

(Research/Review)

Perspective Of Nigeria In The Twenty-First Century, Civil-Military Relations, Leadership, Nature And Character, And The Current Crisis Of Challenges.

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Abstract. This essay examines Nigeria's leadership dilemma and civil-military relations in the twenty-first century. The connections between the civilian authority (CAU) and non-governmental civilian organizations are known as civil-military relations (CMR) organizations (NGCG) against the military. However, peacebuilding is a strategy for fostering reconciliation and capacity building that aims to stop conflict or its resumption. The study looks at South West Nigeria's peacebuilding and civil-military relations from 2011 to 2018. The documentary research approach was used for this study, while content analysis was used to examine the work's content. Data for the research project was gathered through observation and documentary investigations. Agency theory is the theory used in this investigation. The results showed that: the military voluntarily accepts their subordinate status to the civilian authority or his representatives because of a constitutional provision that allows for their subordination to civilian authority; Additional results indicate that there was a bad peace between the military and non-governmental civilian groups because of the disputes between the two groups, which were centered on mass harassment and intimidation. The National Assembly should pass legislation requiring only former military personnel to serve as ministers of defense and police, respectively, according to the study's recommendations. Once more, the National Assembly should establish the Independent Monitoring Operation on Military (IMOM) from among non-governmental civilian organizations to keep an eye on troops' movements and actions. It should also have the authority to reprimand and sanction soldiers.

Keywords: Keywords: civilian authority, non-governmental civilian organization, peacebuilding, civil-military interactions, working, and shirking.

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1. Overview

The discussion of peacebuilding and civil-military relations (CMR) is extremely important interest in both God and humanity since the beginning of time. This is due to the fact that a better society requires peace. However, a number of variables, including the lengthy era of military administration, have sharpened CMR and peacebuilding in Nigeria. It is impossible to overstate the importance of the civilian authority (CAU) or the authority it grants over the military in any society. For this reason, a nation's system of governance has a significant impact on CMR. Nigeria became a Republic in 1963 after gaining independence in 1960. At the opening plenary of an international conference in Lagos State titled "Fifty Years of Nationhood: State, Society and Society," Tinubu (2020) made the following statement. According to "Politics in Nigeria (1960–2010)," Nigeria had a functional constitution that established parliamentary democracy when it gained independence in 1960. The new administration installed Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe as president and Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa as prime minister. Nigeria saw a number of military takeovers against one or more civilian regimes following the first one in 1966, until 1999, when civilian control took over (Sulaiman, 2023).

Nonetheless, the military's prolonged hold on power has contributed to a psychological perspective that views the military as the ultimate profession with unrestricted power. What Elaigwu notices is:

i. According to the schism, Nigeria's military has a rather lengthy history. Ahmadu Bello claims that during his youth, the military of his era were similar to leprosy patients. That's what he said.

ii. This sentiment was widespread throughout the north: "We did not like the soldiers; they were our people and had conquered us for strangers." "People are ridiculed when they want to join the army, because soldiers are treated no

better than laborers there is a psychology in this country that when someone is badly paid, that man is inferior," added a member of the Federal House of Representatives during the First Republic (Elaigwu, 2019).

The military and non-governmental civilian groups (NGCG) have a long history of animosity that continues to this day. Antagonism between the NGCG and the military is a sign that conflict that could appear later. The urge for the military to disengage from a power rise stems from the fact that the CMR of the previous military governments before to the Fourth Republic did not respect human rights and that there was a high degree of impunity at the time. Ihonvbere explains the necessity for the military to relinquish power by arguing that:

a. The balance of class forces, the personality of the military leadership, and the shifting global tolerance for the undemocratic seizure of power are some of the factors that have led to the military's departure from power. The African military is being driven out of power due to a number of factors, not because it now values or believes in democracy influences and variables both internal and external Ajiteru (2023).

b. In order to enable for the reestablishment of a democratic Fourth Republic government in Nigeria, General Abdul-Salami Abubakar voluntarily stepped down from office in 1999. General Olusegun Obasanjo was inaugurated as the executive president in 1999 and departed in 2007 following his two terms in office. It is impossible to overstate the impact of CAU on the military (Abalaka, 2023).

c. In reality, speaking to PDP elders and stakeholders in the capital of Ogun State, Abeokuta, on February 10, 2007, President Obasanjo, a CAU, was described by Sahara Reporter (2017) as stating that "the 2007 General Election is a do or die affair for People Democratic Party (PDP)." The danger posed by the military was sent to oversee the 2007 General Election in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory as part of CAU. In order to win the election for the PDP at any costs, the military humiliates the electorates (non-governmental civilian groups) during this time. Additionally, according to Alaga and Akum,

d. The open conflicts that previously existed between the military and the civil authorities (presidential) have not occurred under the fourth republic. Women and other civilians were appointed to important defense-related jobs. The military was open and willing to comply with parliamentary supervision in accordance with the president's agenda and leadership, as demonstrated by the military officials' appearance at the National Assembly to respond to inquiries about their actions (Alaga & Akum, 2019).

