



### CHALLENGES OF INSECURITY IN TARABA STATE AND THE WAY FORWARD

By

**Hamidu Bello Abbare,**

Department of Political Science and International Relations,  
Taraba state University, Jalingo, Nigeria.

Tel: 08036055716, [belloabbare75@gmail.com](mailto:belloabbare75@gmail.com),

**John Moses Maikomo (PhD),**

Department of Political Science and International Relations,  
Taraba state University, Jalingo, Nigeria.

Tel: 08112519808, [jonmoziz@yahoo.com](mailto:jonmoziz@yahoo.com)

&

**Mohammed Umar**

Department of Political Science, Federal University of Kashere,  
Gombe State, Nigeria

Tel: 07065741213, [mujada1981@gmail.com](mailto:mujada1981@gmail.com)

#### Abstract

Security of people's lives and property in the North-East is desperately needed by the people of the region, particularly Taraba state. This is because the people of the North-East as a whole are vulnerable to threats due to the persistent nature of weak defense, which has resulted in the state's security problem. This paper examines the challenges of insecurity in Taraba state and the way forward. It relies on the secondary sources of data while securitization theory was used to help guide the work. The paper uncovered some security challenges such as ethnically-driven conflicts, farmers-herders conflict, insurgency and banditry and limited socio-economic opportunities in Taraba State. It recommended among others the need for the Taraba state government to introduce and implement a youth empowerment program, that the police as one of the state's security agencies should collaborate with other security agencies such as customs, immigration, and the Nigerian Army to stop the inflow of illegal migrants from neighboring countries, and above all, that the people in the state, particularly at the community level, should provide information about insurgent movement across the state. The paper concluded that a judicious implementation of these recommendations would help stem the tide of insecurity in the state.

**Keywords:** Illegal immigrants, Insurgents, Security, Taraba State

#### Introduction.

The security challenges in the North East geo-political zone of Nigeria has become worrisome. Similarly, Taraba state, one of the states in the zone has not known peace for quite some time now. This is obvious because almost all people across the state find it difficult to sleep with two eyes closed as a result of insecurity while the state government find it daunting to control the menace of insecurity in the state. This has led to the displacement of people in rural and some part of urban settlements, destructions of citizens' farms, increase death tolls of men, women and children, while people whose life hinges on farming as a means of livelihood has



# FUWUKARI

## JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

ISSN: 2636-5081

FUWJPD  
www.fuwjpd.com.ng

become insecure and unsafe due to the fear of being killed, kidnapped and raped by insurgents. Despite the use of such quasi security agencies such as vigilante groups and the Taraba Marshal etc. in curtailing the spate of insecurity in the state, these efforts have not yielded any meaningful result. Even though, the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended in 1999 has given the government the responsibility of protecting people's lives and properties still it does not stop the recurrent+ problems of herder's/farmers conflict, kidnapping, Boko Haram insurgency, cattle rustling, banditry, armed robbery, ethno-religious conflict and electoral violence, sea piracy, hostage taking etc. Insecurity has spread throughout the North East and Nigeria as a whole. This therefore, primarily affects Taraba state and has in one way or the other resulted into clashes between farmers and herders over land that spiked the ugly development of ethnic militias, extrajudicial killings and vigilante raids (Africa center for strategic studies, 2020).

It is worthy enough of note that Taraba state has a fertile grazing land for both nomadic pastoralists and farmers to coexist, and ply their trade in peace and togetherness as brothers and sisters but the reverse is the case, in spite of the formulation and implementation of the grazing routes law by the former state governor Darius Dickson Ishaku (Taraba State Government, 2017). Nevertheless, the outbreak of Boko Haram in Maiduguri (Borno state) in 2002 by Muhammed Yusuf has deteriorated the security situation not only in Taraba state but in the North-East region as a whole. The region has since witnessed series of attacks with resultant security threat, armed banditry, and the proliferation of small and light weapons in the region. The aforementioned security situation has spread to other parts of Nigeria (Gazama, 2019). It is against this background that this paper attempts an analysis of the precarious security situation in Taraba state with a view to finding a lasting solution to the menace. In doing this, the paper begins with a conceptual clarification of insecurity after this introduction, a theoretical framework, causes of insecurity in Taraba state, the challenges of insecurity, a conclusion and the way forward.

