

Political Thuggery

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ABSTRACT

Political thuggery is a cancerous disease or plague in the body polity of most developing countries. It is very sad to observe that this is almost synonymous to politics where the politicians and their supporters or followers see politics as a do-or-die affair. During electioneering campaigns, rallies, and elections, the political thugs seize these opportunities to unleash terror on political opponents or rivals and even on law abiding citizens by the use of various weapons like guns, cutlasses, bows and arrows, knives, etc. to mar, kill or assassinate, destroy houses and properties. Most of these political thugs are composed of youths who are unemployed, poverty ridden and addicted to drugs. However, the conditions these political thugs find themselves make them easily fall prey to the money bag politicians who use their ill-gotten wealth to buy or lure them over and sponsor them as thugs. Political thuggery has very serious socio-economic, political, and security implications to the stability, unity and development of the country. This paper examines the diverse implications of political thuggery in Nigeria, the challenges, and how the country can move forward for its betterment in all spheres of life.

KEYWORDS: *Political thuggery, thugs, unemployment, poverty, insecurity, elections, youths, Nigeria, politicians, community policing, crimes, criminal justice system, conflict resolution mechanisms, government, religions*

INTRODUCTION

Who is a thug? A thug is a violent, aggressive person, especially one who is a criminal. A thug is a ruffian (i. e. a violent criminal or troublemaker) or a hoodlum (i. e. a violent criminal or troublemaker, a hooligan or gangster/gangsta) [1].

Thuggery in politics is a common phenomenon which is of general occurrence all over the world and well pronounced in Africa, involving the youths, as shown in Figure 1. This has particularly assumed or reached a very critical and alarming level or crescendo in Nigeria, as shown in Figure 2. Political thuggery is the intentional use of physical force or threat against another that can either result in injury, death, and psychological harm within a political circle. Moreover, the Nigerian political stage or system has for many years been deviled by increased political thuggery cum rising insecurity ranging from kidnapping, armed robbery, ritual killings, terrorism etc creating a lot of concerns at the national, regional

and international level, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 [2].

Nigeria came into being in January 1914 due to the amalgamation of the Southern and Northern protectorates by the British Colonial Governor Fredrick Luggard. Since this period, Nigeria has been facing serious problems of national integration and unity as she is made up of numerous ethnic groups with diversity and complexity of cultural patterns, as the Nigerian people are different in every way including religion, custom, language and aspiration – as stated by Sir Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balawe in his speech in the Northern House of Assembly in 1952 [3, 4]. Some of the problems facing Nigeria are those of social distance, fear of domination, suspicion among the various ethnic groups, lack of experience in governance, as well as that of how to operate and manage the modern political structures and institutions such as political parties, elections,

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censuses, and others. Furthermore, there exists the problem of political intolerance, victimization, oppression, and corruption which are all products of our political immaturity.

The numerous political crises in Nigeria since the 1960s until 2007 general election has witnessed varying degrees of political thuggery which has led to wanton destruction and loss of lives and property of innocent citizens. Some of these notable crises were the Kano Riot of 1953 [5], the Action Group crisis of 1962 [6, 7], the Federal Election crisis of 1964 [8], the Western Nigerian election crisis of 1965 [9], the Nigerian civil war (Biafran war) of 1967-1970 [10], the General Election crisis of 1983 [11], the June 1993 election crisis, as well as those of 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, and 2023 [12] general elections.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nigeria has a complex history of electoral malpractices and challenges, as previous elections have been marred by series of allegations of irregularities and voter suppression. Since independence in 1960, violence and myriad electoral malpractices have persistently plagued the process of electing the country's leaders [12, 13]. All of these tend to erode public trust in the electoral process, undermine democratic principles, and hinder the country's progress towards a fair and inclusive society. The historical perspective is narrated as follows [14]:

THE KANO RIOT OF 1953

The Kano Riot of 1953 was caused by:

1. The suspicion on the part of the Northern leaders that the Southern leaders were trying to force them into mobilization and integration they were not prepared for [14].
2. A retaliatory move by Northerners to counter the mobbing of Northern leaders after the adjournment on March 31, 1953 of the House of Representatives. The Northern leaders had refused to support the motion for self-government in 1956.
3. Chief S. I. Akintola's Action Group tour of the North was seen by Northerners as an invasion of their homeland.
4. The Kano riot of 1953 was purely political in nature. The riot which was for four days at Sabon-Gari, Kano resulted in 277 casualties with 36 deaths i. e. from the 16th to 19th of May, 1953.

