

Militarization of Nigerian Politics and Violation of United Nations' Universal Human Rights 1999-2019

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Abstract: *Human rights violation has been endemic in Nigeria despite its ratification of the United Nations' Universal Human Rights (1948) - rights equally enshrined in 1999 Nigerian constitution. This study examined the militarization of Nigerian politics and its adverse effect on the United Nations Universal Human Rights in Nigeria. The paper is descriptive and qualitative in typology. Methods and sources of data collections focused on documented evidence. Marxist Class Theory served as the framework for explanation. Findings divulged that Nigerian governments neither tolerated nor contained the activities of oppositions and freedom fighters. There were disobediences of court orders. Force, judicial and political maneuvers were means of responses to the peoples' demands, agitations, and resistance. Re-federalization of Nigerian political and economic systems in form restructuring is a workable option to resolve the quagmire. It will allow component ethnic groups enjoy some sense of autonomy, develop themselves and unite in solidarity at the federal level.*

Keywords: Human Rights, Human Rights Violation, Militarization, Nigerian Politics, UN Universal Human Rights

Introduction

Human rights violation for ages has been a contentious issue across the world. Human rights violation is historically traceable to the Hobbesian state of nature when there was no organized institution to make laws and regulate human excesses. In the state of nature, might is right and man's life was characterized by brutality, distrust, egoism, servitude, and bigotry (Hobbes, 1660). Locke and Roseau recorded an atom of goodness in human nature and they contended that what led to the contract that gave rise to the emergence of states was an uprising of man's selfish consciousness which perverted the society. A need for the creation of the state became imperative- to have states and governments that would make laws, curtail human excesses, and protect human rights (Locke, 1689).

The United Nations [UN] in its quest for human rights protection made a significant achievement with the creation of a comprehensive body of universal human rights law and a code that all nations can subscribe and all people aspire. The United Nations, in 1948, established the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), as was adopted by the General Assembly. Since the declaration, the United Nations has expanded human rights law to encompass specific standards for women, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups, who now possess rights that protect them from discriminatory practices that had long been common in many societies (United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), 2008).

Nigeria became a member of the United Nations in 1960 following her independence. With Nigeria's membership in the United Nations, it is required to comply with all the provisions of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); instead gross violation of universal human rights is prevalent. This is regardless of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which was equally instrumental for human rights establishment in Nigeria. The Constitution (FRN, 1999, chapter 4, sections 33-45) enshrined the fundamental human rights in line with the United Nations Declaration of 1948. In the constitution, human rights are the basic rights of every individual which all the Nigerian citizens shall enjoy.

Human rights are violated in Nigeria despite establishment of the United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights. Militarization of Nigerian politics in the democratic period grossly violated UN universal human rights. Democracy in Nigeria appears in theories, rather than in practice; a country where citizens do not have the right to express their feelings. Elections in Nigerian democracy, therefore, become a mere formality. Captains of industries in Nigeria present and sponsor political candidates to win elections and the candidates in turn make policies that will promote their business interests against the interest of the citizens.

In President Mohammadu Buhari's administration, militarization and human rights violation in Nigeria became worse. The regime is a mixture of civilian and militaristic style of administration. The use of security personnel to intimidate political opponents became more evident. This was the case in the last Ekiti State governorship election when the People Democratic Party (PDP) candidate claimed that All Progressive Congress (APC) used federal might to rig the election in the favour of their candidate

(Oluwole, 2018). The president disobeys court order, as it was in the case of Sambo Dasuki, when President Mohamadu Buhari refused to grant him bail as directed by the court (Ojo, 2018). Furthermore, the Nigerian government refused the court judgment that ordered for the release of the leader of the Shiite movements, Ibrahim El-Zakzaky, and his wife, Zenatu who has been in military Detention since December, 2015 (Adesomoju, Olaleye & Ramon, 2018). These were all against Article 9 of the UDHR, which provided for a person's freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile. It is disheartening that militarization in Nigerian politics undermined the existence of its constitution and the UN UDHR and violates human rights. This study examined the militarization in Nigerian government and violations of UN universal human rights. This is to uncover the underlying cause (s) of the ugly menace and provide workable recommendations on how to tackle the predicament.

