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Information Communication Technology and Terrorism in Nigeria: Digitalization for Enhanced National Security

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Abstract

Terrorism is a global issue, it leads loss of lives and property. Nigeria is one of the countries that are groaning under terrorist attacks. Terrorism as an organized crime has claimed more than one million lives, property worth billions of Naira have been destroyed. Hence, this paper assesses Information Communication Technology (ICT) and terrorism in Nigeria for enhanced national security. The study adopts qualitative research methods, data were sourced secondarily through the content analysis of edited textbooks, peer- reviewed journals, and credible online resources. The study anchors on routine activity and modernization theories. Findings showed that there are lapses in the current security architecture in Nigeria; there is a lack of coordination among the existing security structures which are inadequate and archaic. The study recommends the effective application of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to checkmate terrorism. The study will be beneficial to entire citizens, government at various levels, ministries of defense, Non-governmental organizations and researchers in the field of Security and Criminology.

Keywords: Nigeria, Information Communication Technology, Terrorism, Security, Digitization

1. Introduction

The application of information communication technology to address various security challenges has wider applications; one of the areas of application of information communication technology is checking the menace of terrorism in Nigeria. Application of information communication technology has brought positive changes to many areas of human endeavor and humanity is feeling these impacts. One of the contending global issues is terrorism (Elliot et al.2015). Since its inception, on the global pace, many lives and property have been lost to this problem. The traditional approaches to solve the problem of terrorism are ineffective. The traditional approaches include utilization of old technologies that have not given the desired results. The loss is unimaginable at local and international level. This is a cause for concern for all and sundry. The development of ICT started in the world war II in the 1940s, after the war there have been series of applications of ICT, one of this is insecurity which is threatening global existence, one major insecurity challenge in world is terrorism, terrorist groups abound over the world, they

are one of the causes of deaths more than malaria and other deadly diseases. It is not a 21st Century problem it has been existing over the world(Goodall,2003). After the Second World War, the current nationalistic movement gave room for terrorism in the world. September,11 could not be forgotten in the history of the world, when the Pentagon building was destroyed by Osmar Bin laden and the global growth of terrorist groups all over the world results in loss of millions of lives and property. These groups have continued to grow and strengthen their terrorist networks all over the world.This calls the attention of the United Nations and other concerned groups all over the world to name some countries as terrorist nations. Abdullahi (2018), assessed assessed digital revolution and national security. Green and Wards, (2001), investigated state crime, Lonnigan and Defranca. To the best of the knowledge of authors, no study has been conducted on information communication technology and terrorism in Nigeria. Hence, this paper assessed CT and terrorism in Nigeria: Digitalization for Enhanced national security. The specific objectives are i. what are the various technological innovations that deployable to terrorism? What are the challenges of these strategies? How can those challenges be overcome?

2. Literature Review

2.1. Meanings of Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Information Communication Technology (ICT). Information communication technology is the application of computer and its resources to address human socio-economic and security challenges. Before the advent of computers, there have been series of challenges of addressing various issues that confront human existence, among those issues, are employment, poverty, low-production, insecurity, diseases, population explosion, communication and other issues of human existence by Alimi(2018) supported by LeeAnn &Stot (2010).The advent of information communication technology stimulates steady growth and development in production and this facilitates urbanization and modernization. There are many aspects of information communication technology; the hardware software and telephone and television as means of accessing, sending and processing of information. It involves.

Table1: The Best Ten Countries in Information Communication in the World.

Rank	Country	Percentage of ICT
1	Korea	10.7
2	Japan	7.02
3	Ireland	6.99
4	Sweden	6.8
5	Hungary	6.09
6	United States of America	5.89
7	Czech Republic	5.74
8	Finland	5.60
9	United Kingdom	5.53
10	Estonia	5.33

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology

From table Table 1, Korea has the highest percentage (10.7) of information communication technological application in the world, followed by Japan (7.02), Estonia has 5.33 which comes last among the ten best countries with ICT in the world.