THE ACTION GROUP (AG) CRISIS OF 1962

The crisis was caused by:

1. Awolowo being bent on a nationwide campaign for the 1964 election, which Akintola (the then

Premier of the West) supported by the rich businessmen, maintained that the campaign should be restricted to the West.

2. Awolowo's strong move for a socialist stand offended the AG's conservative financial backers who therefore sided with Akintola.
3. Awolowo's refusal to relinquish power to his successor Premier in the West.
4. The withdrawal of Akintola and of his ministers from the Jos conference which culminated in his removal from office as Premier.

However, on the basis of a no-confidence motion signed by the majority of the party, Akintola was removed from the premiership of the region. By way of retaliating, Akintola dismissed the regional Governor with immediate effect and replaced him with Chief Odeleye Fadahunsi. The event eventually culminated in a free-for-all fight in the Western House of Legislature which led to a breakdown of law and order in the region. The Federal Government intervened by declaring a state of emergency in the Western Region and thus imposed Dr. Moses Majekodunmi as the Administrator of the West, a position he held for six months with his commissioners.

By implication, the Action Group crisis on the political development of Nigeria which made the Federal Government to intervene led to the subsequent crisis in the West during the regional election that followed later. Chief Obafemi Awolowo was tried for treasonable felony and imprisoned for ten years. This also led to the first military coup d'état of 1966 and a big change in Nigeria's political development.

THE FEDERAL ELECTION CRISIS OF 1964

The United Progressive Grand Alliance (UPGA) led by the NCNC and Nigeria National Alliance led by the NPC, each employed all possible means to win the election. The election campaign was marked by hooliganism, thuggery, and the use of abusive language against political leaders. Political thugs made use of mounted road blocks and dug trenches on roads in order to prevent political opponents from moving freely. The party in power also persecuted political opponents. The private armies of the two alliances caused many violent incidents, which resulted in the destruction of many lives and property, coupled with lawlessness throughout the nation.

Furthermore, the party in power used various strategies to prevent the opposing party's candidates from filing their nomination papers in most places. This resulted in what was commonly described at that

time as “unopposed drama” i. e. where most candidates were declared unopposed.

WESTERN NIGERIA ELECTION CRISIS OF 1965

The elections took place on October 11, 1965 in a tensed atmosphere that was characterized by many malpractices such as smuggling of ballot papers into ballot boxes, burning opponent ballot boxes and unfair counting of votes. At the end of elections and counting of votes, it was announced that NNDP won 88 out of 98 seats contested. In a counter-reaction, Alhaji Adegbenro summoned a press conference at Ibadan in the house of jailed Chief Awolowo in which he announced that UPGA won 68 out of the 98 seats, and pronounced himself as the premier of the region and appointed eight ministers of his cabinet. The stage for political crisis was then set in a region with two different heads of government. Chief Akintola was sworn in as the premier of the region and while Adegbenro was arrested. This eventually led to violent demonstrations, chaos, and the complete breakdown of law and order. Report has it that about 1000 people lost their lives and about 5,000 houses burnt down while the newly sworn-in premier went into hiding [15].

This political situation in the region led to the famous “operation wet e” which could not be quelled but continued till January 15, 1966 coup d’etat that brought it to a stop.

