

CONFRONTING TERRORISM AND ITS AFTERMATH IN NIGERIA: THE SOCIAL WORKERS EXPECTATIONS

Isaac Onwudiwe Omeje¹

Peace and Conflict Studies Unit, School of General Studies,
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State
08069349831, omeje.isaac@mouau.edu.ng

Bornaventure Amechi Otunko

Social Sciences Unit, School of General Studies,
Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State
08030998179, mecheotunko@gmail.com

Abstract

Among the multifarious mandates of the Social Workers is a rapid response to terrorism and its aftermath. Terrorism has become so disastrous, worrisome and overpowering that Nigeria and indeed the global communities have beamed their searchlight on it to check it. From the realities on ground, it is suggestive that the security agencies can no longer win this battle alone hence the need for a collaborative working relationship between the military and other agencies, particularly the Social Workers. The study therefore seeks to assess what the Social Workers need to do in fighting terrorism and its aftermath in Nigeria. To achieve this, the study borrows approaches from literature in countries that have successfully utilized the services of the Social Workers and blends them with local content approaches that can be resourceful to curb the menace of terrorism in Nigeria. State fragility theory was adopted as the underpinning theoretical construct for the study. The findings revealed that Social Workers can confront terrorism using intervention strategies like de-radicalization, psychosocial support, protection and reintegration, as well as macro level intervention strategies such as advocacy and community based development; among others.

Keywords: Aftermath, Confrontation, Expectation, Social Worker, Terrorism.

Abstrait

Parmi les mandats multiples des travailleurs sociaux figure une réponse rapide au terrorisme et à ses conséquences. Le terrorisme est devenu tellement désastreux, inquiétant et accablant que le Nigéria et les communautés mondiales ont allumé leurs projecteurs pour le contrôler. D'après les réalités sur le terrain, il est suggéré que les agences de sécurité ne peuvent plus gagner cette bataille à elles seules, d'où la nécessité d'une relation de travail collaborative entre l'armée et d'autres agences, en particulier les travailleurs sociaux. L'étude cherche donc à évaluer ce que les

¹ **Address of Corresponding Author:** Isaac Onwudiwe Omeje, Peace and Conflict Studies Unit, School of General Studies, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State
08069349831, omeje.isaac@mouau.edu.ng

travailleurs sociaux doivent faire pour lutter contre le terrorisme et ses conséquences au Nigeria. Pour y parvenir, l'étude s'appuie sur la littérature de pays de pays qui ont utilisé avec succès les services des travailleurs sociaux et les associe à des approches axées sur le contenu local qui peuvent être ingénieuses pour enrayer la menace terroriste au Nigéria. La théorie de la fragilité des états a été adoptée comme construction théorique sous-jacente de l'étude. Les résultats ont révélé que les travailleurs sociaux peuvent faire face au terrorisme en utilisant des stratégies d'intervention telles que la déradicalisation, le soutien psychosocial, la protection et la réintégration, ainsi que des stratégies d'intervention au niveau macro telles que le plaidoyer et le développement basé sur la communauté; parmi d'autres.

Mots-clés: séquelle, confrontation, attente, travailleur social, terrorisme.

Introduction

Terrorism is increasingly becoming one of the deadliest and most challenging social problems the world over. Many countries in the world have fallen prey to terrorism and today, so many other countries are still being ravaged by the menace with unimaginable consequences. For instance, the terrorist event in Mainland Britain that occurred at the underground bus station in London in 2005 left about 52 people dead and over 700 persons injured. In Israel, records on terrorism occurrences cover a more protracted period mainly focusing on Arab-Israeli conflict and political violence; and, in the United States, papers often relate to the attacks of 11th September, 2001 (Parker & Crabtree, 2013), among others. In all these cases, the affected states remained resolute, fighting in collaboration with other professionals, including the Social Workers, to win the war against terrorism. Beyond fighting, Social Workers played paramount roles in the aftermath of terrorist events by supporting the wounded, the displaced, the traumatized and the bereaved.

In Nigeria, the emergence of Boko Haram (BH) in 2009 brought the country into international spotlight as a full-blown terrorist country. The activities of this sect, focusing mainly on the Northeast part of the country namely, Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe have wreaked havoc on Nigerians. Many have lost their lives including the security agents and Aid workers. Many have also been injured while many have been displaced leading to the establishment of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in some parts of the country; and, a lot more with various degrees of trauma and ugly experiences.

Many scholars have suggested that terrorism is rooted in socio-economic, political, and religious dimensions, among other drivers in Nigeria (Wuyep, 2015). In this context, if the activities of the terrorists are not effectively checked, specter of future attacks obviously looms large with Nigeria tending to remain vulnerable to terrorism. The intensity of the situation in Nigeria has grown beyond the limits of the security agencies. It therefore demands a collective responsibility across various institutions and professions. It is in the light of this that Social Workers' inputs seem of great importance. However, because of the newness of the phenomenon –terrorism – in Nigeria, and partly, the non-inclusion of the Social Workers in the fight against terrorism, there seems to be little or no existing literature on the roles of the Social Workers in this regard hence the need for this study.