2.2. Information Communication Technology Resources in Terrorism

As argued by Alimi(2018) ICT has the following application to terrorism, Electronic Surveillance: This is one of the key aspects of modern security, in this regard the activities of suspects are been monitored on a real-life basis and those who are suspected to be threats to the security of life and property. The installation of closed-circuit camera television and viewing human operations around a geographical area is one of the ways of deploying ICT into security and arrest suspects and their accomplices (Hodson,2016). As far as the terrorist group in Nigeria such as Boko Haram their activities could be gotten through the installation of CCTV cameras in strategic places especially in the Northern parts of the country. This will give security operation clear view of their deadly acts and make arrests appropriately.

Security Intelligence. In this regard, the activities of Boko Haram could be monitored through the collection of data; this could be primary and secondary data, processing of data with modern tools ICT tools like computer software like Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS), collating the data through different security intelligence units, analyzing the collected data and mobilized resources based on the analyzed data. In every stage of security intelligence processes; information communication infrastructure could be applied to get the actual operations of the activities of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in Nigeria(Abdullahi,2018).

Communication Channels: Information dissemination is key to the success of in all human interactions; terrorist groups engage in effective communications in their hide with other accomplices in the larger society (Fisher, 2017). With current identity monitoring in the global system of communication couple with speech or record technology, their activities could be traced and security operatives swing into actions and effect their arrest and prosecution.

Financing. Terrorist groups have financiers all over the world, they engage in international recruitment and payment for their new and existing members. The applications of information technology to financial transactions like Bank Verification Numbers and Know Your Customers Policies could are veritable means of detecting and blocking financial transactions from the terrorist groups (Keranen, 2015).

National Data Integration. Other reliable means of adopting information communication technology into war against terrorism is by harmonizing national database in terms of national identity card registration, bank account opening forms, international passport registration, and others mean. This will address the problem of multiple registrations, and brings sanity into the national database. With this, the identity of the terrorist groups could be gotten. Geographical Information System. One major issue with the control of terrorist groups in the lack of an in-depth geographical survey of the country (War, 1993). The terrorist groups hide in thick forest, where there are surveys that are not known to security operatives; hence, adequate geographical survey facilitates rescuing of those in the captives of kidnappers or terrorists and dislodges them from their hide-outs.

Crime and Information Management Unit: This facilitates information gathering from various security operatives and uses this to track the terrorists and their nefarious activities. This could be the central security information gallery for those areas that are prone to terrorist attacks.

Automated Fingerprints and Biometrics System: This facilitates the identification of people in the country, in this regard the identity of the terrorists.

Figure 1: A Scene of Boko-Haram Attack in Maiduguri,



Source: https://www.bbc.com/pidgin/tori-46459641,

2.3. Meanings of Terrorism

There is no universally agreed definition of terrorism; different scholars have endeavored to define terrorism in their profession. According to Hinds & Daily (2001) there are common features in each of the definition of the act of threatening of civilian and other members of society is against the wish of the state or the generality to achieve myopic political interest. Terrorism is one big challenge of the world today, there have been threats to people's lives and property over the world, they have formed themselves into groups and undermine global peace and harmony. IIt an act of using violence to communicate sectional interest to the constituted authority, it recent times terrorism is a major security issue in the world. Most nations, especially the developing ones have to experience unbearable frequencies of terrorism with attendant loss of human lives and valuables.

2.4. Types of Terrorism

Civil Disturbance. This is a kind of terrorist act whereby people mobilize themselves to protest against government actions or policy. In this variety of mass action, the organizers may intend to engage in peaceful protest, however, if care is not taken, the protect may result in violent demonstrations which leads to loss of lives, destruction of valuables and great security disequilibrium in the society (Benford & Snow 2001). There are various protests or mass actions that in Nigeria that characterized these terrorist acts, the recent one was the Shi`iit protest in the National Assembly which led to the demise of some police officers of duty and loss of their members. May industrial demonstrations have resulted in confrontational acts between protesters and security operatives, violent student protest falls under this category of terrorism (Nwachukwu, 2019).

