JOURNAL OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE
ISSN Print: 2992-2763 – ISSN Online: 2992-4618 | Vol. 2, Issue 4, No. 1 / December 2024
https://www.jopd.com.ng

DEPLOYING TECHNOLOGY TO CURB INSURGENCY AND ARMED BANDITRY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
This work aims at arresting the vicious insecurity hammering and causing pains to the social, political, economic, and environmental landscape of the Nigerian system in totality, using new methods available in technological hard and software. People, properties, image and prestige of Nigeria has been shattered for over twenty years with activities of bandits, insurgents, criminals, etc. the scope of the study focused on addressing insecurity using and deploying latest technologies like: guns spotter detector, CCTV, Network mapping, DNA analysis. The research leveraged on rational decision theory and social disorganization theory to explain the reasons for enlisting foot soldiers and other human depraved networks into these unlawful armed groups. It was discovered from thi research that technology deployment and adaptation are vital in the fight against crimes of insurgency and armed banditry, evidenced in other advanced countries. The study recommended the deployments of latest technologies in identifying, prevention, and combating crimes in Nigeria ranging from theft, armed robbery, armed banditry, insurgency, kidnappings etc.

Key Word: Technology, Crime, Security, Insecurity

INTRODUCTION

Technology has transformed the criminal justice, bringing new possibilities for addressing crime (Husson,2023). Important elements of technology deployment that had impacted positively in abating crimes and bringing less strenous work in the administration of justice are: Surveillance and monitoring using technologies of facial recognition, automatic licence plates, rapid identification systems, enhanced body cameras, are some of the cutting edge technologies that are looked into in this research. Every society, nation and the world in general, there are certain rules applied to the conduct of relationshps between individuals, groups, or countries which are made to be obeyed. Any act in contrast to such rules, norms or values upheld by such categories of people or nations, will be levelled as an act of disobedience or breakdown of such rules, which comes with penalties, rapprochement, admonition, etc., to the offenders. The general term applied to disobedience or non-observance, or breakdown of rules, law and order is called crime.

Crime is described as any culpable action or omission prohibited by law and punishable by the state. Crime in one region may not be crime in another region and it changes over time. Crime is categorized into four such as: crime against person, crime against property, crime against lawful authority, and crime against local act (Zubair, A. G., 2017).

Due to the relative nature of crime, at one point, some categories of crimes in the society may be prevalent over other crimes depending on the circumstances. In Nigeria, while criminal acts such as corruption, armed robbery, theft or burglary, rape etc. are found to have existed for a very long time, the nature of crimes bedeviling the Nigerian populace and the state,

especially starting from around the year 2010, are insurgency, perpetrated by first the Niger-Delta militia groups such as the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), and the proscribed so called Islamist Jihadist movement, popularly known as Boko Haram, and the activities of armed bandits that kill people sporadically, and effect kidnappings for ransom and rustle cattle's are the major crimes bedeviling Nigeria at this time.

In this study, I have made concerted efforts in bringing out ways, or rather alternative procedures that will assist the country to tackle the problem of insurgency and armed banditry. This alternative method is the deployment of technology to fight these criminal acts after the incessant failure of the armed forces i.e. military, police, to curb these dastardly criminal acts over the years despite huge number of resources expended by the Nigerian government in this direction.

METHODOLOGY

The study employs the use of qualitative techniques of content analysis from secondary sources of data such as books, journals, and internet materials to probe into the research problem and analyze the causative and effects of technology in the elimination of insurgency and armed banditry in Nigeria.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The use of technology in addressing the menace of insurgency and armed banditry the main focal area of the study, as against the activities or efforts of the security apparatuses of the government, which use fire arms or weaponry as a counter force to the activities of insurgents and armed bandits. However, the study includes the use of this deployable technologies by the security personnel, and other agencies of government or organized informal security arrangements like vigilante groups in the society.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In explaining the behavioral causes and societal factors that led to crimina acts like insurgency and armed banditry, this study adopts two theories in explaining this phenomenon.

These are: The Rational Choice Theory and The Social Disorganization Theory.

