Social Media, Perception of Police and Fear of Terrorism in Nigeria

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Abstract
The media plays an important role on issues of national security and in the context of the growing challenge of insecurity in Nigeria. Psychologically, the objective of this study was to find out the relationship between social media, perception of police and fear of terrorism. As well as, the correlates of other contextual variables like gender, age and occupation, level of income, education level, ethnic groups and religion. A cross-sectional survey and correlation research design was used and the statistics used for this study were both descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics shows the central tendency and measure of dispersion. The inferential statistics shows the significant relationship among the variables, specifically using Pearson Product Moment correlation and regression analyses. The participants comprised of 426 persons; made up 226 males (51.4%) and 200 females (45.5%). Participants ranged in age from 18 to 65years (M = 33.42, SD = 12.11). The results showed that contextual variables (age, Level of education, social media and ethnic group); as well as, the main independent variable (perception of police) significantly correlated with fear of terrorism. In conclusion, Nigerians with less favorable perception of police showed an increase in their fear of terrorism within the nation (β =.110, p<.05). In the context of the outcome of this study it is important that the government motivates the armed forces department especially the police so as to enhance their job performance in the peace keeping and safe guarding of lives and properties of Nigerians in a time of insurgency like this.

Keywords: Social Media, Perception of Police, Fear of Terrorism, Psycho-Social, National Security, Peace, Development.

Introduction

Social media function as a watchdog capable of blowing the whistle to call attention to staid national issues. This implies a lucid recognition of the fact that the media plays a vital role on issues of national security. The growing challenge of security in Nigeria is of concern to all. There has been a prevalent rate of insecurity and fear of terrorism, and this is made obvious by the alarming trend of anti-social acts prevalent in the nation. Acts of terrorism by the boko haram Islamic sect, incidents of kidnapping, herdsmen and unknown gunmen in the southeast and south-south parts of the country have become brands of crime that have given a negative identity to Nigeria. Every effort must be employed to combat this challenge. The issue of national security is a very sensitive fundamental issue and as such, opinions to be generated in this study will cover personal views and perceptions of individuals about social media, the police and terrorism in Nigeria.

Nigeria in recent time has experienced numerous terrorists' attacks from different terrorist groups owing to the perceived negligence of duty by the armed forces like the Police force. These attacks have been suffered by the innocent citizens and inhabitants of the territory, which has resulted to deaths, anxiety, depression and trauma associated with witnessing the destruction of properties and the news of a family relation becoming a victim. Boko Haram and other terrorist sects like the herdsmen and unknown gunmen has introduced into Nigeria's political and Psycho-social life a level of insurgency never witnessed before. The insurgency became violent in 2008 and has continued to worsen even before the country could heal from previous ethno-religious conflicts (Shehu, 2011).

Terrorism is examined as the premeditated use or threat to use violence by individuals or sub-national groups in order to obtain a political or social objective through the intimidation of a large audience beyond that of their immediate victims (Krueger & Alan, 2007). Although state agents can engage in terrorist acts against the people, the term "terrorists" is usually used to describe those who act outside the normal framework of society by engaging in illegal and often lethal and destruction activities that compromises state cohesion and inhabitants' peaceful co-existence (Gallup, 2014). We expect their motivations and grievances to be related to the types of attacks that they perpetrate.

Terrorist attacks on people, communities, governments and infrastructure have resulted in tension, internal displacement, panic, and has dwindled the economic growth and development across the globe (Pew Research Center, 2017). Some terrorist organizations have international ambition while some do not. Some, on the other hand, have territorial ambition and therefore capture territory through force and establish

new government-like structures (Nwangwu & Edeh, 2014). Given the growing incidence of terrorism around the globe, terrorism is now generally viewed as a leading global security threat (Pew Research Center, 2017). This has spurred broader thinking about its causes, what it entails, and how it impacts on people and society. However, the complexity of terrorist behavior and the diversity of root causes and objectives make it difficult to answer these questions (Opejobi, 2018).