Political Terrorism. This is a terrorist act that involves the intimidation of political opponents in other to achieve myopic political interests. This act is common in African countries where political violence is predominant (Hinds, 2005). The generation election in African countries witnessed unbearable political violence in which many lives and property have been lost, change of government in Africa either through ballot boxes or military coups witness series of violence and instability.

Religious Violence. Also known as non-political violence are, he terrorist acts that were motivated to achieve religious objectives. a typical example of this is the Boko-Haram attacks in North-Eastern Nigeria. Boko Haram constitutes a threat to the security of Northern Nigeria in particular and the whole country in general.

International Terrorism. This is terrorist acts that involve oppression from one state to another, it involves the use of oppression of one country by the powerful ones through the use of violence, it may involve throwing of bombs, missiles, and launching of rockets by one powerful nation to suppress the less powerful ones (War, 1993). The case of America versus Iraq and Iran are examples of international terrorism. Another version of international terrorism is when a terrorist group from one country attack citizens from other countries. The characteristic feature of international terrorism is that it generates instability for the affected nations (Odo, 2017).

Table 2: The Three Countries with Highest Terrorist Deaths from 2016 to 2018.

S/N	Country	2016	2017	2018	Country`s Total	Percentage
1	Nigeria	1,532	832	4,940	7,304	54.81
2	Iraq	852	919	2,786	4,557	34.19
3	Afghanistan	411	466	588	1,465	10.99
	Total	2,795	2,217	8,314	13,326	100.00

Source: Global Terrorism Report 2018, modified by the author

From Table 2, Nigeria has the highest frequencies of terrorist attacks from 2016 to 2018, which was computed at 54.81 percent, followed by Irag which recorded 34.19 percent and Afghanistan

had 10,99 percent. These records prompted the United Nations to tagged the three countries as most the most dangerous counties in the world in terms of investment and tourist attraction.

2.5. Effects of Terrorism

According to Gadd and Farrall (2004), terrorism has the following effects Economic Loss. One salient negative impact of terrorism is that it leads to loss of revenue to the government and hence, national gross domestic products are diminished, a society that is experiencing insecurity will not channel its resources to the production of goods and services because of fear created by terrorists (Beckett, 2017).

Direct Foreign Investment (DFI). There is a place where investors will thrive where there is the destruction of life and property. Terrorism drives away foreign investors, there create opportunities for economic regression for a nation. From the time Boko haram has been terrorizing Northern Nigerian, the DFI into northern.

Revenue Diversion. One ill of Terrorism is that it results in diversion of financial resources which should be spent on other public goods like road construction and maintenance, upgrading of health facilities, educational upgrades include and other public commitments by the government. This diversionary takes two dimensions; increased spending on military and other security agencies to combat terrorism and the cost of rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration of victims of terrorism (Hinds, 2005).

Personal Psychological Trauma. The impacts of terrorism on an individual are worrisome; it leads to perpetual sadness even the development of health issues like stroke, migraine, and death.

Social Trauma. Society is affected by terrorism, in this regard, it is a big challenge, and whatever affects the individuals affects the whole society.

2.6. Ict Tools Used In Checkmating Terrorism

In advanced countries many information communication technologies are deployed to checkmate terrorism. One of those information communication technology are drones. These are crime-fighting aircraft with the latest technology to fight terrorism. In this regard, the hideouts of terrorists are captured and appropriate actions are taken. Satellite technology is another technology that is used to capture the whereabouts the terrorists. This technology processes the digital information of the terrorists and engage in actions that lead to their arrests and prosecution.