THE RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY

The rational choice theory as one of the two theories that laid the framework of this research was first introduced in 1776 by the well known economist- Adam Smith. It hinges on thebelief that people make choices based on the idea that the result will be beneficial to them. In order for rational theory to apply, there has to be rational, risk vs reward, and the decision will not be made if risk outweighs the reward, and finally, the the availability of tangible information and resources to make the decision (study. Com).the Criminal's needs for things such as money, status and excitement. Meeting these requirements

Involve, the making of decisions and choices as those constrained by limits, ability and the accessibility of relevant information. For example, if telephone or wallet is visible inside a vehicle, and no person is around, it may tempt a criminal to grasp the opportunity (Xianyu Z. and Jiliang T., 2018). While:

SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THEORY

The Social Disorganization Theory was developed initially by Clifford Shaw and J.Mckay in 1942. It was conceived on the premise that crime and deviance are by-product of both physical environment and social structure, and the way in which they interact (PeterandCapellan, 19.)This theory postulates on the belief that crime is associated with individualism, rapid societal change, and the disorganization and disintegrative forces that

followed(ibid). Forces such as industrialization and urbanization, characterized by inconsistency and changing nature of human behavior. Social disorganization theory; postulates that an individual residential area can be a substantial element or factor in shaping the behavior of a person to be involved in illegal activities. The theory further entails that, among the determinants of an individual's illegal activity, residential location is more substantial than the individual's characteristics e.g., gender, age or race} In influencing criminal tendencies. It indicates that youths from disadvantaged communities participate in a subculture which approves of delinquency, and these types of youths thus acquire criminality within this social and ethnic setting (Ibid: 2018).

Both rational choice theory and social disorganization theory in this context best fit our analysis in studying the pattern, nature and activities of insurgents and the armed bandits in Nigeria. For example, most armed bandits are influenced by rational decision to improve their lots, which simultaneously, was a result of the environment they found themselves.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The use of technology, especially information technology to fight crime is an umbrella that connotes the use of communication devices for gathering, storing, retrieving, processing, analyzing and transmitting information and other applications. These processes are found in devices such as phones, camera, computer networks, satellite areas of policing operations such as records maintenance, surveillance through CCTV, finger print scanners, voice recognition software etc. (Oyeranmi A. 2018).

Crime prevention and detection traditionally include among others non-scientific methods such as foot patrol, community policing, swearing before the 'god of iron' the use of holy books (Qur'an and Bible) to swear, public disgrace such as incarceration and a host of others (Omoleke. M. 2017). However, in looking at crime prevention and detection, we would first look at what is crime?

CRIME:

Crime is defined as any culpable action or omission prohibited by law and punishable by the state. (Zubair, A. G., 2017). Crime has been categorized into four according to Dambazau, as:

1. Crime against a person
2. Crime against property
3. Crime against lawful authority
4. Crime against local act

Crime against a person includes: Murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, suicide, grievous harm or wounding, assault, child stealing, slave dealing, rape, kidnapping, unnatural offences and others.

Crime against property is: Armed robbery, theft or stealing, burglary, arson and others.

Crime against lawful authority is: Forgery of currency notes, gambling, breach of peace, perjury, bribery and corruption, escape from custody and other crimes.

Crime against local acts is: Traffic offences, township offences, liquor offences, narcotics abuses and other crimes (Ibid: 2017).

Moreover, the new dimensions of crimes such as human trafficking, kidnappings, abduction, drug peddling, thuggery and armed banditry, terrorism or insurgency, have intensified since the year 2000, after the ushering in of new democratic dispensation in Nigeria. Moreover, the impact of globalization especially it's features of development in the area of information technology have exacerbated these crimes and made it easy for the criminal elements to

promote their activities and even get or receive funding through cyber financial criminal activities (Oyeranmi A. 2018).

In addition crime has also been categorized by police forces according to whether the crime is major or not, whether it is a volume crime or not. Major crimes are described here as: murder, armed robbery and rape. While volume crimes are: burglary, shoplifting etc. The crimes can be committed in serial fashion, which finding the offender is much easier, than in the case of an individual style due to the possible availability of having a common description of an offender who has committed different crimes in different places (Tombul, F. and Caker, B., 2015).

In another elaborate definition of crime given by the oxford dictionary of sociology will be illuminating here in furtherance of our understanding of what constitutes crime. The dictionary defined crime as an offence which goes beyond the personel and into the public sphere breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached and which requires the intervention of a public authority (Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice and Oxford Dictionary of Sociology).

INSURGENCY AND ARMED BANDITRY

An insurgency is an organized resistant movement that uses subversion, sabotage and armed conflict to achieve its aims. It is a protracted politico-military struggle designed to weaken government control and legitimacy. Insurgency normally seek to overthrow the existing social order and reallocate power within the country. (Overview chapter: Unconventional welfare).