In recent times, the killings recorded by Fulani herdsmen and farmers clash has rampaged most communities displacing them of their farmlands and loss of their major source of livelihood. This is becoming unbearable with the Fulani herdsmen always having their ways leaving the farmers at their mercy. The attacks by Fulani herdsmen and unknown gunmen is on the upsurge, with the most recent attacks between February 2021 till date happening in Anambra (Ihiala & Bridgehead), Imo (Owerri), Ebonyi (Izzi & Ikwo), Benue, Oyo, Kogi, Taraba, Nassarawa states and few cases of attack in other part of the country (Vanguard, 2021). Herdsmen attribute the roots of the crisis to religious differences resulting in the killing of their cows while the farmers see the herdsmen as a threat to their crops and agricultural produce since the herdsmen allow their cows/livestock to feed on the farmer's crops through open grazing (Otunuga & Fabiya, 2016).

The fear of terrorism has been found to induce many undesired psychological states in individuals such as increasing their level of anxiety, depression, insomnia and other mental health problems as well as internal displacements (Vergara, 2016). Moreover, these horrendous events of terrorism may have an extremely harmful impact on their ability to manage their normal life developmental tasks, which, in turn, affects their psychological well-being. The armed department of police which is charged with the responsibility of protecting lives and properties of the citizens has had a long time documented history of a complicated relationship with the communities they serve. Since the 1960s, researchers have detailed a variety of factors that may add to negative perceptions of law enforcement (Police), focusing largely on demographic and community variables like creating a peaceful atmosphere and proper safeguard of lives and properties (Callanan & Rosenberger, 2011; MacAlister, 2011).

While some literature has cited that citizens generally have positive perceptions of police (Benedict *et al.*, 2000; Chermak *et al.*, 2001), there is a lot of literature that has reported that the public perception of police tends to be generally negative and that many people perceive police to be unfair, sometimes abusive and neglects their duties in safeguarding lives and properties (Nwangwu & Edeh, 2014; Callanan & Rosenberger, 2011; Fratello, *et al* 2013; MacAlister, 2011).

Some research has shown that citizens' perceptions of law enforcement continue to influence willingness to cooperate or report crimes (Silver & Miller, 2004; Warner, 2007), particularly for victims who belong to racial/ethnic minority groups (Brown & Benedict, 2002; Hueber *et al.*, 2004). In a recent large-scale survey of young adults, only 40% of respondents reported that they would be comfortable going to the police if they were victim of a crime, and the vast majority believed that others in their neighborhood did not trust the police (Fratello *et al.* 2021).

Statement of the problem
The problem of terrorism in Nigeria has really negatively dealt with a greater part of the country's peaceful co-existence, optimal security and national development today, creating tension, turmoil, anxiety, depression and trauma associated with witnessing the destruction of properties and the news of a family relation becoming a victim. Herdsmen and other terrorist sects has introduced into Nigeria's political and Psycho-social life a level of insurgency never witnessed before. Given the growing incidence of terrorism around the globe, terrorism is now generally viewed as a leading global security threat (Pew Research Center, 2017). This has spurred broader thinking about its causes, what it entails, and how it impacts on people and the society at large. However, the complexity of terrorist behavior and the diversity of root causes and objectives make it difficult to answer these questions (Opejobi, 2018). The police department charged with the responsibility of safe guarding lives and properties have in recent time been stigmatized with being accomplice to these terrorist attacks owing to their duty negligence and job performance rate in handling these deadly situations of terror. People who are victimized can no longer confide with the police or report cases of victimization or whereabouts of the perpetrators of these crimes due to fear and prior attitudes of the police in dealing with such matters. Above all, members of the community cannot freely move about their daily business as a result of fear of terrorism, knowing that the armed forces like the police play a less or no role in safe guarding their lives and properties against insurgency. It is to this effect that the researchers want to ascertain the role of perception of police and other contextual variables on fear of terrorism among the inhabitants of the country.

Purpose of the Study
The main aim of the study is to investigate social media and perception of police as predictors of fear of terrorism among Nigerian sample. The specific objectives include the following;
1. To ascertain if Social media will predict fear of terrorism among Nigerian selected sample.
2. To determine if Perception of police will predict fear of

terrorism among Nigerian selected sample.

Research Questions
The study sought to answer the following questions;
1. Will social media predict fear of terrorism among Nigerian selected sample?
2. Will perception of police predict fear of terrorism among selected Nigerian sample?

