserves of precious metals with over 40 percent of cobalt and 90 percent of platinum reserves, (p.24) Africa is known as one of the under-developed continents, where development and democracy are still in their embryonic stages, exhibiting animal like- behaviour by engages in undemocratic tendencies.

Insecurity is no respecter of any person, religion, race, tribe, educational status, occupation None is immune to its aftermath. It is like an ill-wind that blows no one good at its trail. No one is safe; uncertainty of life and property hold sway, while blood-letting is the order rather than the exception. Order, law, love obedience, and progress, fly away with high velocity. In their place, hatred, man`s inhumanity to man, chaos are planted. No man puts his finger in the fire, and will not be hurt. Likewise, no nation or continent that plunges into insecurity comes out without being backward. Peace, co-existent, tolerance are the only options to live in harmony. This makes insecurity a thing of the past. Living becomes enjoyable, and Africa will be a land of peace.

**Insecurity**:``A lack of security; uncertainty. The state of being subject to danger; vulnerability." *(Vocapture* Online Dictionary). Security in other words means "The condition of not being threatened, especially physically, psychologically, emotionally, or financially. Freedom from apprehension." (*Vocapture*) This is a situation where one is free from attack or danger; he is protected; free from the danger of theft or financial loss, safe and unafraid. So, insecurity in this sense is not only physical attack, but anything that threatens emotional and psychological safety, that will make one not unsafe.

**Retrogressive**: It is the adjective of retrogression. Retrogression means "A deterioration." (*Vocapture)* It shows backwardness, worse situation and lack of progress.

The work is saying that where there is no safety of life and property, such a situation leads to lack of forward movement and progress, physically, emotionally and psychologically.

**Reasons of Insecurity in Africa**:

Water scarcity: Water is essential to life. No living thing survives without it. so, when it is scarce, it attracts strife, conflict and crisis which most of the times, lead to insecurity. Most African countries like Madagascar, Kenya and Somalia had experienced water scarcity. According to Robin Scher (2022) "with scarcity, conflict tends to follow" (p.24) Robin Scher continued. He said: "Cameroon, for instance, experienced a violent dispute over water between fishers and herders in a town near the border of Chad in December 2021. The disagreement over rights to water found in a shrinking Lake Chad led to the death of 22 people and a further 100,000 people displaced from their homes as the two groups fought." (p.24)

**Killings, Harassment of fellow Africans:**

The continent that should see the countries in her as brothers, united in love, the reverse is the case in some quarters.

*Attacks on Nigerians*: Some African countries have decided to be thorn in the flesh of Nigerians. The killing of Nigerian Muslim pilgrims in Burkina Faso comes in mind. These were travelling to Senegal when they met their untimely end. "The travellers, who were going for a religious ceremony in Senegal were said to have been waylaid by gunmen who attacked the buses they were travelling in, killing 16 of them. The Medina Baye Mosque in Koalack, Senegal, said apart from the killing of the passengers, the assailants also robbed most of the survivors." (Nwosu, 2023,p.11)

Not only in Burkina Faso, but also in South Africa. Other Africans are not safe especially Nigerians. Their xenophobic attacks to them are nothing to write home about. These attacks had led to death of many Nigerians. To Nwosu (2023),

> Since 1998, …Nigerians have been suffering xenophobic attacks in South Africa. In 2018, a number of Nigerians lost their lives and shops following xenophobic attacks in Hillbrow, Central Johannesburg. Last year, about three Nigerians were reportedly killed in South Africa between 14 and 17 November. Available records indicate that since 2019, no fewer than 128 Nigerians have been killed in South Africa. (p.11)

In Ghana, the story is the same. Nigerians were subjects of frequent harassments and intimidation. The target this time were the traders. They were discriminated in monetary charges; their goods seized and shops shut.

