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AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPLICATION OF INVOLVEMENT OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROCESS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The paper examined the implication of involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice process in Nigeria. The aim is to provide a nuanced understanding of the challenges of engaging the non-state actors in transitional justice implementation in post conflict recovering programmes in the context of arms conflict. It's analysed the concept of transitional justice (TJ) and its significance in democratisation, nation-building, and state reconstruction. Provide evidence on how TJ has garnered substantial attention from various international organisations for its role in addressing historical injustices and promoting accountability in a global context through non state actors. It observed the need to investigate the extent of participation and influence of non-state actors in the transitional justice framework in Nigeria. The influential role of non-state actors in shaping narratives of justice and reconciliation in post-conflict societies. The paper exploring the gap in the existing research regarding the negative impacts of non-state actors' engagement in transitional justice processes in Nigeria. It observes the Transitional justice initiatives, highlighted the challenges and repercussions associated with non-state actors' involvement in transitional justice processes, such as extra-judicial killings, arbitrary detention and sexual and gender-based violence. Employing a systematic review of scholarly literatures sourced from articles and publications, the study synthesizes insights from diverse perspectives to offer a holistic view. Key findings underscore the role of civil society organizations and grassroots movements, become instrumental in advocating for justice and reparations in implementation of transitional justice programmes in Nigeria. Submitted that the significance of non-state actors in the pursuit of justice and reconciliation, transcending national boundaries.

Key Words: Analysis, non-state actors, implication, involvement, transitional justice and Nigeria.

1.1 Introduction

The field of transitional justice, which encompasses the processes and mechanisms utilised by societies to address grave human rights violations following periods of conflict or authoritarian rule, has increasingly come under scrutiny due to the notable involvement of non-state actors. The role of these non-state actors in transitional justice processes is a topic of paramount significance within the field, given its potential to exert profound implications on the effectiveness and outcomes of transitional justice endeavours. Transitional justice initiatives have been prominently observed in various global contexts. Notably, South American countries such as Argentina and Colombia have grappled with the challenges of addressing past human rights abuses. In Argentina, the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms has been marked by the active participation of non-state actors advocating for justice and accountability, (Humphrey and Valverde ,2008)). Meanwhile, in Colombia, the complex involvement of armed non-state actors, most notably the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has raised intricate questions regarding their role in shaping transitional justice dynamics.

Transitioning to the Asian milieu, nations such as Israel, Palestine, Afghanistan, and Syria have encountered protracted conflicts, often accompanied by severe human rights violations. These conflicts have engendered the participation of diverse non-state actors, encompassing armed groups and civil society organizations, adding layers of complexity to transitional justice efforts. Park (2002) underscores the role of media, democracy, and human rights within the transitional justice framework in these settings. In Africa, South Africa's post-apartheid experience has been a noteworthy model for transitional justice, prominently exemplified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. However, a more intricate narrative unfolds in Nigeria, characterised by a plethora of non-state actors, both violent and non-violent, each with distinct motives and influences on the transitional justice landscape. The violent non-state actors in Nigeria, such as Boko Haram, Niger Delta Militants, Indigenous people of Biafra (IPOB), armed bandits, and farmers and herders, present a heterogeneous and complex challenge. Complementing these, non-violent non-state actors, including the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Amotekun, and the recent Katsina State Community Watch Corps (KSCWC), further contribute to the intricate tapestry of actors in the transitional justice sphere.