### Introduction

The geopolitical zone of North-East Nigeria comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe states since the attainment of the country's independence from the British in 1960 used to have a relative level of peace and security. Different ethnic groups in the area live harmoniously and lives and property were well secured due to the alertness of the security agencies especially the native and national police, and different societal vigilante groups. People conducted themselves well because of an effective judicial system and community policing in the areas. However, this relative level of security began to deteriorate in the 1980s with the outbreak of Maitatsine riots in Bulunkutu, now Gombe State and Jimeta in Adamawa on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1982 and 27 February 1984 respectively. In Bulunkutu alone, four days of fierce fighting between 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 1982 led to the death of 3,350 persons while estimates for the dead in Yola ranged from 700 - 1000 persons. This level of insecurity continues to escalate since then until the present state of insecurity. The most prominent include the insurgency in the North-East, attacks across the nation, herdsmen crisis, kidnappings and killings. These unfortunately are compounded by new forms of unconventional threats to security, as exemplified by the activities of armed bandits and proliferation of dangerous weapons (Gadzama AA,



2019). The condition in the North-East continues to deteriorate and escalate to other parts of the country. Government's reaction has been haphazard and generally ineffective.

The study therefore, attempts to Profile security challenges in North-East Nigeria since independence of the country from the British in 1960 and government reactions to the challenges. These challenges range from poor governance, outright mismanagement of monthly allocations to local government councils, susceptibility of young persons in the region to indoctrination and increasing disparity between the region and other parts of the country, as well as, ethno-religious flare up, and terrorism. The Paper will dwell more on Boko Haram as the major security challenge facing the North East from 2009 to date and then profile causes, cost implication Government responses to the security challenges in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria

### CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION SECURITY

Security simply defined is freedom from danger, safety

#### **Understanding the concept of Security**

The concept of security in the field of Political Science and International Relations is traditionally based on the assumption that interactions among nations are naturally antagonistic, and the persistent shadow of war encouraged its study (security). Since the emergence of Third World Security Studies, and the Copenhagen School, the concept of security has been broadened to include non-traditional aspects of the state. Today, there is a level of agreement among scholars that security is the most sought after among the community of nations. According to Alemika (2018); the concept of security as one of the basic human need is vital to individual and groups who live in community. Security is contextual, meaning different thing to different people. Scholars like Jarvis and Holland (2014); maintained that security involves the presence of safety and the absence of threats, promising some measures of assurance and certainty of being free from harm. To that extent therefore, the concept of security implies the feeling of being safe and secure, the absent of threats, and the management of future risks.

According to Wolfers (1952); security, in an objective sense, measures the absence of threats to acquired values, in a subjective sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked. However, security and power would be synonymous terms if security could be attained only through the accumulation of power, which is not the case. Security in the subjective sense is also not proportionate to the relative power position of a nation. Security after all is nothing but the absence of the evil of insecurity, a negative value so to speak.

William (2008); equally submits that security is most commonly associated with the alleviation of threats to cherish values, especially those threats which threaten the survival of a particular reference object. According to Ogaba (2010); security has to do with freedom from danger or threats to a nation's ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Thus internal security could be seen as the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion, and the corporate existence of a country and its ability to maintain its vital institutions



for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people.

Bodunde, et.al (2014) maintained that, security has to do with the process connected with assuaging any kind of threat to people and their precious values. This is why Buzan, et al (1998) asserts that security is about freedom from threat and ability of states to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile while its bottom line is survival. From the foregoing, security is generally agreed to be about feeling of being safe from harm, fear, anxiety, oppression, danger, poverty, defense, protection and preservation of core values and threat to those values.

In the context of this study "security" can be defined as the state or condition of being free from threats, risks, or dangers that could harm the well-being, safety, stability, and prosperity of the state's residents and their property. This includes safeguarding against various challenges such as violence, communal clashes, terrorism, economic instability, food shortages, social conflicts, cyber threats, environmental hazards, and political instability, among others. The concept of security in this context encompasses measures, policies, and actions taken to mitigate these threats and ensure the overall safety and well-being of the people and the state itself.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Whenever a discourse about security is launched, theories, models and conjectures are designed to provide a sense of direction for the discourse. However, this paper utilized the securitization theory proposed by Barry Buzan, Waever, and de Wilde, in 1998. According to them, securitization theory is a speech act that suggests that words do not simply represent reality; rather, they create reality, which causes specific reactions. While describing the reality we see, we interact with it and perform an action that greatly contributes to seeing that reality in a different light. It is made clear here that an issue becomes securitized when a group of people agrees on the nature of the threat and supports taking extraordinary measures.