Hypotheses
1. Social media will not significantly predict fear of terrorism in Nigeria.
2. Perception of police will not significantly predict fear of terrorism in Nigeria.

Theoretical Review

Orthodox Terrorism Theory by Bowyer (1978)
Terrorism is essentially a contested concept. The aim of introducing this theory is to examine the concept of terrorism and explain the existence of the orthodox understanding of terrorism or orthodox terrorism theory. This theory is the principal paradigm and rational positivist approach used – primarily by state governments – to explain political violence. It is essentially a theoretical explanation and understanding of terrorism that is employed to suit hegemonic, liberal or other agendas, while keeping a distinction firmly in place that does not allow for a creeping legitimation of terrorist tactics agendas. It is, a

discourse based on the legitimacy/illegitimacy dualism that constructs non-state violence as terrorist while state violence is deemed to be legitimate. It is also a subjective understanding of political violence that professes to explain the act of violence from the perspectives of both the instigator and the recipient of the violence.

Method
Participants
Four hundred and twenty-six (426) participants were selected for this study. The participants were sampled across different states of the country which includes Taraba, Adamawa, Plateau, Niger, Abuja, Osun, Lagos, Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo and Anambra states. The researchers employed a convenience, accidental and snow balling sampling methods in recruiting these participants. There were 226males (51.4%) and 200 females (45.5%). Participants ranged in age from 18 to 65 (M = 33.42, SD = 12.11). One hundred and thirty-five (135) participants identified as from Igbo ethnic group (30.7%), followed by one hundred and twenty four (124) participants from Hausa/Fulani ethnic group (28.2%), one hundred and twenty-two (122) participants from Yoruba ethnic group (27.7%) and forty-five (45) others (10.2%) from other minority ethnic groups in the states. Two hundred and forty one (241) participants identified as Christians (54.8%), One hundred and sixty-eight (168) as Muslims and

Twenty-two (22) identified as either traditionalists/pagan/others (5.0%). Majority of the participants (*n*= 236) had a secondary school WAEC degree (53.6%), One hundred and three (103) had a university first degree (23.4%), forty-seven (47) had a Masters degree (M.sc) (24.4%) and thirty-one (31) (7.0%). Based on the level of income, majority of participants (*n*= 147) (less than N20,000) were identified as lower class or poor (33.4%), 115(N50,000 to N100,000) participants as upper middle class (26.1%), 69 (N21,000 to N49000) participants as lower middle class (15.7%), 95(above N100,000) participants as upper class (21.6%). 192 participants identified as Traders (43.6%), 112 identified as public/civil servants (25.5%) and 122 identified as students (27.7%).

Instruments
Perception of police scale (POPS):
Perceptions of Police Scale (POPS), is an instrument designed by Nadal and Davidoff (2015) to measure perceptions of police and police bias. The Perceptions of Police Scale (POPS) included twelve statements that measure an individual's attitudes toward police and was divided into subscales based on the factorization of the scale, (1) General Attitudes toward Police, and (2) Perceptions of Bias. The scale reported a Cronbach's alpha of .92 overall, and .91 for Subscale 1 (General Attitudes toward Police) and .87 for Subscale 2 (Perceptions of Bias). Using the perception of police scale, the researchers assessed the

different community's perceptions of the police, particularly examining views of individuals from historically marginalized groups and impacts of police interaction on psychological processes, emotional and mental health outcomes. Participants were asked to rate the degree to which they agree with each statement (on a Likert scale from 1- 5, with a score of 1 being "I strongly agree" and a score of 5 being "I strongly disagree"). Sample items included: "Police protect me"; "Police are friendly"; "Police treat people fairly"; and "Police do not discriminate." Higher scores indicate less favorable perceptions of the police, while lower scores indicate more favorable perceptions of the police.

Terrorism catastrophizing scale (TCS)
Terrorism catastrophe (TC) is measured using the terrorism catastrophizing scale (TCS) (Sinclair & LoCicero, 2007) which consists of 13 items. Using a 5-point Likert scale anchored from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), participants indicated how accurately each item described their thoughts and feelings about terrorism based on their experiences. Item examples included, "I have difficulty keeping the threat of terrorism out of my mind," and, "I worry that terrorism will only get worse as time passes." Possible overall scores range 13–65: Items 5 and 11 was reversely scored. Higher scores indicated higher fear of terrorism. The

TCS has high internal consistency ($\alpha = 0.85$), and high test–retest reliability ($\alpha = 0.89$; Sinclair & LoCicero, 2007).

