

THE PLACE OF HUMAN SECURITY IN THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE IN AN AGE OF PANDEMIC*

Abstract

Human Security seems to be a simple term especially when it is viewed through its ordinary grammatical meaning. But when viewed in a broader perspective, it will reveal a lot of more concepts and meanings surrounding its relation to human beings in all areas of life. Security of lives and properties in a State is one if not the most of the conditions needed for peaceful coexistence, stability needed for economic and political development of any modern State. This paper sets out to discuss the issue of human security from different angles such as health security, socio-economic security, cultural security, Politico-religious security and environmental security amongst others which are cumulatively used to determine the development level of any State in the comity of Nation States. Our focus however will be on Human Security in the present Nigerian State vis-à-vis what ought to be according to our laws and the demand of international law.

Keywords: Human Security, Development, Health Security, Socio-Economic Security, Political and Religious Security.

1. Introduction

Security is a word connoting an atmosphere of peace without envisaging any danger. A place is said to enjoy a peaceful ambience and environment when there is freedom to do whatever that is permissible without the interference of a third party. If there is any interference, there is adequate mechanism existing to counter such interference be it physical, spiritual or legal. Human Security therefore will be a situation where a man can survive or live in an environment or a place where he can actualize his God given potentials without let or hindrance by anyone with the whole gamut of legal and governmental powers or might made available to defend him on one hand and to correct or punish him on the other hand if he is found to be the culprit breaching the rules of engagement. According to the dictionary, Security is freedom from danger, risk *et cetera*¹. It is also freedom from care, apprehension or doubt, well-founded confidence, something that secures or makes safe, protection or defense. It is freedom from financial cares or from want². Security can also be precautions taken to guard against theft, sabotage, an assurance or guarantee.³ In Law, Security is seen from the angle of collateral given or pledged to guarantee the fulfillment of an obligation⁴. In this wise, security indicates an interest based on an investment in a common enterprise rather than direct participation in the enterprise⁵. Under an important definition, a security is any interest or instrument relating to finances, including a note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in a profit-sharing agreement, collateral trust certificate, preorganization certificate or subscription, transferable share, investment contract, voting trust certificate, certificate of deposit for a security, fractional undivided interest in oil, gas or other mineral rights, or certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase any of these things⁶.

Looking at the dictionary definition of security, it seems to be a bundle of human rights viewed from different perspectives in the relationship of human beings within the jurisdiction of State. This means that without the State's active participation in the regulation of human security, there will be diverse problems both for the people and the State in its rapid development even in other areas of the economy. The issue of human security is a lifelong one for any State and when you revisit this issue coupled with the pandemic affecting all States irrespective of the level of their development, we have entirely a new dimension in looking at the challenges added by the pandemic.

In view of the above, we shall focus our investigation of our topic on different aspects of human security and its effects on individuals in the progressive development of the State in the age of pandemic.

*By **Rufus Olu OLAOLUWA, LL.M, PhD**, Associate Professor and Ag. Head, Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Faculty of Law, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria; Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria; Former Secretary-General, Nigerian Society of International Law. E-mail: rufus.olaoluwa@lasu.edu.ng.

¹ Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language, Grammy Books, New York/Avenel, New Jersey, 1989.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Bryan A. Garner (Ed.), *Black's Law Dictionary*, Eight Edition, 1999.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid.

2. Human Security in an Age of Pandemic

Human security means the protection of fundamental freedoms of persons – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations⁷. Human security integrates three freedoms: freedom from fear, freedom from want and the freedom from indignity.