The focal import of investigating the involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice processes in Nigeria lies in the multifaceted and dynamic nature of the country's conflicts. These conflicts have engendered a complex network of actors, each positing a unique set of grievances, objectives, and strategies. Consequently, comprehending how these non-state actors' interplay with the framework of transitional justice is of critical importance in the quest for lasting peace and justice in Nigeria. This study seeks to address the conspicuous gap in existing research concerning the consequences of engaging non-state actors in the transitional justice sphere within the Nigerian context. While there exists an array of research focusing on individual non-state actors in Nigeria, such as Boko Haram (Monguno, 2015) and Niger Delta

Militants (Ajiya, 2022), a substantial gap in the scholarly landscape pertains to a holistic comprehension of how the varied non-state actors, spanning both violent and non-violent categories, impact transitional justice endeavours in Nigeria. This research is significant as it provides a comprehensive insight into the intricacies, challenges, and opportunities wrought by the involvement of non-state actors in the transitional justice paradigm in Nigeria. Furthermore, although insights from transitional justice experiences in regions like South America, Asia, and South Africa are instructive, a context-specific analysis of Nigeria is imperative, owing to its distinctive characteristics and challenges.

1.2 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

Transitional Justice: In this study, this involves the processes and mechanisms used by societies to address human rights abuses in the aftermath of conflict or authoritarian rule. It aims to achieve accountability, truth-telling, justice, and reconciliation as part of the transition to peace or democracy.

Non-State Actors: This encompasses a wide range of entities outside the government, including both violent and non-violent groups. In the context of this paper, these actors play significant roles in transitional justice efforts.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The paper employs a systematic review methodology, focusing on secondary source for gathering literature related to the involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice

programmes. The methodology involves a precise identification of the research question, the development of a comprehensive search strategy using relevant keywords and Boolean operators, and the application of inclusion and exclusion criteria to select pertinent studies. Following an initial screening process to eliminate duplicates and irrelevant sources, the selected studies undergo a thorough data extraction and quality assessment, considering factors such as research methodology and author credibility. The synthesized findings are then analysed and discussed to identify common themes, patterns, and gaps in the literature. The research aims to present a well-organized and transparent systematic review, offering valuable insights into the implication of involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice process in Nigeria while highlighting areas for future research or policy considerations.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The study reviews the literature on the existing state of knowledge on the subject matter of implication of involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice process in Nigeria. The primary objectives of this study are to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current body of literature on this particular subject matter and to provide a focused analysis supported by facts. Additionally, the study aims to identify any existing knowledge gaps and establish an evidence-based foundation for further research in this area.

2.1 Non-State Actors

Non-state actors, encompasses a diverse array of entities and organisations operating independently of government structures, have been subjects of scholarly inquiry across various contexts, particularly in the realm of transitional justice. These actors, both violent and non-violent in nature, play pivotal roles in shaping the processes and outcomes of addressing past human rights abuses. In South America, Argentina stands as a noteworthy example where non-state actors have exerted significant influence in transitional justice. Humphrey and Valverde (2008) explain the instrumental role played by civil society organisations in advocating for justice and accountability in the aftermath of Argentina's authoritarian rule. These entities have facilitated truth-telling and actively pushed for trials against former military officials. Similarly, the Uruguayan experience, as explored by Lessa (2009), highlights the complexity of involving non-state actors in confronting past wrongs. In this case, these actors were instrumental in pushing for truth commissions, illustrating that transitional justice processes are not solely a matter of government initiatives.

In Africa, Nigeria presents a complex and multifaceted case study in which non-state actors have substantial impact, both violent and non-violent. Monguno's research (2015) focuses on the security dynamics in Northeast Nigeria, particularly the role of violent non-state actors like Boko Haram. These groups are identified as game-changers and regime-changers, significantly influencing the security and governance landscape. Furthermore, Ajiya's study (2022) delves into the rise of non-state actors in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, emphasising their clamour for secession and the perceived threats they pose to national security. Ezeibe et al.'s r (2022). The involvement of non-state actors in these efforts highlights the influence they exert in preventing and countering violent extremism. Mutua's critical perspective (2011) on the African experience of transitional justice underscores the significant roles played by non-state actors, including civil society groups and rebel factions, in shaping transitional justice initiatives across the continent.

The relevance of non-state actors to the field of transitional justice lies in their capacity to influence the pursuit of accountability, truth, and reconciliation. These actors can either act constructively, advocating for justice, or disruptively, obstructing the process. Therefore, a

nuanced understanding of their dynamics, motives, and roles is essential for crafting effective transitional justice strategies that encompass their diverse contributions and challenges. In essence, non-state actors are integral components in the intricate tapestry of transitional justice, demanding scholarly attention and consideration for a holistic comprehension of the field.