> In the recent past, Nigerian traders in this West African country [Ghana] had alleged constant harassment, intimidation, torture and threats to their lives. They have endured years of arbitrary and discriminatory charges in the levies and taxes they pay to the authorities. In 2018 and 2020, for instance, Ghanaian authorities closed some Nigerian businesses in that country for their inability to show evidence of $1million Ghana Investment Promotion Council (GIPC) registration to remain in business. Some of them had their goods seized. In December 2019, Ghana Union of Traders (GUTA) reportedly shut down about 1,000 Nigerian shops. (Nwosu. 2023,p.11)

It is noteworthy that the official building at the Nigerian High Commission in Ghana was demolished. Osu family did the demolition in the claim that "…Nigerian High Commission in Ghana failed to purchase the land and lease title certificate after acquiring the property in 2000." (Nwosu.2020. p.11) Ghanaian authority unfortunately did nothing to stop such an act from their citizens to such Embassy`s compound. Who then is safe?

In this context also, discrimination between complexions (Skin Colours) is rife in some African countries. Tunisia, Morocco are two examples of this. These countries discriminate the blacks in their countries in terms of job opportunities, marriage, politics and almost every sphere of life. It is reported that:

> there is growing concern about the subhuman treatment meted out to blacks in countries like Tunisia, where the country`s President, Kais Saied, is pursuing an openly racist policy targeted at blacks in a bid to maintain the racial purity of Tunisia. Even before ... President Saied came to power, racial discrimination against black Tunisian minorities as well as blacks from African countries resident in that country was a well known problem. Black

> minorities in most Arab nations are silent victims of racial discrimination in jobs, marriage, politics and every sphere of life. Although Morocco has granted some level of legal status to Ethiopians and Eritreans and some foreigners, most Arab nations are still intent on preserving their racial purity….(Ayodeji 2023.p.18).

**Ethnicity/Marginalisation**: Part of it has been touched in the above sub-heading. This is one of the causes of insecurity in the continent. Those in the helm of power, see others from others tribes and ethnic groups as second class citizens; people who ought to be seen and not to be heard. Such people are seen as hewers of wood and drawers of water for them. This attitude is seen in the appointment of key offices in the government. Their tribes are given executive positions, while others are given compensatory posts.

In Nigeria, the scenario is overwhelming. Recently the former governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State said that, "…peace and security would remain elusive if the major ethnic groups continue to marginalise the minorities." (John, 2022.p.6)) The past President of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari has been tagged "as an unrepentant tribalist." by the Yoruba Socio-political group, Afenifere. (Igbokwe, 2021.p.31) Igbokwe categorically gave reason for the above description.

> A leader [Muhammadu Buhari] in a multi-ethnic country like Nigeria must weigh his words and actions to avoid creating unnecessary tension. He needs to show some balance in appointments to achieve equity, fairness, unity and peace in the polity. The framers of the Nigerian Constitution recognize this fact, and this prompted them to insert such clauses as the federal character principle in the constitution. Has Buhari respected this principle? He believes he has and claims his appointments are based on merit and in accordance with the Constitution. But he violated Section 217(3) of the Constitution, which provides that the composition of the officer corps and other ranks of the armed forces of the federation shall reflect the federal character of Nigeria. according to him, he appointed the new Chief of Army Staff, Major

> General Farouk Yahaya, because of his experience in fighting Boko Haram. Does this now mean that only the North-East and North-West, which largely control the top echelon of Nigeria`s security architecture, have experienced generals? Does it mean that none of the scores of generals who are senior to Yahaya is competent to hold position? Does it mean that South-East region does not have the capacity to produce competent generals who will go beyond being spokesman of the army? (Igbokwe, 2021.p.31).

Buttressing the above, Nwoke (2022) reported that Ann-Kio Briggs says that "What we have in Nigeria today is one section of the country that thinks they are bigger and better than other sections. Other sections think they own Nigeria, while others are slave." (p.13) This ethnic bias of the leaders in Nigeria has given the ethnic in power to allow their members to cause mayhem in the nation, especially the herdsmen, with impunity, making other tribes to dwell unsecured in their fatherland.