Freedom from Fear

Freedom from fear refers to protecting individuals from threats directed at their security and physical integrity and includes various forms of violence that may arise from external States, the acts of a State against its citizens, the acts of one group against others and the acts of individuals against other individuals. The greatest problems today have shifted from the problems of stealing, robbery, rape, fraud of different types to more brutal problems of insecurity in the city, villages, farmlands, forests either reserved by the government or not and insecurity affecting inter-city travels where people can just be killed, kidnapped for ransom or for other purposes amongst which is ritual killings. Schools are not safe for school children. On the night of 14–15 April 2014, 276 mostly Christian female students aged from 16 to 18 were kidnapped by the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram from their school in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria. As at the end of year 2021 over 100 of these girls are still missing. On February 19, 2018 at 5:30 pm, 110 schoolgirls aged 11–19 years old were kidnapped from their School in the Town of Dapchi which is located in Bulabulin, Bursari Local Government area of Yobe State, in the northeast part of Nigeria. These girls were eventually released except one who refused to change her religion to Islam in exchange for her release. She is Leah Sharibu who is still under captivity⁸. It is becoming a norm to listen to news of killing, abduction, kidnapping of people especially school children, sacking of Towns and Villages with their traditional rulers being kidnapped on official State radio and television almost on daily basis. The fear is palpable. The fear expected from government is also a big deal as the government may increase prices of critical commodities or services by direct or indirect ways. The tariff on electricity consumption or the price of petroleum products can be increased without adequate ‘palliative’ from the government to cushion the effect of such increase on the populace. Banditry has taken Nigeria by the jugular. As at September 6, 2021, at least 1409 students alone not to talk about men and women taken from their farms have been kidnapped from their schools in Nigeria since the first incident announced in the country⁹.

The Regional Security Outfits in Nigeria

As the spate of insecurity increased across the length and breadth of Nigeria, the cries for improved security measures have risen from almost all parts of the country. Stakeholders have offered different suggestions for solution to the insecurity situation in the country ranging from the use of drones, improved political will to fight insecurity, decentralization of security operations, regional security outfits in the forms of Amotekun (South-West), Ebube Agu (South-East) and even the outright resignation of the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (Retired) over his failure to get a handle on the security challenges of the nation. Meanwhile, some Nigerian governors, Samuel Ortom of Benue State, Aminu Masari of Katsina State (President Muhammadu Buhari’s home state), and Darius Ishaku of Taraba State have resorted to asking citizens to defend themselves¹⁰. The formation of Ebube Agu has faced stringent criticisms over its legal basis but in establishing Amotekun, the South-Western States enacted laws guiding its existence, operations and personnel through the State governments’ legislatures. Violent attacks by herdsmen, injustice and marginalization have also been identified as the rationale behind the formation of regional security organizations¹¹. Speaking in an interview with THISDAY, the former Director of the Department of State Security (DSS), Mr. Mike Ejiofor, said South-East governors must address the issues of injustice and perceived marginalization for such an outfit to be effective.

Failure of Policing

Another issue raised as the reason for the establishment of regional security outfits is the failure of policing. As the lead security agency in internal security operations, the Nigerian Police is saddled with the responsibility of provision of security of lives and property. Paucity of funds, lack of equipment and manipulation of the force

⁷ Available at <https://www.iidh.ed.cr>default.12>

⁸Nigeria Dapchi abductions: Schoolgirls finally home - BBC News Available at <https://www.bbc.com › news › world-africa-43535872> accessed 15 February 2022.

⁹Available at <https://www.reliefweb.int>report>school...>, <https://www.dw.com>Nigeria-doze...>, www.theguardian.com all accessed 15 February 2022.

¹⁰See Oluwakemi Abimbola, Insecurity: Moment Governor Masari urged Kastina residents to fight back. Punch Newspaper, 29 December, 2021.

¹¹ THISDAY Newspaper, 19th April, 2021

structure have combined to render it ineffective. The recent #EndSARS¹² protests hijacked by hoodlums and the consequential destruction of police infrastructure readily comes to mind. To underscore the urgency of the situation, the acting Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Usman Baba, told commissioners of police from the South-East and South-South States that the situation in the two zones required urgent attention. He argued that the situation had left the populace at the mercy of criminal elements hence the formation of regional security groups for self defence. The former Director of the Department of State Security (DSS), Mr. Mike Ejiofor said in his speech that the Federal government deliberately destroyed the Nigerian Police. Of all the police in the former commonwealth countries, the Nigerian Police is the only one that has been decimated. They created EFCC, DSS, Road Safety, and NSCDC out of it. They are funding them with what should have been used to fund the police. So the police is dead and the people are exposed. So if the regions decide to defend themselves, what do you have against them? Nigeria has four other forces competing with the Nigerian police. The Police is underdeveloped and under-trained¹³. The former Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC) lamented the lack of commitment in resolving governance issues by those saddled with such responsibility. 'People are owed salaries, doctors are not paid and you are going abroad for medical treatment'¹⁴.