According to the aforementioned observations made by Sahara Reporters Alaga and Akum, there have been friendly relations between the military and the civilian authority (CAU), but not between the military and the non-governmental civilian group (NGCG). Thus, the purpose of this study is to determine whether the following is true: first, whether CAU and the military have had cordial connections from 2011 to 2018; second, whether NGCG and the military have had unfriendly interactions from 2011 to 2018. More significantly, no comparative analysis of the civil-military relations (CMR) between the military and all civilians has been conducted during the administrations of former President Goodluck Jonathan (2011–2015) and President Muhammadu Buhari government (2015–2019), hence this study is necessary at this time. This paper's primary goal is to confirm whether or not there has been no violence in the civilian-military relationship. The article's sub-objectives are:

1. To investigate the ways in which the military-civilian connection aids in establishing peace in South-West Nigeria between 2011 and 2018.
2. To look into how the military's connections with non-governmental civilian organizations improved the peace in South-West Nigeria between 2011 and 2018.

In order to accomplish the aforementioned goals, this study aims to address the following research questions:

1. Do the civilian-military relations in South-West Nigeria from 2011 to 2018 contribute to the establishment of peace?
2. Have the connections between the civilian non-governmental South-West Nigerian peace circumstances were improved by organizations and the military between 2011 and 2018.

2. Methods of Research

The documentary method was chosen as the research approach for this article. The research approach was chosen because it was thought to be able to collect descriptive and verbal information from secondary sources, such as the internet and library resources. Although it may not be directly related to the study's subject, the documentary approach was chosen as an instrument because it is affordable and accessible. Since observation allows the researcher to obtain firsthand information about a certain topic, it was also used as a data collection tool. However, content analysis was used to examine the material. Over an eight-year period, from 2011 to 2018, the content of secondary sources of data, including books, journals, chapter contributions, government publications, conference papers, and online items, was also examined. Accordingly, Abalaka (2023) contends that content analysis is a method for determining the author's intentions by compiling the frequency of particular words, concepts, or keywords. Over an eight-year period, from 2011 to 2018, the researchers also conducted a content analysis of media reporting on civil-military interactions and peacebuilding published by Sahara Reporters, Punch Newspaper, Daily Trust, Daily Post, Cable News, Pulse Online News, Concise News, and Premium Times.

Field commanders and enlisted troops are moving to the northeast. CIVIC investigated, for this brief, how community lobbying with security forces affects protection issues, taking into account both military training on POC and community-based protection (CBP) initiatives in the towns of Banki and Monguno. Located roughly 133 kilometers northeast of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, Monguno town serves as the administrative center for the Monguno Local Government Area (LGA). Both Nigeria's border with Chad and the Lake Chad region spans various northern LGAs of Borno state, including Monguno. The settlement of Banki is situated in Bama LGA, less than a kilometer from Nigeria's border with Cameroon and roughly 133 kilometers southeast of Maiduguri Ajiteru, (2023).

Early in the battle, Boko Haram took control of both Banki and Monguno. Since the Nigerian military retook Monguno in February 2015, Sector 3 Command's headquarters, which covers northern portions of the states of Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno. The majority of the original population has either fled to other areas of Borno or is currently residing in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camp and military base in Banki, which was retaken by the military in September 2015. Many of these towns are now encircled by a safe perimeter of defensive positions and trenches, with controlled admission inside the protected ring. These settlements are most popularly known as "garrison towns." Before frequent AOG raids forced the military to concentrate personnel into larger "Super Camps" in strategic garrison towns in order to strengthen positions in headquarters towns or along important highways, the military maintained a broad presence throughout Borno state from 2015 to 2019. Because of By focusing forces on particular regions, the total number of outposts throughout the state was decreased. Monguno has been a frontline community for a significant amount of 2019 and 2020, frequently trapped between JASDJ and ISWAP as they vie for resources and territory. Banki is under the protection of members of the Nigerian military's 7 Division and is currently inside JASDJ's sphere of influence.

In 2018, CIVIC started offering POC and CHM training to state security troops who were sent to the northeast and enrolled in military training schools. Shortly after, civilian security forces received comparable training (Ajiteru, 2023).

