

INSECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF SOKOTO STATE (2015-2021)

ABDURRASHID DALHA

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, ALQALAM UNIVERSITY, KATSINA, P.M.B. 2137, KATSINA STATE

abdurashiddalha02@gmail.com, abdurashiddalha@auk.edu.com

ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM SADIQ

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO P.M.B. 2346, SOKOTO STATE, ibrahimabubakarnass@gmail.com

Abstract

The alarming level of Insecurity in Nigeria has fuelled the crime rate and terrorist attacks in different part of the country. The situation has deteriorated that some communities in Sokoto state now experience weekly invasion by gunmen, who abduct residents and take them to an 'unknown destination. This study aims to examine the impact of insecurity and sustainable democracy in Sokoto state and the specific objectives were to examine the nature and character of Insecurity, explain the extent to which insecurity affected the development of democracy and also to discuss the solution to insecurity in Sokoto State. The research adopted Frustration Aggression theory as the theoretical framework which says that aggression is the result of blocking, frustrating, and a person record to attain a goal, the theory also concerns the redirection of or displacement of aggression. The sample size of the study was 246 residents of Sokoto state. The data for this study was collected from primary and secondary sources, the study uses descriptive statistical tools for the analysis of data gathered from the questionnaire. Findings from the study suggest that the greatest challenge to the security of Sokoto state and Nigeria at large is the army of poor and unemployed youth, statistics shows that the present state of unemployment in the country is fifty percent, while the national poverty rate is over seventy percent of the population. These have led to a surge in criminal activities in Nigeria. The study recommended a need by the government to provide adequate security in the country and adequate security needs to be provided during electoral campaigns and during the conduct of election, also people should be more security conscious, share information with the authorities. Furthermore, the study also recommended government to increase the size of Nigeria's security agencies, empower and motivate them very well and strengthen neighborhood watch.

Keywords: Democracy, Insecurity and National Security, Sustainable.

Background to the Study

The alarming level of Insecurity in Nigeria has fuelled the crime rate and terrorist attacks in

different part of the country. Leaving disgusting consequences for the nation's economy and its growth. To address the threat to National

Security and to combat the increasing waves of crime. The Federal Government in the 2013 budget made a huge allocation to security. And the National Assembly passed the Anti-terrorism Act in 2011 (Eweton. 2013). Despite these efforts. The level of Insecurity in the country is still high. In spite of the plethora of Security measures taken to address its daunting challenges.

Available data on the level and dimension of Insecurity in Nigeria reveals an increase over time, this constitutes serious threat to lives and properties. This rising wave of insecurity has not abated, but has assumed a dangerous dimension which is threatening the corporate existence of the country as one geographical entity (Chukwu & Udem, 2023). In the light of the above, the government must be proactive in dealing with security issues and threats through Modern method of intelligence-gathering. And sharing among security personnel, training logistics, and motivation and deploying advanced

technology in managing security challenges (Adebayo & Adepoju, 2018).

Government's efforts have not produced the desired positive result a situation which has compelled it to; in recent time request for foreign assistance from countries such as Israel and EU Countries to combat it. Sokoto state was one of the states in the north western region of Nigeria that was affected seriously by the activities of Insurgents by the Jama'atul Ahlul Sunnah Liddawati waljihad popularly known as Boko-Haram (Akoh *et al.*, 2012). The group in July 30, 2012 unleashed its terror on Sokoto where two consecutive explosions and shooting were heard at busy area, especially police stations across the city killing as a result, yet to be disclosed number of security personnel and individual as well as injury inflicted to some numbers of individuals.

