

## War on Terrorism in Africa: A Task beyond African Regional Organizations

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Peace and security play a vital role in the overall development processes of our nations. Its absence hinders both economic and social political development. Africa's unending query of opportunities to do away with the rampart abject poverty, will remain illusionary as long as insecurity problems caused by nascent and growing terrorism continues destabilizing ongoing economic or social political development agenda. Here below, we pinpoint factors depicting the incapacity of both nations and regional organizations to thwart escalation of terrorism on the continent.

When nations were brought together and formed regional organizations through various sorts of integration and cooperation, the main aim of these intergovernmental organizations were not merely assisting each other to establish common markets, advancing trade and industries among themselves, reduce tariffs on borders by making free movements of goods and services; it was not only to enlarge the scope of all kinds of cooperation but also to fight against common threats; assist each other in combating crime, prevent, control and manage conflict through mediation, peace keeping missions and all kinds of arbitrage to find solutions to internal or international conflicts mostly inter-ethnic or tribal conflicts [1]. This logic of putting together nations for a common good was based on facts that, no individual nation was self-sufficient in dealing with some issues and that, joint efforts could bear more fruits to tackle more complex security issues like terrorism, inter-states disputes etc. The other thought was that, the ills of one nation could hamper with regional overall situation. Unsolved conflicts could soar its repercussion in the whole region.

However, despite efforts done to stop wars, prevent spiraling of conflicts and bring about peace, much is yet to be done to deal with the fast growing nascent insecurity caused by some resilient terrorist groups which are causing real economic havocs in some parts of the continent. Wilkinson and Paul (1997: 54) rallying with Annie et al. [2] had a view that, as long as root-causes of terrorism are not dished out first, we are likely to face more harsher terrorist activities in as much as: the rule of law in our nations is not observed. If our constitutions are marched on by an oppressive elite, when we still have selfish leaders who ignore social inclusion policies and denigrate the voices of the minority, ill-represented populations. Frustrations resulting from unfair sharing and distribution of public resources to all citizens, it will create movements of contestation with a hope to change things. Lack of proper planning, visionless ephemeral or overstaying governments... are the order of the day in Africa. Democratization of institutions which is an ideal in most countries will inevitably rise a generation of a frustrated youth. Unsolved ethnic and tribal dilemma will always give rise to bitter feelings among people. Religious extremist will continue radicalizing the unemployed segregated or neglected youth. If the appeal to change remain unheard by few elite on power for decades, if ineffective crime prevention, impunity, corruptions of our leaders persist, if uncontrolled and uncontrollable migration through porous borders are not checked to control smuggling of arms or drugs,... vain will remain our efforts to counter terrorism and is neither individual nations nor regional organizations that will stop it. First, individual nations, normally facing their own challenges back

at home, will fear setback attacks on their populations when sending troops to fight immanent common enemies abroad as Nzau [3] noticed. While regional organizations, remain ill-equipped to handle sophisticated well funded and financed terrorist groups operating in a perfect network with global terrorist groups.

In nutshell, let nations tighten domestic security mechanisms, let individual nations be assisted to observe their constitutional guides in regards to electoral processes, let regional organizations minimize unnecessary foreign interventions in African own affairs, let these institutions be politically independent to enforce the rule of law in all nations, and rethink inter-regional organizations' union to deepen the commitment to reduce poverty and enhance development agenda based on inclusive policies to let every citizen find his or her place and role in his or her own country.

### References

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