

Maintaining Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa – the Tragic Connection between Corruption, Bad Governance and Criminality

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Author's contribution

The sole author designed, analyzed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The state of peace and security in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa is worrisome. This paper therefore submitted that the fragile nature of security and peace in Africa is a factor of corruption, poor governance and criminality. It is however recommended that genuine soul cleansing, accountable and participatory governance, education-for-peace, serious collective anti-corruption crusade and Integrated African Regional Surveillance (ARS) would go a long way to checkmate the current high rate of instability in the region.

Keywords: Peace; security; Sub-Saharan Africa; corruption; bad governance; criminality.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sub-Saharan Africa refers to all the 49 countries located in Africa south of the Sahara desert. They include Angola, Burundi, Congo

Democratic Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Comoros, Somalia,

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Ethiopia, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Zambia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mali, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Niger, Togo, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Djibouti. This region has been noted to be the hot-bed of insecurity and instability in the world. By 2015 Global Peacefulness index, six Sub-Saharan countries namely Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Congo Democratic Republic and Nigeria were among the ten least world peaceful nations out of 162 nations so surveyed, only to be surpassed by Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan [1]. This paper therefore discusses the tragic connection between corruption, bad governance and criminality as the factorial matrix that engenders lack of peace and insecurity in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

1.1 Theoretical and Hypothetical Foundations of the Study

A lot of theoretical frameworks have been used to connect corruption and poor governance with insecurity in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Adetoro [2] identified such as anomie, justified thievery, Queer Ladder, public choice and leadership failure theories. By anomie, it is posited that the breakdown of law and order during coups in some West African countries like Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso in the past attracted more criminality into the region. The justified thievery and Queer Ladder theorists were of the view that criminal activities like kidnapping, armed robbery, smuggling, cybercrimes, drug and human trafficking are the outcome of peoples' desperation to climb-up social ladder. The public choice theory states that it is the prevalence of public corruption that encourages people to pursue dastard economic gains through terror acts. Indeed, the corruption rating of the Sub-Saharan African countries in 2015 was so embarrassing as Sierra Leone ranked 2nd, Mauritania 4th, Gambia 5th, Chad 13th and Guinea Bissau 18th on the chart of the African 20 topmost corrupt nations [3].

Corruption is even seen to be propelled by the "grease-the-wheel" hypothesis which suggests that criminality is an outcome of inefficient institutions and bad governance, making people to move towards outwitting due processes and short-changing individuals and government [4]. This is why Avnimelech et al. [5] submitted that the theoretical implication of corruption is that

payment of bribes to corrupt government bureaucrats add more cost and uncertainty to business activities. This in turn breeds overnight millionaires and billionaires among government officials thereby attracting criminalities like kidnapping and armed robberies in the Sub-Saharan Africa. All these aggregate to leadership failure which ignited the Boko-Haram insurgency that had claimed thousands of lives with massive destruction of infrastructures in Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria.

1.2 Conceptual Clarifications on Peace and Security

Peace refers to a state of tranquility, non-violence and absence of war. It involves the presence of human and national security. To live peacefully means acquisition of spirit of tolerance, human dignity and non-discrimination in a society. It could also mean removal of anti-social behaviour that can threaten the corporate existence of people in a community.

Galtung [6] identified two types of peace to include positive and negative peace. According to him, positive peace goes beyond absence of war and violence to include elimination of unjust structures and inequitable relationships that is geared towards freedom from all forms of discrimination. Thus, according to Institute for Economics and Peace [1], positive peace is transformational because it is a cross-cutting facilitator of progress that makes it easier for individuals to produce, have business to sell with entrepreneurs and scientists to innovate and governments to effectively regulate.

The pillars of positive peace include sound business environment, high levels of human capital, low levels of corruption, free flow of information, good relations with neighbours, acceptance of the rights of others, well-functioning government and equitable distribution of resources [1]. Thus, the advantage of positive peace over negative peace are business competitiveness, entrepreneurialism, foundations for human well-being, gender equality, steady progress for attaining the Millennium Development Goals, youth development, high levels of happenings, social cohesion and capital development. Indeed, positive peace builds capacity for resilience and the appropriate environment for non-violent conflict resolution and the higher the level of positive peace, the higher the likelihood of compromise and non-violent reconciliation of grievances [1].