Methodology

This study is qualitative and descriptive in nature. It relied on published materials sourced from Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Human Rights Commission, and United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs all in Abuja-Nigeria. Textbooks, Journals, Newspapers, and online materials were imperatively utilized. Presentation of data was tabular, textual and pictorial based on the nature of the data. Analysis of data was based on logical reasoning and content analysis. Marxist Class Theory, a strand of Marxism as depicted in the 1848 *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. A class refers to a group that share common economic and socio-political interests, conscious of those interests, and engage in collective action to advance them (Marx and Engels, 1848). These theorists perceived a class as a group with intrinsic tendencies and interests. The interests differ from those of other groups within capitalist society, and form the basis for fundamental antagonism. The central idea of the Marxist Class Theory is that every society is characterized by the struggle between classes. It equally held that political and ideological consciousness of an individual is determined by class position and class domination and perpetuation of class rule and exploitation labour in the production process become the outcome of class economic interest.

Marx's Class Theory portrays capitalism as one step in historical progression of economic systems that follow one another in a natural sequence driven by vast impersonal forces of history that play out through the behaviour and conflict between social classes (Chappellow, 2019). Marx believed that every society is divided into two major classes; the bourgeoisie who owns and control the means of production and the proletariat who transform raw materials into valuable economic goods. Marxist Class theory contends that "the history of all societies hitherto in existence is the history of class struggle." This refers to struggles between master and slaves, lord and serfs, bourgeoisie and proletariat, and oppressors and the oppressed.

Similarly, militarization of Nigerian polity was an outcome of class economic and political interests resisted by those who suffered the assaults. Owners of major businesses referred to as the bourgeoisie, use machinery of government to institute command and obey culture in Nigeria. They use their economic powers and influence to control the government and the media. They use the media, the police, political parties and electoral institutions to impose their choice of candidates in elections. The candidates, now as official of government, obey their dictates contrary to the rule of law. The outcome is manipulation of government institutions, the use of security personnel, and politicians to intimidate the people, make and implement anti-people's laws, and relegate the rule of law to the background. These practices manifest as militarization and the end result are violation of the UN's Universal Human Rights and illiberal governance. Illiberal governance represents government's behaviours in which the citizens' rights are denied in such a manner that they are placed in tight political and economic spaces experiencing stringent socio-economic and political conditions.

Human Rights

The quality of human lives in the society is largely dependent upon how a person coordinates and articulates his activities freely, devoid of interference, restriction or encroachment from any individual, group or government. Democratic society requires observance of human rights to avoid barbarous acts adverse to human existence, and ensure human freedom (Ofoegbu, 2013). To this effect, human rights stand out as instruments that add values to human existence. Although in modern states, human rights are enshrined in the constitutions. The root sources of these rights remain divine and natural. Despite man's attempt to establish and promote human rights, they are divine and natural. Human rights encompass all the basic rights bestowed on individuals by the virtue of their existence in the society.

Human rights are based on the social contract theories and their conception of natural rights (Hills cited in Yusuf, 2006). In capitalist perception, human rights is a condition in which a person's right to ownership of his body and legitimate property should neither be invaded nor be aggressed against by persons, group of persons, or government (Murray cited in Yusuf, 2006). Based on the foregoing, human rights are natural, fundamental, and universal. They are the same for everyone, everywhere. They are inalienable, non-hierarchical, and no rights can be suppressed in order to promote another right, so also humans that possess them. This is an indication that all human beings are equal and should be treated as such irrespective of status, gender or race.

Human rights are enduring practices developed over the ages to protect ordinary people, minorities, groups and races from cruelty (Humana cited in Ojo, 2006). From legal perspective, human rights are described as norms or moral principles which define certain human behavioral standard that falls under legal protection of a country's constitution and international law (Onimis i, 2018). In other words, the constitution provides for human rights and set up protective and promotional instruments for their effectiveness. The fundamental rights of the Nigerian citizens are enshrined in the 1999 constitution (Chapter 4, s. 33-46) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The United Nations equally provided for the universal human rights in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

The United Nations Universal Human Rights

To the United Nations, human rights violation is a very serious issue, following the ugly experience witnessed by people during the First and Second World Wars, when human rights were completely undermined. Most alarming were the violations of rights of women, girls, children and people with disabilities. Many lives were terminated; properties were damaged and there was crushing hunger and starvation in the world over. United Nations, in dealing with the challenges of human rights after the Second World War, formed a comprehensive body of human rights law that would be of help to the organization in the struggle to achieve one of its primary objectives which is to promote and protect universal human rights. According to Ofoegbu (2013), human rights are ontological, inherent and intrinsic to all human beings as far as they are humans irrespective of race, ethnicity, sex, origin, colour and any other status. This brings to limelight the fact that basic human rights are universal as they are the same everywhere and every time. In his view, Aduba, (as cited in Nzarga, 2014) attempted an argument on universal human rights. To him, universal human rights are "those rights that are in the very nature of the human person." This definition implies that human rights are tantamount to natural rights. Human rights are rights possessed by all persons by the virtue of their common humanity, to live a life of freedom and dignity.