3. Context

Most people agree that the fight between Boko Haram and the Nigerian government in northeastern Nigeria started in 2009. At least three factions have emerged from the original AOG, known as Boko Haram: Ansaru, Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP), and Jama'atu Ahl al-Sunna li-l-Da'wa wa-l-Jihad (JASDJ). In addition to Nigeria, JASDJ and ISWAP are active in parts of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger; Ansaru's present standing is up for discussion, and their impact is noticeably less extensive than that of the other two, with instances when the group seems to be inactive. State security forces failed to differentiate between armed players and civilians in the early phases of the conflict, which led to widespread violations of human rights and injuries to civilians during operations to quell

the escalating insurgency. As a result, both state and non-state security forces (such as civilian security forces) were greatly disliked by the populace. Numerous militaries and political. The Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) is an international organization dedicated to promoting the protection of civilians caught in conflict. CIVIC's mission is to work with armed actors and civilians in conflict to develop and implement solutions to prevent, mitigate, and respond to civilian harm. The organization's vision is a world where parties to armed conflict recognize the dignity and rights of civilians. Since then, leaders have realized how the behavior of security forces toward civilians can either support or undermine their efforts to defeat AOG groups. Abalaka (2023)

4. Protection Barriers and Bridges in Engagement of the Civil-Military Sector in Northeast Nigeria

4.1 About the Center for Conflict Civilians

An international organization called the Center for people in Conflict (CIVIC) works to protect people who are ensnared in war. The goal of CIVIC is to prevent, reduce, and respond to civilian injury by collaborating with armed actors and civilians in conflict to create and implement solutions. Our goal is for armed conflict parties to acknowledge civilian rights and dignity, prevent harm to civilians, protect civilians trapped in the middle of a conflict, and repair harm. Marla Ruzicka, a young humanitarian who fought for the rights of civilians impacted by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, founded CIVIC in 2013. Continuing her remarkable legacy, CIVIC currently works in to promote a better level of civilian protection in crisis areas in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South Asia. Parties to armed conflict have an obligation to prevent and mitigate civilian injury, according to CIVIC. In order to achieve this, we identify the factors that contribute to civilian casualties in specific conflicts, develop workable ways to mitigate those casualties, and promote the implementation of new laws and procedures that enhance the welfare of conflict-affected civilians. Understanding the value of cooperation, we work with governments, armed forces, citizens, and regional and international organizations to find and implement better safeguards for people throughout conflicts. Abalaka (2023).

5. Community Advocacy and Civil-Military Engagement Prior to Protection Threats.

Essential POC ideas, and motivates security actors to give top priority to reducing civilian casualties from their own operations against armed AOGs. The community's continued attempts to advocate for its own safety were aided by CIVIC's backing of community-based CPCs, which acted as a conduit between the local security forces and the community. According to Abalaka (2023), this brief examines how civilian advocacy activities affect protection concerns, particularly through enhanced civil-military connections. We conducted interviews with 11 Nigerian military personnel and 30 civilians, 24 of whom were CPC members and six of whom were not. Interviews with all civilians and a few military personnel were done in March 2020. After COVID-19 constraints loosened, our team conducted a second round of interviews in September 2020. Additionally, this study utilizes examination of CIVIC's internal operations. For the interviews' protection, names and other private information have been kept confidential; nevertheless, if feasible, the respondents' location and whether they are civilians or military personnel are given for extra context (Ajiteru, 2023).

5.1. Defense.

Dangers Before Community Advocacy and Civil-Military Engagement Before CPC engaged the military on protection issues in early 2019, CIVIC questioned respondents about the difficulties in protecting civilians in Monguno and Banki. Attacks by AOG: Prior to the start of CIVIC's involvement in the neighborhood, civilians in both Monguno and Banki stated that their main fear for protection was the regular attacks by AOGs. Due to the fighting, many residents who had been forced from their houses outside of the garrison town had When they left the town to farm and gather firewood, they were still regularly attacked by AOGs even after they had relocated inside the guarded zone.

In particular, residents of Banki reported that the military occasionally left their sentry positions outside the community unattended at night, allowing AOG militants to enter, attack, and take food. Even if the garrison town's construction was a step in the right direction, residents still feared AOG raids. Physical abuse, harassment, and intimidation Ajiteru (2020).

Assault by Security Forces: People said that security forces frequently threatened them, physically attacked them, extorted them, and took or stole their belongings. Additionally, they bemoaned how frequently security personnel used their weapons carelessly, frequently firing randomly and intermittently into the atmosphere. When civilians returned from their farms or collected firewood, they were accused of plotting with AOGs outside the trenches and subjected to severe interrogation, threats, and physical violence. Civilians also reported unprovoked physical assaults of young men who security forces suspected of being AOG sympathizers or members. Sulaiman (2023).

The military was also in charge of checkpoints on the roads that connected the local towns; either at these checkpoints or while on patrol, they would demand money from people in order to allow them to pass. The military and local militias that assisted with security operations in the garrison towns occasionally abused their position for their own benefit. Food supplies that were given to us were occasionally confiscated by the soldiers. Occasionally, you will encounter staff When they get up to a vehicle carrying food items, members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) will use their knives to rip open the bag and snatch the food they desire. And nobody can oppose them.

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA): According to civilians, sexual exploitation and abuse were routinely carried out by the police, CJTF and other militias, and military. It was stated that security officers frequently raped people. The terrible experience of her town was recounted by a civilian: "Women were raped, impregnated, and taken away by force, and there was nothing we could do." Additional responders attested to the fact that security personnel would break into private residences, take the women out, and then mistreat them. Abalaka (2023).