The expected roles of the Social Workers articulated in this study stem from the approaches adopted by the countries that have successfully utilized the services of the Social Workers in the fight against terrorism and the local content approaches that the study identifies from the realities on ground in Nigeria. These as we shall see in details in the subsequent sections of this paper are: de-radicalization, psychosocial support, protection and reintegration, counseling/therapy during grief and bereavement, and, macro level approaches such as advocacy and community based development. On the strength of this marriage of Western and local content approaches, the Social

Workers are expected to be deployed to complement the efforts of the security agencies in fighting terrorism and, beyond that, attend to the needs of the victims of terror attacks such as the wounded, the displaced, the traumatized, and the bereaved. To this effect, the study will serve as one of the pilot studies on combating terrorism and its aftermath in Nigeria. To discuss this, the study is divided into sections. Section one introduces the basic concepts of terrorism and social work. Section two discusses the scourge of terrorism, the aftermaths of terrorism, the victims of terrorism and the theoretical underpinning of terrorism in Nigeria. It then moves to analyze the expectations of Social Workers in fighting terrorism and its aftermath in Nigeria. Section four explains the challenges that might deter Social Workers from working optimally in achieving their goals. Section five identifies steps that can guarantee effectiveness in the fight against terrorism and then concludes that adherence to the identified steps will be of utmost benefit for the country's efforts to contain terrorism and its aftermath.

Concept of Terrorism

Scholars are yet to come to terms with a generally accepted definition of terrorism. Thus, conceptualizing the right definition of terrorism is subjective - it includes religious motivation, hate, and catastrophic groups; others refer to non-state actors while some refer to state - sponsored terrorism (Griest & Mahan, 2003). Defining terrorism is as contentious as the concept itself. The subjectivity in the definition explains the bewilderment why the Niger Delta Militants and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), are seen as terrorists by the federal government, whereas the Fulani Herdsmen, named the 4th deadliest terrorist group in the world after Boko Haram, ISIS, and Al-Shabaab according to Global Terrorist Index (Buchanan, 2015) are not. This creates a conundrum for scholars of terrorism. Reacting to this unending polemic, Hoffman (2006) opined that tagging an individual or a group as 'terrorist' becomes almost inevitably subjective depending to a great extent, on whether one has sympathy for or in opposition to the person, group, or cause concerned. Against this backdrop, Ivanauskiene and Makstutyte (2012) concede to the proposition that trying to define terrorism is pointless, citing Walter Laqueur's quote that "one man's terrorism is another man's fight for freedom" (Afolabi, 2013). Thus, terrorists classify their acts as 'just' and as a tool to express their grievances and usher in a change in an 'unjust' system.

Despite this subjectivity, a working definition of terrorism is necessary. In the most general sense, it is the systemic use of terror especially, as a means of coercion. *Terror* as a word, owes its etymology to a Latin lexicon '*terrere*' which, according to Ivanauskiene and Makstutyte (2012), literally means 'to frighten', 'fear', or 'horror'. Terrorism therefore signifies the use of threat or violence by an organized group to achieve its vowed aims which could be political, socio-economic or other expedient purposes. Such threats are usually directed against an individual, a group of individuals, a thing or group of things, a state or group of states. For the purpose of this study and without undermining other perspectives, a Resolution 1566 (2004) of the Security Council of the UN taken at its 5053rd meeting on October 8, 2004 on terrorism, cited by Faluyi (2017, p.13) defined terrorism as:

criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitutes offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism (United Nations).

This conceptualization, Faluyi argued, encompasses the basic features of terrorism such as ideology, political intent, deliberate action, violence, multiple actors and supporters, a dissatisfied

individual and enabling group. This broad definition also points to the fact that terrorism involves violence, an objective to be achieved, and perpetrator(s) involving person(s) and a target.

The people or individuals that carry out acts of terrorism are known as terrorists. Characteristically, terrorism involves the following: use of unlawful violence believing that violence will usher in a better system; use of unlawful and assorted dangerous weapons; motivated by goals that might be political, religious or ideological; secretive in membership recruitment and locations of residence; fewer in number comparable to the larger society they attack; have strong will and could die for the cause they uphold; most times, operate as syndicates; derive financial and military supports from national and international loyalists; they are militants; they use coercion, intimidation and instill fear in people. Their tactics involve: suicide bombing, car bombing, use of rocket propelled grenades, assassinations, abductions and kidnapping, disguising and hijacking. Their targets are: extermination of human lives and destruction of properties. These targets are achieved by attacking: public squares, government buildings and installations, churches and mosques, schools, bridges, police stations, military barracks and installations, as well as market squares and prisons to free inmates particularly their members incarcerated (Omede & Omede, 2015).

Concept of Social Work

Social Work in its various forms (IFSW/IASSW, 2000), addresses the multiple, complex transactions between people and their environments. Its mission is to enable all people develop their full potential, enrich their lives, and prevent dysfunction. Professional social work is focused on problem-solving and change. As such, Social Workers are change agents in society and in the lives of the individuals, families and communities they work with (Trevithick, 2012:5). From the above perspective, it is worth noting that a common theme that runs through the various definitions of social work is the notion that Social Workers act in people's best interest to improve their quality of life. According to the Social Work Task Force (Parris, 2012, p.6) "Social Workers make life better for people in crisis who are struggling to cope, feel alone and cannot sort out their problems". Doing this depends on the circumstances. Usually, they work in partnership with the people they are supporting – check out what they need, find what will help them, build their confidence, and open doors to other services. Sometimes, in extreme situations such as where people are at risk of harm or in danger of hurting others, Social Workers have to take strong action (Parris, 2012).