The creation of a comprehensive body of human rights law is one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations - a world and internationally protected code to which all nations and peoples can aspire. This broad range of the internationally accepted rights, as was defined by the organization, encompasses economic rights, socio-cultural rights and political and civil rights. So also, mechanisms to be used in order to promote these rights and to help governments in carrying out their responsibilities have been established by the organization (UNDPI, 2008).

The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 touches all the aspects of human rights. Articles 1 and 2 of the UNUDHR emphasize equality of human beings. Articles 3 to 20 set forth the civil and political rights to which all human beings are entitled. Articles 21 to 27 set forth the economic, social and cultural rights to which all human beings are entitled.

Articles 28, 29 and 30 recognize that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration can be fully realized. (United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), 2008)

Militarization of Nigeria Politics

The dictatorial character of the military does not give room for negotiation, tolerance and conciliation. Rather, it is in tandem with the principle of "command and obey" which negates democracy and human rights principle (Etim & Ukpere, 2012). In April 1999, Nigeria was declared a democratic state following the successful handover of government to civilians. The return of the democratic rule, under the presidential leadership Olusegun Obasanjo, ushered a renewed hope for political progress and socio-economic development. Regrettably, Nigeria governance since 1999 exhibited both military and civilian character. Though the desire of the Nigerian people for democratic rule was achieved in 1999, Nigeria is yet to overcome the institutionalized gross violation of human rights by the police and armed forces (Suleiman & Ahmadu, 2015). Smooth transition to civilian rule would speedily assure the enthronement of democracy, scraping of elements of militaristic governance, and ensure adequate institutional designs for the new system (Olanjuji, Adele-Jinadu, and Oyovbaire, 1993). Unfortunately, the hopes of Nigerians were smashed as perpetration of militarized actions still abounds in the country. Successive regimes in Nigeria utilized the government institutions against its subjects. The use of security agencies to intimidate, harass, and, kill oppositions in Nigeria is militaristic and violates the United Nations Universal Human Rights.

The way governments deploy police and soldiers to man election pulling units created an impression that the country is under siege (Olukosi cited in Adenyi, Onyia & Nnamchi, 2019). Incumbent powers use security forces to intimidate opponents and rig elections to their advantage. People's voting rights are jeopardized. Nigeria is a mere showcase of electoralism, a caricature of electoral democracy, and elections in Nigeria are authoritatively curtailed by political 'demigods' (Agbaje, 2004). The deployment of soldiers and the police on civil matters is prevalent in Nigeria. The actions of security personnel, directed by the government, violate United Nations Universal Human Rights and constitute militarization. Legal institutions in Nigeria are militarized through the roles of special military tribunals in the trials of civilians. This led to the killing of innocent people and overcrowded jails (Agozino & Idem, 2008). In Nigeria, the people no longer say their minds and there is no public opinion as everyone is afraid of

what happens next when he challenge the government in power (Agbaje, as cited in Lindberg, 2009). The militarization of Nigerian politics has place human rights in a perpetual suffering.

Odi Masacre 1999

Nigeria's leadership display of militaristic character under 4th republic first occurred in 1999 when the federal government under Olusegun Obasanjo unleashed military rot on the people of Odi in Bayelsa State in what was termed 'Odi Masacre'. The federal government under Obasanjo's administration declared state of emergency in Odi town in 1999 and this resulted in a clash that recorded about 2, 500 deaths (Human Rights Watch, 2003). This government non tolerance attitude made it to take a strict forceful action against the youth and people of Odi who were protesting against the way the oil companies and the federal government were going about oil exploration in the community and its hazardous effect on their lives. This constituted a violation of Article 3 of the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Section 33(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which provide for right to life of a human person

Independent People of Biafra (IPOB) Amnesty International (2018) reported that soldiers deployed to the southeastern Nigeria to halt non-violent activities of the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB) have killed more than 160 people between 2015 and 2017.



Figure 1. Brutalized IPOB members (Amnesty International, 2018)

Nigerian soldier torturing to death IPOB members and remains of the IPOB members so murdered in Abia State.

Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is a freedom fighting group which mostly has its members from the eastern part of Nigeria. The leader of the group is Nnamdi Kanu and their activities are geared toward agitation for self-government which was supported by the United Nations Declaration of 1948. Their major motivation was their feeling for marginalization and suppression by the Nigerian government which precipitated the need of self-reliance and independence. The Nigerian government arrested and unlawfully detained the leader of IPOB, Nnamdi Kanu, and thereafter banned its activities, proscribed it illegal and terrorist group without due process of law (Amnesty International, 2018). The federal government's effort to terminate the activities of the group has constituted militarization and violation of Articles 1, 15, 18 and 20 of the UNUDHR of 1948.

Disobedience to Court Orders

This is another strong indicator of militarization to Nigerian governance that has constituted violations of Articles 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the United Nations UDHR. Nigeria is fond of disobeying court orders with often damning consequences to follow (Tijani, 2019). Below are some cases of disobedience to court order perpetrated under Buhari's government.

Sambo Dasuki Bail Refusal: The case of Sambo Dasuki as reported by Ojo (2018) is a practical example of violation to court order by the federal government. According to him, the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Sambo Dasuki is Dasuki was allegedly arrested for the diversion of a whopping sum of \$2.1 billion mapped out for the purchase of equipment for the fight against Boko Haram and illegal possession of fire arms. However, despite the decisions of different courts granting Dasuki bail, the Nigerian government refused to release him.

Again, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) court on October 4, 2016, granted the former National Security Adviser (NSA) bail and ordered the Nigerian government to pay the sum of 15 million naira to the defendant in damages for his illegal and arbitrary detention. In reaction to that, the federal government through the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, quashed the order and maintained that the federal government was not under compulsion to respect the order of ECOWAS court. The Abuja Federal High Court few months later, on January 17, 2017, reaffirmed several previous court orders granting Dasuki bail but to no avail (Tijani, 2019).

Ibraheem El-Zakzaky: Ibraheem El-Zakzaky and his wife were arrested by the military on December 14, 2015 after a clash between the army officers and Shiites followers which resulted to the death of at least 347 Shiites (Tijan, 2019). El-Zakzaky and his wife have remained in detention following the event. On December 2, 2016, the Federal High Court in Abuja ordered for their release from detention as a continued detention violates their rights and is against Section 35(1) of the Nigerian constitution which provided for the right of personal liberty. Nigerian government refused the order and continued to detain the Shiites leader. A human right lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Femi Falana, also wrote to the federal government of Nigeria, advising it to release the detained Shiites leader, Ibrahim El-Zakzaky and his wife to avoid the likelihood of a fresh insurgency. The government still refused as it is fighting a legal system that dwells on presumption of guilt rather than innocence. The refusal of El-Zakzaky's bail by Buhari administration as granted by the court resulted in a protest that ended in the death of a Nigerian Youth Service Corp (NYSC) member in 2019 during the police invasion of the Shiites protesting for the release of their leader (Ibeh, as cited in Osuji, Duru & Okechukwu, 2019).

According to Sahara Reporters (2019), while the Shea leader and his wife were released to travel to India for treatment, President Muhammadu Buhari insisted that he will be the one to approve doctor for him or he returns to Nigeria. Attending to this, the spokesman of El-Zakzaky, Ibrahim Musa has expressed that the government of Buhari was bent on executing the Shia leader. He maintained that being mindful of government's various previous plots to eliminate him since 2015, first through the barrels of the guns and much later through poisoning in detention while refusing him access to adequate medical care until the court's intervention, the Sheikh sensed the government's intention of inducing killer doctor to finish what they had earlier started now through the back door. Ibrahim Musa insisted that the reason why Buhari's government wants to kill their leader is that Buhari is a Sunni Muslim while El-Zakzaky is a Shia Muslim (Sahara Reporters, 2019)

Omoyele Sowore: Another obvious violation of court order perpetrated by the Nigerian government was the case of Omoyele Sowore who is the publisher of Sahara Reporters News Agency that opposed Buhari in the last presidential elections. According to Today News Africa (2019), Sowore was arrested by the DSS on August, 2019 for organizing a street protest tagged 'Revolution now' which to him was aimed at bringing change in the society. The Sahara Reporter publisher was charged with felony, money laundering and cyber stalking. After meeting up with bail criteria as confirmed by the Federal High Court on September 24, 2019, Sowore was still on DSS detention and refused to be granted bail by the federal government. The source maintained that both Sowore and his lawyer, Femi Falana (SAN) face serious intimidation and harassment from the Nigerian authority. After the DSS initial refusal to grant Sowore bail, he was later released but was rearrested in a somewhat dramatic episode that took place in the court on December 6, 2019. This is a contravention of Articles 5 and 9 of the UNUDHR which are against inhuman treatments and unlawful detention of a human person.