2.2 Transitional Justice

Transitional justice is rooted in accountability and redress for victims. Mass atrocities and systematic abuses devastate societies, and their legacy is likely to make conditions of the country fragile: Political and legal institutions like parliament, the judiciary, the police and the prosecution service may be weak, unstable, politicized, and under-resourced. The violations themselves will have severely damaged whatever confidence might have existed in the state to guarantee the rights and safety of citizens. And communities will often have been ripped asunder in the process and social or political organizations greatly weakened. Finding legitimate responses to massive violations under these real constraints of scale and societal fragility is what defines transitional justice and distinguishes it from human rights promotion and defense in general, (Abrahamsen, & Merwe, 2005). The process of transitional justice aims to foster consensus on the truth about the grievances of the victims and the role of the perpetrators in creating those grievances. Achieving that consensus through dialogue is itself a significant first step towards validating the grievances of the victim and establishing a basis for forgiveness to the perpetrator. An important aspect of reaching consensus about the truth is for the communities concerned to dispel unsubstantiated suspicions, pervasive distrust, and stigmatization of all perpetrators as being equally liable to the same degree. By bringing the perpetrator face-to-face with the victims in their pain and loss, the perpetrators are given the opportunity to appreciate the grievous harm caused by their violence.

Accountability may be pursued through various means, including criminal trials, truth commissions, or reparations. It serves both retributive and deterrent purposes. By holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, transitional justice seeks to achieve justice for victims and prevent the recurrence of such abuses.

Another key principle is the pursuit of truth (Bell & O'Rourke, 2007). This principle underscores the importance of uncovering the facts and narratives surrounding past atrocities. Truth-seeking mechanisms, such as truth commissions and memorialisation efforts, aim to validate victims' experiences and contribute to a collective memory that helps societies come to terms with their history. Justice, as a goal, encompasses not only accountability but also reparation for victims (Sharp, 2015). It seeks to provide redress to those who have suffered as a result of human rights abuses. This may involve compensating victims, restoring their dignity, and addressing the material and psychological harm they have endured.

Reconciliation is a fundamental objective of transitional justice, emphasising the need to rebuild trust and social cohesion within divided communities (Sharp, 2015). It involves fostering dialogue, understanding, and empathy among different groups and addressing the underlying social, economic, and political conditions that contributed to conflict or oppression. Lastly, the establishment of the rule of law is a principal aim of transitional justice (Pham & Vinck, 2007). This goal focuses on strengthening institutions, reforming legal systems, and building a foundation for the protection of human rights in the post-conflict or post-authoritarian society. It seeks to ensure that the conditions that led to past abuses are addressed and mitigated.

An examination of the literature also reveals diverse perspectives and approaches to transitional justice. For example, Chenou et al. (2019) explore how technology, specifically information

and communication technologies (ICTs), can expand the conceptualisation of transitional justice, particularly in the context of Colombia. They argue that ICTs can facilitate the documentation of human rights violations and enhance the accessibility of truth and accountability mechanisms. Bell and O'Rourke (2007) engage with feminist perspectives in the field, questioning whether transitional justice requires a feminist theory. Their work highlights the gendered nature of conflicts and justice processes, emphasizing the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in transitional justice. Pham and Vinck (2007) underscore the significance of empirical research in the development and assessment of transitional justice mechanisms. They advocate for evidence-based approaches to understand the impact and effectiveness of transitional justice processes.