National and human securities are however engendered by peaceful attitude in the society as represented by various indices in pillars of peace in Fig. 1. Scholars agree that there can be no peace without security because security is the condition of being protected physically, emotionally, psychologically from harms, attack and terror [7]. It is an assurance for future well-being and freedom from threat [8]. Thus, while protection of territorial integrity is within the confines of national security; the promotion of progressive human development falls within the purview of human security. However, there is “soul sickness” all over the world in terms of terrorism, corruption, insecurity, criminality and human degradation [9].

2. CORRUPTION AND INSECURITY IN THE SUB-SAHARAN REGION

Corruption in Sub-Saharan Africa has been the single most devastating factor promoting insecurity. According to Transparency International [10], forty out of the region’s 49 countries show a serious corruption problem with the continental powerhouses Nigeria and South Africa not showing improvement. The

organization’s report further shows that nearly 75 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa were estimated to have paid bribes in the past year with many escaping punishment by bribing the state securities. With an average score of 33%, corruption in Sub-Saharan countries creates and increases poverty and exclusion with more than 40 percent living on less than 1.25 dollar per day thus generating tension and violence [10].

From the latest African edition of the Global Corruption Barometer (Afrobarometer), covering 43,143 respondents in 28 Sub-Saharan countries, it was discovered that courts officials were ranked 1st among people that were engulfed in bribery with 28% of the total views, 2nd were the police with 27%, 3rd were the Household service providers with 19%, 4th were the Document/Permit providers with 17%, 5th were the public school stakeholders with 13% and 6th were the public clinic/hospital officials with 11% responses [11]. Thus, while corrupt individuals with political power enjoy lavish life, millions of Africans are deprived of their basic needs like food, health, education, housing, clean water and sanitation thereby engendering criminality and violence [11].

Diagrammatic Representation of Pillars of Peace

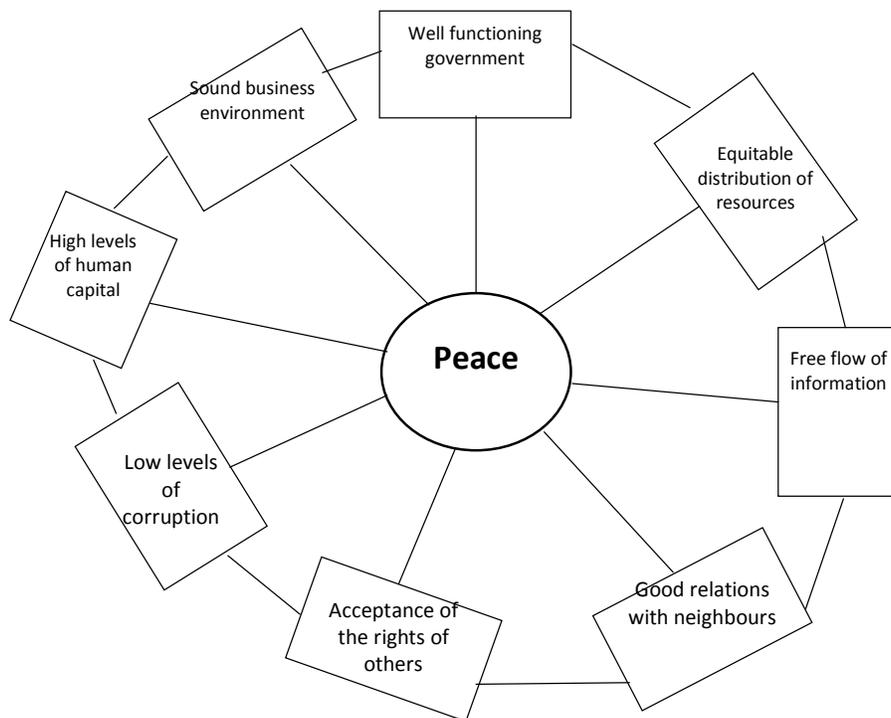


Fig. 1. Pillars of peace

Source: Institute for Economics and Peace (2015: 85)

Shehu [12] noted that the twin problems of corruption and violence are the two most enduring challenges facing governance in Africa. According to him; the potent relationship between corruption and conflict are:

- (a) Corruption is an important cause of conflict, weakening the government and at the same time causing grievances and discontent,
- (b) Corruption prevent conflicts, by bribing competing contenders for power; and
- (c) Corruption and violent conflicts are basically co-flux phenomena caused by the same or closely connected mechanisms [12].