**Collapse of Libya**: The fall of Libya in 2011due to Western military alliance, is a source of insecurity in Africa. It is like things that fell apart, the centre could not hold again; a lion that is bound, and now is being librated. The ravaging is unprecedented. No restriction of any kind.

With the destabilization of Libya, arms and weapon from its unsecured armoury flowed across to the Sahel region and Nigeria, triggered brutal insurgencies, banditries and assorted criminalities that still bedevil the…region up to this day….In the Sahel including Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, the fallouts from the destabilization of Libya have created hot-beds from where extremist Islamic militancy…grown. (Ujumadu 2021.p.12) This has infested the continent that those countries where the `infection` spread have experienced turbulence.

**Religious Intolerance**: No African country that has only one religion. The continent is multi-religious in nature. This calls for tolerance and peaceful co-existence. Where this is lacking, fanaticism becomes rampant. In Nigeria for example, one of the reasons Boko Haram sect is killing most of the people that do not belong to Islam, is because the members want Nigerians to be converted to

Islam. The case of Leah Sharibu who was not released with others when they were kidnapped, was because she did not recant her faith in Christ. Deborah Emmanuel was stoned to death because according to the `prosecutors` (Fellow students), she was guilty of blasphemy, of which, what constitute that crime, is not in the Nigerian Constitution. Before her death, she was a student of Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto. The School`s security personnel did not stop such. Till now, no serious prosecution of the culprits has been heard. Such a situation where one will not have freedom of worship for fear of being accused of blasphemy, of which one does not know what it is, is a serious source of insecurity.
**Terrorism**: This includes cultism, herdsmen and unknown gun men menace, banditry, kidnapping, abduction, extra-judicial killings. It is my intention to expound all of them. Few will be treated. But the bottom line is that all constitute insecurity. Where all these exist, safety is compromised. According to Akokpari (2007), "Terrorism is a source of human insecurity for the simple fact that it breeds fear, uncertainty, destruction and death." (p.41).

He gave a graphic picture of terrorism in Africa.

> Some African states have been victims of terror. Countries with radical Islamists such as Algeria, Egypt and Morocco, have had to deal with terrorists acts, perpetuated by groups opposed to the state or its policies, on a regular basis. Although such violent acts are common, and indeed frequent in North Africa, they are by no means confined exclusively to that part of Africa. Some countries south of the Sahara, including Somalia, Ethiopia, and Nigeria have in recent decades witnessed various forms of terrorists acts. The most publicised terrorist acts in Africa were the near simultaneous attacks on the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 7 August 1998 that claimed 213 and 10 lives respectively. The casualties in the Nairobi attack were predominantly Kenyans, including 34 who were employed by the embassy and 167 who were either passing or working near the embassy at the time of the blast. As well, another 5,000 people received medical treatment while extensive damage to buildings and other infrastructure were recorded. Similarly, in the Dar Es

> Salaam attack, 70 additional people were injured. (Akokpari, 2007.pp.41,42.)

Cultism constitute a source of insecurity. When Cult groups clash, they do not only kill and hurt themselves, innocent people are included. Cultism exists in the Schools, villages and towns. Most of the times, they force people to join them, who upon refusal, see themselves being killed or maimed. "Suspected cultists yesterday killed two in separate shooting incidents in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State Capital….The cultists operating in a Toyota Camry car shot Auwal Bashir, at Erepa and injured five people while they moved to Agudama-Epie, where they also shot Paul Marcus Ivinbeke dead." (Okoro. 2021.p.5)

On abduction, it is either for ransom to be paid, or for ritual purposes. In this case, none is a sacred cow, children, youths adults and even security personnel. Okoro (2021) reports that "The family of a Deputy Superintendent of Custom, DSC Jimoh Folowosele abducted by Boko Haram insurgents, has appealed to the Controller General of Nigeria Customs Service, Col. Hameed Ali, not to allow their son to die in captivity." (p.5)

**Elections Violence**: Most African leaders see leadership as a do or die affair. To them, it is seen as business where one is expected to make gains. This has made them to commit all sorts of atrocities in order to win elections. The oppositions are killed, vehicles and houses burn, security agents on the rampage in order to work for their bosses. Their consciences at this time, are dead, but violence is alive.