Additionally, respondents mentioned that security forces frequently patronized Some women who, after other economic options were no longer available, turned to prostitution as a coping mechanism (Sulaiman, 2023).

5.2. Promoting POC via Civil-Military Relations.

For many of the reasons mentioned above, or because of local custom, traditional, political, or religious leaders typically carry out this function on behalf of the community, citizens have historically avoided direct interaction with the military. Although civilians have problems that need to be addressed with security forces, they frequently lack the means to do so because many of these leaders have left their areas out of fear of being targeted by AOGs. In order to address security concerns, CIVIC aimed to assist communities in igniting a fresh and fruitful dialogue with security services Abalaka, (2023). In 2019, CIVIC established local community protection groups, or CPCs, in both Monguno and Banki to aid in civilian lobbying efforts regarding protection. Each CPC has 50 members, is co-led by a woman and a man, and started off with an equal number of men and women. It also places a strong focus on including young people, people with disabilities, internally displaced people, and members from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds. The CPC's performance depends on its participants' variety because it optimizes the chance for all pertinent protection problems to be brought forward and objectively evaluated. Sulaiman (2023).

The CPC's responsibilities include monitoring, discussing, and taking action on protection issues as well as doing outreach to the general public. CIVIC teaches the committees to comprehend their rights under applicable human rights legislation and international humanitarian law (IHL), as well as how to evaluate Ajiteru (2023).

6. Poc Advancement Through Civil-Military Relations

Everyone agrees that under its current chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega, who hails from the north, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the electoral umpire, has performed better in terms of the electoral procedures' logistics and openness. Nonetheless, the INEC is still seen with a high a great deal of suspicion from everyone. The APC has repeatedly implied that the PDP-controlled federal government is manipulating INEC. Indeed, soon after the 2013 Anambra State gubernatorial elections, which were tainted by late or non-arrival of voting materials and were won by a party affiliated with the PDP, the APC announced that it no longer trusted Jega to hold credible elections (Olatunji 2013). When Jega proposed adding more voting places, the most of which were to be located in the north, he was already charged with plotting to rig the 2015 election (Nigerian Tribune 2019). The acceptance of the result would be greatly influenced by perceptions of INEC's neutrality. But if the nation's

electoral past is any indication, according to Sulaiman (2023), the election results will be controversial regardless of the viewpoints of election monitors.

7. A Conceptual Exposition to Ethnicity and Voting Behavior

Dangers to their community's safety. Following that, the CPC creates plans to lessen the threats. These plans may center on how the community or individuals may actively prevent or lessen harm to civilians while also bringing up protection issues with the appropriate security authorities. Throughout the project's duration, CIVIC staff continue to serve as a resource for the community by offering direction, facilitation, connections to pertinent authorities, and assistance in identifying risks and creating plans for risk mitigation.

In May and July 2019, CIVIC started providing deployed security officers in Banki and Monguno with POC and CHM training. Participants in the official Although officers from the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps may also be assigned to a local post, security services are usually members of the Nigerian Army, assigned to units with the Army's 7 Division or Sector 3 under Theatre Command. In order to contextualize the concepts within the framework of the conflict in northeastern Nigeria, CIVIC personnel use interactive talks and scenario-based exercises to deliver information on the protection of civilians, international humanitarian and human rights legislation, CHM, and amendments. Participants in this kind of training gain a greater understanding of their responsibilities to civilians and how people frequently experience their actions. When the security forces and CPC are prepared, they have a discussion to the issues of local civil-military relations and civilian protection. Members of the CPC, the local civil-military relations officer, and non-commissioned officers in charge of military police and intelligence participated in Monguno's first civil-military conversation in October 2019. For the first time, residents in Monguno were able to speak with military personnel, voice their concerns, and request a response. Because it convinced the local security forces to take action in response to civilian protection concerns, the dialogue was crucial in enhancing the civil-military relationship in Monguno and was therefore a first step toward improving protection results in the community (Abalaka, 2023).

On the other hand, it was difficult to arrange a conversation in Banki due to the ongoing high level of mistrust between the military. Consequently, CIVIC facilitated one-on-one introductions between CPC members and military personnel. Although this technique is thought to be less institutionalized and thus less sustainable, it has also produced positive effects. The CPCs in Monguno and Banki decided on protection plans for 11 threats within their first year, many of which required them to work directly with security personnel to strengthen their own defenses. Ajiteru (2023).

6.1 Military and Civilian Views on POC Engagement

Civilians emphasized how the military's response and their lobbying have improved the situation on the ground. "Now there is no bad relationship between the military and the civilians," one respondent in Banki stated, despite the fact that there are definitely still some problems. Civilians who responded stated that the protection concerns at the time One respondent stated, "Now that everything has improved, we do not act like we did before," in reference to the improvement in PCs since their formation. We used to trust God with everything. However, things have improved now, we can report any issue, and we are aware of our community rights.