Statement of the Problem

In the past, kidnappings are mostly perpetuated in the oil-rich southern Delta region, where militants lobbying for a greater share of oil

revenue regularly blew up pipelines and kidnapped foreigners that work for oil but in recent past, the scourge has taken a toll on the Northwestern region . The major LGAs in the State so affected by this menace presently are Sabon Birni, Isa, Rabah, Goronyo, Tureta, Dange-Shuni, Kebbe and Tangaza. The physical and psychological toll on residents of these LGAs is high (Bamidele & Eramah, 2023). The situation has deteriorated that some communities in these LGAs now experience weekly invasion by gunmen, who abduct residents and take them to an 'unknown destination. In the past Sokoto State is one of the most peaceful states in the country but the reverse is the case today. The State is the next-door neighbor to Zamfara where the problem started became affected. The State is less saved today, we are in terrible condition. It is against this backdrop, the research seeks to digest and probe the current security challenges in the State to proffer recommendations that would assist in containing the recent scourge of banditry, kidnapping, cattle rustling, and other

forms of security challenges bedeviling the hitherto peaceful State (Idris & Abdulwasiiu, 2023).

Discussing security challenges in Sokoto State would be grossly incomplete without situating the discussion in the context of the other three affected neighboring States of the Northwestern Nigeria (Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara States). Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto, and the Zamfara States. As of today, armed bandits, cattle rustling, kidnapping constitute the major threat to peace and security not only in Zamfara where it first started but also Sokoto, Katsina, and Kaduna. These criminals operate uninhibited.

Objectives

1. To examine the nature and character of Insecurity in Sokoto State.
2. To explain the extent to which insecurity affected the development of democracy in Sokoto State.
3. To discuss the solution to insecurity in Sokoto State.

Assumption

The research would be guided by the following assumption: Insecurity has affected democratization process in Sokoto state.

Methodology

In this context, the population of this study comprises of the residents of Sokoto metropolis, Sabon Birni, Isa, Rabah, Goronyo, Tureta, Dange-Shuni, Kebbe and Tangaza, these are the most affected area with insecurity in the state.

Source of Data Collection

The data collection sources for the research work are the primary and secondary sources. A structured questionnaire in a likert scale was constructed and administered to 236 respondents and 230 were successfully retrieved. The instrument will contain and accommodate questions relating to the objective of the research to enable the researcher to gather opinion based on the research objective. The informants interviewed includes; Chairmen Parties, APC, PDP, LP and

APGA and formal (policemen, Civil Defense) and informal (vigilanty Groups) security agents, Youth and one political analyst from University.

Method of Data Analysis

The study uses descriptive statistical tools for the analysis of data gathered from the questionnaire. The descriptive statistics in the study includes the frequency, percentage and charts. Descriptive statistics summarizes the data concisely and evaluate different ways to visualize data.

Literature review and Theoretical

Framework

Crime and Insecurity

According to Odekunle, (1992), criminal activities abound in every society, developed and developing, but they tend to be more widespread in the period of National conflict and of military supervised political transition when the community experience a higher degree of State terrorism against citizens,

misappropriation of public funds by government officials, impersonation, murder, extra judicial killings, armed robbery, hard 2 drug, trafficking, theft, fraud etc. The increase in the rate of crime breeds general insecurity undermines any political transition process of a country. It destroys the basis of trust in the civil society as well as the credibility enjoyed by any military government (Zubairu, 2020). Criminal activities are either violent or non-violent, Galtung (1990) has identified three forms of violent crime.

Okeshola (2011) is of the view that violence breeds insecurity and that lack of security of lives and property of the citizenry is a severe hindrance to meaningful development. Her view is generic but can be found to be true related to the situation in Sokoto State where bandits take arms, threatening the peace and security of people's lives and property, which has radical implications on the development of the State. It has an impact on commerce and commercial activities in respect of the

movement of goods and persons, 3 the proliferation of refugees, and IDPs. These and many more have implications on the development of the State in terms of labor productivity and increasing poverty.