These scholars recommended the conceptualization of securitization as a long process of continuing social constructions and negotiation between various audiences and speakers. Issues regarding security can be presented on a gamut, beginning from non-politicized (devoid of public debate) to politicized (to the extent of public concerns and which is based on the scheduled program) and securitized (where the issue has been built upon an existential threat). When an issue is securitized, actions are often legalized under the expressions of 'urgency' and 'existential threats' and these are said to be measures that may be deemed undemocratic in normal situations. However, Securitization theory assumes that: issues are not essentially threatening in themselves, rather it is by referring to them as security issues that they become security problems.

According to Buzan, Wæver and de Wilde (1998); securitization means a succession of authoritative claims or statements wherein a particular issue (be it military, political, economic, societal or environmental) is successfully presented as an existential threat to a referent object, in turn requiring emergency measures exceeding the normal bounds of political procedure by legitimizing the breaking of established norms and rules. These scholars furthermore postulated that, securitization is but one, albeit the most extreme, form of rendering an issue a problem of governance. Indeed, securitization may be differentiated from politicization as the process by which a problem enters an open public debate, becomes part of a political bargaining process





and eventually may (or may not) receive certain resource allocations. By and large, if an issue is securitized it is presented as so urgent, existential and important that it should not be exposed to the normal haggling of politics. It is lifted beyond politics and by insinuation, beyond the mechanisms of democratic control and oversight. Securitization theory is a good example of the analytic shift from what security is to do, and what security does not do. Importantly, it highlights the profound change in the normative orientation of analysis. Since threats are not self-evident but always subject to practices of political representation, whether certain issues should be framed and treated as security issues (whether they should be securitized) is a conscious and deliberate decision.

Applying Securitization theory in explaining the challenges of insecurity in Taraba State, it must be understood that the theory focuses on how issues are framed as security threats and the subsequent mobilization of resources and actions to address them. In the context of Taraba State Securitization theory can help analyze how different actors in Taraba State frame certain issues, such as ethnic conflicts, farmer-herder clashes, or resource disputes, as security threats. Understanding these framing processes is crucial to address the root causes of insecurity in Taraba State. The theory also emphasizes the process of securitization, which involves convincing a specific audience that an issue requires extraordinary measures. This shed light on how policymakers, community leaders, or external actors have framed insecurity in Taraba State and whether these framings have been effective in mobilizing responses. By examining how certain issues have been securitized, one can assess the impact on policy and resource allocation. Securitization theory allows for a critical analysis of whether securitizing insecurity has been the most effective approach in resolving such conflicts as witnessed in Taraba State. In summary, securitization theory provides a valuable framework for analyzing the challenges of insecurity in Taraba State by examining how these issues are framed, the implications for policy, and alternative approaches to fostering stability and peace.

### **The Challenges of Insecurity in Taraba State**

Virtually, security challenges in a country constitute threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities, and discourages local and foreign investors and as well suppress and retards the development of a country. To that extent therefore, for a country to survive and develop, there is need for security because security is a situation wherein a person or thing is not exposed to any form of danger or risk of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or deterioration. Both security and peace are coexisting and interwoven, besides, peace is the absent of war, threats, kidnapping, armed banditry and all sort of social vices which make a state ungovernable.

Insecurity in Taraba State, Nigeria, has been a complex and multifaceted issue with several challenges.

The first challenge is that of ethnically-driven conflicts. Here, Taraba state is composed of over eighty (80) ethnic groups, belonging to several religious sects, the state since creation has remained one of the most highly multi-ethnic states in Nigeria, which often emphasizes political rivalry, unjust distribution of common good, strife and competition which makes it volatile and has been grappling and trying to cope with the problem of ethnicity on the one hand, and ethno-religious conflicts on the other. This is because over the years the phenomena



# FUWUKARI

## JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

ISSN: 2636-5081



FUWJPD  
www.fuwjpd.com.ng

of ethnicity and religious intolerance have led to incessant recurrence of ethno-religious conflicts, such as the 1991 Jalingo religious crisis, the Wukari Tiv -Jukun ethnic crisis in 2019, Sardauna ethnic crisis, Takum ethnic crisis in 2023 and Karim Lamido ethnic crisis in 2023. These ethnic and religious differences have culminated into several crises that have taken toll on the development of the state and as well constitute a glaring driver of insecurity in Taraba State.