OPC, Igbo Group Tackle Miyetti Allah's 5000 Vigilantes

Threats of more violence have continued to dominate the atmosphere, reinforcing the reason for the formation of regional security outfits. The Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore had recently stated that it would deploy 5000 vigilantes across the country to protect Fulani interests, part of planned 100,000 vigilante deployment. Two groups, Odua People's Congress (OPC) and the Igbo National Council have furiously reacted to the deployment plan. The leader of OPC and Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yoruba land, Iba Gani Adams, said the threat by Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore to deploy 5,000 members of the group in the 36 states could lead to anarchy. 'Establishing a vigilante group by the Fulani in other people's land is driving the country towards anarchy and nobody has a monopoly of violence. They are condemning Amotekun and Ebube Agu but it is only criminals that will have the fear for any region to have their internal security outfits. Why is Miyetti Allah challenging anything that happens in other regions? I think the federal government should not take their statement lightly. If they do, it can affect the government', he said. According to him, 'If they want to organise a security outfit, it should be to help and support the government and not to work against the government. Have the Yoruba or the Igbo in Kano organised a parallel security outfit against Hisbah? No Yoruba community has said it wants to tackle Hisbah, because they know that Hisbah is serving the state government and the state government has the right to protect the interest of the people. Miyetti Allah is making a statement that can cause crisis in the country,' he stated¹⁵. Speaking in the same vein, the Igbo National Council (INC) warned the Miyetti Allah over its threat to deploy 5000 vigilantes to the South-east and other parts of the country. A statement issued by the National President of the group, Chilos God sent, said the recent threat would not be tolerated. 'We have received with anger the rumor that the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore is planning to deploy 5000 of their squad to the South-East and other zones in the name of vigilante. We want to use this medium to advise them before sending those men and women to their early grave as that project may mark the end of Miyetti Allah in South-east zone of Nigeria', it said¹⁶. The INC said 'the Igbo National Council and various other self-determination groups of the Igbo nation will no longer tolerate any aggression from the Miyetti Allah sponsored terrorist attack against any community in Igbo land.'¹⁷ The US warned on the Movement of ISIS, Al-Qaeda to the Southern Nigeria. The United States government recently warned against the infiltration of Southern Nigeria by terror groups, notably, ISIS and al-Qaeda and Boko Haram. At a virtual media briefing, the Commander of the US Special Operations Command, Africa, Dagvin Anderson, said terror groups were moving down South and other parts of West Africa. 'We have engaged with Nigeria and continue to engage with them in intelligence sharing and in understanding what these violent extremists are doing. And that has been absolutely critical to their engagements up in Borno State and into an emerging area of North-West Nigeria that we are seeing al-Qaeda starting to make some inroads in', he

¹² End SARS is a decentralized youth social movement and series of mass protest against Police brutality in Nigeria. The slogan calls for the disbanding of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a notorious unit of the Nigerian Police with a long record of abuse on the Nigerian citizens particularly the youth. The #EndSARS protests rocked the Nigerian State for two weeks leading to killing of civilians by the Military and some properties including the popular Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos destroyed. See <https://www.bbc.com > news > world...> accessed 16 February, 2022.

¹³ *THISDAY Newspaper*, 19th April, 2021

¹⁴ *THISDAY Newspaper*, 19th April, 2021

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁷ *Ibid*

said¹⁸. So, this intelligence sharing is absolutely vital and we stay fully engaged with the government of Nigeria to provide them with an understanding of what these terrorists are doing, what Boko Haram is doing, what ISIS-West Africa is doing, and how ISIS and al-Qaeda are looking to expand further south into the littoral areas.

In view of the intelligence provided by the US government, the federal government should take steps to look more closely into the level of infiltration and strengthen counter, deployable measures against a clearly present force. The Federal government of Nigeria seemed to be unconcerned in the progression and expansion of the activities and incursion of Boko Haram groups, Bandits, other terrorist inclined group and criminals into the South-West, South-East and South-South regions of the country with the Police, Military and other security agencies pretending to be tired or not able to perform their constitutional role of defending and upholding the peace of the Areas being affected. This may also provide an insight into the rampant and unabated killings, kidnappings and rape in the Southern part of the country by elements not known before now and the consequent appearance of regional security outfits. In February, the Minister of Defence retired Major General Bashir Magashi told Nigerians to rise to their own defence. In March 2018, a former Chief of Army Staff and Defence Minister, General T.Y. Danjuma also called for self-defence¹⁹. These governors have on different occasions advocated for the citizens to be armed, so they can defend themselves against bandits and other criminal elements. At the different times that Governor Masari had made the call for self-defence. On Friday, June 25, 2021, Masari while inaugurating an operation and communication Centre at the State's Police Headquarters, said the only choice left was for the people to fight back²⁰ and defend themselves if the government and its security agencies have failed or unable to defend them²¹.