Even though the Nigerian government denial of some of these bail orders is derived from the exemption provided in Nigerian Constitution, Section 35(1c) which stated that an individual can be denied bail "...upon reasonable suspicion of him having committed criminal offence", continuous detention of these people are against the other provisions of the constitution. The same section 35 but subsection 4 states that "any person who is arrested or detained in accordance with subsection (1c) of this section shall be brought before a court of law within a reasonable time...", and according to subsection (5), "...the expression 'a reasonable time' means – (a) in the case of an arrest or detention in any place where there is a court of competent jurisdiction within a radius of [40] kilometers, period of one day; and (b) in any other case, a period of two days. On the contrary, the government does what it likes and not what is contained in the constitution. The case of El-Zakzaky for instance, took the government a period of two years to get his hearing before the court. The executive arm of the government has neglected the constitution and trampled upon the power of the judiciary. This exposed the arrogation and excessive use of power by the executive arm in Nigeria and in turn put division of power and responsibilities among the three arms of government in a serious doubt. It is purely illiberal, undemocratic and militaristic that the government can disobey a court injunction, put citizen's rights and freedom in a very tight corner, even when such government claims to be a democratic system.

Non-Tolerance of Opposition in Nigeria

Several regimes in Nigeria have showcased illiberality in the form of non-tolerance and intimidation of opposition party members. Acts of non-tolerance of opposition party members was first exhibited in Nigeria's fourth republic during the struggle for second

term of the Former President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003. The report presented by the Human Rights Watch in 2003 exposed how the general election that reinstalled Obasanjo as Nigerian president for the second tenure in 2003 was overwhelmed by intimidation, abuse and suppression of opposition party members. According to Human Rights Watch (2003), on July 7, 2003, the police on the order of the federal government raided the All Nigerian People Party (ANPP) office in Abuja and arrested several people because they went on a peaceful protest at the U.S. embassy. The police equally tried to prevent ANPP members from ongoing rallies and other public events, on the claim that they did not have police authorization and that the rallies could pose threat to the public security.

The police according to the report continued in its intimidation, harassment and arrest of the opposition, All People Congress (APC) party members. The utilization of power of incumbency in Nigeria has rendered the Nigeria political system helpless and reduced its multi-party system to a mere one party system. This is because any sitting government always tries its possible best to retain power by all means, even if it entails arresting and detaining opposition party members. These are violations of Articles 20 and 21 of the United Nations UDHR, which provided for the political and social rights of a human person.

Intolerance, intimidation and harassment of opposition party members are most prevalent in Buhari's administration. The militaristic character of President Muhammadu Buhari made him to wage wars against the members of the APC who defected to the most opposing party, PDP. Notably among them according to Agbaenyi & Anekwe (2019) are the President of the Senate, Bukola Saraki; Governor of Sokoto State, Aminu Tambuwal; Kwankwaso of Kano State; Governor of Benue State, Samuel Orthom; Senato Dino Malaye of Kogi State; and 14 senators and some members of House of Representatives who were received into the PDP. They further exposed that the way and manner the federal government of Nigeria hunted these defectors with the instrumentality of EFCC, ICPC, the Police and the DSS constitute an act of illiberality and human rights violation. These constitute violations against Articles 5, 9, 12 and 20 of the UNUDHR of 1948.

DSS Barricade on National Assembly/Illegal Invasion of Privacy

Article 12 of the UDHR provided that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attack upon his honour and reputation, yet the Department of State Service (DSS) masked operatives barricade at the National Assembly entrance on August, 2008 was reported to have a backup from the Presidency. As reported by some lawmakers, the APC led government carried out the act in a bid to impeach Saraki and Ekweremadu (Senate President and Vice) and install a serious APC loyalists (Jimoh, Abuh, Daka, Opara & Ehiaghe, 2018).



Figure 2. Boma Goodhead and the Department of State Services (DSS) operatives, (Ojisua, 2018).