The causes of the crisis were that [15]:

1. There were discriminations in the provision and acceptance of nomination papers against the UPGA. While the NNDP announced its 94 candidates a day to close of nominations, the UPGA could still not get papers for its candidates.
2. With the UPGA unable to submit nomination papers in many instances, some fifteen NNDP candidates were declared returned unopposed.
3. The election went on with massive malpractices like burning and disappearance of ballot boxes, seizing of ballot papers, unfair counting, etc.
4. Towards the end of counting of votes, conflicting results were announced.
5. The confusion heightened with Adegbenro declaring himself premier of the region and Akintola officially sworn in as premier – i. e. two premiers emerging in the same region.

The immediate causes of the crisis were as a result of the fact that:

- There was massive dumping of wads of ballot papers.

- Many unauthorized persons including the local government police were caught in unlawful possession of large quantities of ballot papers.
- Candidates with minority votes were declared elected.
- The remote causes were:
- The determination of the masses to use the election as an opportunity to show solidarity for Awolowo who was then in prison.
- The experience of the woefully rigged 1964 Federal Elections was still fresh on the people’s mind and hence they were poised to ridicule Akintola’s NNDP party at the poll.

However, the election was rigged because:

- The party in power was determined to perpetuate its ruling hegemony.
- Fear of losing the election to the opposition party if a free and fair approach was adopted.
- The unpopularity of NNDP, even though it was in control of the administrative machinery.
- The conviction that no regional government had ever lost any election, as expressed by Chief S. I. Akintola during an interview – which tended to suggest that there was a legacy of election malpractices in Nigeria. this situation then led to the following implications of:
- The denial of individual’s voting right.
- The betrayal of the principle of democracy.
- An exhibition of political immaturity, and
- Military intervention in the political affairs of Nigeria which consequently led to the civil war of 1967-1970.

THE 1983 GENERAL ELECTION CRISIS

The political immaturity cum absence of learning from our bitter political past was confirmed during the 1983 general elections. Some of the remote causes were that:

1. Political party formation followed the same old pattern of cultural arrangement.
2. Political parties were sectionally based, with each eager to control the states and the central government.
3. The 1979 election experience gave a clear evidence of what to look forward to in the 1983 election.
4. The power intoxication of the party in power.
5. The fear that the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) was using its position of being the party in power

at the centre to gain illegitimate control of most of the Southern States.

The immediate causes of the crisis were:

1. The massive destruction of properties and lives in some states particularly Ondo and Oyo.
2. Election malpractices by the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) officials.
3. Charges that party representatives were kept away from polling stations.
4. Ordering the conduct of the two most crucial elections (i. e. governorship and presidential) at a time when controversies over those already conducted were still in progress.

The elections were rigged due to:

1. The existence of ethnic boundaries in the formation of political parties.
2. The determination of the party in power to maintain or control more seats in the National Assembly for the smooth running of the government.

OTHER ELECTIONS FROM 1993 TO 2023

Honestly speaking, other elections from 1993 to 2023 are not too different and in fact if not even worst. The annulled or botched 1993 presidential elections by the Babangida military junta was adjudged and widely seen as the country's most "freest and fairest" election ever held in Nigeria history. The two parties established for the 1992/1993 electoral season were the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC). The results of the June 12, 1993 presidential vote showed that the SDP's candidate Mooshood "MKO" Abiola was heading for a landslide victory, the military annulled the election and disbanded both parties. A civilian-led interim government headed by Earnest Shonekan was installed and while the purported winner, MKO Abiola was arrested, alongside several opponents of the annulment [16].

Following the 1993 presidential election, which was the freest in the country's history still witnessed some levels of violence as a result of its annulment by the Ibrahim Babangida-led military administration that triggered public outcry and a wave of protests. The Campaign for Democracy (CD), headed then by Beko Ransom-Kuti, estimated that over 100 peaceful demonstrators and passers-by were gunned down by security agents, who were supposedly trying to contain the violent offshoot of the July protests. The number of lives lost to election violence in Nigeria since independence are as follows: 1964/65 – 200, 1993 – 100, 1999 – 80, 2003 – 100, 2007 – 300, 2011 – 800, 2015 – 100 and 2019 – 150 [17].