The above perspectives show that Social Workers are at the helm of problem-solving, of which terrorism stands prominent. Their intervention in social issues is premised on enthroning a functional society by targeting and addressing issues that challenge the people (individual, family, group, community) or their environment (the wider social and institutional aspect). Nevertheless, Social Workers' performance depends on the proper application of the knowledge, skills, and values that the profession upholds.

The Scourge of Terrorism in Nigeria

The Socio-economic Dimension

Scholars are of the view that socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, poor provision of social services and other essentials of life are among the factors that drive one to terrorism (Wuyep, 2015). However, there is no empirical evidence to support the argument that reduction in poverty and rapid change in economic growth alone could eradicate terrorism. To buttress this contrast, Marc Sageman compiled a background data of about 400 Al-Qaeda members and found that three-quarters belonged to the middle or upper class. A vast majority (90%) came

from caring, and intact families. Out of these numbers, about 63 percent had gone to college, and about five to six percent came from the third world (Wuyep, 2015). Similarly, Economists Ephraim Benmelech of the Harvard University, and Claude Berrebi of RAND Corporation, gathered data on Palestine suicide bombers in Israel from 2000 to 2006 and found that education was very much valued in the ‘terrorist market’. The study revealed that better educated individuals were more likely to carry out large scale attacks and have lower chances of being caught, than the less educated. Added to this, Azahari and Noordin M., top masterminds of most of the terrorist attacks over the last decade in Indonesia, were skilled engineers and scientists. None of them was poor. Both came from affluent families (Wuyep, 2015).

The above observations however, have not debunked the findings that socio-economic factors are possible drivers of terrorism but to unearth the fact that terrorists are not only the poor and the uneducated. In Nigeria, Omilushi (2016) has shown that poverty and socio-economic conditions are germane factors to be tracked in any counterterrorist strategy. In his study of Boko Haram, the author revealed that socio-economic factors were key conditions that easily drive ‘good’ people to seek solace in radicalized groups. Forest (2012) specifically noted that the issue of schooling was salient to understanding the ideology of Boko Haram as the name itself implies resistance and rejection of Western education.

Socio-economic inequalities also exacerbate terrorism in Nigeria. Wuyep (2015) revealed a significant correlation between terrorism and socio-economic inequalities with evidence that many countries experiencing economic growth seem to tolerate increased inequality without much exposure to violent conflict.

Political Dimension

The nation’s disorganized leadership structure is implicated in the emergence of terrorism in Nigeria. The nation’s inability to meet the yearnings of the citizens and allow for popular participation at all levels of governance is a reference point. This causes and results in groups metamorphosing into terrorist gangs. They deploy violence as a way of expressing their dissatisfaction with the status quo and leverage on the inefficiency of the state to seek to promote and legitimize their ideology. Bad leadership as obtained in Nigeria as well as abuse of human rights is a factor that can trigger terrorism and insecurity. According to Forest (2012), rampant corruption, political marginalization and oppression as well as entrenched ethnic identities that are politicized to constrain opportunities for movement and meritocratic advancement breed terrorism. Home grown terrorist organization thrive in this environment unlike in consolidated, mature democracies where domestic terrorism is less likely to flourish because of policies and effectiveness of the government in place.

Religious Dimension

The rise of terrorism may not be totally unconnected to an attempt to introduce Islamic State in Nigeria, particularly in the Northern region and to establish a strict version of Sharia law which strength was undermined by colonialism. As Forest (2012) observed, violence in the North has been fueled by a pervasive insecurity among Muslim communities about their religious and moral well-being, based in part on the fading influence of religious authority in a region that was hitherto the centre of a powerful Sokoto Caliphate. The combination of these environmental enablers, he continued, has provided opportunities for Islamic extremists like the Boko Haram to find ideological resonance and support. Probably, there is an attempt to reclaim their mandate and foster their religion beyond the shores of the Northern part of Nigeria.

Aftermath of Terrorism

Like many natural disasters, these acts are often unexpected. The experiences of the individuals and communities arising from these acts of terror, Parker and Crabtree (2013) evoked expressions of fear, outrage and a lack of control. The consequences are so grave and depend on the source, objective and extent of force applied by the terrorists. Mass populations are always the target of terror attacks and this is the criterion to measure the success or otherwise of terror attacks (Ivanauskiene & Makstutyte, 2012). In Nigeria for instance, the effects of terrorism, as evident in many parts of the country, particularly the Northeast, include but not limited to death, displacement, homelessness, physical injury and pain, emotional stress, kidnapping, human rights abuse, destruction of property, fear, mental agony, and economic disruption. It equally produces serious consequences such as heightened anxiety, depression, phobias, a reduced sense of safety, and heightened Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In addition, experiencing terrorism can lead to increased use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, and self-medication (Itzhaky & Dekel, 2005; Ivanauskiene & Makstutyte, 2012).