2.3 Transitional Justice Process

The transitional justice process plays a pivotal role in addressing historical injustices, human rights abuses, and the legacies of conflicts or authoritarian rule in various societies. This process comprises several distinct stages or components that collectively strive to achieve justice, accountability, reconciliation, and the establishment of the rule of law. Recognising and acknowledging past abuses marks one of the initial steps in the transitional justice process. Acknowledgment entails accepting responsibility for the violations and recognising the suffering endured by victims. It is a foundational element that sets the stage for subsequent actions (Bell & O'Rourke, 2007). Similarly, it lays the groundwork for truth-seeking mechanisms, which represent another critical facet of transitional justice. These mechanisms, which may take the form of truth commissions, historical accounts, or oral history projects, are central to unearthing and documenting the truth about past atrocities. Their purpose is to shed light on the causes, scale, and nature of human rights violations (Sharp, 2015).

Accountability, one of the core components of the process, involves holding individuals, including perpetrators, responsible for their actions. However, the transitional justice process does not end with accountability. Reparation and redress mechanisms are instrumental in providing redress for victims of human rights violations. These mechanisms encompass various measures, including compensation, rehabilitation, and restitution, designed to address the physical, psychological, and material harm suffered by victims (Bell & O'Rourke, 2007). Promoting reconciliation and healing within divided communities is a central goal of transitional justice. This stage is focused on fostering dialogue, understanding, and empathy among different groups affected by conflict or oppression. It seeks to address the emotional and psychological wounds of victims and society at large (Sharp, 2015). Moreover, it serves as a complement to accountability, offering a pathway for communities to rebuild trust and cohesion.

Institutional reform, including the overhaul of key institutions like the judiciary and security forces, is another pivotal component of the transitional justice process. These reforms aim to prevent future human rights violations, uphold the rule of law, and strengthen institutions to protect human rights (Humphrey & Valverde, 2008). Notwithstanding the challenges in implementing these reforms, they are essential to ensuring that past violations are not repeated and that the rule of law is upheld. Memory and memorialisation efforts also play a significant role in the process. This stage involves creating spaces and initiatives to remember and commemorate victims and past atrocities, ensuring that the memory of these events is preserved and acknowledged (Lessa, 2009). Moreover, this stage contributes to building a collective memory that can help societies come to terms with their history.

Transitional justice extends beyond addressing individual abuses; it seeks to facilitate broader political and social transformation. This may involve democratic reforms, changes in governance structures, and addressing the root causes of conflict or human rights abuses (Bell & O'Rourke, 2007). Furthermore, political and social transformation is fundamental to ensuring that the conditions that led to past abuses are addressed and mitigated. Similarly, community engagement, often through community-based initiatives and dialogues, is vital in the transitional justice process. It entails engaging communities affected by past injustices and promoting their participation in decision-making processes (Chenou et al., 2019). Additionally, it empowers affected communities and ensures that their voices are heard and considered in the design and implementation of transitional justice measures.

Public awareness and education efforts are instrumental in creating an environment conducive to justice and reconciliation. These initiatives aim to inform the public, combat historical revisionism, and ensure a broader understanding of the transitional justice process and its goals (Monguno, 2015). Moreover, these efforts are essential for building public support for the process and combating any resistance or opposition it may face.

2.4 Non-State Actors in Transitional Justice

Non-state actors have historically and contemporarily played significant and evolving roles in transitional justice efforts, contributing to the pursuit of justice, accountability, truth, and reconciliation in various countries with distinct historical and contemporary contexts. These actors, which encompass civil society organisations, human rights defenders, rebel factions, and international NGOs, have demonstrated their influence and effectiveness in promoting transitional justice (Chenou et al., 2019; Sharp, 2015). In Colombia, for instance, the Colombian conflict's complexities have seen non-state actors, such as civil society organizations and grassroots movements, become instrumental in advocating for justice and reparations. They have actively documented cases, provided legal assistance, and pushed for the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms (Chenou et al., 2019). This active engagement has made them catalysts for accountability and healing, despite the protracted nature of the conflict. Similarly, in Syria, the involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice is characterised by a fragmented conflict landscape. Some, like the Syrian Democratic Forces, have cooperated with international bodies to document violations, while extremist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) have posed significant challenges to justice prospects (Sharp, 2015). The diverse range of non-state actors underscores the complexity of reconciling their roles within the transitional justice framework.