In Zimbabwe at the time of Mugabe, election violence held sway. Opponents were attacked, detained including diplomats. In 2008 election between ZANU-PF, which was Mugabe`s Party, and MDC, the result showed that there was no candidate that secured a majority of the vote. It was rescheduled for June 27th that year. However, before the day,

> The weeks leading up to the runoff election were plagued with political violence. An increasing tense climate was further heightened by several government actions, including the detention of Tsvangirai and several other MDC officials and supporters, as

> well as several diplomats from the United Kingdom and the United States who were in the midst of investigating reports of pre-election violence." (www.britannica)

**Activities in Africa Made Possible Because of Security.**

There were several activities done in Africa that were and are beneficial to her. These were possible because of security which led to conducive atmosphere for such activities to be done. Some of them are as follows:

***United Nations World Tourism Organisation Conference:*** This Conference was organized in Abuja in Nigeria, at the National Theatre, Iganmu, between 14th and 16th November, 2022. This brought African countries together to find ways to make Tourism a profitable venture, linking Tourism, Culture and Creative Industries. According to the former Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Muhammed, "This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to discuss ways and means to promote intra-Africa travels and tourism, leveraging on our vast and unique resources and our number for mutual benefits of our member states." (Baje, 2022.p.12).

***Prosper Africa to invest $170m to boost African exports***: Prosper Africa is US government initiative . its aim is to "increase two-way trade and investment between African nations and the United States…investments to boost African exports and infrastructure and mobilize private investment to accelerate African innovation." (Okereocha. 2022. P.7)

***Shelter Afrique Housing Projects***: This Company is a pan-African housing development financier, which specializes in Housing and Pension projects. This is to enable the continent have affordable houses. According to the Managing Director, Mr. Kingsley Muwowo in Nairobi, "the company was considering issuing local currency Medium Term Notes in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda." (Nweke. 2022.p.24) Already earlier in 2022, the company had done "local currency bond in Nigeria, to carry out the project." (Nweke. 2022.p.24).

***Telecommunication***: Some Internet-provider companies, their networks do not reach the rural areas. In order to help out, Loofca International Limited United

Kingdom, is partnering with Vanu Incorporated, United States, "to deploy 10,000 sites across Africa." (Omogbolagun 2022.p.34) These sites when built with Vanu`s technology, "will then be made available to first-tier operators such as MTN, Orange, Glo, Airtel, and Vodacom, for voice and data services." (Omogbolagun 2022.p.34)

***Information Communication Technology Buildings/Infrastructure***: This is to compliment the above. The benefactor of this is Abdul Samad Rabiu, with his Company known as ASR Africa. This company has built "Information Communication Technology (ICT) Building, and a Student Affairs Building at the University of Benin, Edo State." (Chiejina. 2022.p.9) According to the Managing Director, Ubon Udoh, the company " is committed to giving back to society and bridging development gaps in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa….Since our inauguration in 2021, ASR Africa has invested massively in sustainable education, health, and infrastructure development projects across Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa. (Chiejina. 2022.p.9)

***Food Security/Ivestments:*** Food is necessary to all human kind. It will be an impossibility for a man, nation or a continent to survive without it. The continent will be out of existence without food. Africa almost imports her food from abroad. So it was a welcome development when Nestle said that it was " partnering [with] the African Food Prize to help accelerate the transformation of food systems in Africa, as a way of strengthening the continent`s food scarcity and building greater climate change resilience." (Obinna 2022.p.14.)