7. Ideal Problems

7.1 CMR, or civil-military relations

The definition of CMR differs according on the expert or academic who is defining it, as is the case with any social science concepts. The interaction between allied armed forces and the governments, civilian populations, or agencies of non-NATO countries where such armed forces are stationed, supported, or employed, however, is what the North Atlantic Treaty Organization views as CMR efforts by NATO Commanders in the conflict. Ajiteru (2023). This definition is limited because it does not fully capture the ideal meaning of civil-military interactions in times of peace. Nation-building is now included in the ambit of civil-military relations, which previously only involved waging wars. In keeping with this, Wogu and Ibietan (2019) define civic-military relations (CMR) as the interactions between

the military organization or organizations created to defend civil societies and civil societies in general. The study agrees with the aforementioned definition due to its comprehensiveness. Abalaka (2023).

7.2 Fostering Peace

The United Nations (UN) publication "An Agenda for Peace" states that peacebuilding encompasses a variety of initiatives related to social transformation, capacity building, and reconciliation (Ajiteru, 2023). It is thought that peacebuilding ought to be intended to make amends between parties who have been wronged or to establish a system to ensure that no one is oppressed or harmed by another. But according to this study, peacebuilding encompasses all the procedures and strategies used to guarantee that there are harmonious connections between members of a community free from exploitation, extortion, oppression, extreme poverty, and violations of basic human rights. Sulaiman (2023).

8.0 Framework of Theory

Agency theory serves as the foundation for this paper's theoretical framework. Several academics, like Ajiteru (2023), among others, introduced agency theory in the 1970s. In his book "Armed servants," Peter Feaver (2019) adopted and applied agency theory, a long-standing theory that was first proposed in Financial Studies and Corporate Governance, to civil-military relations. They altered a bold theory that views civil-military relations as a principal-agent relationship in which civilian authorities keep an eye on the activities of military agents, the nation state's armed personnel. The fundamental tenet of the theory is that civil-military relations are essentially a type of strategic exchange between military servants (agents) and civilian masters (principals).

The theory's main presumptions are

- i. As long as the government is not keeping an eye on them, the military will avoid duty (principle).
- ii. When military and civilian goals align, the military will function more effectively.
- iii. If the military believes they will be disciplined if they are detected shirking, they will continue to work even if they are not being watched (Feaver, 2019).

Shirking, according to Feaver (2019), is any behavior that is not regardless of whether the civilian leader's intentions are carried out to their satisfaction. According to him, working is the antithesis of shirking and involves carrying out tasks that satisfy the principals. To put it simply, working is the action that the agent would have made if the principle had been performing the task. The study of the agency relationship and the problems that develop between the principle and agent, similar to the relationship between the civilian authority (the principal) and agent (the military), makes agency theory pertinent to this investigation. It should be mentioned that while when both sides strive for the same objective, they may not always have the same fascinating Sulaiman (2023).

8.1 Agency Theory's applicability to the research

Relationships have always existed between her and the military, which was set up to protect her, all over the world. In order to address the demands of society, leaders and followers will inevitably relate to and interact in some capacity. In order to protect the country, society, or nation as the case may be from foreign attacks, the military had to be established in order to meet the security needs of the community, society, or nation. In the course of carrying out its duties to defend the nation from outside threats, and even now that the military has been assigned the additional responsibility of securing other government security agencies during elections, the Compared to their traditional duty of fighting war, the military now interacts with a greater number of people (Abalaka, 2023).

If there must be peace in society, the connections between civilian authority and the military must be friendly, just as they are in any corporation where the owner or principal and employees are supposed to get along. Since there hasn't been any open conflict between the military and civilian authority, it has been observed that the military typically performs better to their satisfaction. This indicates that the civilian authority's (CAU) and the military's goals coincided.

However, the military does not appear to have worked to the NGCG's satisfaction since the former's and the latter's goals did not align; this development is clearly primarily a result of the necessity to meet CAU. In modern Nigeria, the military's expanded position has also led to the civilian government offering various welfare packages in the form of incentives to meet performance standards. The term "economic peacebuilding" refers to this driving force. Indeed, "economic peacebuilding targets both the micro and macro-level and aims to create economic opportunities and ensure that the basic needs of the population are met," according to Ajiteru (2023).

As a result, the military, which now has additional duties like ensuring internal security in a democracy like Nigeria, must interact with their civilian principal or authority, as applicable. It is thought that without oversight, the soldiers may not always operate to the satisfaction of their principal, CAU. According to Feaver (2003), the military will avoid duty as long as the public is not keeping an eye on them (principle). Shirking indicates that the military is not operating to the maximum satisfaction of civilian authorities, which is why the military needs to be closely watched (Ajiteru, 2023). An analysis of the military's operations in South-West Nigeria showed that:

Just two days after Nigerian Army forces, who were part of Operation Safe Delta, engaged terrorist groups in a shootout along a creek in the Ajakpo community on May 4, 2017, According to reports, soldiers assigned to the Ese Odo Local Government Area in Ondo State to defend the populace have attacked community members, set fire to many homes, and killed an unknown number of locals (Sulaiman, 2023).