Democracy and National Security in Nigeria

The beginning of the idea of democracy is associated with the city states of Ancient Greece. The Word itself is derived from the Greek word — Demos, i.e. — the people, and Kratos, — rule. Greek democracy was direct democracy in which the whole citizen body formed the legislature and in which the representative system was unknown, (Oddih, 2007). This was possible due to the limited size of the ancient state which was generally confined to a city and its rural surroundings. Furthermore, women were disfranchised and there were numerous classes of slaves who enjoyed no rights at all. Ancient's democracy recognized the equality of citizens.

According to Aliyu (2011) the relevance of National Security to any country's sustainable democracy has never been questioned. This is because, without an enabling environment in which production, industrial activities and trade can take place and prosper, development will forever remain elusive to achieve. States should devise security strategies and policy framework that can ensure adequate security for their citizen and their property. The efficiency of this strategy to internal peace and stability is security limited as demonstrated at various time by the number of growing national security challenges, the Boko Haram, Niger Delta Militancy, inter-ethnic violence and rivalry issues, cultism in the institutions of learning, politically motivated crimes such as the murder of a political, opponent, other important indices of insecurity such as poverty which as mentioned earlier is as a result of unemployment, economic mismanagement, poor political and economic development and bad leadership as a whole.

Whitehead (2002) observes that if democracy itself is an essentially contested concept, then democratization “cannot be defined by some fixed and timeless objective criterion”. However, democratization is generally seen as the movement from authoritarianism to a stable democracy, which ideally should transform various aspects of national life for the better.

Core political actors have also been known for the flagrant violation of rules in order to remain in power, as the 2007 general elections showed (Eleje & Ogbuke, 2023). In view of the above, it is however clear that lack of internal democracy among the Nigerian political parties is one of the reasons inhibitive to sustainable democracy as we are going to discuss in the next section of this work.

The essential elements of internal democracy which include equal participation among party members especially the involvement of all ranks and files in the party's policies, as well as representation at party activities; inclusiveness and institutionalization that demonstrates the

degree to which internal decisions and procedures are formalized are lacking within the Nigerian political parties (Eleje & Ogbuke, 2023).

Adeyemi (1998). In the Northern part of the country, in States like Sokoto, Kano, Kaduna, Gombe, etc people took the law into their hands which resulted to the destruction of lives and properties. Examples can be seen in the 2012 violence in Kano and Kaduna States particularly in Kano central known as Kano metropolis and south Zaria in Kaduna State which resulted in the imposition of curfew and invitation of the military for peace and stability to exist. Meanwhile, democracy which is supposed to enhance national unity and cohesion in the country has rather paradoxically generated tension and national disunity.

Overview of Insecurity Challenges in Sokoto State

Sokoto East, which comprises of eight local government areas, has witnessed cases of banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling, forcing some villagers to cross the border to Niger

Republic and others to move to the headquarters of the local government areas (Mashi, 2023). The local government areas in the zone include: Gada, Goronyo, Gwadabawa, Isa, Sabon Bimni, Rabah, Wurno and Illela, Sabon Birni is said to be the most terrorized Local Government Area (LGA) in the State. It has been a reign of terror particularly in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State where bandits killed 12 persons and sacked 14 villages Sabon Birni is located in the eastern part of Sokoto State, which has been terrorized by bandits for years. It was gathered that many residents of the area had fled into Niger Republic for safety (Daily Trust, 2021).

Theoretical Framework

The research adopted Frustration Aggression theory as the theoretical framework. The frustration Aggressive theory was proposed by some scholars which include John Donald, Neal Miller, Leonard, Doob, Orval Mowurel, and Robert, Sears in 1939 and further developed by near miller in 1941. The theory says that

aggression is the result of blocking, frustrating, and a person record to attain a goal. The theory concerns the redirection of or displacement of aggression. The basic assumption of the theory was that, frustration causes aggression, but when the source of the frustration cannot be challenged, the aggression gets displaced on to an innocent target and this theory also used to explain riots and revolutions, which both are believed to be caused by poorer and deprived section of the society who may express their bottled-up frustration and anger through violence.