The second challenge remains the incessant conflict between herders and farmers in Takum, Ussa, Wukari, Lau, Sardauna, Gassol, Ibibi, Bali, LGAs and other parts of the state over claims and counter claims of crop destruction by cattle, and killing of cattles on the other hand by both farmers and herders in the state. Farmers-herders conflict has now come to exist side by side with other forms of conflicts particularly the ethnic and religious ones in Taraba State. This is because; most farmers tend to be of the same ethnic group and mostly Christians especially in the southern part of the state while most pastoralists are Fulani and mostly Muslims. In an event of a conflict between these groups, they are easily perceived as ethnic or religious conflicts because of this ethnic and religious colouration. A good example of this is the 2013-2015 Wukari crises that erupted from communal clashes between farmers and herders where many Christians as well as Muslims were killed and many valuable properties destroyed (Aliyu, Ikedinma, and Akinwande, 2008).

Conflict in southern Taraba State threatens the livelihood and resources of people particularly farming communities due to high dependent on natural resources for survival. Herder-farmer conflicts not only have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of those involved, they also disrupt and threaten the sustainability of agricultural and pastoral production in the area and invariably the sustainability of livelihoods of the farming households. The frequent occurrence of herdsman and farmers conflict appears to have left adverse effects on livelihood of the farming households in the area. Farmers and herdsman conflict no doubt have negative impact on social and economic development in Taraba State and Nigeria at large (Rukwe, Abdullahi, Faruk and Nwaeze, 2019).

The third challenge is the inability of the state to solve the problem of insurgency and banditry. Taraba State, like many parts of Nigeria, has faced threats from insurgent groups and bandits. These groups often engage in kidnappings, attacks on villages, and other criminal activities. According to Tyopuusu (2022), there have been reported cases of attacks by bandits where several persons have been killed and properties including houses burnt to ashes in several communities in different local governments of the state.

Fourthly, there is the challenge of limited socio-economic opportunities in the state. High levels of poverty and unemployment have made many young people susceptible to recruitment by criminal and insurgent groups with far reaching socio-economic implications. These includes high level youth unemployment with many of them suffering deprivations due to weaknesses in social institutions and structural deficiencies in creating enabling environment for the society and economy to grow with retarded economic and social progress. In the views of Ali cited in Madu and Ibrahim (2013) the crisis years in Takum/Ussa, witnessed a decline in the level of agricultural investment/yield, decline in income levels of the people of the area, and increased level of social and residential segregation and damages to lives and property



worth millions. The resultant effects of these are high level of poverty and youth unemployment.

Lastly, there is the challenge of inadequate infrastructure. Poor road networks and limited access to healthcare and education have hampered development and contributed to the sense of insecurity. Taraba State is the third-largest state in Nigeria based on its landmass, but it is one of the poorest in terms of economic and infrastructural development as a result of corruption. Igiebor, (2019) believes that the state is held in bounds by poor leadership, lack of vision and the crippling evil of recycled leadership with nothing to offer but the debilitating effects of cronyism. A little more attention and investment in it will generate huge returns on investment, create jobs to many people, and generally provide serious revenue to the coffers of the state.

### Causes of Insecurity in Taraba State

#### 1. Corruption

Corruption is largely responsible for government failure and systemic infrastructure collapse, resulting in large-scale insecurity in Nigeria. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is unquestionably a result of government failure, traceable to widespread corruption. Corruption is rife not because money and profits change hands in an unequal way, and not because of participants' motives, but because it privatizes important facets of public life, bypassing representation, discussion and choice processes. Corruption is responsible for Nigeria's massive unemployment, it's the reason Nigerian youths and businessmen lack electricity to run their businesses, it's the reason many businesses fail. Unemployment and deprivation are the two main causes of Nigeria's insecurity. By creating unemployment and poverty, corruption leads to instability in Nigeria/Taraba State. According to Charas (2014) Past governments, both Military and Democratic, had attempted to focus attention on good governance, prudence, transparency, and accountability through a variety of means but that has not yielded any positive result as corruption continues to strife in the country's public life (Nasiru, 2020).