Afghanistan's tumultuous history has involved various non-state actors, including the Taliban, implicated in human rights abuses. The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and civil society organisations have been crucial in documenting violations, advocating for justice, and amplifying the voices of victims. Their engagement with international bodies has significantly contributed to the development of transitional justice mechanisms (Pham & Vinck, 2007). Nonetheless, navigating Afghanistan's intricate political landscape remains a challenge for non-state actors, given the array of interests and alliances at play. South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy illustrates the pivotal role of non-state actors in achieving justice and reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission benefited from the support of religious and civil society organisations (Humphrey & Valverde, 2008). Notably, the South African Council of Churches played an active role in documenting human rights abuses and providing victims with a platform to share their experiences. This positive experience underscores the potential for civil society to play a crucial role in transitional justice processes.

In South Sudan, the country's history of civil conflict, including the Sudanese Civil Wars and the South Sudanese Civil War, has involved a range of non-state actors, including rebel groups and militias. Several allegations of sexual harassment have also been made against, civilian Joint Task Force and aid workers in Borno state who take advantage of teenage and underage IDPs who have been made vulnerable by their poor economic status in Borno state, Nigeria. The contribution of civil society organisations and international NGOs in documenting abuses and advocating for justice has been significant (Bell & O'Rourke, 2007). Despite the complexities, non-state actors' engagement highlights civil society's resilience in the face of challenges. These actors' roles are essential in amplifying the voices of victims and advocating for justice.

2.5 Implications of Non-State Actors' Involvement in Transitional Justice

The involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice processes carries significant implications for the overall success and effectiveness of these mechanisms. To understand these implications, it is instructive to examine the Argentine experience, particularly the "Punta Final" policy, which holds valuable insights into the impact of non-state actors on the transitional justice process. Argentina's transitional justice journey, marked by its transition from military rule to democracy, saw the active participation of non-state actors in shaping the outcomes of the transitional justice process (Humphrey & Valverde, 2008). One significant implication of non-state actor involvement is the promotion of truth-telling and accountability. Non-state actors, such as human rights organisations and civil society groups, played a pivotal role in documenting human rights abuses and advocating for accountability. Their work in collecting evidence and testimonies from victims and witnesses contributed to revealing the truth about past atrocities. Furthermore, non-state actors, notably the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, provided a platform for victims to share their stories, fostering a culture of truth-telling that became central to Argentina's transitional justice process.

Moreover, non-state actors in Argentina's case demonstrated the power of social mobilisation and advocacy in influencing the direction of transitional justice efforts. Human rights organisations, working alongside political and civil society groups, organised protests, public demonstrations, and advocacy campaigns that pressured the government to address human rights abuses (Lessa, 2009). Their activism not only raised awareness but also pushed the government to take meaningful steps towards accountability, such as the trials of military officials involved in the "Dirty War." This highlights the role of non-state actors in shaping the political will and public discourse necessary for transitional justice initiatives. Additionally, non-state actors contributed to a broader societal healing and reconciliation process. By actively engaging with victims and providing spaces for them to share their experiences, these actors helped in addressing the psychological and emotional wounds of survivors (Ni Aolain & O'Rourke, 2010). Their efforts promoted empathy, understanding, and solidarity among different segments of society, ultimately contributing to national reconciliation.

However, the involvement of non-state actors in transitional justice is not without challenges. While their activism and advocacy can be powerful drivers of change, they can also lead to political polarisation and hinder the progress of transitional justice mechanisms (Fischer, 2015). In Argentina, divisions between those advocating for accountability and those seeking amnesty led to a highly polarised political environment. Furthermore, non-state actors' involvement can sometimes overshadow or circumvent the role of the state in designing and implementing transitional justice mechanisms (Backer, 2003). This dynamic can create tensions and challenges in ensuring state sovereignty and the democratic legitimacy of the transitional justice process.