Worthy to note is that these experiences have different impacts on different casualties and groups. Z. Solomon, et al. (2005) found that women experience more psychological difficulties in exposure to terrorism, while children, especially infants and adolescents are the most sensitive casualty groups. Many new born and older children became orphans when one or both parents died in the tragedy as terrorists' casualty (ies); thus, experienced PTSD in childhood and adolescent impinges on normal development task (Ivanauskiene & Makstutyte, 2012).

Victims of Terrorism

Terror attack affects a wide range of people. Vulnerability to this is based, majorly on exposure and proximity to the scene of attack. Levels of victims therefore vary and their reaction (level of trauma) to terror attack equally varies. Nevertheless, there are basically six types of victims as identified by Raphael (1986) viz: primary victims - those in the frontlines of attack who have experienced maximum exposure and are physically injured, tortured or killed, and those who witnessed or were threatened by the attack (near misses) but not physically harmed. Secondary victims include the relatives and friends of the primary victims. Third-level victims include the rescue workers and recovery personnel. Fourth-level victims are people from the community involved; and, fifth-level victims are those whose mental state is such that their emotional equilibrium may be upset by the attack even though they have not been directly involved; while, sixth-level victims are those who would have been primary victims but by chance or indirectly, caused others to be primary victims (Ivanauskiene & Makstutyte, 2012). With the above breakdown, one may predictably conclude that, in Nigeria, everyone is a victim of terrorism.

Theoretical Perspective

State fragility theory is used as the theoretical framework for this study. The real essence of the state is to protect its citizens and provide for their basic needs. When a state fails in its mandate, it drifts to fragility. Fragile states are ineffective; those that cannot or will not deliver the core functions to its people, including the poor (DFID, 2005; Vallings & Moreno-Torres, 2005). This perspective points to the weakness of state institutions as the central driver of fragility. In essence, state institutions lack the capacity to manage the affairs of the state, including conflicts that occur therein. Fragile states experience loss of territorial control, low administrative capacity, political instability, large-scale violence, abuse of human rights, pervasive corruption, low acceptance of the rule of law, inability to provide basic security, services and economic opportunities, etc.

As observed by Carment, Prest, and Samy (2008), many fragile states are poor and also suffer from unequal distribution of wealth, poor service delivery, and weak governance. Faluyi (2017) thus observed that indicators for fragility are evident in Nigeria given its consistent appearance in the list of top fragile states. State fragility, he re-echoed, led to the emergence of militant groups in Nigeria, including the Boko Haram. His position further affirmed the view of Carment and Samy (2012) that some fragile states are mired in deep rooted conflict and violent transitions, while others are “under governed” with spaces that have enough linkages to the world (roads, phones, etc.) to allow terrorists, drug lords, etc. to operate, but do not have enough governance to purge these threats from the country.

The relevance and suitability of fragility theory to understanding the spate of terrorism in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. Nigeria has overtly exhibited all known indices of fragility. The Nigerian state is fantastically corrupt, draconian in the toga of democracy with fiercely contested and warped federal structure, prebendal and nepotistic with a palpable degree of social exclusion. This is more so, considering that breath gasping insecurity, suffocating poverty, horrendous ethno-religious cum political conflagration further weaken the Nigerian state. Perceived and real marginalization, policy summersaults by government and inept leadership are characteristics of the Nigerian state with its attendant repressive antics. Repressive antics by the centre will only guarantee palliative calmness (Otunko, 2018).

Social Workers Expectations to Terrorism and its Aftermath in Nigeria

De-radicalization

De-radicalization is an approach that Social Workers adopt to prevent people from either converting to or denouncing terrorists’ viewpoint to embrace a change of life. To Parker and Crabtree (2013), it is somewhat a controversial idea in that Social Workers might work at grassroots level among disaffected groups and communities perceived to be at risk of harboring subversive activities. In any case, those who have been radicalized and have become terrorists and those who have been radicalized but have not become terrorists, need to undergo de-radicalization (Faluyi, 2017). De-radicalization therefore involves a systemic process designed to change the life of suspected or would-be terrorists in a positive direction. The target is on behavioral modification of the suspected groups in a way that conforms to the acceptable standard of life. It is a cognitive shift in understanding and can have a positive impact on global counterterrorism efforts by promoting internal fragmentation of violent radical groups or by delegitimizing their rhetoric and tactics in the eyes of the broader public (Fink & Hearne, 2008). In Nigeria, Social Workers are expected to achieve this through rehabilitation, re-socialization, reorientation, and dialogue.

Psychosocial Support

In terms of psychosocial support, Social Workers assist victims of terror attacks in terms of admission to hospitals, liaising with the hospital management to ensure adequate attention to the victims and providing psychosocial strategies to motivate the victims back to health. Such contemporary social services as psychosocial support fit well with the skills of Social Workers (Parker & Crabtree, 2013). Put succinctly, Social Workers have the critical link between the victims, the nurses, physicians, the hospital management and other medical practitioners.