Freedom from Want

Freedom from want refers to the protection of individuals so that they might satisfy their basic needs and the economic, social and environmental aspects of life and livelihoods. The major problems threatening life and properties across the world today is the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic which is producing many variants as deadly as the original COVID-19. The Covid-19 as the name sounds started to infect people in its present form in Wuhan²² in China in year 2019. It soon spread to others countries of the world killing millions of people and distorting and affecting almost everything both human and governments of States, politics and policies of governments, economy and particularly health and health institutions which were overwhelmed with the surge of patients sick or affected one way or the other. The first problem was shutting of access (boarders) to many countries either by air, rail, and road or by sea thinking that these measures will help to insulate them or at least reduce the incidence of contacting the global disease.

Historically, Human coronaviruses, first characterized in the 1960s, are responsible for a substantial proportion of upper respiratory tract infections in children. Since 2003, at least 5 new human coronaviruses have been identified, including the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus, which caused significant morbidity and mortality. NL63, representing a group of newly identified group I coronaviruses that includes NL and the New Haven coronavirus, has been identified worldwide. These viruses are associated with both upper and lower respiratory tract disease and are likely common human pathogens. Corona virology has been advanced significantly in the past few years. The SARS epidemic put the animal coronaviruses in the spotlight²³. Looking at Coronavirus today, about 414,018.068 people have been infected globally and about 5,845,051 deaths have been recorded²⁴. In Nigeria, about 254,000 people were infected by this deadly virus and about 3,141 deaths were recorded²⁵. The coronavirus pandemic is changing and rebranding despite global efforts deployed to curb it and flatten the curve. These efforts are manifested in the production of different vaccines to curb and guide against further infections. These changes and rebranding are seen as different variants of coronavirus such as

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹See Oluwakemi Abimbola, Insecurity: Moment Governor Masari urged Kastina residents to fight back. *Punch Newspaper*, 29 December, 2021.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Emphasis mine.

²² Covid-19 is also known as Coronavirus, Wuhan Virus or China Virus. Wuhan Virus or China Virus from all indications will seem be derogatory against Wuhan as a city and China as a country.

²³ Kalin, Jeffrey S, McIntosh Kenneth: History and recent advancement in coronavirus discovery/ *The Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*, November 2005, Volume 24, Issue 11 p. S223 – S227.

²⁴ Available at <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng> accessed on 15th February 2022.

²⁵ Ibid.

Omicron, Delta, Alpha *et cetera*. Other variants may appear due the present unclear changing nature of the virus pandemic.

The distribution of the produced vaccines has even become a subject of politics between States that are producing purported good vaccines and States who are only consumers of the produced vaccines. More than 4.88 billion people worldwide have received a dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, equal to about 63.6 percent of the world population²⁶. It can be clearly seen that 36.40 of the people of the world are yet to be vaccinated against this deadly disease.

The combination of freedom from fear and the freedom from want has caused what can be referred to as economic disaster for the economy of most developing States in the comity of Nations. This is so particularly in the economy of Nigeria where many areas of the economy are not stable to the extent that a misstep or a small shaking in any of the indices of the economy can disrupt the entire system be it pricing distortion in some strategic goods or services like pump petrol price which can immediately affect transportation (which is not controlled by the State), prices of foodstuff (which is not controlled) and other services. This will have ripple effects on all other areas of livelihood of the generality of the people.

Freedom from Indignity Freedom from indignity refers to the promotion of an improved quality of life and enhancement of human welfare that permits people to make choices and to seek opportunities for their empowerment.

