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Framework for Co-operation of Battling Insurgency in Africa

Introduction

Insurgents have become a recurring and major problem within several African Countries, due to the fact that their presence and actions cause great damage and instability in the countries they occupy. These insurgency groups usually begin to illegally depend on the nation's economy and security. Unfortunately these countries are not equipped adequately to take legal actions against the insurgent groups on their own. The countries affected most by this are from Northeastern and Northwestern Africa. The main factor that these countries' have in common is that they all have high poverty. A number of the countries that are affected, such as Niger and Mali, have great amounts of land with no government attendance, which leaves terrorists with space they can use for training grounds. Due to this, the insurgents are able to train combatants, build their armies and plan attacks in clandestine. Two main regions that urgently require peacekeeping action due to insurgent groups are Somalia and Nigeria.

Somalia is currently in its 23rd year of civil war and despite all the international soldiers sent there on peacekeeping missions, Al-Shabaab, an Al Qaeda linked youth insurgent group, still has a major hold over several rural parts of Somalia. Al Shabaab's main funding was the Kismayo port in Somalia, but since the group left this harbor in September of 2012, it's funds are not as stable as they had been. Another vital location that the Al Shabaab previously controlled was the capital, Mogadishu, which they lost in August 2011. The militia group controls its territories by imposing a severe version of Sharia, which consists of practices such as stoning women suspected of adultery and cutting off the hands of thieves. Although previous UN intervention was unsuccessful, the African Union (AU) currently has a peacekeeping mission which still underway. The effort being put in by troops from African countries has however, sparked anger from the group which has resulted in several attacks in involved African nations such as Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda; therefore proving that the presence of this militia group in Somalia is a security threat to the country as well as its neighboring states.

Another case of insurgency is in Nigeria. While Nigeria is an oil rich country, it is under constant attack from the militant Islamist group, Boko Haram. Most of the insurgent group's policies are governed by the Koranic verse stating that "Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors". It bans Muslims from participating in any Western associated practices such as secular education, wearing shirts and trousers as well as voting. From Boko Haram's point of view, Nigeria is led by non-believers, even during the time when its president was a Muslim. They carry out attacks often, targeting both civilians and the military and have affected the lives of three million people, thus resulting in being acknowledged as a terrorist group by the United States.

These nations are currently in chaos and constant conflict which is a major reason for the unstable leadership, on top of the fact that the governments themselves are loosely assembled.

Many lives are lost due to attacks and government institutions such as schools are also interrupted due to insurgency activity. International countries have also participated in the eradication of terrorist groups in Africa, for example the United States and France. They continue to send troops on peacekeeping missions in order to get rid of the control these groups have over the countries they attack.

Definition of Key Terms

Insurgency

An organized rebel group equipped with weapons, whose goal to take over from an established government through armed battle and rebellion. The insurgent groups in Somalia and Nigeria both aim to overthrow their governments and take charge of the country.

Peacekeeping

An effective method used by the United Nations to aid countries in transitioning from a war to peace. It enables countries to move out of their conflict phase by having civilian peacekeepers whose goals are to ensure that the country remains at peace as well as give security and support to the country recovering from war.

Sharia Law

An Islamic based law system that is utilized in Muslim countries worldwide. It focuses on setting guiding principles for all aspects of a Muslim's life and is the product of a combination of the Koran, the Hadith and the principles of Islamic Scholars. Punishment for the breaking of these laws often results in lashing and even sometimes stoning, though there are some cases where criminals of these laws are forgiven.

Boko Haram

This is an insurgent group in Nigeria who base their practices on the Koran as well as Islamic policies. The group first began as an insurgency against all Western policies and is therefore Western nations are the main enemies of this group. They forbid any of their members from participating in Western activities such as voting, wearing trousers or shirts, and western education.