Furthermore, a video of a continuing conflict between militants and the military has surfaced, suggesting that the military assault in Arepo, Ogun State, has taken on a new dimension. Around 2016, according to Vanguard, thirty (30) homes were damaged, and an unspecified number of people died (Ebuzor, 2016). The results of the military's actions in May 2017 when they were dispatched to defend the citizens of Ondo and Ogun States revealed that many of the citizens they were supposed to protect were They slaughtered people and set houses on fire. Subsequent inference revealed that the military had to have gone beyond the directives from their CAU. The reason is straightforward: the military killed innocent citizens (NGCG) and burned their homes during operations in Ondo and Ogun States, respectively, without the principal (the president or his representatives, such as the minister of defense, the minister of state for defense, or any of their representatives) knowingly ordering such actions. The military will avoid if they are not watched, as demonstrated by this and numerous other developments (Abalaka, 2023).

Therefore, the military must have gone outside their authority because the aforementioned anti-peacebuilding act may not have been approved by civilian authorities them by their civilian leaders. As a result, the military has demonstrated to Nigerians that they cannot function efficiently without oversight. According to Ajiteru (2023), the issues with agency include incentives and policing procedures. Policing mechanisms, such monitoring or tasks with clear instructions, are tools and incentives designed to restrict an agent's discretion. According to Mitnick, military actions must be closely watched for optimal performance and outcomes (Sulaiman, 2023).

According to agency theory, if military personnel believe they would face consequences if they are found shirking, they will continue to serve even if they are not being watched. The NGCG is negatively impacted by the different military operations that demonstrated that the military did not operate to the satisfaction of their principal or civilian authorities because innocent In Ogun and Ondo State, residents were slain and their homes were set on fire between 2016 and 2017. This indicates that there was no system in place to keep an eye on the military's operations, which is why they behaved the way they did. There is a conflict of interest between the two sides because of the military's actions in various S/W states, like as Ondo, Oyo, Ogun, and Lagos States, which demonstrated anti-peacebuilding operations against the NGCG. According to Ifesinachi (2019:73), conflict arises when "different groups pursue incompatible interests and goals." Without a doubt, conflict is an act that undermines peace.

9.0 Discussion

9.1 Peacebuilding and the military vs civilian authority (CAU)

The creation of a peaceful society has become necessary in order to maintain military institution. Since then, the military has adopted a subservient role to civilian authority or leadership, and its power has significantly diminished globally (Ajiteru, 2023). In ideal democratic countries where democratic values have been established, the military's power has only diminished. In January 1961, former President Eisenhower cautioned the council of government, "We must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex," according to Huntington (1963:794). Misplaced power has the ability to ascend disastrously and will continue to do so. Every democratic country experiences the common occurrence of the military being subservient to the civilian authority (CAU). The assumption behind the aforementioned is that the civilian executive (the President, the constitution typically grants the head of state or any of their deputies the authority to serve as the Grand Commander of the armed forces. As a result, it grants CAU the authority to both reward and discipline any military personnel who fail to comply with CAU Abalaka's (2023) directives.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution makes clear the hierarchy of the military institution. The Nigerian Constitution (1999), Chapter VI, Part 1(a), Section 130(2), states that the President is the Head of State, the Chief Executive of the Federation, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Federation's Armed Forces. Nigeria's constitution stipulated that civilian authorities would take precedence over the military. The query that the question that needs to be addressed at this point is if the interactions between the military and civilian leadership help to bring about peace in South-West Nigeria (2017-2024).

The components of peacebuilding between the military and CAU are listed below.

Table 1: CAU versus Military and Peace Building in South West (S/W) 2015-2024

Regime	Elements of Peacebuilding	Frequency	Percentage
Ex-President Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2015)	The President as the Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces (Chapter VI, Part1 (a), Section 130 (2) of the Nigerian Constitution, 1999)	2	12.5%
	Appointment of retired military officers like; Rtrd Navy Capt. Caleb Olubolade, Minister of Police Affairs (Sahara Reporters, July 11, 2011)	2	12.5%
	Good welfare packages.	2	37.5%
	Total	6	
President Muhamadu Buhari (2015-2024)	The President as the Commander-In-Chief the Armed Forces (Chapter VI, Part1 (a), Section 130 (2) of the Nigerian constitution, 1999)	2	12.5%
	Appointment of retired military officers like: Minister of Interior; Minister of Defence; Director General of Custom (Odunsi, 2018, Africa Practice, 2015)	6	30%
	Good welfare packages.	2	12.5%
	Total	10	62.5%
Grand Total		16	100%

Source: Authors

According to Table 1 above, the Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's Armed Forces is the person who wins the presidency of Nigeria (Sulaiman, 2023). This clause in the constitution elevates the civilian president or any of his delegates above the armed forces. According to observations, the military's role has expanded to include maintaining internal security, particularly on major thoroughfares, and providing cover for other security

services during Nigerian elections. Positive peace between the two sides has resulted from the military's willingness to follow civilian authority's instructions on their new job of ensuring domestic security. Due to the aforementioned growth, the connections between civilian authorities and the military to encourage the establishment of peacebuilding in Nigeria, particularly specifically in the South-West.