African Food Prize is capable to award prize about USD 100,000 to individuals or institutions that are in agricultural business in Africa. This prize is to put " spotlight on uniquely impactful agri-food initiatives and technological innovations that can be replicated across the continent to increase food security, spur economic growth and development, and eliminate hunger and poverty in Africa." (Obinna. 2022.p.14).

In addition, the US Soybean Export Council (USSEC), the American Soybean Association for World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (ASA/WISHH), and the US Grains Council (USGC) held a Meeting. The aim of the meeting was to help

Africa in the business of soybean. It was held between 9 and 10 November 2020. The Meeting was "…tagged, the African Trade Exchange…aimed at strengthening trade with the African continent and discussing partnership opportunities to build demand for US soy." (Anyanwu.2020.p.22)

In another development, France showed interest in Bamboo trade between her and Cross River State Nigeria. This idea were nursed by French agro-investors, Yann Fortunato of Industrial Sylviculteur and Estelle Mougeot, President of Links 4 Value. To them, they saw the state "…as fertile for commercial-scale cultivation of bamboo and potatoes." (Ogundele. 2021.p.29). Fortunato went further to say at the Conference Hall of the Governor`s office, Governor Ben Ayade, that "a collaboration between the Cross River State Government and France will develop the value chain for Irish potatoes and bamboo [and] will lead to the establishment of a seed cultivation and multiplication factory to improve output for export." (Ogundele. 2021.p.29).)

***Health Care System:*** Medical tour to abroad for health care is rife in Africa. This is causing Her billions of Dollars every year. The reason of this is that She does not have the all withal for the Health Care System. If these are adequately available, the travel to abroad for medical care would reduce to the barest minimum. But a solution to this is on the way. It is coming through MERCK Foundation. This Foundation is a philanthropic arm of Merck. This Foundation "…has wooed African first ladies to a cause that would herald significant improvement in healthcare systems in Africa, thereby reducing medical tourism in the continent." (Eze.2021.p.14) The CEO of the Foundation, Dr. Rasha Kelej addressed the participants at the eight edition of the Meeting in Zambia, said that "the essence of the conference was for all stake-holders to meet, exchange ideas, knowledge, experiences and proffer superior solutions for healthcare challenges in Africa." (Eze.2021.p.14). The Conference was inaugurated by the Zambian President, Edgar Chagwa Lungu. The conference was attended "with more than 13 African first ladies." (Eze.2021.p.14)

The above were some of the things Africa benefitted because of peaceful atmosphere. If one removes conducive atmosphere, then the benefits above should not accrue to Africa.

**Disadvantages of Insecurity**

The introduction to this Paper says that insecurity is no respecter of any human being. It does not respect religion, race, complexion, age and status. It blows every Dick and Harry. Below are some of the negative outcomes of insecurity.

***Disruption of International Relations***: Insecurity spreads like cancer. It crosses boundary. When it does, the relationship is soured. Once peaceful nations and neighbours, become enemies. Ethiopia is enmeshed in internal war in Tigray region which is in the northern region since November 4 2021, between the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front and the federal army. It has even spread outside Tigray to the Amhara Region, to the cities of Dessie and Kombolcha by early November 2021.(Ujumadu. 2021.p.12) The problem is that this has caused friction between Sudan, Egypt and even Somalia. According to Ujumadu, "Although this conflict is primarily a domestic problem within an African state, there are ramifications towards neighbouring countries, such as Sudan, Somalia and Egypt." (2021.p.12). He went further to unveil those ramifications. "Sudan has been manoeuvring at the Ethiopian border and Ethiopia`s withdrawal of troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force in Somalia…." (Ujumadu.2021.p.12) Walt is of the opinion that "revolutions or domestic turmoil in a country can have a disruptive impact on international relations." (Ujmadu.2021.p.12).