As an abuse of office for private gain, Shehu [12] submitted that corruption appears to be the strongest bond that holds the members of the ruling elite together in Africa with a higher level of patrimonial politics manifesting through political interference in corruption cases involving "highly-connected" individuals as were the cases of corrupt past Governors and Presidents in the continent. According to Huntington [13], the causes of corruption are similar to those of violence as both are symptoms of the weakness of political institutions in the process of governance. This is to state that the society that has high capacity for corruption also has a high capacity for violence [13].

Johnston as cited by Shehu [12] identified four types of corruption as market, patronage, nepotist and crisis corruption. According to him, the market corruption involves "routine stakes of exchanges" with many suppliers dispensing corrupt benefits. These are the cases of admission racketeering, sexual harassment in schools, etc. The patronage corruption involves few suppliers with routine stakes and large networks as in cases of government contracts, employment, and law enforcement bribes. The nepotistic corruption is disintegrative because it involves extraordinary stakes and a few suppliers within a kingship and friendship network as in high-level appointments leading to marginalization threat/secession. The crisis corruption involves multiple suppliers and extraordinary stakes, and is the most unstable and disintegrative as in the cases of examination malpractice and petroleum racketeering in Nigeria.

Andvig as cited by Shehu [12] observed that extensive bureaucratic corruption, particularly when connected to armed forces and tax

collection, increases the likelihood of a successful rebellion as the apparatuses of the state and its military capability are compromised as was the case of 2.1 billion dollars arm scandal in Nigeria. This escalated the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria as corrupt transactions involving bribes to the politicians, military, border guards and custom officials also facilitated weapon smuggling and purchase of vital military information from public officials which made Boko Haram to secure military advantage over the state forces. It is further submitted that corruption at higher level made political elites to deliberately operate the state informally in order to enhance their selfish interest and thereby manipulate violence as a profitable resource [12].

As a consequence of corruption-insecurity connection, Boko Haram was ranked as the most deadliest terror group in the world with a total death of 6,644 in 2014 alone ranking ahead of ISIS that killed 6,073 people in the same year in the Maghreb region [10]. Allen, Lewis and Martfess [14] further reported that at least 29,600 Nigerians have been killed in more than 2,300 ethnic, religious, political and economic-induced violence since 1998 with Boko Haram alone contributing more than 40 percent (11,100) of the deaths since July, 2009.

While Boko Haram was rampaging violently in North-Eastern Nigeria, Northern Cameroon, Southern Niger and Chad; the Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Al-Shabaab were reigning terror in North Africa and East Africa respectively. Among, the most deadly attacks committed by the AQIM were:

- December 11, 2007: Bombing of the United Nations' offices and the constitutional court killing of 41 people including 17 UN employees.
- December 24, 2007: Killing of four French family vacationing in Mauritania.
- November 29, 2009: Kidnapping of 3 Spanish Aid works in Mauritania, only for them to be released after ransom payment of between 6.3 and 12.7 million dollars.
- September 16, 2010: Kidnapping of 5 French nationals in Niger who were released after 3 years.
- January 7, 2011: Kidnapping of 2 French nationals who were later killed after abortive French and Nigerian forces rescue mission.

- January 24, 2012: Execution of more than 100 Malian soldiers who ran-out of ammunition in Aguelhok.
- August 16, 2014: Suicide-bombing killing of 2 Malian soldiers on patrol and injuring other nine.
- January 5, 2015: Bamako attack in Mali killing soldiers with several others injured.
- November 20, 2015: Attack on the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali, killing 21 people.
- January 15, 2016: Attack on another hotel in Burkina Faso and a police station killing 30 people of 18 different nationalities [15].