Some of the factors adduced to election violence in Nigeria have been identified to range from weak governance to the ineffectiveness of security forces, poverty and unemployment, abuse of power, political alienation, a climate of impunity, a "winner-takes-all" political system, and the proliferation of small arms, as shown in Figures 5 and 6. According to the Nigeria Security Tracker (NST) the statistics corroborated with the figures from the International Crisis Group and the European Union Election Observation Mission about the national elections of 2015 and 2019. Between April 2014 and May 2022, according to press reports catalogued by the tracker, at least 350 people lost their lives to electoral violence during 315 violent incidents recorded in 34 states, including the FCT (i. e. made up of 21 state actors – the police, 325 civilians/others, and 4 politicians). While 51 others, mostly officials and ad-hoc staff members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), were abducted in the same period [17]. The violence comes in various forms, such as arson, assassinations, ballot box snatching, coercion, forceful disruption, kidnapping, hate speech-induced crises, shooting, thuggery, and so on [17].

In recent times, electoral violence has taken a new dimension of increased attacks on INEC facilities across the country. For example, between 2019 and May 24, 2021 the commission stated that its offices were attacked 41 times across 14 states. These included 20 cases of vandalization, 18 cases of arson, and three cases involving both. INEC blamed 18 of the incidents on anti-police brutality (End SARS) demonstrators - as shown in Figure 7, 11 on "unknown gunmen" and hoodlums, six on thuggery during elections, and the rest on bandits, Boko Haram insurgents, and post-election violence, as shown in Figure 8. Most of these incidents were concentrated in the Southeast and Southwest regions of the country. Seven of the cases took place in Imo, six in Osun, five in Akwa-Ibom, and four in Abia and Cross River. The rest were recorded in Anambra, Bayelsa, Borno, Ebonyi, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos, Ondo, and Taraba [17]. An analysis of the attacks on INEC Offices between 2019 and the 12th of December, 2022 revealed that a total of 15 states were involved with eight attacks/incidences in 2019, 22 incidents in 2020, 12 incidents in 2021, and eight incidents in 2022 – which were attacks as a result of election-related violence, protests unrelated to elections and activities of thugs and unknown gunmen/hoodlums. The list does not include damages to facilities as a result of fire accidents, natural disasters such as flooding or rain/wind storms, the snatching/destruction of electoral materials during elections, burglary and attack on election duty officials [18].

“Nigerian voters have entrusted Buhari with another opportunity to address the nation’s serious human rights problems, including political violence,” observed HRW Nigeria researcher Anietie Ewang. “He should start by reforming the security forces to ensure strict compliance with human rights standards, and prompt investigation of those creditably implicated in abuses” [17].

RELIGION AND POLITICS

There is connection between religion and politics as it carries within it a singular paradox. Most religions, including Christianity, the dominant religion in the US, argue for social cohesion and love for one’s neighbor, while politics carries within it the fundamental structure of disagreement, conflict, argument, and castigation of one’s opponents. Religion matters in society. The evidence is clear that more religious people have higher levels of wellbeing and happiness. Religion also has a number of other positive functions in society, including its influence on morality and pro-social behavior, its influence on charity and giving back to the community, and its contribution to social cohesion and solidarity. The decrease in religiosity in American society can be said to have significant consequences for the health and viability of the country going forward [19].

It is argued that those Americans who – for whatever reason – are personally religious pick and choose a political identification that best fits their underlying religious beliefs. Or, conversely, it could be that Americans who – for whatever reason – are either Republican or Democratic in their political orientation tailor their religious beliefs to their politics. Or it could be to a third factor – say, one’s ethnic or racial background, or the geographic location of one’s residence, or simply one’s family heritage – is the underlying causal factor that causes one to both be religious and to be a Republican, or to be less religious and to be Democratic [19].

Religion in politics covers various topics related to the effects of religion on politics. Religion has been claimed to be “the source of the most remarkable political mobilization of our times [20]. Beyond universalist ideologies, religions have also been involved in nationalist politics. Various political doctrines have been directly influenced or inspired by religions. Some religious strands support religious supremacism [21].