#### 2. Poverty

Poverty does not mean absence of money but it has to do with lack of access to basic human needs like food, clean water, basic healthcare, education, shelter and clothing. Poverty is classified into two types: Absolute poverty and Relative poverty. By absolute poverty here we refer to people in a given country who find it difficult to meet their basic needs of life like food, shelter and clean water. These are people who are embedded in upheavals (they are psychologically confused in their public appearance so much aggressive in nature, small thing will trigger them into violence) they don't have access to education and healthcare. While Relative poverty on the other hand refers to people who are not living in total poverty but their standard of life is not the same with everybody in the country. From the above correlational explanations of poverty, we are made to understand that the concept of poverty and insecurity are twin brothers, they are inter-related and interwoven. Youths in a given country who fall under this unfortunate category can trigger crisis and civil unrest. According to Nigeria poverty rating of 2019, (Simona, 2020) Taraba state has the second largest percentage of people living below poverty line of 87.7 percent. This is particularly because of governance failures as



successive governments have not been able to deliver the much needed dividends of democracy (Nasiru, 2020).

### 3. Elite exploitation of Ethnicity and Religious Differences

It is worth bearing in mind that ethnic diversity is not itself a cause of insecurity in Taraba; however, political and religious leaders across the nation sometimes use ethnic sentiments to achieve their selfish ambitions. Through this way, the elites exploit people's minds to stir up mistrust and resentment among different ethnic groups and among the country's major religions for their selfish purpose, a development which causes insecurity in not only Taraba but Nigeria at large. In a multi-ethnic country like Nigeria, efforts should be geared towards a peaceful and cordial co-existence, without distrust, fear, and propensity to violent confrontation between members of one ethnic or religious group. Adagba, et al, (2012); Achumba, et al, (2013), similarly asserted that control of scarce resources such as oil, land, traditional and political offices often result in conflict with attendant mass killings and destruction of properties in various parts of the country. Similarly, racism, dominance, abuse, victimization, injustice, marginalization, nepotism, and intolerance most times result in ethnic violence and religious conflicts (Nasiru, 2020).

### 4. The Influx of foreign insurgency

Apparently, North-East is a porous region including parts of North West sharing borders with Cameroon, Chad Republic and Niger Republic. These resulted into a situation whereby militants, militias and religious extremists can easily enter into the country and cause crisis. It is because of this that the issue of Boko Haram insurgency has remained a recurrent phenomenon in the region. This development has seriously affected Taraba state alongside other states in the North East.

### 5. Weak security apparatus

Nigeria's security system is seen as very poor in both personnel and equipment. Security officers are poorly trained and remunerated. As a result, the requisite expertise is not available to meet modern security challenges. The contribution of the security personnel to the Nigerian project of ensuring general safety is equally of serious concern. This weak security system can be due to a number of factors including corruption, insufficient number of police personnel and other security agencies, inadequate funding, lack of modern equipment, poor safety and health personnel, as well as general inadequacy of trained staff. Nigeria is largely under policed and this partially explains the Nigerian Police Force's failure to effectively tackle the crimes, corruption, and insecurity. Olorisakin (2008) asserts that the police population ratio in Nigeria is 1:450 which falls below the United Nations standard. This implies that as a country, Nigeria is grossly under-policed and this perhaps explains the police inability to effectively tackle crimes and security challenges.

Many of the soldiers fighting the insurgency in the northeast of the country have been ambushed on some occasions and many have been killed by the rebels as a result of information leakage from those who are supposed to fight them. Again huge sums of money made available for the acquisition of weapons are embezzled and misappropriated. Additionally, outdated weapons are purchased for the security agencies for use in fighting the insurgents. In some





other situations, firearms meant for the security operatives are found in possession of the insurgents. The lack of inter-agency cooperation between the Security Agencies is also a challenge on its own.