Kenya has witnessed more than 440 terrorist attacks between 1970 and 2014, killing more than 1,400 people and wounding more than 5,800 others as a result of the lethality of Al-Shabaab [16]. Recent high-profile attacks by Al-Shabaab include the September 21, 2013 attack on Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya which claimed 72 lives with over 201 people injured; the April 2, 2015 attack on Garissa University in eastern Kenya near Somali border which killed 147 students with 79 others injured. Indeed, it is on record that the cost of terrorism all over the world, most of which are correlated with political violence, economic deprivation and corruption amounts to 52.9 billion dollars in 2014, 50 percent of which happened in Sub-Saharan Africa alone [10].

3. THE CURRENT FRAGILITY OF THE SUB-SAHARAN COUNTRIES

According to Fund for Peace [17], most Sub-Saharan countries fall under the categories of worsening and critically worsening fragile states between 2006 and 2015. On a score of 120, countries like South Sudan is on a very High Alert with 114.5, ranking 1st on the scale of the most unstable country in the world. It is followed by Somalia with 114.0 (ranking 2nd), Central African Republic with 11.9 (ranking 3rd) and Sudan with 110.8 (ranking 4th). These four most unstable and insecure countries of Africa were also ranked among the ten most corrupt nations of the world with poor governance index (see Table 1).

On the High Alert categories for insecurity are Congo Democratic Republic with a score of 109.7 (5th), Chad 108.4 (6th), Guinea 104.9 (10th), Nigeria 102.4 (14th), Zimbabwe and Cote d'Ivoire 100.0 (15th) respectively (Fund for Peace, 2015).

On the Alert of instability are Guinea Bissau with a score of 99.9 (ranking 17th), Burundi 98.1 (18th), Niger 97.8 (19th), Ethiopia 97.5 (20th) etc. Indeed, except for Mauritius with a low score of 45.2, ranking 142nd is the only Sub-Saharan Africa nation that is categorized as very stable while all other countries are in the category of warning for being unstable and fragile (for details see Table 1).

The fragility of each Sub-Saharan African country equally correlates with their peacefulness ranking in the world. In a survey of 162 nations (South Sudan on 159th position) ranks as the fourth most unpeaceful nation of the world (after Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan) due to the genocidal wars against the population by Al-Shabaab, followed by Central African Republic ranking fifth (158th position) because of rebels attack on the populace. Somalia on 157th position also ranks as the sixth most unpeaceful nation in the world because of the brutal attacks of the Al-Shabaab Islamic militant group on the populace. It is however heartwarming that Mauritius (a population of about 1.4 million people) which is ranked among the countries of High Human Development and stable in the world is ranked as 25th on the world chart of most peaceful nation - see table 1 and Institute for Economics and Peace [1].

4. GOVERNANCE FACTOR

Governance as a factor of personality traits and value orientation is in shamble in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is because most African leaders are enmeshed in corruption, political violence and flagrant disobedience to the rule of law. In a 2015 World Bank rating of effective governance from scale -2.5 to +2.5, Somalia that was in perpetual terror attack ranked as the poorest with a maximum negative score of -2.5. Indeed Somalia is known for no stable government and ranked as the most criminal nation of the world with popularity in sea piracy, fighting for power and territorial control, theft, human trafficking and unwarranted killing of non-collaborators across East African states. It is on record that the sea pirates in Somalia had hijacked more than 42 ships for ransom since 1994 [18].

On poor governance scale therefore, abuse of the rule of law, corruption and criminality positively enhance insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa with only Mauritius (1.1), Botswana (0.32), Seychelles (0.39), South Africa (0.7), Sao Tome and Principe (0.3), Benin Republic (0.5),

Table 1. 2015 Sub-Saharan countries' Human Development Index (HDI)/Life expectancy/ corruption rank/effective governance index/fragility rank/peacefulness index