9.2 The military and peacebuilding in contrast to non-governmental civilian groups (NGCG)

The term "non-governmental civilian groups" in this study refers to Nigerian people who do not hold political office or who lack the constitutional authority or capability to instruct the military to act in a specific manner. Nonetheless, civilian authorities chosen by the electorate or chosen by the president are the ones with the constitutional ability to lead or order the military. The relationship between the military and non-governmental civilian groups can therefore be influenced by the leadership style of civilian authority, even though the military may occasionally act contrary to orders from the civilian government. Luke 3:14 (King James Version) reiterates the significance of peacebuilding in leading a decent life by stating, "Likewise the soldiers approached him saying, what shall we do? Therefore, he advised them to "be content with your wages and refrain from intimidating anyone or making false accusations." In this passage, the military questioned John the Baptist about what they should do to live the kind of life that God demands of them. The requirement is that members of the armed forces refrain from using force to coerce, humiliate, or intimidate others. Without a doubt, the military's responsibilities have grown recently; they currently erect roadblocks all across the nation. This has been quite beneficial, particularly in terms of securing key thoroughfares to prevent terrorist attacks and safeguard people and property. According to observations, the military has been using force to collect money from cars on the nation's main thoroughfares and intimidating them for a while. If the situation is not immediately stopped, the aforementioned undesirable development has the potential to cause chaos and the breakdown of the law, among other things. Abalaka (2023).

Nonetheless, it is necessary to provide an answer to the question of whether or not NGCG and the military have had friendly relations. The connections between the NGCG and the military under President Muhammadu Buhari (2015–18) and President Goodluck Jonathan (as he was then) are contrasted in the table below.

Table 2: NGCG versus the Military and Peace Building exercise in S/W Nigeria 2015-2024

Regime	Anti-peace building behaviours & Pro-peace building behaviours	Frequency (f)	Percentage (100)
Ex-President Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2015)	An online newspaper contends that the militarization of election was witnessed in the governorship election of Ekiti State in 2014 when military personnel was deployed to Ekiti, to connive with some People Democratic Party (PDP) chieftains that successfully rigged the election for their party (Sahara Reporters, February 5, 2015).	50	50%
	During the 2014 governorship election in Osun State, it was reported that, "The All-Progressive Congress spokesman, Lai Mohammed, in Osogbo, Osun State on Sunday (August 10 th , 2014), shortly after he was released, said that he was arrested along with Sunday Dare, the Media Aide to Bola Tinubu; and Afolabi Salisu, Deputy Chief of Staff to Ogun State governor on the 8th of August, 2014" (Tukur, 2014).	50	50%
	Total 100% anti-peace building behaviour	100	100%
President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-2022)	There was no harassment from the military (soldiers) in the 2018 governorship election in Ekiti State. Armed military men stationed at the road leading to Isan Ekiti in Oye Local Government Area, on a stop and search mission on the vehicles entering the town (Sahara Reporters, 2018, Para. 38-39)	50	50%

In the words of Tukur Buratai, the Chief of Army Staff, “as the nation moves towards the 2019 General Elections, the Nigeria Army (NA) is conducting Operation SAFE CONDUCT to support other security agencies during the period of elections in the country. The NA activated the Operation on July 14, 2018, during the elections in Ekiti and Osun states and it was a huge success” (Sahara Reporters, 2018, Para. 4-5)	50	50%
Total 100% Pro-peace building behaviour	100	100%

Source: Authors

According to Table 2, during the 2014 governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States, which were conducted under President Goodluck Jonathan's (as he was then known), there were instances of harassment and intimidation of voters. This indicates that the military engaged in anti-peacebuilding actions against civilians. It should be mentioned that the military was sent to Ekiti State for the election of Ajiteru in 2023 by a civilian official with no military experience who served as the Minister of State for Defense in 2014.

However, the aforementioned table also showed that, during the 2018 governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States, which were held under President Muhammadu Bukari's administration, there was no harassment or intimidation of any kind. This relates to demonstrate that the military exhibited pro-peace-building behaviors toward civilians. It should be mentioned that the Minister of Defense in 2018 is a retired military officer.