Procedures

All the measures in this study were administered both online and by physical contact with the participants. The instruments were administered to some of the inhabitants of different Northern, Western and some Eastern part of the country through the electronic mail (e-mail), owing to the researcher's inability to cover these areas as a result of the distance involved in getting across to these geographical locations or communities. A snowball sampling method was employed, in that participants were encouraged to publicize the survey/questionnaire to their networks of friends and colleagues who may be interested in sharing their views about the Police and their fear of terrorism. The researcher visited the close-by geographical areas where the inhabitants were also needed to participate in this study to collect the data for purpose of this study, which included Enugu, Anambra and Imo states using convenience and accidental sampling method for inhabitants who were accidentally met on the streets of the community or geographical areas. First, participants were presented with an informed consent form that was attached at the very front page of these instruments which described an overview of the study and discussed the benefits of the study. By continuing on to the next page of the survey, participants showed their understanding of the form and approved their consent to be part of the study. Secondly, participants were given the instruments in the following order: the Perceptions of Police Scale (POPS), followed by the Terrorism catastrophizing scale (TCS). For the participants whom the researchers met one on one, each instrument administration session lasted 20-27 minutes and participants were debriefed after the completion of their session with an appreciation from the researchers to the participants for participating in the study.

Research Design and Statistics

The research is a cross-sectional survey which employed a predictive correlation research design. Hierarchical multiple regression was used to analyze the collected data from the participants.

Results

Descriptive statistics and correlations are presented in Table 1.1

The bivariate correlation matrix revealed several significant associations between the variables measured in this study. There were also several differences among the variables measured. Age was significantly and negatively correlated with fear of terrorism ($r = -.15$), and positively correlated with educational level ($r = .59$) and income level ($r = .69$).

The combined monthly income of the participants were significantly correlated with all the other variables (age (r = .69), gender (r = .32), education level (r = .65), occupation (r = .57) and perception of police (r = .12), except for ethnic group, religion and fear of terrorism. Social media usage significantly correlated with age (r = .67), gender (r = .31), education level (r = .64), occupation (r = .65), income (r = .47), perception of police (r = .23) and fear of terrorism (r = .27).

The ethnic group the participants belonged to, represented by whether the participants were originally from the Hausa ethnic group, Yoruba ethnic group, Igbo ethnic group and other minority ethnic groups was significantly and positively correlated

with their perception of police (r = .16) and fear of terrorism (r = .17). The relation from their mean scores demonstrated that participants from other minority ethnic groups have more fear of terrorism (x = 53.00), followed by the Igbos (x = 51.64), the Hausas' (x = 47.85) and finally the Yorubas (x = 44.72). Education level also had a negative significant correlation with fear of terrorism (r = -.11), which connotes that the higher one goes in education the lower the perceived fear of terrorism.

Finally, participants' perception of police reported a positive significant correlation with fear of terrorism (r = .12) which entails that the less favorable perception of police by the participants the more the fear of terrorism activities.

Table 1.1

		M	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Gender	.47	.50	1									
2.	Age	33	.4	12.1	.02								
3.	Education Level	.72	.95	0.1	.59**	1							
4.	Occupation	2.0	.74	.33**	-.45**	-.19**	1						
5.	Income	2.3	1.1	-.32**	.69**	.65**	-.57**	1					
6.	Ethnic group	2.2	.98	.01	-.12*	.01	.15**	-.08	1				
7.	Religion	.49	.59	-.18**	.11*	-.15**	-.20*	.04	-.51**	1			
8.	Social media	2.41	.2	.31**	.67**	.64**	.65**	.47*	.07	.03	1		
9.	Pere. of police	43.1	10.7	.04	.07	.07	-.0 9	.12*	.16**	-.00	.23**	1	
10.	Fear of terror	48.7	12.0	.03	-.14**	-.11*	.04	-.07	.17**	-.08	.27**	12*	1

Note: All measure were coded in the same direction, higher scores indicate higher levels of that construct. Social media, Gender, occupation, income level, education level, religion, and ethnic grouping were coded (0 = male and 1 = female, 1 = trader 2 = public/civil servant 3 = student, 1 = less than 20, 2 = 21000- 49000, 3 = 50000 to 100000, 4 = above 100000, 1 = Waec 2 = B.sc 3 = M.sc 4 = Ph.D, 1 = Christianity 2 = Islam 3 = Traditional/others, 1 = Hausa 2 = Yoruba 3 = Igbo 4 = other minority groups, 1 = twitter 2 = facebook, 3 = whatsapp, 4 = Youtube). *p< .05; **p< .01.

Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analyses

Hierarchical Multiple Regression analyses were used to examine the amount of variance in Nigerian inhabitants' fear of terrorism explained by their perception of police and other demographic variables like age, gender, education level, income level, occupation, religion, ethnic group and social media usage.

A two-step hierarchical multiple regressions were conducted. At the first step of the regression process, the dependent variable (DV-fear of terrorism) was regressed onto all the demographic and control variables (age, gender, education level, income level, occupation, ethnic group, religion, social media). In the second and final step of the regression process, the dependent variable (DV-fear of terrorism) was regressed onto the main independent variable (perception of police).

The rationale behind using the hierarchical multiple regression analysis was first to determine the total amount of variance explained by the predictor variable. A second purpose was to determine the amount of unique variance explained by certain sets of predictors like the demographic variables over and above other predictor (Keith, 2006).

The results of the regression analysis are shown in Table 1.2. The entry of the first block of eight background variables (i.e., gender, age, education level, income level, occupation, religion, ethnic group, social media) resulted in a statistically significant increase in explained variance ($\Delta R^2 = .064$, $F(7, 418) = 4.053$, $p<.001$). That is, approximately 6% of the variance in the participants' fear of terrorism was explained by the eight demographic variables.

In the second step, perception of police measure was entered into the regression model. It also resulted in a statistically significant increase in explained variance ($\Delta R^2 = .011$, $F(1, 417) = 5.046$, $p<.05$). Approximately 1% additional variance in the participants' fear of terrorism was explained by their perception of police.

Table 1.2

Model Summary									
					Change Statistics				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change	
1	.252[a]	.064	.048	.064	4.053	8	418	.000	
2	.273[b]	.075	.057	.011	5.046	1	417	.025	

The perception of police score of the participants was a significant predictor of the participants' fear of terrorism, with a standardized regression coefficient (β =.110, p<.001). Holding all the other variables constant, for an additional unit in a participants' perception of police score, their fear of terrorism increased by .11 units. As compared with participants who had a less favorable perception of the police, participants with high favorable perception of police reported less fear of terrorism activities while the ones with less favorable perception of police reported higher fear of terrorism.

In addition, age was a significant negative predictor (β = -.224, p<.05) of fear of terrorism. Hence, Young participants in this study reported more fear of terrorism than did old aged participants, after controlling for other variables. Also, education level of the participants was a significant predictor of fear of terrorism, albeit negatively (β = .190, p<.01). Participants who had their Ph.D degrees were less afraid of terrorism than participants who had their WAEC and MSc degrees respectively, participants with university first degree reported a higher fear of terrorism compared to other educational qualification. Furthermore, Social media was a significant predictor of fear of terrorism (β = .164, p<.01). Twitter and Facebook users reported more fear of terrorism than youtube and whatsapp users through their mean scores.

The last individual predictor of fear of terrorism was the ethnic group that a participant belonged to (β = .149, p<.001). Participants from the minority ethnic group reported higher fear of terrorism, followed by the participants from the Igbo ethnic group, and then followed by Hausa ethnic group. The Yoruba ethnic group reported a less fear of terrorism compared to the participants from the other ethnic groups. Other individual predictors (gender, income level, occupation and religion) were not significant.

The major findings from the hierarchical multiple regression analyses indicated that an individual's perception of police was predictive of their fear of terrorism. In addition, other contextual variables, such as social media, age, ethnic group and education level were also predictive of Nigeria inhabitants' fear of terrorism.