Understanding religion’s impact on political behavior is essential because of its complex relationship to the individual: for a political subject, faith is at once an ideology and an identity [21-23]. Religion is considered as a unique identity variable with immense power. Several analyses even regard

religion as a variable so potent that it is able to reinforce other identities, and as a result allows religious components in secular spheres of society [24-26].

Nigeria is a country that is ethnically and religiously diverse in population, and currently witnessing deadly attacks due to the growth of extremist groups such as Boko Haram and radical Fulani herders, who have been a threat to national security. They are known to oppose the country’s adoption of Western education, to which it links Christianity. The Islamist militant group conducts terrorist attacks on religious and political groups as well as civilians. Their victims are both Muslims and Christians. It is estimated that about 2.5 million people are displaced in the Lake Chad Basin and with over 300,000 Nigerian refugees due to this conflict – leading to far reaching effects of eroding the social and political stability of the country, resulting in a threat to national security [27-29].

CORRUPTION

Corruption is the abuse of public power for private gain that can change the incentives that people face in relation to violence by lowering the costs and increasing the benefits. Police corruption can foster violence, by deterring victims lacking in monetary or political resources from reporting crimes [30]. In a corrupt society, control over the levers of the economy can be lucrative. As reported by Baev, corrupt elite competition for the control of resources was the key driver of Georgia’s post USSR armed conflict, as shown in Figures 9, 10 and 11 [31]. Corruption also undermines economic growth, fosters poverty and inequality, reduces evaluations of both local and national government performance, as well as undermines support for the democratic system [32, 33].

THE WAY FORWARD

Some of the ways for the nation to move forward would include:

1. A strong resolve to restore peaceful co-existence in a heterogeneous nation like Nigeria which would require a realistic constitutional amendment that will reflect the secular nature of the Nigerian State and the wishes of the federating units.
2. Need for restructuring of power (via power rotation) to all groups in the nation i. e. both the majority and minority ethnic groups in order to enhance national peace, harmonious co-existence, human rights, equality before the law, and religious tolerance.

3. Proper and adequate resource control, such that the states that generate wealth for the nation must be given greater percentage to prevent cheating them and thereby encouraging all the states to develop their natural resources.
4. Elder state-men, political leaders, and religious leaders must need serve as moderators in all spheres of the nation and guide their utterances so as not to fuel crises. Hence, ensuring that conflicts are peacefully resolved (by the use of conflict resolution mechanisms).
5. Use of religion and cultural differences to divide the nation should be discouraged or downplayed entirely.
6. God-fatherism in Nigeria politics should be discouraged while both the rich and the poor should be equal before the law of the land. Lawbreakers must be appropriately sanctioned according to the law, and the gravity of their offense; nobody no matter how highly placed should be above the law. The criminal justice system must rise up to its responsibilities, be above board, and speedily dispose of cases.
7. There cannot be progress/development in any group or nation devoid of absolute peace among its diverse religions. Religions must be practiced within the strict confines of enhancing and ensuring community/world peace. Any breach of the peace by anybody must be frowned at, condemned and sanctioned.
8. Making use of constitutional secularism, religious freedom, religious power-sharing, religious autonomy, legalization of religious political parties, inclusion of religious civil society actors and religious bonding [34].
9. Establish a zero tolerance policy against religious harassment and discrimination/prompt investigation, and avoid claims of retaliation, etc [35].
10. Raise awareness, call out bigotry and hate speech, commit to anti-racism, and making use of inclusive language [36].
11. The fight against corruption must be fought from all fronts to a standstill by the institutions of the Federal and State Government.
12. Youthful unemployment (or general unemployment), poverty, and illicit drugs must be seriously tackled since these are precursors to the committing of crimes, violence, or thuggery and some other social ills.