S/N	Countries	HDI ranking out of 188	Overall HDI	Life expectancy in years	Anti-corruption score (%) & ranking	Effective governance index from -2.5 to +2.5	Fragility of the states on a score of 120 & ranking	Peacefulness index ranking
1	Mauritius	63	0.777	74.4	53 (45)	1.1	45.2 (145)	1.503 (25)
2	Seychelles	64	0.772	73.1	55 (40)	0.39	62.1 (124)	-
3	Botswana	106	0.698	64.5	63 (28)	0.32	62.8 (122)	1.597 (31)
4	Gabon	110	0.684	64.4	34 (99)	-0.7	71.3 (103)	1.904 (66)
5	South Africa	116	0.666	57.4	44 (61)	0.7	67.0 (113)	2.376 (136)
6	Cape Verde	122	0.646	73.3	55 (40)	0.0	73.5 (95)	-
7	Namibia	126	0.628	64.8	53 (45)	0.1	70.8 (106)	1.784 (48)
8	Congo	136	0.591	62.3	23 (146)	-1.1	90.8 (33)	2.196 (115)
9	Equatorial Guinea	138	0.587	57.6	-	-1.4	84.8 (54)	1.987 (81)
10	Zambia	139	0.586	60.1	38 (76)	-0.5	85.2 (53)	1.846 (55)
11	Ghana	140	0.579	61.4	47 (56)	-0.3	71.9 (98)	1.840 (54)
12	Sao Tome & Principle	143	0.555	66.5	42 (66)	0.3	73.7 (93)	-
13	Kenya	145	0.548	61.6	25 (139)	-0.3	97.4 (21)	2.342 (133)
14	Angola	149	0.532	52.3	15 (163)	-1.1	88.1 (40)	2.020 (88)
15	Swaziland	150	0.531	49.0	-	-0.5	86.3 (48)	2.102 (101)
16	Tanzania	151	0.521	65.0	30 (117)	-0.6	80.8 (63)	1.903 (64)
17	Nigeria	152	0.514	52.8	26 (136)	-1.2	102.4 (14)	2.910 (151)
18	Cameroon	153	0.512	55.5	27 (130)	-0.7	94.3 (28)	2.349 (134)
19	Madagascar	154	0.510	65.1	28 (123)	-1.3	83.6 (56)	1.911 (67)
20	Zimbabwe	155	0.509	57.5	21 (150)	-1.2	100.0 (15)	2.294 (125)
21	Mauritania	156	0.506	63.1	31 (112)	-1.05	94.9 (26)	2.262 (122)
22	Comoros	159	0.503	63.3	26 (136)	-1.67	83.3 (59)	-
23	Lesotho	161	0.497	49.8	44 (61)	-0.5	79.9 (66)	1.891 (63)
24	Togo	162	0.484	59.7	32 (107)	-1.3	86.8 (47)	1.944 (71)
25	Rwanda	163	0.483	64.2	54 (44)	-0.0	90.2 (37)	2.420 (139)
26	Uganda	163	0.483	58.5	25 (139)	-0.4	97.0 (23)	2.179 (111)
27	Benin Republic	166	0.480	59.6	37 (83)	0.5	78.8 (73)	1.958 (77)
28	Sudan	167	0.479	63.5	12 (165)	-1.6	110.8 (4)	-

S/N	Countries	HDI ranking out of 188	Overall HDI	Life expectancy in years	Anti-corruption score (%) & ranking	Effective governance index from -2.5 to +2.5	Fragility of the states on a score of 120 & ranking	Peacefulness index ranking
29	Djibouti	168	0.470	62.0	34 (99)	-1.0	88.1 (40)	2.113 (102)
30	South Sudan	169	0.467	55.7	15 (163)	-2.1	114.5 (1)	3.383 (159)
31	Senegal	170	0.466	66.5	44 (61)	0.4	83.0 (61)	1.805 (49)
32	Cote d'Ivoire	172	0.462	51.5	32 (107)	-0.8	100.0 (15)	2.133 (105)
33	Malawi	173	0.445	62.8	31 (112)	-0.7	86.9 (45)	1.814 (51)
34	Ethiopia	174	0.442	64.1	33 (103)	-0.5	97.5 (20)	2.234 (119)
35	Gambia	175	0.441	60.2	28 (123)	-0.6	85.4 (51)	2.086 (99)
36	Congo D.R.	176	0.433	58.7	22 (147)	-1.6	109.7 (5)	3.085 (155)
37	Liberia	177	0.430	60.9	37 (83)	-1.4	97.3 (22)	1.963 (78)
38	Guinea Bissau	178	0.420	55.2	17 (158)	-1.6	99.9 (17)	2.235 (120)
39	Mali	179	0.419	58.0	35 (95)	-1.1	93.1 (30)	2.310 (128)
40	Mozambique	180	0.416	55.1	31 (112)	-0.2	86.9 (45)	1.976 (80)
41	Sierra Leone	181	0.413	50.9	29 (119)	-1.2	91.9 (31)	1.864 (59)
42	Guinea	182	0.411	58.8	25 (139)	-1.2	104.9 (10)	2.214 (117)
43	Burkina Faso	183	0.402	58.7	38 (76)	-0.6	89.2 (39)	1.994 (83)
44	Burundi	184	0.400	56.7	21 (150)	-1.1	98.1 (18)	2.323 (130)
45	Chad	185	0.392	51.6	22 (147)	-1.5	108.4 (6)	2.429 (140)
46	Eritrea	186	0.391	63.7	18 (154)	-2.0	96.9 (24)	2.309 (127)
47	Central African Republic	187	0.350	50.7	24 (145)	-1.8	111.9 (3)	3.332 (158)
48	Niger	188	0.348	61.4	34 (99)	-0.7	97.8 (19)	2.320 (129)
49	Somalia	-	-	-	8 (167)	-2.5	114.0 (2)	3.307 (157)