Table 1.3
Hierarchical Multiple Analyses predicting fear of terrorism

	Fear of terrorism	
Predictor variables	**β B Step 1**	**βB Step 2**
Step 1		
Gender	-.018	-.034
Age	-.224**	-.224**
Education level	.185*	.190*
Occupation	-.071	-.065
Income	-.076	-.096
Ethnic group	.176**	.149**
Religion	.047	.033
Social media	.164**	.122**
Step 2		
Perception of police		.110*
R^2	.064***	.075*
ΔR^2	.064***	.011*

B indicates the standardized regression coefficient. *$p< .05$; **$p< .01$; ***$p<.001$

Discussion

This research exposes us to a better understanding of the relationship between perception of police and fear of terrorism as well as the roles of some demographic contexts like age, gender, education level, and occupation, level of income, ethnic group and religion in predicting fear of terrorism.

The major objective of this study was to examine the relation of perception of police to fear of terrorism. The general findings of this study align with the dictates of Orthodox terrorism theory that symbolically explains the representative acts of terrorism which are to intimidate and frighten. A study by Sun Zu (2016) deciphered that the intention of terrorism is to kill one and threaten tens of thousands. It's a psychological war which aims at to create fear and feeling of insecurity

among the citizens owing to the governmental negligence and laissez-faire attitudes. Relatedly, in this study, perception of police was found to be related to self-reported fear of terrorism.

The major findings from both the correlational analyses and the hierarchical multiple regressions in this study support the core theoretical rationale of Orthodox terrorism theory, especially with respect to the construct of fear of terrorism. The pattern observed in the bivariate correlations among the contextual variables suggests that age, ethnic group and education level of participants, significantly correlate with the indicated participants fear of terrorism. Specifically, Younger participants reported having more fear of terrorism than did their older counterparts; participants who had their Ph.D degrees were less afraid of terrorism than participants who had their WAEC and M.sc degrees respectively, participants with university first degree reported a higher fear of terrorism compared to other educational qualification levels; and participants from the minority ethnic group reported higher fear of terrorism, followed by the participants from the Igbo ethnic group, and then followed by Hausa ethnic group. The Yoruba ethnic group reported a less fear of terrorism compared to the participants from the other ethnic groups. In addition, the major predictive variables (perception of police) displayed a significant association with fear of

terrorism. Participants with high favorable perception of police reported less fear of terrorism activities while the ones with less favorable perception of police reported higher fear of terrorism.

The findings from the hierarchical multiple regressions confirm that individuals' perception of police plays an important role in their perceived fear of terrorism as it pertains to security and peace keeping. As Huebner, Schafer and Bynum (2004) pointed out that Citizens' satisfaction (or lack thereof) with their contacts with the police remained a significant predictor of their broader perceptions of police services and their overall protection and security against crimes or external harm.

In addition, the foundation of every fear lies in the perceived inability of the significant trusted ones not giving their best towards enhancing and upholding peace, safe guarding lives and securing properties (Huebner et al., 2004). The results of this study indicate that perception of police among inhabitants in Nigeria is predictive of their fear of terrorism. In other words, Nigerian citizens who have less favorable perception of police report having more fear of terrorism. This is to say that the citizens feeling of unsafe may possibly affect their perception of police in safe guarding their lives and properties in a time like this with much terrorist activities in the nation. A study by Wents and Schlimgen (2012) posits that increased perceived safety resulted

in a more favourable perception of police. A possible reason for this finding is the fact that the police are doing a very good job to prevent the crime in the nation, which led to the citizens or residents perceiving the police favourably. In this stance, perception of police favourably improves the perceptions of how safe the nation is. This is to say that increased perceived safety results in a more favorable perception of police. This on the contrary supports the findings of this study. Based on the perceived fear of terrorism in the nation in the recent time, the hope, trust and belief of the people towards safety by the police diminishes with a speed of light as Reisig & Parks (2000) buttressed in their prior research, that citizens' dissatisfaction with either voluntary or involuntary police contacts was associated with less positive perceptions of the police, and as such when people perceive the police as less favourable in handling the situation of terrorist attacks and in the maintenance of absolute peace, security and order in the nation the fear of terrorism becomes inevitable.