Al Shabaab

This is a youth insurgent group in Somalia that has ties to Al Qaeda. Its main goal is to have control over Somalia, but currently only has control over numerous rural areas. The members follow the Sharia Law and implement it strictly on the areas it controls. The group is believed to have between 7,000 and 9,000 soldiers. They are known for carrying out attacks in Mogadishu, Somali's capital, as well as neighboring countries, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

General Overview

The most problematic effects of insurgencies are the security and economic sectors. Due to corruption and lack of transparency, governments are unable to tackle this problem successfully. The main goal of these insurgencies is to take over the state leading them as Islamic nations and with their own laws. Therefore it is necessary for the current government to be overthrown in order to achieve that. While a country like Nigeria is not plunged in civil war, Somalia has been the battle ground for tribal conflict. Therefore the Nigerian government has greater control over its country, while the Somali government has lost some towns to the insurgency group.

The terrorist group Boko Haram is responsible for thousands of deaths mostly due to suicide bombings and raids. There have also been cases of highway slaughters where cars are stopped and passengers unable to give in to the militant's demands are executed. The bombing of churches, mosques, government institutions, and schools have

frequented the country, along with the UN Headquarters being the target of an attack in 2011.

Major Parties Involved

1. Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's highest population as well as biggest economy. This West African country has been affected by the Boko Haram insurgency group who launched their insurgence in 2009. The country has suffered civilian loss due to the numerous attacks carried out by the group. The main targets in Nigeria are the north-east, police and the United Nations. Since the insurgency began, three million people have been affected by the attacks.

2. Somalia

Somalia has been the battle ground for clan violence since 1991 when the president, Said Barre, was overthrown by conflicting tribes. However these clans had different views on who should take over, thus resulting in disorder and violence. An attempt to reestablish a parliament was made in 2004 by warlords and political authorities; however their tries to bring together the divided country became even more difficult when Islamist insurgency arose two years later.

3. Boko Haram

Boko Haram is an insurgency group that started off with the main goal of promoting non-westernized education and lifestyle. By using the Koran to preach to people, the group forbids Muslims from participating in any western activities or traditions. The followers are taught to view non-Muslim followers as sinners. The group began their mission to take over Nigeria and make in an Islamic State in 2009. Their actions have affected the lives of millions of Nigerians as well as people of bordering countries. The group was acknowledged as a terrorist group in 2013 by the United States.

4. Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab is an insurgency that was launched in Somalia in 2006 during the midst of Somalia's recovery from ethnic violence that had plagued the country since 1991. The group's aim is to take over Somalia, thus imposing their version of the Sharia law on the people of Somalia. The group's attacks on neighboring nations are due to their peacekeeping interventions into Somalia. These attacks have resulted in Al Shabaab's international recognition from the rest of the world. Like Boko Haram, Al Shabaab goes against the western beliefs and has especially strong hostility towards the U.S.

5. Kenya

Kenya, an East African country south of Somalia, has been affected greatly by the conflict in Somalia since it began. Due to this Kenya has taken part in African Union attempts to bring peace to the region. By sending soldiers to Somalia in pursuit of Al Shabaab soldiers, Kenya took action to stop the series of attacks in the North that were a result of militia passing through the Kenya-Somali border. However Kenyan contribution has sparked backlash from the Al Shabaab group who have claimed responsibility for multiple terrorist attacks around Kenya that have resulted in many civilian deaths. The militants claim that their attacks will end once the Kenyan government pulls its troops out of Somalia.

6. Uganda

Uganda is another nation that has been largely disturbed by the conflict in Somalia. Raids by the Militia group into the country have caused the deaths of many civilians in the country. These ruthless attacks have been a result of the Al Shabaab's desire to get rid of any factors limiting their ability to take over or grow in Somalia. Uganda is therefore an enemy due to its contribution of troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

7. The United States of America

The United States first got involved in Somalia in 1992 when they sent Marines to Mogadishu to prepare relief supplies for UN peacekeepers to take over. This mission resulted unsuccessful when Somali militants attacked the US troops which lead up to a battle that caused the death of hundreds of Somalis. The mission was officially called off in March of 1994. The United States has also been the subject of multiple threats made by Al Shabaab to the west, which has caused the negative diplomacy between the two sides. The Boko Haram Group has also expressed its hostility towards the United States and the rest of the Western world. The United States has taken a major role in supporting Nigeria's institutions, boosting their security and creating opportunity for Nigerians, due to the country's political and economic influence in Africa. The U.S strategizes closely with Nigeria in the UN Security Council, where the U.S is a permanent member while Nigeria is a non-permanent member

Responding to Global Illegal Small Arms Trade

Arms Trafficking , also known as gunrunning , is the illegal trafficking of contraband weapons or ammunition . What constitutes legal trade in firearms varies widely , depending on local and national laws.