Source: [19]. UNDP. Human Development Report 2015. New York: Communications Development Incorporated; 2015

Transparency International. Corruption Perception Index 2015, Available: <http://www.transparency.org> (Accessed 28/02/2016) [20]

World Bank. WGI 2015 Interactive on Worldwide Governance Indicators. Available: info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi (Accessed 28/02/2015) [21]

Fund for Peace. Fragile States Index: Decade Trends, 2006-2015. Available: www.fundforpeace.org (Accessed 5/03/2016). [17]

Institute for Economics and Peace. Global Peace Index 2015. Available: www.economicsandpeace.org (Accessed 28/02/2016) [1]

Senegal (0.4), Namibia (0.1) and Cape Verde (0.0) passing the test of effective governance. This is to state that only 9 out of the 49 Sub-Saharan African States passed the effective governance test (see Table 1). Indeed, apart from Somalia, other worsening countries on poor governance were South Sudan (-2.10), Eritrea (-2.0) and Central African Republic (-1.8). These were countries noted for massive instability and criminalities.

5. OTHER CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS

Bayart and Hibou as cited by Shehu [12] observed the “criminalization” of the state by the elites crippling bureaucratic effectiveness. This process according to them involves the entrenchment of criminal practices at the heart of government institutions, including the private use of public security forces, the privatization of violence and participation of rulers in semi-clandestine economy as were the cases of fuel importation scandals and un-transparent privatization of Power Holding Company in Nigeria. Hence, the parochial submission that “corruption is not stealing” in Nigeria reflects bureaucratic criminalization [22].

The state criminalization therefore extended to the situation whereby the political elites were distributing state economic rents through a system of political patronage leading to social exclusion agitation like that of the Niger-Delta militancy between 1998 and 2009. These were the situation that also led to civil wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi and Cote d’Ivoire. As a result of this, Liberia had two civil wars that claimed over 250,000 lives between 1989 and 2003. This was followed by that of Sierra Leone between 1991 and 2002 with over 75,000 deaths. A post-2010 election violence in Cote d’Ivoire equally led to over 65,000 deaths when an ethnic group felt that the unfair resource distribution necessitated the sit-tight syndrome of the other in power [23].

Today, kidnapping seems to be replacing armed banditry as a factor of insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Hardly would a week pass-by without some news of kidnapping in Nigeria. According to Ani [7], people are kidnapped in schools, in their work place, at home and everywhere as they struggle to develop their human capacity base. Control Risks [24] reported that Nigeria ranks as 5th in kidnapping for ransom in the world but 1st in Africa. NYA International [25] thus submitted that she accounted for 15% of the

world kidnapping in 2014. Sudan ranked 9th in the world but 3rd in Africa (after Libya that ranked 2nd). Other countries that were classified as being on the very High Alert like Mauritania, Chad, Mali South Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic Congo, Burkina Faso were also ranked among the 50 most terrorized by kidnapers.