CONCLUSION

All forms of political cum religious crises or violence in any nation is counter-productive to the socio-economic and political prosperity of the people and the nation as a whole. Therefore, all mechanisms must be put in place by all and sundry to position the country in such a way as to ensure and promote peace, religious tolerance, and mutual co-existence. The leadership needs to be courageous, and summon up the political will to take the bull by the horn to confront and fight corruption and insecurity for the country to forge ahead. This collaborates with the statement by Ambassador Walter Carrington, a former US ambassador to Nigeria, that no foreign investor would want to invest in a country that lacks adequate security for its staff and investments. More information can be obtained from the works in [37-39].

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Figure 1. Nigeria

Source: https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+nigeria+map+of+INEC+offices+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=32e55b09f5ce6c02&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWIIIFv3jfhslWpESO9hLBqv2Tfj0Qg%3A1734462645921&ei=tcxhZ_jyN9CHhbIPq7_tkQk&ved=0ahUKEwi4oYvwwK-KAXXQQ0EAHatfO5IQ4dUDCBE&oq=images+on+nigeria+map+of+INEC+offices+by+wikipedia&gs_l=EgNpbWciMmltYWdlcyBvbiBuaWdlcmhlG1hcCBvZiBJTkVDIG9mZmljZXMgYnkgd2lraXBIZGhSABQAFgAcAB4AJABAJgBAKABAKoBALgBDMgBAJgCAKACAJgDAJIHAKAHAA&scient=img#vhid=5zysPatLiD5pdM&vssid=mosaic



Figure 2. Template: Nigeria State map

Source: https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=32e55b09f5ce6c02&sxsrf=ADLYWIIdj_22bv0ynU7N2q6vbuCCWDevLw:1734462635516&q=images+on+nigeria+map+by+wikipedia&udm=2&fbs=AEQNm0Aa4sjWe7Rqy32pFwRj0UkWd8nbOJfsBGGB5IQQO6L3JzWreY9LW7LdGrLDAFqYDH32tgteNhtZOxnGezgnEGc89hhJz4x9WBqmtuEUTftK1HzMxc_wxS5jp7U2Hne5AKhwsTWbl4WE_TuVwS18rlzhwUZEunrI7PIMTvaF4iKG0tU&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiFk5DqwkKAXViV0EAHUCH7sQtKgLegQIFRAB&biw=1036&bih=539&dpr=1#vhid=8lQP1Gq-skckeM&vssid=mosaic



Figure 3. Ethnic conflict

Source:https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+nigeria+political+violence+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=32e55b09f5ce6c02&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWIJzewK0qxapQJ0HQ5ZSGAvQxUmSw%3A1734463100770&ei=fM5hZ8_gLviAhbIP3Yum8QI&ved=0ahUKEwjPjv3HwqKAXv4QEEAHd2FKS4Q4dUDCBE&oq=images+on+nigeria+political+violence+by+wikipedia&gs_lp=EgNpbWciMWltYWdlcyBvbiBuaWdlcmllIHBvbGl0aWNhbCB2aW9sZW5jZSBieSB3aWtpcGVkaWFI34oEUM5ZWOrSA3AKeACQAQSYAYoWoAGclgGqARQwLjkuMjEuNC4yLjIuMC4xLjIuMrgBDMgBAPgBAZgCAaAC4QHCAgQQIXgnmAMAIAYBkgcDMi0xoAfIEg&scient=img#vhid=2eSM3gEXo_b22M&vssid=mosaic