The 1997 Report of the UN Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms provides a more refined and precise definition , which has become internationally accepted. This distinguishes between small arms , which are weapons designed for personal use , and light weapons which are designed for use by several persons serving as a unit. Ammunition and explosives also form an integral part of small arms and light weapons used in conflict.

Small Arms Trade

There are half billion documented small arms in the world, more than one for every twelve people. Firearms trafficking increase the number of violent crime, drug traffickers and juvenile gang members from acquiring firearms from gun traffickers. Individual weapons may pass through a combination of categories as legal sales are diverted through criminal channels, often with disastrous results. Every year are 60 to 90% of deaths that happen during worldwide conflicts. Million people are killed in internal conflicts.

Gun shows are also very popular that cause death because many U.S. states, such as Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, do not limit the number of weapons or ammunition in a single purchase and do not require purchasers at gun shows to present verification. These criminals often acquire firearms from persons who are otherwise not prohibited from possessing firearms, or by buying firearms from corrupt federal firearms licensees (FFLs) who sell firearms.

Arms trafficking is a major cause of human rights abuses.

- ☐ Modern conflicts claim an estimated half a million people each year. 300,000 of these are from conflicts, and 200,000 are from homicides and suicides.
- ☐ Over 80 percent of all these casualties have been civilian.
- ☐ 90 percent of civilian casualties are caused by small arms. This is far higher than the casualty count from conventional weapons of war like tanks, bomber jets or warships.
- ☐ The black market trade in small arms range from US\$2-10 billion a year.
- ☐ Every minute, someone is killed by a gun
- ☐ At least 1,134 companies in 98 countries worldwide are involved in some aspect of the production of small arms and/or ammunition.
- ☐ Civilians purchase more than 80% of all the firearms that are currently manufactured worldwide each year.
- ☐ There are at least 639 million firearms in the world today, of which 59% are legally held by civilians.

Methods to limit the number of arms trafficking

Communication:

Analysis, Planning, and Information, in coordination with the Secretariat of Defense, provides monthly bi-national bulletins on secured weapons and relevant seizures. Special Agents also attend meetings with the analysts of the defense.

Arms Trafficking Workshops :

ATF is training citizens officials on firearms trafficking techniques and firearms identification on a monthly bases, training approximately 400 citizens law enforcement personnel in a year. U.S. and Mexican officials also have a work plan in place to

significantly improve judicial cooperation, intelligence sharing, and the detection of weapons movement.

Specialized Training :

ICE provided training to 18 Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) officials on Crossed Arms. ATF provided courses on explosives and evidence collection to representatives from SEDENA. ATF has also provided three post-blast explosive investigation techniques courses to Mexican federal and state agencies with two more planned in the coming months.

Information and Investigations

Mexico shares data and information in preliminary investigations, investigations into traw purchasers, prosecutions, and other judicial proceedings with U.S. authorities.

Training for Prosecutors

ICE, ATF, FBI, and DOJ are providing best practices training to prosecutors from the Attorney General's office.

K-9 Teams

To date, a total of 58 canines and 44 handlers from SAT, have been trained in the detection of drugs, weapons, ammunition, and currency. Five handlers were certified as instructors. ATF has also conducted canine training for trainers at the Attorney General's Federal Investigative Agency and SSP on several occasions.

E-Trace Training and Train-the-Trainer for Spanish e-Trace

– As requested by the ATF is providing e-Trace training to CENAPI personnel in each state. The culmination of these efforts will result in law enforcement personnel training their own colleagues, with the first such course planned for so on