In Nigeria and elsewhere, victims of terror attacks deserve to live. In view of this, Social Workers are expected to bolster this urge with psychosocial support to motivate them back to life. This alleviates their anxieties, distresses and, makes them receptive to treatment. The support can

come in the form of getting the family members or information about the victims around; getting the attention of the medical personnel for the victims' prompt treatment; providing the victims with emotional, social, or financial support. It can also be done by improving the nutritional needs of the victims; or, enhancing the physical health and rehabilitative services to the victims.

Protection and Reintegration

In the aftermath of terrorist acts, Social Workers also protect and reintegrate into society those who are marginalized, stigmatized or discriminated against because of terrorist associated evils such as those sexually abused, raped, and impregnated by the terrorists. This category of people, because of embarrassment and shame, separate themselves from the rest of the people thus becoming indigenous strangers in their land. The society also tends to treat them with a sense of exclusion; not showing them love and warmth. For this reason, it behooves Social Workers to protect the image and identity of the victims and as well reintegrate them into the society for normal social life. The Chibok girls abducted in Borno state by the Boko Haram extremists on April 14th 2014 some of whom came back with pregnancies and others with babies are examples of terrorist victims that need protection and reintegration services of the Social Workers.

Counseling during Grief and Bereavement

Grief and bereavement associated with terrorist attacks come with anger, sadness, guilt, regret and many more. Counseling, in this context, is therefore tasking. Social Workers need to understand how the nature of loss impacts on the grieving process. Apart from loss of lives, property and other valuables to terror attacks, individuals also experience partial losses to the limb, sight, hearing, etc that require prolonged psychological attention as they impact on their daily lives. To achieve this, Social Workers are expected to establish a rapport with the victims, pay careful attention to them, allow them to express themselves, accept them the way they are without censoring, explore their faith and spirituality, suggest to them materials similar to loss experiences, suggest to them support groups and networks that have had similar loss experiences and attend to cultural influences. At this juncture, it is pertinent to understand that attention to cultural influences is sacrosanct. This is because what is cherished in one culture may be stigmatized in another. Thus, it is not unthinkable to ask victims/clients their background information and how grieves and bereavements are culturally addressed in their areas. This will enable Social Workers to impact positively on the clients' life by exploring relevant supports to stabilize them (Sheafor & Horejsi 2006; Hunt, 2009)

Macro level Intervention

Beyond the micro and mezzo level responses to addressing terrorism and its aftermath, there are other macro level interventions such as advocacy, group work and community work that Social Workers in Nigeria are expected to adopt. These are meant to champion the cause of the victims of terrorism on a larger scale. Advocacy is one of the major macro intervention strategies. It implies representing and supporting an individual, group, organization, or cause to others (Hardcastle, Powers, & Wenocur, 2004), in this case – the victims of terrorism. It can come in the form of community organizing, protests and demonstrations, with a view to attracting the attention of the relevant agencies and bodies needed to support the Social Workers cause for prompt action. Social Workers can also lobby to influence certain decisions and participate actively in political processes. In this way, they can gain access into the decision making bodies for the purpose of influencing the laws to protect and support the victims of terrorism. Intervention at this level,

Trevithick (2012) asserted, focuses on organizational or agency policies and procedures, the resources, opportunities and barriers that these bodies may present.

Community - based Approach

As part of a macro level intervention to addressing terrorism and its aftermath in Nigeria, Social Workers are expected to embark on community work, especially where deficiencies in development are identified as critical drivers of terrorism. This approach tackles identified needs of the people which absence spark off agitations and aids terrorism. In this way, the grievances of the people are addressed to forestall further terrorization of the affected communities. Attesting to this, Parker and Crabtree (2013), acknowledged that part of the Social Workers' roles in this regard concerns building positive community cohesion, and with working with communities to develop tolerance and reduce the potential dangers of extreme or fundamentalist view. Community-based approaches rely on the notion that the security of a community is closely related to the degree of its cohesion and resilience, (OSCE, 2014). Social Workers in this capacity are to act as facilitators, enablers, advocates. They support the community; according to Paris (2012), as it carries out action plans to maintain commitment and enthusiasm and deal with problems and challenges. This approach requires a number of skills: engagement (with individuals, groups and organizations); assessment (at the level of community, including needs); research (particularly collaborative); group work; negotiating; conflict resolution; and, communication (in a wide range of situations); counseling; obtaining resources; managing resources and self; recording and report writing; and, monitoring and evaluation (Mayo, 2002, p.167, cited in Parris, 2012).

Impediments to Social Workers participation in the fight against Terrorism and its Aftermath in Nigeria

Lack of official Recognition of the Profession

In Nigeria, social work is yet to be ordained a profession and as such lags behind in terms of placement, training, service delivery, and even in payment. Other sister professions in Nigeria like law, medicine, etc enjoy consolidated salary structure unlike social work. Social work in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa according to Mupedziswa (2005), suffers lack of recognition. This has resulted in the underutilization of social work services that would have been second to none in giving the society a facelift, particularly in confronting terrorism and its aftermath.