Data Presentation and Analysis

In this research, data were presented and analyzed with respect to the three research questions formulated. The data are in tabulated form using percentage (%) and frequencies for easy analysis. administered are 246 questionnaire and a total of 230 questionnaires were filled and returned. The remaining 16 questionnaires were not returned thus, our

analysis will be on the 230 questionnaires returned.

Table 1.1: Do you believe that insecurity in Sokoto State has hindered the development of democracy?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	175	76
No	55	24
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.1 shows that, 175 respondents representing 76% are of the view that insecurity in Sokoto State has hindered the development of democracy, but in the opposite direction 55 respondents representing 24% suggest opposite. However, proper security is very vital as one of the necessities for development in a society.

Table 1.2: Do you think that security challenges have influenced voter turnout and participation in democratic processes in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	128	55
No	78	34

Some how	30	11
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The table 1.2 shows that, 128 people representing 55% of the respondents agree that security challenges have influenced voter turnout and participation in democratic processes in Sokoto State, while 78 people representing 34% hold negative view and that of 30 people representing 11% are in between. The view of those who maintain 'Yes' is through technical aid, and those maintain NO have no explanation to their answer as well as those who says somehow.

Table 1.3: Do you believe that addressing insecurity is crucial for the advancement of democracy in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	152	66
No	65	28
Neutral	13	6
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The table 1.3 shows that 152 people representing 66% are of the view that addressing insecurity is crucial for the advancement of democracy in Sokoto State, 65 people representing 28% view otherwise while 13 people representing 6% of the respondents stay neutral to their opinion. This means that addressing insecurity is crucial step for the advancement of democracy in Sokoto State.

Table 1.4: Do you think that community policing initiatives could effectively reduce insecurity in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	174	76
No	56	24
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The table 1.4 shows that, 174 people representing 76% are of the view that community policing initiatives could effectively reduce insecurity in Sokoto State, but in the opposite direction 56 people representing 24% of the respondents are of the view that community policing initiatives could

not effectively reduce insecurity in Sokoto State. However, proper implementation of the community policing initiatives is very vital as one of the step of reducing insecurity in Sokoto State.

Table 1.5: Do you think that investing in infrastructure and development projects can help alleviate insecurity in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	189	82
No	41	18
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The 1.5 table shows that, 189 people representing 82% of the respondent are of the view that investing in infrastructure and development projects can help alleviate insecurity in Sokoto State, 41 people representing 18% of the respondents are of the view that investing in infrastructure and development projects cannot help alleviate insecurity in Sokoto State.

Table 1.6: Should the government engage in dialogue and reconciliation efforts with

various stakeholders to promote peace and security in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	202	88
No	28	12
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The table 1.6 shows, that 202 people representing 88% are of the respondents view that, the government should engage in dialogue and reconciliation efforts with various stakeholders to promote peace and security in Sokoto State, while 28 people representing 12% of the Respondents hold a negative view by saying NO without given genuine reasons in support of their answers. To this end, government engagement in dialogue and reconciliation efforts with various stakeholders can be a huge step towards promoting peace and security in Sokoto State.

Table 1.7: Do you believe that addressing corruption and improving governance can contribute to reducing insecurity in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	129	56
No	101	43
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

The table 1.7 shows that, 129 people representing 56% of the respondents agree that addressing corruption and improving governance can contribute to reducing insecurity in Sokoto State, while 101 people representing 43% hold negative view. The view of those who maintain 'Yes' is through technical aid, and those maintain NO have no explanation to their answer as well as those who says somehow.

Table 1.8: In your opinion, should the government focus on improving intelligence gathering and surveillance to combat insecurity in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	161	70
No	69	30
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

In the 1.8 table 161 people representing 70% are in support for the view that government should focus on improving intelligence gathering and surveillance to combat insecurity in Sokoto State, while 69 people representing 30% are not in support for the view that government should focus on improving intelligence gathering and surveillance to combat insecurity in Sokoto State.