***Impediment on Home Coming***: It is a maxim that east or west, home is the best. It is a place of one`s birth where his people are. To neglect them more or less, means one has no root. But what will one do if coming back home means threat, kidnapping and probably death. The best is to stay where one is safe especially outside Africa. This idea of staying outside one`s home because of insecurity was buttressed by Gani Adams, the Onakakanfo of Yorubaland who "expressed concern over the wrong signal insecurity in the country [Nigeria] is sending Nigerians in diaspora, the situation has made many to lose interest in coming home." (Olawale 2022.p.10) As in Nigeria, so it is in any African nation that is infested with insecurity.

***Impediment to Tourism***: Tourism will only be possible when there is freedom in movement. Insecurity will not allow especially foreigners to participate in this aspect. This will make the nation lose revenue which is supposed to accrue to her.

A conducive atmosphere must be put in place before tourism will be effective. According to Olusegun Obasanjo, the former Military and Civilian President of Nigeria, in an interview with Fidelia Salami, "some countries earn as much as 50 percent of their revenue from tourism." (Salami 2021.p.15) ( Salami Fidelia (2021) Tourism investors need conducive atmosphere to operate. *Vanguard, Friday, November 26. Vol.27 No.64475.* Vanguard Media. (only 15). It is the opinion of Obasanjo that: "Why should I come to a country for tourism when I can be kidnapped? Why should I want to come to a place for tourism when I am not going to have comfortable vacation."? (Salami 2021.p.15) Of course, no one does it. It is taking unnecessary risk.

***Scarcity of Food/Poverty:*** To say that insecurity breeds scarcity of food and poverty, is to say the obvious. When farmers cannot go to their farms, either to cultivate or harvest, hunger and poverty are invited. This is obvious. It is when farmers cultivate and harvest that there will be supply of food. They will sell and recover their expenses. When the former are not in place, the latter will emerge as a result. Africa is mainly an agricultural continent, yet to attain industrialisation. Anything that touches their agricultural ventures, touches their livelihood. In Nigeria in 2020, 43 Rice farmers were beheaded by Boko Haram members in Maiduguri in Borno State Nigeria. (Berie; Obi; Olanrewaju; Orji; Paulinus & Taiwo-Obalonye, 2020.p.6) This situation would affect farmers drastically. To Governor of Plateau State of Nigeria, Simon Bako Lalong, "the killing was a great setback to the efforts of Nigeria to attain domestic sufficiency in rice production as well as food security." (Berie; Obi; Olanrewaju; Orji; Paulinus & Taiwo-Obalonye, 2020.p.6) An Agriculturist and Managing Director of Wal-Wanne Group, Dr. Abiso Kabir, collaborating with Governor Lalong said "…the sad incident would not only cause instability in the zone, but would also lead to poverty and make the people to be over dependence on aid." (Berie; Obi; Olanrewaju; Orji; Paulinus & Taiwo-Obalonye, 2020.p.6)

***Clashes Between the Police and the People***: This often happens when the government in power suppresses the masses with security agents, either with her draconian laws, or puts her will against the will of the people during elections. In Africa, the above scenarios always occur. In such cases, people lose their lives, or are maimed; property lost. Many citizens are on their toes whenever election is at

hand. There will be crack-down of opposition members, false accusation and imprisonment become the order of the day. Such situations scare people. The situation in Uganda comes to mind, where there were clashes between the people and the Police, which led to the death of some people.

Bobi Wine and President Yoweri Museveni contested election. At the end of the day, the incumbent president `won`. The result was announced while Bobi Wine and his wife were under House Arrest. His supporters protested that their leader should be released from house arrest. This protest led to the clash between the police and the masses. "The continued confinement of Wine came as clashes between security forces and opposition protesters led to at least two deaths…the clashes with the police took place in a number of locations, including in Gomba, where Wine lives, and neighbouring Sembabule." (Foreign News f @TheNationNewspaper. 2021.p.38)

***Deaths***: No one has the right to take anyone`s life except by the order of Court when due process has taken place. But this is not always the case in Africa. Peoples` lives are taken away with impunity. People are killed by bandits, kidnappers, security forces, armed robbers, political thugs, assassins, known and unknown gunmen. Most of the times, such people go scot free. Such situation poses security threat. Some of these people who were killed were bread winners of their various families, company Executives, government officials, pastors, farmers, traders, students. With the end of such lives, the future of their families, companies, studies, and even their states are put into jeopardy. To some, that is the end their livelihood.