Relatedly, drug trafficking propels insecurity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Udeh [26], Ewi [27], Onuoha and Ezirim [28], Afokpa [29] as well as Adetoro [2], reported the strong connection between funds generated from drug trafficking and terrorism in Africa. As a matter of fact, West Africa Commission on Drugs [30] reported that the illicit drug trade in cocaine, heroine, cannabis etc has played a direct or indirect role in series of political upheavals in countries such as Guinea Bissau and Mali and have also contributed to the funding of extremist groups in North and West Africa. As a matter of fact, AQIM and MUJAO (Movement for Monotheism and Jihad in North Africa) were nicknamed narco-terrorists because majority of their funds for terrorist attack in Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso came from illegal drug trafficking proceeds. It was also observed that drug criminals also have the means of contracting legal services that excel in exploiting loopholes in the law and corruption in the judiciary [30]. From the slogan of “no drugs, no money laundering, and no trade at all”, Afokpa [29] reported how the Hezbollah in Togo using Lebanese Diaspora were raising hundreds of million dollars to fund the terror activities of AQIM between 2010 and 2012. Indeed, there is no doubt that the nexus of corruption, bad governance and criminality tend to fuel-up insecurity in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

First and foremost, there is the need for genuine ‘soul cleansing’ specifically in Africa and generally in the world. After all, no religion preaches violence or cannibalism as exhibited in terrorism and violent criminality. Man must purge himself from religiosity without Godliness as characterized by the reign of terror all over the world. There is therefore the need for both inner peace (peace with oneself) and outer peace (peace with the wider community) through spirit of love, kindness, forgiveness, tolerance, hospitality, hard work, patience, generosity, patriotism, servant-oriented leadership, selflessness, obedience to rules and regulations, cooperation, justice, equity and environment friendliness in all human dealings.

There is no doubt that corruption breeds social neglect, discontentment and destroys a nation. Hence, we must all stand-up to fight it. We all need to change our common mentality of immediate reward for the pursuit of a better future. Nevertheless, adequate reward for good performance is necessary from leadership to ensure that people are contented. Indeed, provision of basic necessities of life like feeding, housing, clothing, electricity, water and basic education must be provided to all citizens by various governments in order to reduce sense of human insecurity drastically.

As a rider therefore, good governance that protects human rights, accountability and public participation is a sine-qua-non for averting insecurity and promoting peace and unity in the Sub-Saharan countries of Africa. A situation whereby political office is too monetized is dangerous for the sustenance of democracy in Africa. Thus, the need for moderate sitting allowance is highly recommended to replace the bogus political salaries in order to reduce political violence in Africa.

In the spirit of education-for-peace as advocated by UNESCO [31], there is therefore “the need to catch them young” in schools [32], through a deliberate teaching of peace education concepts using learning together and constructive controversy pedagogies. Adetoro [2] further suggested the use of Tolerant Sociometry (TS) and Reciprocal Peer Relations Conditional Learning (RPRCL) for promoting psychological rehabilitation, sharing and reconciliation values as well as culture of peace in the classrooms. This is to deconstruct the endemic culture of violence that is pervasive in peoples’ minds and replace it with culture of peace through the establishment of peace-corps across the continent.

The need to stop the current high rate of criminalities and senseless terrorism demands the development of a robust Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) through regional intelligence sharing and regional counter-terrorism activities in Africa. At this juncture, the use of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) initiatives must be strengthened under a new African Commission in African Union (AU) to be tagged African Regional Surveillance (ARS). This new commission should coordinate all the various regional activities on counter-terrorism, drug trafficking and

illegal arms trafficking for combating and check-mating of other criminal activities in Africa.

7. CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the Sub-Saharan Africa countries are bedeviled with instability and insecurity of different dimensions. In the words of Late Bob Marley, “we do not need no more trouble” in Africa. This can only be achieved through Africa alliance that is built on good governance and collective anti-corruption crusade. Any attempt to delay action may be catastrophic. Hence, the need to take prompt action to save man from further destructions in Africa is a collective responsibility.

NOTES

- The rankings are ranking in the world
- HDI was calculated based on population trend, health outcomes, educational achievements, national income, environmental sustainability, work and employment, human security, international integration and perceptions of well-being.
- Governance index was calculated between +2.5 to -2.5 scores

The correlation therefore is that the poorer the anti-corruption stance, the poorer the governance and the more fragile the country.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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