### 6. Bad governance and poor leadership

It is not in contention that the primary function of government anywhere in the world is to provide basic services such as water, electricity, good road network, quality education, and general infrastructure. Ironically, these basic things are not there in Nigeria and the people, in general, are frustrated and demoralized. Demoralization and anger logically provide a strong fertile ground for aggression and general insecurity. The scarcity of these basic amenities in Nigeria is embarrassingly not due to lack of funds but rather to corruption at the highest level of leadership. A reality articulated by Hazen and Horner (2007), of a wealthy nation with poor people in the majority. It is therefore an enormous task to take responsibility for giving leadership direction in such communities or societies in a multi-ethnic and religious society like Nigeria, given the current scenario of the democratic politics. To this end, believing that weak leadership, has added more challenges to the uncertainty and causes of insecurity not just in the north east or Taraba State but also in Nigeria in general, becomes a reality. According to Charas, Mbaya, and Liberty (2014), a number of violent cultures such as thuggery, indiscipline, corruption, abduction, bombing, etc. have become recurrent in since the advent of the fourth republic in 1999 (Nasiru, 2020).

#### Security Challenges in Taraba State: The Way Forward

In order to draw our attentions back home (Nigeria, North-East and Taraba state in particular), the issue of security challenges in North-East states has led to the meeting of North-East Governors' forum on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 the six Governors of North-East states met in Jalingo the capital of Taraba State to discuss issues affecting the region and proffer the way out. The aim of the forum was to fight against insurgency and the need for community policing and a regional security outfit in order to complement the efforts of the military and other Federal aided security agencies in addressing the challenges of insecurity. The forum also deliberated extensively on the Mambilla Hydroelectric power project where the project was said to be very vital to Nigeria and her sub-region. It also addressed the need for repositioning education in the North East states for improved qualitative education. The forum also called for a better collaboration between security agencies and host communities in the fight against insecurity in the North East. The governors also harped on the need for local intelligent gathering which would help in tackling the security challenges in the region (North East 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Governors' Forum, July, 2021).

In order to ensure the effectiveness of security in Taraba state the following recommendations are made as a way forward:

1. To ensure the efficiency of Nigerian security forces, there is need government of the federation to embark on both national and sub-national training of forces in counter insurgency.
2. Community policing and operation Lafiya are modalities in tackling security challenges in Taraba state and North East in general, there is need for the incorporation of traditional rulers, vigilant groups, religious organizations, members of Nigeria Union of Roads Transport Workers



# FUWUKARI

## JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

ISSN: 2636-5081



FUWJPD

www.fuwjpd.com.ng

(NURTW), government officials, mass media etc. in the fight against insurgency. Therefore, the application of community security is seen as an end-state whereby people feel protected and valued as members of society. This end-state is achieved when the processes behind Community Security are functioning, or rather, the mechanisms to ensure communities can articulate their security needs exist in conjunction with the local and institutional capacity and willingness to respond to them.

3. Members of the community should not be afraid in giving out information to security agencies about the activities of insurgents.
4. Taraba state governments should introduce and implement youth empowerment schemes. This can be realized through self-reliance projects that will provide employment opportunities to youths vulnerable to militia insurgencies and organized crime recruitments. The government should also create more job opportunities which will serve as a counter strategy to prevent the youths from being paid and recruited easily into crime and extremist groups such as kidnapping, farmers'/herders conflicts, cattle rustlings and Boko Haram. This will help in reducing the security risk and volatile security environment in the state.
5. In her school curriculum, the Taraba state government should include peace education from primary to tertiary level which will help youths to better appreciate the value of peace, making it more difficult for extremists to use them to foment trouble. Apart from this, religious institutions, the private sector, and civil society groups should invest more resources in promoting peace education, including workshop and orientation programs that will indoctrinate the value of peaceful coexistence. Peace education will help the youths to better appreciate the value of peace, and prevent them from going into such criminal vices as kidnapping, armed robbery and insurgency.
6. Taraba state government with the collaboration of the Federal Government should improve anti-corruption campaign in the state. This is obvious because growing animosity toward the government and particularly corruption, especially among young people, makes youth more vulnerable to recruitment into radical movements. Taraba state government needs to urgently reinvigorate the fight against corruption by ensuring that corrupt state officials are brought to book and made to face the full weight of the law.
7. That the Ministry of defense should train the Nigerian Army and paramilitaries such as civil defense, and the Nigerian police on tackling and combating insurgency and other terrorist acts in Taraba state and the North-East as a whole.