This time, a Head of State was killed while fighting against insurgency. It was Deby of Chad. "Deby 68, was killed on Monday on the frontline against fighters of the Front for Change and Concord in Chad, a group formed by dissident army officers in 2016 which says it is pro-democracy." (Anyanwu, 2021.p.26) To Emmanuel Macron, President of France, "Chad is [has] losing [lost] a great soldier and a president who has worked tirelessly for the security of the country and stability of the region for three decades." (Emeozo, 2021.p.30) This is one of the examples of Heads of States that died. General Murtala Mohammed of Nigeria and Samuel Doe of Liberia were others.

In Somalia also with its militancy, many people, both civilians and security men have died. The target this time was the Islamic terrorists. But it happened that when US launched an aerial strike in Somalia, the strike did not discriminate. Both civilians and security men died. "…in early January 2007, the US launched an aerial attack on `suspected Islamic terrorists` in Somalia. Although the strike killed a number of suspected terrorists, it also claimed the lives of no fewer than 20 civilians and wounded many more. The occupying Ethiopian forces in Somalia have also caused severe civilian casualties in their efforts to eliminate terrorists." (Akokpari, 2007.p.45)

***Refugeeism***: "The state of being a refugee." (Vocapture. Online dictionary). On the other hand, a refugee is "A person seeking refuge in a foreign country out of fear of political persecution or the prospect of such persecution in his home country." (Vocapture. Online dictionary). This sub-heading is telling us that some people are seeking refuge, a place of safety in another place, either in their country, or outside their country. Insecurity is the major reason for this, hence the seeking of a safe haven. Many African countries have experienced wars or political upheaval which has led many to seek for a place of safety. Below will show a miniature of refugees in Nigeria, and non Nigerians in Nigeria.

> No fewer than 312,069 Nigeria refugees are currently in Niger, Chad and Cameroon while the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in the country has hit 2.9million. This was contained in a recent data by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Nigeria….The updated data of May 31, 2021 from UNHCR Nigeria, showed an increase of 11,185 Nigerian refugees outside the country when compared to UNHCR figures updated on November 30, 2020. The breakdown showed that there are 177,773 Nigerian refugees in Niger; 16,294 in Chad and 118,002 in Cameroon. Also as at April 30 and May 31, 2021, Nigeria recorded 71,365 registered refugees in the country from across the world. The refugees, according to Daily Sun`s findings, are residing in Lagos, Kano, Cross River, Taraba, Benue, Akwa Ibom, Kaduna, Ogun, Oyo and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The number of refugees and countries of origin are Cameroon,67,456; Central

> African Republic, 717; Democratic Republic of Congo, 654; Syrian Arab Republic, 341; Mali,143; Cote d`ivoire,136; Chad,87; Sudan,47; and unspecified,1,784. Also, asylum seekers in the country, who are awaiting the determination of government to either grant them status or be denied are 1,634. (Paulinus, 2021.p.27)

**Conclusion**.

Insecurity is no man`s friend. It has never brought positive development, and will never. There is no alternative to peace and security. They are not bought in the market. It is human beings who should make conscious efforts and sacrifices to make sure that security is achieved. No effort is too much for security. When the seeds of tolerance, sacrifice, humility are sown, the harvest is peace and security. Such a place will stand to be haven to humanity, where people will take refuge in time of trouble. The time to achieve this in Africa is now, not tomorrow. The continent has suffered a lot because of insecurity.

***Recommendations***:

The Paper is recommending the followings in order to reduced insecurity in Africa to its barest level, or eradicate it.