Table 1.9: To what extent do you believe that insecurity is a major threat to sustainable democracy in Sokoto State?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strong disagree	16	7
Disagree	21	9
Undecided	8	3
Agree	65	29
Strongly Agree	120	52
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.9 above shows that 16 respondents representing (7%) strongly disagreed that that insecurity is a major threat to sustainable democracy in Sokoto State, 21 respondents

representing (9%) disagreed that that insecurity is a major threat to sustainable democracy in Sokoto State, 8 respondents representing (3%) were undecided on whether insecurity is a major threat to sustainable democracy in Sokoto State while 65 respondents representing (29%) agreed to the motion, while 120 respondents representing (52%) strongly agreed that that insecurity is a major threat to sustainable democracy in Sokoto State.

Table 1.10: Do you think that the current level of insecurity in Sokoto State is hindering the democratic process?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strong disagree	5	2
Disagree	11	4
Undecided	8	3
Agree	65	29
Strongly Agree	141	62
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.10 shows that 5 respondents representing (2%) strongly disagreed that the current level of insecurity in Sokoto State is

hindering the democratic process, 11 respondents representing (9%) disagreed to the motion, 8 respondents representing (3%) were undecided on whether the current level of insecurity in Sokoto State is hindering the democratic process while 65 respondents representing (29%) agreed to the motion, while 141 respondents representing (62%) strongly agreed that that the current level of insecurity in Sokoto State is hindering the democratic process.

Table 1.11: Do you believe that improving security in Sokoto State is crucial for the promotion of sustainable democracy?

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strong disagree	0	0
Disagree	4	2
Undecided	7	3
Agree	94	41
Strongly Agree	125	54
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.11 above shows that 0 respondents representing (0%) strongly disagreed that improving security in Sokoto State is crucial for the promotion of sustainable democracy, 4 respondents representing (2%) disagreed to the motion, 7 respondents representing (3%) were undecided on whether improving security in Sokoto State is crucial for the promotion of sustainable democracy, 94 respondents representing (41%) agreed to the motion, while 125 respondents representing (52%) strongly agreed that that improving security in Sokoto State is crucial for the promotion of sustainable democracy.

Table 1.12: The current level of insecurity in Sokoto State poses a significant threat to sustainable democracy.

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strong disagree	13	6
Disagree	17	7
Undecided	8	3
Agree	102	44
Strongly Agree	90	40

Total	230	100
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Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.12 shows that 13 respondents representing (6%) strongly disagreed that the current level of insecurity in Sokoto state poses a significant threat to sustainable democracy, 17 respondents representing (7%) disagreed to the motion, 8 respondents representing (3%) were undecided on whether current level of insecurity in Sokoto State poses a significant threat to sustainable democracy, 102 respondents representing (44%) agreed to the motion, while 90 respondents representing (40%) strongly agreed that current level of insecurity in Sokoto State poses a significant threat to sustainable democracy.

Table 1.13: Improving security in Sokoto State is essential for the promotion of sustainable democracy.

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strong disagree	8	3
Disagree	23	10
Undecided	0	0

Agree	94	41
Strongly Agree	105	46
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.13 above shows that 8 respondents representing (3%) strongly disagreed that improving security in Sokoto State is essential for the promotion of sustainable democracy, 23 respondents representing (10%) disagreed to the motion, 0 respondents representing (0%) were undecided on whether Improving security in Sokoto state is essential for the promotion of sustainable democracy, 94 respondents representing (41%) agreed to the motion, while 105 respondents representing (46%) strongly agreed that Improving security in Sokoto State is essential for the promotion of sustainable democracy.

Table 1.14: Citizens' participation in addressing security challenges is crucial for sustainable democracy in Sokoto State.