It is undeniable that civilian authorities have a significant impact on military operations; the question is whether the military will act independently of civilian directives. According to a study, the world community is thus questioning the professional behavior of our police and armed forces in light of allegations of human rights violations, and our sincerity in combating terrorism is also being questioned for a number of reasons (Dambazau, 2015). The military activities in Northern Nigeria were the focus of the aforementioned observation. their battle against terrorism. A report that a Lagos guy was shackled to a motorcycle and dragged on the street by the military in 2017 (Ojoye, Taiwo & Hanafi, Afeez, 2017) supported the aforementioned. The military's actions against NGCG appear to be anti-peace-building.

According to Table 1, the Minister of Defense under President Muhammadu Buhari was a retired military officer, whereas the Minister of Defense under President Goodluck Jonathan was a civilian who had no understanding of the military's professionalism or military background. Politicians serving as Ministers of State Defense must have used the military arbitrarily during the 2014 elections for governor of Ekiti and Osun States based on the aforementioned.

There were anti-peace-building behaviors, according to the findings Elections for governor of Ekiti and Osun States were held in 2014 under the government of President Goodluck Jonathan (as he was then known), but in 2018 under President Muhammadu Buhari, there were pro-peace-building actions between the military and NGCG.

10. Overall Summary

The battle between the Nigerian government and many armed opposition organizations (AOGs), which have developed from Boko Haram since 2009, is engulfing civilians in northeastern Nigeria. Millions of people have been uprooted from their homes and are experiencing food insecurity, while tens of thousands of people have died and numerous more have been injured. The government has reclaimed a large portion of the land that had been captured by armed groups in recent years, working with community militias to defend Maiduguri and other important towns throughout the state of Borno. However, a well-documented history of civilian damage and abuse by government security personnel has hindered their efforts to combat AOGs, leading to bad civil-military relations in general and in the northeast in particular. Furthermore, because of its operations against AOGs and its presence in local communities in the northeast, the military is unable to adequately reduce dangers to civilians (Ajiteru, 2023).

The Nigerian government's difficulties in holding security forces responsible for their conduct and in accepting responsibility for civilian casualties have made this issue worse. In order to resolve the civil-military interaction, the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) started interacting with the military and communities in northeastern Nigeria in 2018. According to local civilians, is essential to achieving enhanced protection. With CIVIC's assistance, citizens started promoting their own safety through local community protection committees (CPCs), realizing that they are the finest representatives of their own defense. These committees' objectives were to first evaluate the community's threats and then work toward better protection results through involvement and lobbying with October 2020, Abalaka (2023).

11. Conclusion

Resolving the crisis requires improving POC by addressing the civil-military relations between the security personnel stationed in northeast Nigeria and the local populations. The history of violence against civilians by Nigeria's security forces and the ensuing estrangement of citizens from their government was one of the factors that encouraged a large number of recruits to join Boko Haram in the late 2000s. Naturally, civilians have once again been disproportionately affected by the incalculable devastation that AOGs have since wrought. Long-lasting protection results can be obtained by allowing the military and citizens to interact in a positive way. After a year of this process in Monguno and Banki, there is enough data to conclude that when citizens are given the ability to speak up for their own safety and security forces consciously respond to civilian requests, better civil-military relations that result in better outcomes for civilians are indeed achievable. Although there will always be ongoing security risks to civilians in Monguno and Banki, which call for ongoing attention from all parties involved, as one CPC member from Banki stated, "We did not feel We were free before, but we are now free. "Know[ing] our rights, gave us full confidence," he added. Concerns about civilian safety will need to be addressed by persistent efforts by civilian organizations and, above all, by the Nigerian government and security forces being responsible to both Nigerian and international laws and purposefully interacting with civilian populations Sulaiman (2023).

Civil-military relations (CMR) are the ties that exist between the military and civilian authority (CAU) as well as between the military and non-governmental civilian groups (NGCG). The following is the study's conclusion:

Due to the constitutional clause that subordinates the military, the CAU and the military in Nigeria, and the South West in particular, had positive working relationships.

military under CAU's control, so the military served CAU's interests from 2011 to 2018. Once more, there were disputes between NGCG and the military during the 2014 governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States, which were held under President Goodluck Jonathan's administration. However, there were no disputes during the 2018 governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States, which were held under President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. There were, however, significant disputes between the military and NGCG, as the latter engaged in killing innocent civilians, destroying property, and intimidating and harassing NGCG during their internal security operation in S/W Nigeria from 2016 to 2017 under President Muhammadu Buhari administration Ajiteru, (2023).

12. ADVICE

Based on the aforementioned, the study suggested that: The National Assembly ought to pass legislation limiting the appointment of ministers of defense and police to retired military personnel. As representatives of civilian authority, ministers will be less likely to abuse their position of authority and professionalism according to the proposed solution (CAU). The National Assembly should establish an Independent Monitoring Operation on Military (IMOM) from among the non-governmental civilian organizations (NGCG) to keep an eye on troops' movements and actions. This operation would have the authority to discipline and sanction soldiers. The proposed remedy will stop the military from intimidating and harassing NGCG Sulaiman (2023).

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