### Conclusion

This paper has attempted with fair degree of objectivity, to expose the Taraba's security challenges. Over the years, the state has struggled to find solution to the numerous security challenges which hitherto was predominant in Southern Taraba and has gradually expanded deeper into Central and Northern parts of the State. It is stating the obvious that the state has witnessed heightened cases of inter-ethnic and religious conflicts, farmers and herders' clashes, kidnapping, armed banditry and insurgency arising from the activities of Boko Haram prevalent in the North East. It is worthy enough to note that the security agencies involved in counter insurgency alone cannot fight these problems without the cooperation of members of the community. This paper harps strongly on the use of community policing as a way of enforcing and supporting the efforts of the regular security agencies in the battle against the security challenges in the state.



### References

- Ahire, P. T. (1991); *Imperial Policing: The Emergence and Role of the Police in Colonial Nigeria*. Philadelphia: Open University Press.
- Alemika, N.U. (2018); “Have traditional Authorities a place in modern Local Government Systems”. Lagos: Monruf Press.
- Aliyu, M. K., Ikedinma, H. A., & Akinwande, A. E. (2008). Assessment of the Effect of Farmers-Herdsmen Conflicts on National Integration in Nigeria. *Journal of Science Humanities and Arts*, Vol.7, No.1, 1-21.
- Ayobami, O.O (2011); *Corruption Eradication in Nigeria: An Appraisal*, available at <http://un/lib.un.edu/LPP/1>. Accessed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023.
- Baldwin D.A (1997) The concept of security. *Rev International Study* 23(01):5–26
- Bodunde, D. O., Ola, A. A. & Afolabi, M. B. (2014), “Internal Insecurity in Nigeria, The Irony of Multiplicity of Security Outfits and Security Challenges” in *IMPACT: IJRHAL*, Volume 2, Issue 5 Page 213 – 220.
- Busan, B. O., Waever, O. and J, de Wilde (1998); *Security, A New Framework for Analysis*. Published by Lynane Rienner. Inc. USA
- Gazama A.A, (2019), “ Why is Nigeria facing major security Threat”, cited in Daily Trust, <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng>, obtained on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.
- IFRA-Nigeria (1994); *Urban violence in Africa*. [www.books.openedition.org](http://www.books.openedition.org)
- Igiebor, G.O. (2019). Political corruption in Nigeria: Implications for economic development in the fourth republic. *Journal of Developing Societies*. 35, 493-513.
- Jarvis, L. Holland, J. (2014); *Security: a critical introduction*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan,
- Madu, Y.A. and Ibrahim, G. (2013). Ethno-Religious Conflict in Taraba State and its Implications on Socio-Economic, political and Educational development of Youths, *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews* Vol.4 No.3, p.149-155
- Nasiru, Z. (2020). Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: Causes and Solutions: *Journal of Studies in Social Science*, Vol.19, pp1-11.
- Ogaba, O. (2010), “Security, Globalization and Climate Change: A Conceptual Analysis. In Osita, E.E.& Ogaba, O. (Eds), *Security in Nigeria*. Lagos: NIIA, pp.28-39.
- Premium Times* (2021), Wednesday, July 21.
- The Punch Newspaper (2022). Bandits kill three in Taraba State. <https://www.punchng.com/just-in-bandits-kills-three-abduct-scores-in-taraba/> access 5 August 2023



# FUWUKARI

## JOURNAL OF POLITICS AND DEVELOPMENT

ISSN: 2636-5081

FUWJPD  
www.fuwjpd.com.ng

- Rothschild, E. (1995) What is security? *Daedalus* 124:53–98
- Simona, V. (2020); Poverty headcount in Nigeria 2019 by state.
- Taraba State Government (2017); “The Taraba State open grazing prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law No 7 of 2017”. Jalingo: Government Press.
- TVC Media News, (2021) North-East Governors’ Forum 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Jalingo, Taraba State.
- Williams, P. D. (2008), *Security Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group
- Wolfers, A. (1952); ‘National Security’ as an Ambiguous Symbol’, *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 67, No. 4, December 1952.

**Hamidu Bello Abbare** is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Taraba state University, Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria.

**Dr. John Moses Maikomo** is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Department Political Science and International relations Taraba State University, Jalingo, Taraba State, Nigeria.

**Mohammed Umar** teaches politics in the Department of Political Science, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State. Nigeria.