From one hand, the government through different economic initiatives to support farming in the production of food and establishment of different institutions to help employ unemployed youths in order to improve quality of lives of the people. The actions and activities of bandits, herdsmen killers and kidnappers did not allow the laudable government project to achieve its set objectives. This has led to a situation which can best be described as counter-productive. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended²⁷ provides for the right to dignity of human person as follows: Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly –

No person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment,

No person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and

No person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour except in the following circumstances:

any labour required in consequence of the sentence or order of a court, any labour required of members of the armed forces of the

Federation or the Nigerian Police Force in pursuance in pursuance of their duties, any labour required which is reasonably necessary in the event of any emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community; or any labour or service that forms part of any such compulsory national service which forms part of the education and training of citizens of Nigeria as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly²⁸. Even in these exceptional circumstances, any labour at all should be carried out with dignity as the saying goes that ‘there is dignity in labour’. Anything short of this requirement is totally unacceptable as it is in breach of the constitution.

3. From State-Centric Security to Human Security

Prior to the creation of the United Nations, the dominant concept of security was centered on the State and the principle of State sovereignty, as was set out in the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648 and whose influence continues even till today. Security centered on territorial integrity, political stability, military and defense arrangements and economic and financial activities²⁹. It was understood that States would pursue power, which implied that the gains of one side would come as a result of the losses of the other. According to these traditional ideas, the State monopolized the rights and means to protect its citizens and the power of the State and its security were established and broadened in order to maintain order and peace. History has demonstrated that the security of the State is not necessarily the security of the people, a clear example of which is the two World Wars. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that ‘recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the

²⁶ Available at [nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccination-tracker.html](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccination-tracker.html) accessed 15th February 2022.

²⁷ Section 34 (1)

²⁸ Section 34 (2)

²⁹ Jolly, Richard and Ray, Deepayan Basu: The Human Security Framework on National Development Reports, UNDP, NHDR Occasional Paper 5, United Nations Development Programme, 2006, p. 3.

world,³⁰ which clearly establishes the centrality of the human being. In addition, the Declaration affirms that the ‘disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.’³¹

The phrase ‘freedom from fear and want’ incorporated into the Declaration was first used by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt of the United States in his speech to Congress on January 6, 1941, in which he enumerated the four freedoms designed to bring his country closer to the world: Freedom of speech, Freedom of worship, Freedom from want, and Freedom from fear. Freedom from want and fear were later mentioned in the Atlantic Charter, signed on August 14, 1941 by Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and President Roosevelt. These concepts, in the opinion of Edward Stettinius, then US Secretary of State, would be the integral components of the strategy of peace of the UN: ‘The battle of peace must be fought on two fronts. The first is the security front where victory spells freedom from fear. The second is the economic and social front where victory spells freedom from want. Only victory on both fronts can assure the world of an enduring peace’³². These are the bases for rethinking the concept of security, which is no longer based on the traditional ideas of sovereignty, territory or military power, but rather on achieving freedom from fear and freedom from want. These are also the bases that establish the right to human rights: they all have the search for human dignity as a common root. Nevertheless, the Cold War, the period that followed the Second World War, reinforced the concept of State-centric security, with the further difficulty of the threat of a nuclear attack by any of the contending powers. In 1980, the Independent Commission on International Development Issues (known as the Brandt Commission) was established. It argued that peace included the eradication of hunger and inequality;

In 1982, the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security (Palme Commission) referred to morality in international affairs;

In 1987, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) focused on the relationship between the environment and conflicts; In 1990, the South Commission (chaired by Julius Nyerere) listed poverty, environmental dangers, the deficiencies of democracy and deindustrialization as some of the causes of insecurity. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been joined by nine universal instruments that cement the juridical-conceptual framework of human rights: universal, transnational, irreversible, indivisible and progressive. These instruments are:

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965);

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966);

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966);

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979);

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984);

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989);

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990);

The African Charter on Peoples and Human Rights 1981 is an addition to this list.

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (2006);

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

During the 1990s, the UN, given the impetus of the first seven instruments cited, which had been adopted by that time, laid the foundation for the conceptualization of human security. The 1994 Report on Human Development pointed out the need of a profound transition in thinking -from nuclear security to human security. ‘The concept of security has for too long been interpreted narrowly: as security of territory from external aggression, or as protection of national interests in foreign policy or as global security from the threat of a nuclear holocaust. It has been related more to nation-states than to people (...) Forgotten were the legitimate concerns of ordinary people who sought security in their daily lives’³³. The situation in Nigeria presently has come this level where you as an individual will be undoing yourself if you are careless in your personal security and that of your immediate family at the least. The Report defined human security based on two principal

³⁰ Paragraph 1 of the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

³¹ Paragraph 2 of the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

³² Sunga, Lyal S.: ‘The Concept of Human Security: Does it Add Anything of Value to International Legal Theory or Practice?’ en *Power and Justice In International Relations*, Ashgate, University of Innsbruck, Austria, p. 132.