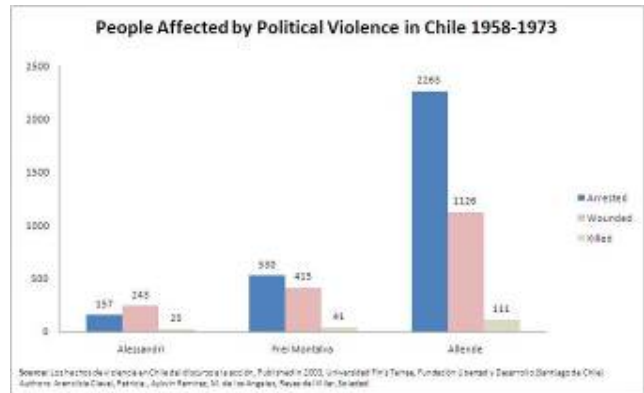


Figure 4. People affected by political violence in Chile

Source:https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&sxsrf=ADLYWIKdHONJN6rNarFCOxFTk8Ti1gX3w:1734490213176&q=images+on+political+violence+by+wikipedia&udm=2&fbs=AEQNm0Aa4sjWe7Rqy32pFwRj0UkWD8nbOJfsBGB5IQQO6L3JzWreY9LW7LdGrLDAFqYDH32tgteNhtZOxnGezgnEGc8k4dQgIn4td5_IKOVJA-VYNMpbBG_vzv09_z3ozdsV1574v_l4gmjMdaDFLpg9ELpUCM3lLnYw1mpVTsmqh03mtH24pA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj0_ZbIp7CKAxUOfKQEHU22OCQQtKgLegQIERAB&biw=1036&bih=539&dpr=1#vhid=M2j_fkm4ifINXM&vssid=mosaic



Figure 5. Poverty

Source:

https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+poverty+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWIIrBhCnfc0kHEnuHTarjAURaYV3Jw%3A1734491034571&ei=mjtiZ-THIreD7M8PI7-1iQ4&ved=0ahUKEwjK_OzPqrCKAxW3AfsDHZdfLeEQ4dUDCBE&oq=images+on+poverty+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&gs_lp=EgNpbWciKWltYWdlcyBvbiBwb3ZlcnR5IGluIG5pZ2VyaWEgYnkgd2lraXBIZGllhSN7ZAVDgIlhowFwA3gAkAEBmAHiaaABYsWqAQYwLjI0LjI0AQZlAQD4AQGYAgCgAgCYAwCIBgGSBwCgB78J&scient=img#vhid=PxhcjuaC8RR1AM&vssid=mosaic

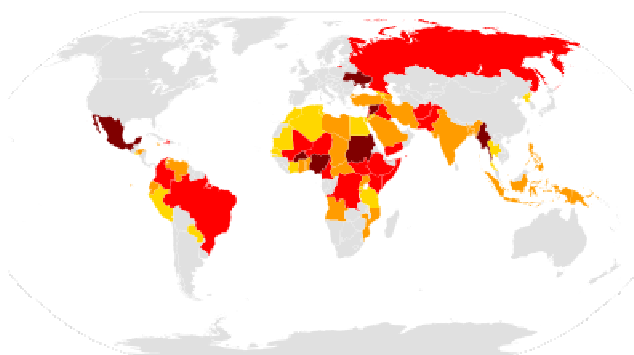


Figure 6. List of ongoing armed conflicts

Source:https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWILT0wejudLbrRNJyzWk1SPtRJhRYA%3A1734490218554&ei=ajhiZ5fCIbmikdUP3Dq4Qk&ved=0ahUK EwiXn9_Kp7CKAxU5UaQEHVwOpwQ4dUDCB E&oq=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&gs_lp=EgNpbWciR2ltYWdlcyBvbiBwZW9wbGUgYWZmZWNOZWQgYnkgcG9saXRpY2FsIHZpb2xlbmNIIGluIG5pZ2VyaWEgYnkgd2lraXBIZGhSKjdAIDIGViZogJwAXgAkAEBmAG0E6ABiqAQwwLjE3LjEuMS45LTG4AQzIAQD4AQGYAgGgAsUTwgIEECMYJ5gDAIgGAZIHAgztMaAHQg&sclient=img#vhid=v9rVICwoFtNRAM&vssid=mosaic



Figure 7. End SARS

Source:https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+human+rights+abuses+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWIIPqBfZqjYbpzU3ESvprxMpd8EAtQ%3A1734493591616&ei=l0ViZ8CuJdOLkdUP99OhiQ4&ved=0ahUKEwiA1pKtTLCKAxXTRaQEHfdpKOEQ4dUDCB E&oq=images+on+human+rights+abuses+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&gs_lp=EgNpbWciNWltYWdlcyBvbiBodW1hbiByaWdodHMgYWJ1c2VzIGluIG5pZ2VyaWEgYnk