This has sadly relegated the profession to an unspectacular job that virtually everyone can do. This wrong notion has resulted in impersonation, misrepresentation and misapplication of social work services to the detriment of the teaming consumers of social work services and the society at large. This underscores why some institutions and parastatals employ any social scientist as a Social Worker, even in positions adjudged to be the exclusive reserve of the Social Workers. The hospital setting is not left out in this wrong application. However, in very severe cases, only few of them like the teaching hospitals, orthopedic hospitals, and psychiatric hospitals (Ngwu, 2014), have recognized the importance of medical social work. Arising from the above compromises, the effectiveness of social work practice in Nigeria, especially with respect to confronting and supporting the victims of terror attacks, has been down played.

Insufficient Trained Social Work Practitioners

The scope of social work practice is so vast that a large chunk of trained Social Workers needs to be deployed to the system for effective service delivery. Areas that demand the attention of Social Workers have not gotten the desired results partly because of dearth of trained social work practitioners hence, the reasons for the substitution of Social Workers with personnel from other

disciplines. In Nigeria, for instance, very few universities run programmes in social work even up to doctoral degree. The reason is not unconnected with insufficient trained social work personnel to man the programme in the universities in Nigeria. Sadly, in some universities, social work is taught by non-social work academics and some social work students on field work placement are assessed and appraised by non-social work professionals, too. These lapses, Mupedziswa (2005) lamented, are bound to trigger off a ferocious ripple effect that is likely to result in the churning out of half-baked social work cadre. Most likely, such a cadre is unlikely to be efficient in the delivery of social services, especially as it relates to confronting and supporting the victims of terrorism in Nigeria. The fight against terrorism and its aftermath, much as it is a collective responsibility, still demands the application of professional knowledge and tactics. The part that demands Social Workers input need not be compromised; Social Workers need to bring to the fore, their professional knowledge, to effectively combat terrorism and support the victims.

Lack of Research

Social work intervention like ‘de-radicalization’ is a relatively new concept in an effort to combat terrorism and as such, has not attracted much attention from the academics and other professions interested in counterterrorism studies. Far less research has been carried out by Social Workers on the use of intervention strategy like de-radicalization to address terrorism. Perhaps, in the submissions of Cronin, the study of terrorism is itself in an incipient stage with majority of articles written in 1990’s (Fink & Hearne, 2008). Relatedly, concerns about personal safety and access to classified or sensitive information (given that areas under terror attacks are prone to violence) will likely prevent Social Workers from developing an accessible data set on which to base their studies to improve on their services. These obvious reasons, however, will lead to insufficient research on clear-cut and comprehensive measures to combat terrorism and of course, impact negatively on Social Workers efforts to contain the menace in Nigeria.

Insufficient Funding

To confront terrorism successfully depends, to a large extent, on funding. Social Workers are under-resourced either because of insufficient budgetary allocation or total negligence to the profession and this undermines the capacity of Social Workers to function effectively in the fight against terrorism and support to the victims of terrorism in Nigeria. To be sure, in de-radicalization programmes like rehabilitation, Social Workers need extensive financial resources to train demobilized extremists in different occupational skills like tailoring, arts, shoemaking, hairdressing, etc. This will avail the ex- terrorists the opportunity to have alternative source of income and social support. That will dissuade them from treading the path of terrorism. Incentives from these sources will go a long way in preventing the ex-terrorists from relapsing to unaccepted forms of behaviour. Social Workers equally need funds for seminars/workshops and awareness campaigns bordering on fighting terrorism and supporting the victims of terrorism in Nigeria.

Insecurity

There is always perceived insecurity in any environment under terror attacks. In this case, Social Workers are not sure of their safety in the discharge of their services. For instance, on March 1, 2018, Boko Haram attack in Ran, Borno State, Northeast Nigeria, killed among others, three US Aid workers that were attending to terrorist victims Vall (2018). More so, insecurity will undermine Social Workers ability to carry out research on the best approach to address terrorism in terror affected areas, thus cutting short innovative ideas on counterterrorism that might emerge from such extensive research. It can equally cause Social Workers to give insufficient and hasty

attention to victims of terrorism in an effort to give a swift service and bypass attack, thus, leading to inefficient service.

Hostility toward Social Workers / Client Attack

This is a monumental challenge in social work practice that is not given the much needed attention it deserves. Suspected terrorists, who may have exhibited some kind of disposition to terrorism or other violent acts may attack or violently confront Social Workers in the course of intervention. For example, individuals suffering from psychiatric conditions, members of violent gangs or radicals can show this attitude toward Social Workers.

Again, Social Workers may be violently challenged based on religion and cultural differences. This can lead to discrimination against Social Workers by their clients. For instance, Social Workers who have Christian background may face this violence while working with suspected Muslim terrorists, given that non-Muslims are seen by Muslims as infidels (kafir). Gender difference can also be an issue especially, in Muslim communities. Male Social Workers working with female clients and vice versa could be confronted with violence.