3.0 IN SEARCH OF JUSTICE: ANALYSIS OF THE NIGERIAN SITUATION

Nigeria's transitional justice landscape is complex, marked by a multitude of security challenges across various regions. Non-state actors in Nigeria encompass a wide range of groups, from armed insurgent factions to civil society organisations actively participating in transitional justice initiatives. In the Northeast, groups like Boko Haram, which includes factions such as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS) and the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP), have been responsible for extensive human rights abuses. Many villages have been razed by the groups in the name of revenge and this has unravelled the complexities of post-conflict interventions especially with regards to ensuring accountability and justice in the state. The communities' members, having traumatised by the atrocities of Boko Haram, also distrust the genuine nature of Boko Haram's repentance. This is so because; the formal justice systems are often inoperative or inaccessible in such situations. As a result, the problem of reintegration and reconciliation are the foremost challenges Nigeria will have to confront in a post-conflict setting in northeastern Nigeria, reconciliation and reintegration require the most creative, locally embedded solutions. After such, any attempt to repaired affected communities must inevitably involve local practices and institutioncreating the need for transitional justice mechanisms (Monguno, 2015). In the Niger Delta region, militant groups have been active, seeking redress for environmental and social grievances, adding another layer to the transitional justice discourse (Ajiya, 2022). Furthermore, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the Southeast, armed bandits in the Northwest and North-central regions, and conflicts between farmers and herders in the Southwest and North-central regions have all contributed to the transitional justice landscape. Non-state actors in Nigeria have played vital roles in shaping the transitional justice process. Civil society organisations and NGOs have actively documented human rights violations and advocated for accountability and justice, mirroring the Argentine experience (Humphrey & Valverde, 2008). In the northeast Nigeria, where issues of human rights violation in the context of Boko Haram became signatory, a lot of CSOs has been engaging in conflict transformation programmes to seek redress for victims of human right violation. Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), worked with cohorts of 20 women- led organizations and feminist activist across Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States, (CDD 2019). The Centre organized campaign against sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) to educate the communities members on harmful practices of GBV and how to report cases in the communities. The project recorded success and significant milestone in Northeast. The importance of truth-telling and accountability, which was central to Argentina's transitional justice process, is equally relevant in Nigeria, as non-state actors contribute to unveiling the truth about past atrocities (Lessa, 2009). By providing platforms for victims to share their stories, these actors contribute to a culture of truth-telling, essential for reconciliation and healing. Moreover, non-state actors in Nigeria engage in social mobilisation and advocacy, organising protests and campaigns to pressure the government to address human rights abuses. This activism is vital in raising awareness and pushing the government to take meaningful steps towards justice. The Argentine example of social mobilisation by non-state actors and its impact on the transitional justice process is mirrored in Nigeria, where human rights organisations and civil society groups have pressured the government to address human rights abuses. Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD West Africa) formed women groups in Northeast states to join the feminist groups to campaign against the GBV and prevention mechanisms in the Northeast state, (CDD2021). As a result of our interventions, many women were empowered through preventive mechanisms and established platforms to champion these campaigns within their communities. The Federation of Women Lawyers has committed to creating a safe space for victims and prosecuting perpetrators, demonstrating a strong community response to these pressing issues. The cohorts of women's groups are

actively working to provide empowerment opportunities designed to mitigate risks associated with rape and domestic violence. According to centre for democracy and development the women led feminist group set up a platform consists of police and National Orientation Agency NOA, and National Human Rights Commission NHRC to help the victims and survivors of GBV in addressing stigmatization and established justice. The group has successfully established a platform in collaboration with the police, the National Orientation Agency (NOA), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). This coalition is focused on addressing the issues of stigmatization and ensuring justice for those affected by GBV.