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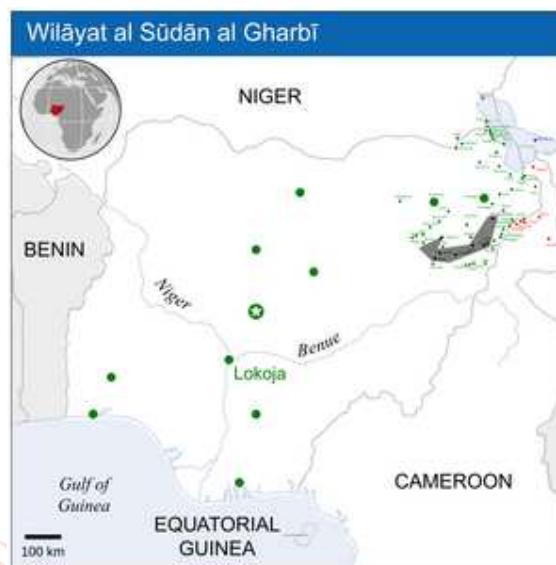


Figure 8. Boko Haram

Source:https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWILT0wejudLbrRNJyzWk1SPtRJhRYA%3A1734490218554&ei=ajhiZ5fCIbmikdUP3Dq4Qk&ved=0ahUK EwiXn9_Kp7CKAxU5UaQEHVwOpwQ4dUDCB E&oq=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&gs_lp=EgNpbWciR2ltYWdlcyBvbiBwZW9wbGUgYWZmZWNOZWQgYnkgcG9saXRpY2FsIHZpb2xlbmNIIGluIG5pZ2VyaWEgYnkgd2lraXBIZGhSKjdAIDIGViZogJwAXgAkAEBmAG0E6ABiqAQwwLjE3LjEuMS45LTG4AQzIAQD4AQGYAgGgAsUTwgIEECMYJ5gDAIgGAZIHAgztMaAHQg&sclient=img#vhid=bUXTuYExN6sJZM&vssid=mosaic



Figure 9. Class conflict

Source:

https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWILT0wejudLbrRNJyzWk1SPtRJhRYA%3A1734490218554&ei=ajhiZ5fCIbmikdUP3Dq4Qk&ved=0ahUKEwiX



Source: https://www.google.com/search?q=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&sca_esv=edcd41b4d17ba481&udm=2&biw=1036&bih=539&sxsrf=ADLYWILT0wejojLbrRNJyzWk1SPtRjRhRYA%3A1734490218554&ei=ajhiZ5fCIbmikdUP3Dq4Qk&ved=0ahUK-EwiXn9_Kp7CKAxU5UaQEHVwOpwQ4dUDCB E&oq=images+on+people+affected+by+political+violence+in+nigeria+by+wikipedia&gs_lp=EgNpb

Gun laws should be...

Group	Stricter (%)	Less strict (%)
Republican	20	80
Democrat	80	20

Greater gun ownership brings...

Group	More crime (%)	Less crime (%)
Republican	10	90
Democrat	55	45

Source:https://www.google.com/search?scasv=edcd41b4d17ba481&sxsrf=ADLYWIKdHONJN6rNarFCOxFTk8Ti1gX3w:1734490213176&q=images+on+political+violence+by+wikipedia&udm=2&fbs=AEQNm0Aa4sjWe7Rqy32pFwRj0UkWd8nbOJfsBGGb5IQQO6L3JzWreY9LW7LdGrLDAFqYDH32tgteNhtZOxnGezgnEGc8k4dQgIn4td5_IKOvJAVYNMpbBG_vzv09_z3ozdsV1574v_l4gmjMdaDFLpg9ELpUCM3ILnYw1mpVTSmqh03mtH24pA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj0_ZbIp7CKAxUoFKQEHU22OCQQtKgLegQIERAB&biw=1036&bih=539&dp=1#vhid=_Ss4qFcBu5coFM&vssid=mosaic