Result	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strong disagree	0	0

Disagree	0	0
Undecided	16	7
Agree	128	56
Strongly Agree	86	37
Total	230	100

Source: Field survey, 2020

Table 1.14 shows that 0 respondents representing (0%) strongly disagreed that Citizens' participation in addressing security challenges is crucial for sustainable democracy in Sokoto State, 0 respondents representing (0%) disagreed to the motion, 16 respondents representing (7%) were undecided on whether Citizens' participation in addressing security challenges is crucial for sustainable democracy in Sokoto State, 128 respondents representing (56%) agreed to the motion, while 86 respondents representing (37%) strongly agreed that Citizens' participation in addressing security challenges is crucial for sustainable democracy in Sokoto State.

Discussion of Findings

The research work was carried out so as to enable the researcher assess the level of insecurity and challenges of sustainable Democracy in Nigeria, using Sokoto state as a case study.

Achieving sustainable democracy in Nigeria requires addressing numerous challenges while leveraging the country's considerable potential; some aspects related to sustainable democracy in Nigeria has historically been heavily dependent on oil exports for revenue, government recognized the need to diversify the economy to reduce its vulnerability to fluctuations in global oil prices. Initiatives have been launched to promote agriculture, manufacturing, technology, and other non-oil sectors to foster economic sustainability and that adequate infrastructure is crucial for economic growth and sustainable democracy and therefore has been investing in infrastructure projects, including road construction, port development, and power

generation, to improve connectivity and support economic activities.

The implication of political violence on Democracy and democratization in North-Western Geo Political-zone is that it leads to the assassinations of prominent politicians who are capable of contributing immensely to the political development of the Nigerian state. It also hinders the attainment of credible elections because of electoral irregularities and maleficence that accompanied political violence. This prevent the institutionalization of legitimate government and Democracy in the Nigerian state. In addition, political violence discourages cross section of the society from exercising their voting rights for fear of being intimidated or injured by the political brigandage.

Conclusion

Available data on the level and dimension of Insecurity in Nigeria reveals an increase over time, which constitutes serious threat to live and property and the study concludes that, Nigeria's

problem is bad leadership and evidence on the ground has consistently shown that leadership ineffectiveness in the state is the major threat that brought insecurity and sustainable democracy and good governance.

It was also concluded that insecurity specifically the activities of arm banditry who relentlessly attack and destroy hundreds of villages, killing thousands of people, burn their food stores, kidnapping many in the hinter lands and along the major higher ways for ransom, posed major challenges to sustainable democracy in Sokoto state.

The apparent lack of trust and confidence of public towards police hinders the provision of intelligence to police must be summoned if we are to achieve good security, some of the major drivers of insecurity in Nigeria are drugs and small arms which are smuggled with ease through our porous borders. In conclusion, it was believed that, if all the issues rises above are considerably address, the security situation of Sokoto state and Nigeria at large would

tremendously improve and consequent upon that, the current fragile democracy could certainly be sustained.

Recommendations

There is need by the government to provide adequate security in the country. This can be done through the appropriate finances to the instrument for regulating law and order in the society as well as provision of adequate logistics. This provides them with opportunity to deal decisively with political thugs that engaged themselves with dangerous weapons. In addition, political elites should shun away from providing the armed youth political immunity because this gives them the opportunity to commit atrocities that affect their political opponents.

For the democratic government to thrive in Nigeria, the people must be vigilant and demand accountability from the leaders. It has been proven that “the strength of democracy is only as great as the will of people to uphold it”. For all these to be possible, the citizen must be

politically educated and mature. This would enable the future leaders to make ethical decisions and for the people to begin to make political office holders accountable while within and outside office.

People should be more security conscious, share information with the authorities. The populace should not leave security matters to security personnel only. All should be involved in security information and data gathering. Moreover, efforts should be put in crime prevention than control. Furthermore, the government should increase the size of Nigeria's security agencies, empower and motivate them very well and strengthen neighborhood watch. Government should equally fix social infrastructure, roads, street lights, schools and skill acquisition centers.

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