Also, the U.S government defined insurgency as the organized use of subversion and violence to seize, nullify or challenge political control of a region.

INSURGENCY IN NIGERIA

Nigeria after independence, was plunged into conflicts and crises pertinently, the civil war that ravaged the country and lasted for about three years, 1967 - 1970. The post-civil war policy saw the initiation of various policies of ensuring peace and stability in the country. Chiefly amongst them was the Gowon's policy of rehabilitation, renovation and reconstruction. Notwithstanding, in the 1980's, Nigeria was faced with the purported emergence of a terrorist group led by Maitatsine, that swayed through the Northern Nigeria, asking violence and mayhem on the populace until when it was finally crushed in 1980s (Zubair, A. G., 2017).

The agitations on increase control of oil resources by the peoples of Niger Delta brought about the emergence of insurgent groups like the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) and Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP). The major goals of these groups especially MOSOP has been stated as: increased local control over resources and more equitable development, resolution of fishing and farming issues that arose from the environmental effects of oil extract i.e. oil spills, acid rain, and soil degradation (Nuhu, 2015).

In order to bring about lasting peace in the region, so many programs and policies were put in place which includes the creation of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the Niger Delta Ministry (Ibid: 2015).

In the Northern part of the country, the devilish activities of the Boko haram militias created by the Late Muhammad Yusuf, dealt a terrible blow on the stability and peace of the region, especially in the states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and some parts of Taraba. Although their activities was felt in other northern states like Kano, Kaduna, Abuja, which is the Federal

Capital territory, where bombs were detonated in mosques, churches, markets and as a result, many people lost their lives (Ibid:2015).

The Boko haram's ideological propaganda for recruitment and structural strategic organization has been hinged on the principle of rejecting western civilization characterized by the modern Nigerian government, and seeks to falsely build a society based on Islamic values. In 2016, Boko haram split into two groups: The Islamic State of West Africa (ISIS-WA) led by Abu Mas'ab Al-Bamawi, and the Jama'attuAhlis Sumia Lidda'awahwal Jihad (JAS)), led by long-term Militant, Abubakar Shekau (Barbara B.,2014).

Boko haram has several tactics which it uses to unleash havoc, ill will and catastrophe on the human populace of their targets. Such strategies include: Disguising as refugees and internally displaced persons, masquerading as travelers, herdsmen, workers, hunters, preachers and sick people, and immediately plunge their attack on unsuspecting people when they come in contact unknowingly (Ibid: 2019).

Despite the armed forces is clamped down operations on the militia groups in Nigeria, it has occurred in recent times, that the activities of free wielding guns by recalcitrant groups that move from village to village, killing innocent individuals, raping their wives and children and kidnapping some of them for ransom. It has been argued that these armed bandits are off-shoot of boko haram fighters and the Niger-Delta militias collaborating as syndicates in order to secure financial support for their dastardly acts, and continue perpetrating their heinous activities on the Nigerian people (Ibid: 2015).

Having looked at the problem of insurgency and armed banditry in brief, in this study, I will discuss some of the major ways Government and its populace should look at for adoption in strengthening its fight against insurgency and armed banditry. This is the use or deploying of technology to fight insurgency and armed banditry in the country (Nigeria).

THE INFLUENCE ON RATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS OF CRIMINALS IN NIGERIA.

Rational Behavior versus environmental settings of criminals in Nigeria and around the world. As the context of this study showed; militia groups, insurgent groups and armed bandit are recruited by the leadership of these proscribed groups by their volition and free will, which is driven by spiritual/ideological aspirations or fulfillment, and motivation by wanton opportunity to satisfy their financial needs, brutal taste and urge for power, authority and influence. In addition, some of the recruits were, and are been force into the ranks and files of fighters and recruits. The captives are preyed daily by these groups through launching of attacks on their communities, societies and beyond.

However, this gives us the other theoretical postulations of been able to be influence by environmental habitat residence of the community or society. One can argue that, majority of the members of Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), MOSOP, IPOB, are indigenous to those communities they are predominantly Igbos and are living witnesses to the yearnings, plights and aspirations of their people. Moreover, they mostly join the groups free willing and at times been force into their membership (Insurgent Groups etc.).