**Respect of Agreement Between nations**: This is in the agreement in South Africa concerning the sharing of water resources because of water scarcity. In order to avoid conflict between the nations in the region. "In 200, with tensions rising over shared resources, an agreement was reached between Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia that helped avoid further issues." (Scher, 2022.p.24) This agreement helped to avert war between them. They all respected the agreement, and peace is reigning.

**Travel Advisory**: Nigerian Muslim Pilgrims who were going for a religious ceremony in Senegal in Burkina Faso " were said to have been waylaid by gunmen who attacked the buses they were travelling in, killing 16 of them. The Medina Baye Mosque in Koalack, Senegal, said apart from the killing of the passengers, the assailants also robbed most of the survivors." (Nwosu, 2023.p.11) According to Nwosu, the period the travellers came to Burkina Faso, was not the right time because of disorderliness in the country. He said that "Nigerian government

should begin to give travel advisory for its citizens like the Western countries usually do. Were the advisory in place, it would have served as a warning to people against travelling to the Sahel region which is [was] enveloped in conflict. (Nwosu, 2023.p.11) The same applies to other African countries.

If they should decide to rule with the fear of God, Africa will be a serene continent. **Pro-active Strategies To combat conflict**: Conflict does not come by accident. It shows precursors. These signs should sound as warnings to our leaders to nip the conflict in the bud. A situation where it is allowed to escalate, and Peace Committees are formed to solve the problem, does not show pro-activeness among our leaders. African leaders should through African Union or ECOWAS, step in immediately when there is sign of conflict, not waiting for peaceful resolutions when it may not be possible. That may be medicine after death. They should be men of vision and strategy. "it has become fashionable for ECOWAS and the African Union to intervene after crises/conflicts have escalated, instead of nipping them in the bud." (Ejime, 2022.p.13)

**Punishment for Countries under Military Rule**: In democracy, there is nothing like Military rule. It is an aberration, imposition on the people. This has led to coups and counter ones, making such countries unsafe for the citizens. It is a time-bomb that can explode at any time. The army in Africa should allow democracy to reign. Even though the army have `genuine` reasons to take over the leadership of the country, but a `bad` democracy is far better than military rule, where the rule of law is not practised, Legislative arm of the government suspended, draconian enacted, freedom of speech is `economical`. African Union should suspend such a country so that such action will not be fashionable to the military. "Burkina Faso became the fourth country to be suspended by AU after disgruntled soldiers toppled President Roch Marc Christian Kabore. Guinea, Mali and Sudan are also currently suspended." (WorldNews. 2022.p.32) This action will serve as a deterrent to other would be coup plotters.

**Accountability for Purchase of Military Equipment/Right Equipment** : When there is fire outbreak, what is required is how to extinguish it. This needs Fire fighting equipment. Insecurity has no boundary. Many things can cause it. One of them is terrorism. When this happens, the solution is to stop it. This needs military

equipment. If it is not stopped, it will consume the whole nation in particular, and the `whole` world in general. A situation where money to buy such equipment is embezzled, the result is death for the living. It is reported that Nigeria`s National Security Adviser , Babagana Monguno has said that: "huge sums of money` approved for the purchase of weapons were `missing` and the weapons `were not bought." (Odeh, 2021.p.21.) Even though he later said that he was quoted out of context.

**Adequate Equipment for the Military:** No man goes to war with bare hands with one with gun. That will be suicidal. Ill-equipped military facing terrorists with sophisticated weapons, should not be thought of in this advanced society. The military must be equipped with modern weapons to fight insecurity. Odeh said that Nigerian military is ill-equipped to tackle the escalating insecurity. He gave example of "an `ex-military chief` quoted as saying the troops `lack sufficient and right equipment, arms and ammunition." (2021p.21.) Government all over Africa, should not play with the lives of their military men who have given their lives to protect their nations. There should not be ostrich playing in this matter.

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