The picture showed one of the senators, Boma Goodhead and the DSS operatives at the national assembly main entrance, Abuja during the siege. The female lawmaker as shown in the picture expressed her anger over the DSS siege and wanted to forcefully get inside the National Assembly but DSS operatives over powered her.

Agbaenyi & Anekwe (2019) observed that since the security operatives can excessively unleash such an act of illiberality on the high profiled and respectable lawmakers, what then is the hope of a common man on the street? Even though the Director General of the DSS was sacked for the act by the federal government, the truth remains that a message has been passed across.

The case of Senator Bukola Saraki, Dino Malaye and Fayose of Ekiti State proved a break and invasion of privacy by the security apparatus which in few occasions resulted in dramatic open harassment.



Figure 3. Fayose after his attack, (Pulse.ng, 2019)

The picture showed Ayo Fayose unconsciousness after his attack in Ekiti State and his interview after he regained consciousness and received some treatments.

Former Governor of Ekiti State narrated his ordeal in a video, on how he barely survived a plotted attack in Ekiti while coming back from the State House of Assembly invitation which was later declared unofficial. (Pulse.ng, 2019). This attack possibly, had an underlying reason of trying to eliminate or either teaches the former governor a horrible lesson for not supporting APC.

Forceful Evictions:

Force eviction is another militaristic tendency that has placed UN Universal Human Rights in Nigeria under siege. Nigerian citizens are forcefully displaced from their homes without any legal procedure and proper compensation. According to the Amnesty International (2018) between 2015 and 2017, about 40, 000 poor urban dwellers were forcibly evicted from some towns in Lagos State by the state authorities. See table below:

Table 1: Evictions in Lagos Communities between 2015 and 2017

Year	Communities	People Affected
2017	OtondoGbame and Ilubrin communities	5, 000 and 2 shot dead by the police
2016	OtondoGbame waterfront and	30, 000
2016	Ebutelkat	100
2015	Badia-East community	10, 200

Source: AI, cited in Osuji, Duru and Okechukwu (2019)

The Above table showed the number of people evicted from their homes in Lagos respective communities. Forceful eviction is a high level of illiberality that indicates the government's unconcerned attitude about the living standard and general wellbeing of its people. This act of illiberality is a contravention of Articles 1, 13 and 17 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 which provided for right to life, freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state and right to own property respectively.

Conclusion

This study examined militarization of the Nigerian politics and violations of the United Nations' Universal Human Rights in Nigeria. From data presented and analyzed in this study it was proven that militarization of Nigerian politics has grossly violated human rights. The study divulged that Nigerian governments neither tolerated nor contained the activities of oppositions and freedom fighters. Force, judicial and political maneuvers were means of responses to the peoples' demands, agitations, and resistance. The suppression of freedom fighters in Nigeria resorted in brutalization, killings and other inhuman treatments against the UN Universal Human Rights. Secondly, there were disobediences of court orders. The Nigerian governments in its militaristic nature often violate court verdicts most especially as it regards to orders to release suspected criminals. This was evident in the cases of Sambo Dasuki, Ibraheem El-Zakzaky and Omoyele Sowore. Thirdly, the Nigerian governments hardly tolerate opposition party members. Opposition party members in Nigeria often face intimidation, invasion of privacy and other degrading/inhuman treatments. Nigerian democracy has been ruined to an extent that any political party in power always displays its unbridled rascality in order to suppress other political parties. This amounted to militarization and violation of United Nations Universal Human Rights. Finally, the militaristic character of Nigerian leadership has made it difficult to allow separation of power to flourish. Governments often use the security agency to intimidate legislators and interrupt legislative processes. This was evident when the DSS laid a siege on the national assemble and denied legislators access into the legislative chamber.

Recommendations

Based on the findings summarized above, the study therefore recommends the following:

- Re-federalization of Nigerian political and economic systems in form of restructuring is a workable option to resolve the quagmire. It will allow component ethnic groups enjoy some sense autonomy, develop themselves and unite in solidarity at the federal level.
- Nigerian needs quality leadership that could understand and obey provisions of the law. The military should equally be denied access to contest or participate in electoral process. Incredible elections in Nigeria have produced authoritative leadership that has overtime proven to be ignorant of the provisions of human rights law.
- Opposition political parties in Nigeria should not be intimidated; they should be given free hands to compete favorably for political powers. This is in order to encourage healthy competition in elections.
- There is a need to maintain the principle of separation of powers in order to allow all government arms to carry out their responsibilities without interference.

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