The same thing applies to the insurgent groups like: Boko Haram in the North Eastern Nigeria. The groups constitute mainly of Kanuris, Barebaris, Baburs, etc. they are also enlisted by their free will or through coercion. Even though, there abound in them (Membership) pleasures or emotional and flesh satisfaction, monetary rewards and games with an un-quenching taste and drive for power and influence.

Exceptionally, there are potential sought out soldiers and infantry that are not been able to be recruited due to their risky and staunchly denial or refusal to be enlisted, and they rather

sacrifice themselves than been in a midst of recalcitrant groups, blood tasty and impatient dissents, who want to abolish or reform the existing governmental structures, religious order, and or individualistic crave for material possessions; money and power or in material benefits like ideological leanings, spiritual satisfaction and devotion. Finally, on the analysis, the rational theoretical framework and the organizational residency theory, play a vital role in criminal behavior and participation in criminal activities generally.

TECHNOLOGIES USED IN FIGHTING CRIME

In the area of policing, the recent innovations which increases the efficiency and effectiveness of policing are: Network analysis, Geographical Information System (GIS)), crime mapping, biometrics, finger prints, DNA research, facial recognition, speech recognition, social media policing, shot spotter detection system and closed-circuit television (CCTV). Some of the uses of these technologies can be described as follows:

vi. **GIS:** GIS is a spacial decision support system that focuses on decision making and problem-solving process. It is a comprehensive set of tools for collecting, storing, retrieving, analysis and displaying specially referenced information.

vii. **Biometrics:** This refers to the technologies used on individual's unique characteristics such as their finger prints, DNA make up and voice patterns. They are used to figure out the identity of suspects and who is responsible for committing a crime. It is used by matching sensitive information with different regional and national data bases that have a system authentication ability.

viii. **DNA Research:** DNA analysis gives direction to police forces in investigation processes. In case there are no witnesses in a crime, DNA analysis can provide some additional crime clues of importance. It also reduces arrests that were implemented wrongly with the use of old-fashioned techniques. DNA improves reliability of evidence, and can depict the connection of one crime case with other cases.

ix. **Facial Recognition:** This helps in obtaining profile of individuals and analyze it from different data bases.

x. **Speech Recognition:** this technology identifies audio samples of criminals for comparison with known criminal profiles.

xi. **Social Media Technology:** social media entails the shared interest of many people. It helps law enforcement agents connect with the general public. Pictures and audio records can be obtained to help solve crimes. This technology was deployed after the Boston (U.S.A) marathon bombings to find the suspects in 2013.

xii. **Shots Spotter Detective System:** this technology is used in detecting gunfire. The sensors used are planted on rooftops and can be used for monitoring the sound of gun shots.

xiii. **CCTV:** Wireless technology has enabled the law enforcement agencies to monitor security cameras from their laptops and mobile phones. Evidence captured by CCTV is helpful in enlightening a crime case and providing evidence to the court. The videos are utilized in crime scene processing,

undercover surveillance, tactical operations, vehicle collision investigation, interrogation and video line up (Tombul F. and Cakrr B., 2015).

PECULIARITIES OF TECHNOLOGICAL APPLICATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST INSURGENCY AND ARMED BANDITRY

The approach on the use of technology to fight conventional crimes as mentioned earlier, digresses in nature, context and methodology in the area of a collective organized crime like armed banditry and insurgency. Though, some of the technologies discussed earlier are used and can be deployed in fighting armed banditry and insurgency. The methodology and application differ greatly.

However, on the other side, technology has made it possible for the terrorists to even surmount geographical and demographic banners by connecting with likeminded willing cadres through the internet and social media (Narender, 2019). Boko haram for example, has demonstrated its allegiance to the Islamic state in spite of being geographically separated from west Asia, with which it has no ethnic or racial linkages, but due to technologies (Ibid: 2019).

Specifically, some of the technologies, especially information and communication-based technologies deployed by terrorist groups in aid to their activities are:

1. Exploitation of cyber space and social media.
2. End-end encryption of technological devices of social networks are used to conceal identities of insurgent groups and their members.
3. Innovative use of commercial/military drones to launch attacks.
4. Use of crypto currency to raise funds anonymously. (Ibid: 2019).

Some of the counter-technologies against insurgencies and armed banditry are:

3. Surveillance, tracking, and artificial intelligence-based identification system: This technology is used to detect and disrupt terrorism activities. For example, if there is emergence of a threat from swarm drones, then, there will be need for predatory drones to destroy incoming threat. Also, jamming and hacking incoming drones and even air defense system capable of taking on low flying objects.