This study also makes scholarly contributions to examining how age, ethnic group, and level of education are related to fear of terrorism. For example, with respect to the contextual relation between age and fear of terrorism, age was related negatively to fear of terrorism: younger Nigerians indicated more fear of terrorism than did the older ones. This finding may be as a result of the young ones innocent

and inexperienced mind, they might be afraid of the unknown may be because of the stories they have heard or news they watched on the television, but the older ones who have had many life experiences both the ugly and the scary might not have much fear as regards to terrorism like the younger ones do.

An attractive finding of this study – one that will be possibly contentious in Nigeria – is the indication that the minority ethnic group, Igbos and Hausas reported more fear of terrorism than did their colleagues who are ethnically from the southwest region of Nigeria (Yorubas). This is consistent with the findings of Ferraro (1995) and O'Keefe (1984) that minorities routinely express greater fear of crime than non-minorities; Chiricos *et al.*, (1997) warned that neighborhood context (specifically, whether a neighborhood is diverse or homogeneous) may explain much of the difference in fear by ethnic groups.

Limitations of the study
The findings from this study indicate that an individual's perception of police is related to their fear of terrorism. However, there are limitations to this study. First, the participants who filled the instruments through the online snow balling survey might not have given accurate data owing to the fact that they were not briefed or debriefed personally by the researchers about the study and they could not possibly ask questions on

confusing words during the online survey which may have resulted in participant bias. In other words, there may have been some questions in the survey that participants felt uncomfortable answering; participants may have felt the need to emboss their responses to gain approval from self or others, including the researcher.

To enhance the validity of participants' responses and mitigate their tendency to misrepresent themselves and self-report perception, the participants were urged to be honest and were told that their responses would be anonymous and confidential.

Secondly, the findings of this study cannot be widely generalized. This limitation results from the fact that study participants were only from eleven states in the country out of the thirty-six states in the country. It would be informative for future studies to examine the relations between perception of police and fear of terrorism among adolescents or internal displaced persons.

Recommendations

Resulting from the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. The Nigerian government with her associated implementing agencies, particularly the Nigerian Police Force - as the central domestic security agency of the country –should constitute a policy implementing commission to recalibrate every aspect of the national security issues in Nigeria.

2. There should be an extensive reorientation and educational programme for all the security apparatus and agencies in Nigeria (particularly the Nigerian Police Force) on the notion of justice as a principle of ethical responsibility to adjudicate objectively amongst contending interests and claims in fairness and equity, based on distributive justice, respect for people's rights, and respect for morally acceptable laws. Thus, acquiring and exhibiting the highest standards of professionalism.

3. There should a massive public relation campaign through the media for the general Nigerian public not to be overly negative and distrustful of the Nigerian Government and Police Force, and appreciate the critical role the Nigerian Police Force (as well as, other security agencies) in the normative maintenances of the orderly existence of things; objectively mitigating threat to life and property; and subjectively creating a sense of safety, thus, absence of apprehension, anxiety, and fear in the Nigerian public.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Nigerian government, particularly the agencies responsible for the oversight of the activities of the Nigerian Police Force

(both houses of the national assembly police ministry etc.); as well as, the very top leadership of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), should appreciate basic expectation of the Nigerian public. These expectations, includes, but not limited to the fact that police should be able to effectively prevent crime, professionally investigating violations, timely help the public that are facing or about to experience immediate danger, thwart, arrest, and persecute criminals (especially terrorists); thereby, sustaining public order by protecting every person from bodily and property harm, principally the most vulnerable.

This study is an indictment of the Nigerian government with her associated implementing agencies, particularly the Nigerian Police Force, as the central domestic security agency of the country. With a statistical mean of 43.1 and standard deviation of 10.7, the general attitude of NPF by the Nigerian public is negative and the NPF is also perceived as operationally bias (most likely, that the susceptible poor are not protected, while the rich and the powerful are over serviced). Thus, the reason why the main independent variable (perception of police); as well as, other contextual variables like age, level of education and ethnic group of the Nigerian public significantly correlated with fear of terrorism; This fear of terrorism is not unsubstantiated, because Nigeria is under subverting internal and security threats with psychological, social, political, economic and

environmental dimensions. And, the Fulani-herdsmen communities' attacks, armed bandits violence, kidnappers ransom demands, ubiquitous financial fraud, and other multiplicity of crimes has adversely impacted the Nigerian public sense of safety as residence of the polity called Nigeria.

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