The Way Forward

Despite the paucity of literature in Nigeria on Social Workers responses to terrorism and its aftermath, this paper unequivocally makes some robust inputs that will serve as a roadmap to both the Social Workers and the government of Nigeria. They include:

Inclusion of Terrorism in the Social Work Curriculum

Terrorism is a rising, global social problem of immense proportion that demands the services of the Social Workers hence, the quest for specific teachings on terrorism. This idea finds solace in the premise that terrorism, as a social problem, falls within the purview of social work profession. Terrorism is growing in such unimaginable scale that if it is not tactfully checked, Nigeria will be consumed. It has been argued that social work curriculum is packed and does not require adding specific teachings on terrorism. Additionally, there is the assumption that the knowledge, values, and skills taught in social work are transferrable across situations and as such, can address terrorism. Despite this argument, Parker and Crabtree (2013), submit that the increasing quest for knowledge required to address the needs of individuals, families and communities affected by terrorism need to be included. They argue passionately that the recognition of continued global challenges, the personal experiences of those seeking social work and the need to work at the margins of society demand openness to new knowledge concerning wider social and political issues that will impact on the practice. This submission, quite frankly, brings to the fore, the need to include terrorism in the social work curriculum in Nigeria to effectively fight terrorism and support the victims.

Support to Social Workers

Giving Social Workers the needed support will motivate them to be more committed to their job. Social Workers, if supported, have the peculiar skills and techniques needed to whittle down terrorism in Nigeria, by among others, participating in outreach programmes that can proactively address the scourge of terrorism. This support can be in the form of funding; recognizing social workers' professional status in Nigeria in order to make Social Workers more relevant and committed to their job; proper placement of Social Workers; establishing a National Council for Social Work that will direct the affairs of the Social Workers; establishing a training institute for Social Workers that will groom more social work practitioners; and, by extension, cooperating with and giving Social Workers relevant information that will facilitate their job in respect to

fighting terrorism and supporting the victims of terror attacks in Nigeria. This support will undoubtedly take Social Workers to the next level. As Hardcastle, Powers, and Wenocur (2004) put it, one of the most important elements influencing the development of social problem solvers is the expectation they hold for how society should treat their members.

Supervision of Social Workers

Social Workers are not super humans. Like the clients they attend to, they can be susceptible to emotional disturbances in times of distress. Scholars have advocated for adequate supervision of Social Workers to avoid secondary trauma. For instance, Sheafor and Horejsi (2006) found that after repeated exposure to clients who have been traumatized and are in great distress, Social Workers and other helpers may develop symptoms of trauma too. Such trauma includes intrusive thoughts and images, sleeplessness, bystander guilt, and feeling of vulnerability, helplessness, self-doubt, and rage. Parker and Crabtree (2013) also found the need to provide good supervision to Social Workers when working with distress to mitigate the risk of secondary trauma that might impact on their professional competence. The above observations therefore call for effective supervision of Social Workers in Nigeria to ensure efficiency in their service delivery.

Monitoring

In the engagement of any programme designed to either fight terrorism or support the victims of terrorism and at the termination of such programme, monitoring is a necessity. It is a metric to assess the success or otherwise of any programme with a view to improving its efficiency. In the case of de-radicalization of suspected extremists for instance, monitoring processes are important. As Fink and Hearne (2008) contended, a key to distinguishing between sincere and insincere repentant involves monitoring. During this process, every identified shortcoming and other negative developments that could lead to the suspected terrorists reversing to their old pattern of life are addressed to sustain the tempo of the new life imbibed in them. However, Social Workers barely monitor their intervention programmes, especially after termination and this leads to reversal and recidivism. In order to successfully fight terrorism and ensure that the victims are psychologically stabilized, Social Workers are advised to monitor their intervention programmes for a period of time, especially after termination.

Working with the Military, Clerics, Traditional Rulers, CSO's, and NGO's.

There is need for Social Workers to work with the military. While the military engage the terrorists, Social Workers provide specific services to them in times of stress, injury, grief and bereavement. For example, in US, where Social Workers work as part of the military as observed by Parker & Crabtree (2013), they equally act as a critical liaison between the military and the authorities. In this way, they address the welfare needs of the service men and women who are grappling with depression, anxiety, emotional or psychological distress such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that might affect their services as well as those who experience losses that demand prolonged psychosocial adjustment and adaptation. All these are to ensure that the services of the military in fighting terrorism are not compromised.

In the same vein, Social Workers are expected to partner the clerics, traditional rulers, Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's). To a great extent, these bodies are seen as having more legitimacy at the grassroots level, especially where the government had failed, thus availing them the opportunity to exercise an influence on the lives and activities of the local people. For example, in the Northeast part of Nigeria that is worst hit by terrorism, the use of the clerics can be useful in de-radicalization programme. They can convince

the local people that terrorism is not in consonance with their religious teachings; in this way, they can reverse the violent extremist ideology that suspected terrorists might have imbibed. Social Workers in this case play an enabling role by influencing the clerics to act in this manner. Also the CSO's and NGO's through research, workshops/seminars, campaigns and other community work can address terrorism. Social Workers acting in the capacity of facilitators harness a harmony between these bodies and the target audience. In this way, the communities that are affected by terrorism will get to know better about terrorism, its consequence and the need to avoid it. This can impact positively on the lives of suspected terrorists.

Summary and Conclusion

The study examined the expectations of the Social Workers in combating terrorism and its aftermath in Nigeria. It took off by explaining the concepts of terrorism and social work. It also discussed the scourge of terrorism, the aftermaths of terrorism and the victims of terrorism with state fragility as the theoretical framework underpinning the study. Equally, the expectations and challenges of the Social Workers in combating terrorism and its aftermaths were analyzed with well thought-out recommendations for the stability of the country.