4. Use of aerial drones, artificial intelligence, biometrics, ground sensors and semi-autonomous weapon systems are being used with great significant results to curb insurgent activities.

5. Deployment of drone cameras, motion sensors, thermal imaging, mobile interceptions, are deployed in borders of countries to monitor the movement of insurgent groups and or armed bandits and other light weapon transfer or movement.

6. Use of digital intelligence, such as Cellebrite's digital forensic tools to rapidly unlock, extract, decode, and analyze digital data from multiple sources, which includes cloud computing.

7. Weaponizing the cyber space: States can monitor cyber propaganda, weapons purchase, purchase of stolen or forged cards, counterfeit documents, recruitment of cadres, purchase of malicious codes, fundraising, purchase of crypto currency, data mining and location of terrorists.

Use of artificial intelligence of deface, suppress and blackout know terror social media accounts Media Accounts (Ibid: 2019).

The aforementioned, no doubt will have reduced if not eliminate insurgency and armed banditry in Nigeria, to deployed in most of the states and networks of these recalcitrant groups; whose activities have been ravaging the social and economic settings of the Nigerian states and it populace. For example, kidnapping activities alone in the year 2016 to 2017, was recorded at about the figure of 1,177 cases in just a period of 14 months. (Saheed, G.A, 2020). These incidents resulted in the loss of lives of some of the victims, mostly men who are breadwinners and also, loss of family fortune in assets and liquid cash to the insurgents or armed bandits who demand such as ransom for the release of their prays.

FINDINGS

This study and research involve the different methods, awareness, strategies and tactics a nation like Nigeria could avail itself using state of the act technologies and equipment in solving perennial problems of armed banditry, insurgency, terrorism and crime in general.

We have seen that armed banditry and terrorism are not synonymous with other crimes like armed robbery, theft burglary, murder, etc., even though all broadly classified as crimes their methods of operation, scope, ideological leanings and dimensions, network, space, agenda are quite distinct from another. Moreover, the sharp contrast between personal, properly crimes like theft, armed robbery, murder etc. as captured in the study and that of armed banditry, insurgency and terrorism are. While the former did not have intention of capturing or displacing the political set up and structure of the country in question, the latter is squarely super intended in bringing rapid change according to theirideologies, creed, and belief to been on the political structure of a particular country i.e., Nigeria.

The study discovered that the use of technology like the deployment of aerial drones, artificial intelligence, biometrics, motion sensors, mobile interceptions use of digital intelligence to unlock extract, decode and analyze digital data, which include cloud computing are some of the major equipment and technologies to be deployed in reducing and eliminating insurgency, terrorism and armed banditry as a whole.

CONCLUSION

The theories used in forming the theoretical framework of the study, have shown and proven that rational choice theory and social disorganization theory, withstood the test and analysis used in the study. As recruits are mostly enlisted in this proscribed insurgent groups in a matter of choice for personal benefit or in the event of naturally belonging to a particular religious or ethnic organization and geographical entity. The study also showed that insurgent armed bandit and criminals also leverage on technology to perpetrate their criminal actions.

Conversely the government most not do otherwise at its own peril in other not to mortgage the security and welfare of its citizens hence, the call to embrace in totality the leverage that abound in technological infrastructure in order to address Nigeria security challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Citizen online anonymous reporting system: this online platform should be provided for all citizens to report crimes and criminal's activities as they happen in real time or as an investigative report. The identities of citizens reporting must be protected for fair of victimization or bodily injury that may be mated against them.
2. Permission for acquisition and registration of personal protective light devices like: Tasers, maces, mini pepper sprays (teargas).
3. Real-time video/camera coverage and shots of security personnel suspected of carrying out or engaging in extra-judicial duties by roadsides, check points, streets, behind bars in police stations.

4. Construction of security lights emergency alarm system towers (CSLEAST), of 150fts. In Trunk "A" roads and Trunk "B" roads across the country.
5. Prohibition of all armed forces men and officers from wearing vest and singlets (inner wears) without showing their names, ranks, units, sections, and or departments while in the line of duty.
6. All armed forces men and officers must have their identity bold written on their uniforms (60 fonts size), personnel or official number linked to their biodata and access online (not without authorization) through their various organizational platforms.

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