2.7. Challenges

Challenges of deployment of information communication technology to tackle terrorism in Nigeria. Political will is one of the challenges of using information communication technology to address terrorism. The commitment of government in power allocate resources and ensure effective utilization enhances headway in the war against terrorism. Corruption affects acquisition and maintenance of information communication resources. The systemic corruption impedes success of this commitment.

Prospects. With the level of internet penetration and adoption of information communication technology, the adoption of modern information communication technology tools will be promoted and war against terrorism will be worn.

2.8. Checkmating Terrorism Through Digitilazation

The deployment of various ICT resources like electronic surveillance will enhance adequate information about all areas of Nigeria (UNO, (2018). Aerial surveillance gives security operatives necessary clues to track terrorists and effect their arrest. The terrorists use thick forests as their hideouts. The application of electronic surveillance will reveal them and gives security operatives necessary onslaughts on terrorists. Electronic security collects information about the whereabouts the terrorists, their sponsors and informants. Digital resources facilitate effective operational communication among various security agents. The various networks of terrorists both local and international could be track and necessary actions will be taken.

2.9. Theoretical Framework

Strain theory by Robert King Merton, every society like an American society has the social goals and legitimate means of achieving the goals, these goals a financial success and the legitimate means of achieving these goals are education and hard work. He went to explain the consequence of the inability of the citizens to achieve those goals (Goodnight, 2016). As offered by Robert King Merton, the failure of people to achieve these goals results in different modes of adaptation. These adaptations, Merton referred them as behavior, conformity is a state of equilibrium, where social goals are set and legitimate means of realizing those goals are established, the type of behavior that is related to terrorism is innovation, terrorist group resulted in innovation as means of achieving their goals in different dimensions. The use of force and destruction of life and property to realize financial success. Most terrorism engages in kidnapping and other heinous crimes to force the government into providing their selfish interests.

Routine Activity Theory by Marcus Felson and Lawrence Cohen, according to these scholars, there are three basic factors that must be present in crime situation. These are motivated offenders, suitable target and guardian. A motivated offender is somebody who has conceived criminal activity like theft, kidnapping and he or she has a preconceived target to unleash a terror, his or her ability to survive will be determined by the presence to possible security arrangement (Vicklund, 2013). As far as terrorism is concerned, terrorists are motivated offenders who target civilians, with appropriate applications of Information communication resources will be apprehended and brought to justice.

3. Methodology

The research applied the content analysis of edited textbooks, peer reviewed journals, and credible online resources. The analyses of various scholars in terms of meanings of terrorisms, types of terrorisms and effects of terrorism on society. The dependent variables; information communication technology (ICT), and various resources of information communication technology that are useful in addressing the problem of terrorism in Nigeria and other countries were explained. In this regards, twenty scholarly journals, ten edited text books and other

credible online resources were explored for the meanings of terrorism, types of terrorisms, and relationship between information communication technology and terrorism.

4. Findings and Discussions

From the findings, terrorist attacks have created a lot of socio-economic distress in the world; many lives and property have been lost to the activities of terrorists. From Table 1, the best ten countries with the application of information communication technology do not include Nigeria moreover, from Table 2, Nigeria has the highest figures for terrorist attacks from 2016 to 2018. The high incidence of terrorism has reduced the country`s image and social-economic problems like homelessness, lack of education of children and poor investment that aggravated poverty in the country. The traditional methods of controlling terrorism have not yielded the desired results, this calls for proper application of information communication technology and its resources.

5. Conclusion

The study dwells on the usage of digital equipment as means of solving the problems of terrorism across the globe, findings showed that the ten countries who are leading in the as par information communication technology have less frequency of terrorism. Nigeria has the highest incident of terrorism from 2016 to 2018. This is a daunting change as it affects the socio-economic development of the country. This study recommends the digitalization of security processes to reduce the menace of terrorists. The study will be useful to the government at various levels, ministries in charge of defense, international organizations and researchers in the field of ICT and security.

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