In conclusion, the absence of the Social Workers' complementary roles in the fight against the menace of terrorism in Nigeria is a gargantuan gap that needs nothing but the presence of the Social Workers to be closed. Social Workers have the peculiar skills to penetrate people and work on people's mentality. Through this, they can convert suspected terrorist to non-violent beings. Beyond confronting terrorism, the victims of terror attacks need the services of the Social Workers. It behoves the Social Workers and in part, the government to see that the war against terrorism in Nigeria is a victory for peace, security and development. It is in favour of this resolution that the study articulates a way forward for the fight terrorism in Nigeria. Admittedly, if the recommendations are strictly adhered to, no doubt, Nigeria will witness unprecedented improvement in fighting terrorism as well as supporting the victims of terror attacks in the country.

References

- Afolabi, O. (2013). *Terrorism in Nigeria: Culmination of economic disenfranchisement, social marginalization and political instability*. New York: CUNY Academic Works.
- Carment, D., Prest, C., & Samy, Y. (2008). Determinants of state fragility and implications for aid allocation: An assessment based on the country indicators for foreign policy project. *UN University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER)*: Research Paper No. 2008/46.
- Carment, D. & Samy, Y. (2012). *Assessing state fragility: A country indicator for foreign policy report*. Ottawa: Caledon University
- DFID (2005). *Why we need to work more effectively in fragile states*'. London: Department for International Development.
- Faluyi, O. (2017). *An assessment of Nigeria's counterterrorism policies against Boko Haram* (Unpublished master's thesis). University of Kwazulu, Natal.
- Fink, C. N. & Hearne, E.B. (2008). *Beyond terrorism: De-radicalization and disengagement from violent extremism*. International Peace Institute: IPI Publications.
- Forest, J.J.F. (2012). *Confronting the terrorism of Boko Haram in Nigeria*. Florida: JSOU Press.

- Griest, P. & Mahan, S. (2003). *Terrorism in perspective*. London: Sage Publications.
- Hardcastle, D.A., Powers, P.R., & Wenocur, S. (2004). *Community practice theories and skills for Social Workers*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.
- Hoffman, B. (2006). *Inside terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press
- Hunt, B. (2009). Helping clients deal with grief and loss: Penn State: *The Counselor Education Newsletter*, 3(2), 1-12.
- Buchanan, R.T. (2015, November 18). *Global Terrorist Index: Nigerian Fulani militants named as fourth deadliest terror group in the World*. Independent. Retrieved from <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/global-terr> Nov 18,2015
- Itzhaky, H. & Dekel, R. (2005). Helping victims of terrorism: What makes social work effective? *National Association of Social Workers*, 50(4), 335-343.
- Ivanauskiene, V. & Makstutyte, R. (2012). *Terrorism: Implications for international social work*. Vytautas: Magnus University.
- Mupedziswa, R. (2005). Challenges and prospects of social work services in Africa. In, J.C. Okeibunor & E.E. Anugwom (Eds.). *The social sciences and socio-economic transformation of man in Africa* (pp. 271-283). Nsukka: Great AP Express Publishers Ltd.
- Ngwu, C.N. (2014). *Learning to practice social work. A guide to field work education in Nigeria*. Enugu: University of Nigeria Press Limited.
- Omede, J. & Omede, A.A. (2015). Terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria: Moral, values and religious education as panaceas. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 6 (11), 120-126.
- Omilushi, M. (2016). Combating violent conflicts and terrorism in Nigeria: Some considered measures. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, 6 (1), 664-675.
- Otunko, B.A. (2018). Operation python dance and Nigeria Civil War: Putting the Cart before the Horse. In D.O. Asawalam., E. Udochukwu., & C.K. Okite (Eds.), *Contemporary issues for authentic existence* (pp. 662-674). Enugu: Snaap Press Ltd.
- OSCE (2014). *Preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism: A community-policing approach*. Vienna: OSCE
- Parris, M. (2012). *An introduction to social work practice: A practical handbook*. Maidenhead: Open University Press
- Parker, J. & Crabtree, S.A. (2013). Ripples in a pond: Do social work students need to learn about terrorism? *Social Policy and Social Work in Transition*, 3(2), 50-73.
- Raphael, B. (1986). *When disaster strikes: How individuals cope with catastrophe*. New York: Basic Books.
- Sheafor, B.W. & Horejsi, C. (2006). *Techniques and guidelines for social work practice*, 7/E. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Trevithick, P. (2012). *Social work skills and knowledge: A practical handbook*. Maidenhead: Open University Press
- Vall, M. (2015, March 2nd). *Suspected Boko Haram attack kills aid workers in Nigeria*. Aljazeera. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/03/suspected-boko>
- Vallings, C. & Moreno-Torres, M. (2005). *Drivers of fragility: What makes states fragile?* DFID: PRDE Working Paper, No. 7.
- Wuyep, A. P. (2015). *Terrorism in Nigeria-revisiting Nigeria's socio-political approach to counterterrorism and insurgency* (Unpublished master's thesis). U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.