Nonetheless, challenges persist in Nigeria's transitional justice landscape, paralleling the Argentine experience. Transitional justice mechanisms, in this context, play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of violence and fostering sustainable societal transformation. The involvement of non-state actors in implementation of transitional justice programmes help promoting conflict transformation in the context of arms conflict (Fischer, 2015). Divisions between the community members advocating for accountability and the victims' groups seeking amnesty have led to a highly polarised political environment which promote possible risk for reoccurrence of conflict. The implications of non-state actor involvement in transitional justice in Nigeria are particularly relevant in light of ongoing security challenges and evolving conflict dynamics. The multifaceted conflicts, exemplified by Boko Haram's continued activities in the Northeast, demonstrate the pressing need for effective transitional justice mechanisms. The roles of non-state actors in documenting abuses, promoting truth-telling, and advocating for accountability are instrumental in addressing these challenges (Monguno, 2015).

Amnesty programs introduced by federal government initiative to redress the militant's agitation in the Niger Delta region. The non kinetic approaches served as ADR to peace processes in the country because it addressed and served justice for both victims and perpetrators. The implementation of Borno Model is considered as restorative justice, reconciliation, and reparation. The Borno model is component of transitional justice system, as both mechanisms adopted non kinetic means of reintegration and reconciliation of victims' violence and perpetrators through non judicial means. The Borno model employs dialogue through involvement of key stakeholders, parties to the conflict through investigation of atrocities committed during the boko haram conflict in Northeast Nigeria. Despite all efforts made by NGOs, governments at both state and federal levels to address issues bordering on human rights violations in recent times, conflict, violence, and insecurity occasioned by the activities of Boko Haram insurgency in the North-eastern region appear to be a primary challenge and a very significant factor militating against the state towards its quest for peace building and development. Unwillingness of the Boko haram to negotiated with government make it impossible for transitional justice programmes to effective. The rejection of non kinetic approaches by the disputants parties made it impossible to reflect on the impact of no state actors in transitional justice process in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The discussion above illuminates the pivotal role of non-state actors in shaping transitional justice processes in diverse contexts, with a particular focus on Argentina and Nigeria. While each country has its unique security challenges and historical legacies, commonalities emerge in the implications of non-state actor involvement in transitional justice. Both Argentina and Nigeria have witnessed the contributions of civil society organisations, human rights defenders, and advocacy groups in documenting human rights violations, promoting truth-telling, and

advocating for accountability. These contributions underscore the universal significance of non-state actors in the pursuit of justice and reconciliation, transcending national boundaries.

Despite the similarities, the impact of non-state actors on the transitional justice process is also marked by challenges such as political polarisation and tensions with state institutions, reflecting the complexities of these endeavours. While their involvement is instrumental, these challenges necessitate a delicate balancing act to ensure a coherent and inclusive transitional justice process. Looking ahead, the prospects for transitional justice in Nigeria are multifaceted. The country's diverse security challenges, exemplified by the activities of Boko Haram in the Northeast and various regional conflicts, underscore the urgent need for comprehensive transitional justice mechanisms that account for the contributions of non-state actors. With the active involvement of these actors, prospects for reconciliation, healing, and accountability remain promising. The experiences of Argentina and Nigeria emphasise the importance of context-specific approaches and the adaptability of transitional justice mechanisms to accommodate the intricate dynamics of each case. In Nigeria, this entails recognising and leveraging the vital role of non-state actors while navigating the challenges they pose to the process, ultimately shaping a more just and reconciled society.

In the broader global context, the lessons drawn from Argentina and Nigeria illustrate the enduring relevance and impact of non-state actors in transitional justice. Their continued engagement in documenting abuses, advocating for accountability, and fostering truth-telling will shape the trajectory of transitional justice processes worldwide, contributing to the enduring quest for justice and reconciliation in post-conflict societies.

Recommendations

- Community participation in peacebuilding programs to promote social cohesion between the disputant parties need both involvement of non-state actors and state actors.
- Formulation of legal/ policy documents to strengthen the involvement of non-state actor in the implementation of the traditional mechanism.
- Development of capacity building programs to empowered non state actors in participating of implementation of transitional justice programmes .
- Traditional institutions represent leadership of the local level, and they can provide deeper knowledge of identity issues and help find ways to mitigate those issues should be incorporated into the category of non-state actors.

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