³³ UNDP: Human Development Report, 1994, p. 4.

aspects: ‘It means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life -whether in homes, in jobs or in communities³⁴.’ The Report establishes the following essential characteristics: Human security is a universal concern. It is relevant to people everywhere, both in rich countries and in poor countries. The degree of the threats may vary from one place to another, but they are real.

4. The Threats to Human Security

The components of human security are interdependent. When the security of a people is endangered anywhere in the world, all nations are likely to get involved³⁵. Human security is easier to ensure through early prevention than late intervention. Human security is people-centered. ‘It is concerned with how people live and breathe in a society, how freely they exercise their many choices, how much access they have to market and social opportunities and whether they live in conflict or in peace³⁶. According to this Report³⁷, the threats to human security may be classified into the following seven categories: Economic security, Food security, Health security, Environmental security, Personal security, Community security, Political security.

Possible Types of Human Security Threats	
Type of Security	Examples of Main Threats
Economic security	Persistent poverty, unemployment
Food security	Hunger, famine
Health security	Deadly infectious diseases, unsafe food, malnutrition, lack of access to basic health care
Environmental security	Environmental degradation, resources depletion, natural disasters, pollution
Personal security	Physical violence, crime, terrorism, domestic violence, child labor
Community security	Inter-ethnic, religious and other identity - based tensions
Political security	Political repression, human rights abuses

Subsequent to the Millennium Summit, held in September 2002, and at the initiative of Japan, the UN Commission on Human Security (CHS) was created, co-chaired by Sadako Ogata, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize laureate. In 2003 the CHS published its report ‘Human Security Now.’ The report defined human security in the following manner: ‘human security means protecting the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment.

³⁴ Ibid; Also the situation of fuel scarcity whether orchestrated or happened inadvertently in Nigeria that disrupts physical movements of persons who use cars or buses, disruption of prices, disruption of production of goods and services and disruption of government and individual businesses.

³⁵ This was the case when Iraq invaded Kuwait and declared that it has annexed Kuwait as part of its territory in August 1990. The whole world and the United Nations immediately demanded that Iraq should withdraw its troops from Kuwait unconditionally. The withdrawal was consequently enforced by a coalition of troops contributed by members of the United Nations. Also available at <https://www.history.com/.amp/this-day-in-history/iraq-invades-kuwait> accessed on 16 February 2022.

³⁶ Sunga, Lyal S.: Op. Cit. p. 132

³⁷ UNDP: Human Development Report, 1994, p. 7.

Human security means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity.³⁸

5. Human Security on the International Agenda

Human security has guided the foreign policy of many countries around the world. Canada has favored a more restricted idea of human security, defining it as 'freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, their safety, or even their lives.'³⁹ For its part, Japan has advocated a broader vision, taking into account both the element of freedom from fear and freedom from want. Moreover, Japan has actively promoted and supported the concept in the UN by being, inter alia, the founder and main donor of the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), the promoter of the Commission on Human Security and the Friends of Human Security (FHS).⁴⁰

The 2005 World Summit and its follow-up

The Friends of Human Security was established in the UN in 2006, co-chaired by Japan and Mexico and comprised of 34 Member States. It is an unofficial, open-ended forum, whose purpose is to provide an informal forum for the UN Member States, as well as other international organizations to discuss the concept of human security from different angles in order to seek a common understanding of human security and explore collaborative efforts for mainstreaming the concept in the UN activities⁴¹. The 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly in May 2008 was witness to a thematic debate on human security in which various countries participated. The Latin American countries that presented their positions or viewpoints were Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico. At the 64th Session held in 2010, as a follow-up to the Millennium Summit, the Secretary General presented a report on human security. The report updates the progress achieved in promoting human security since the 2005 World Summit. Human security has two strategies of action: protection and empowerment. Protection is defined by the Commission on Human Security as 'strategies set up by states, international agencies, NGOs and the private sector, (to) shield people from menaces.' It implies establishing 'top-down' measures, recognizing that people face threats that are beyond their control (natural disasters, financial crises, conflicts). Human security requires systematic, comprehensive and preventive protection. States have primary responsibility to implement such protection, while other actors such as international bodies, civil society and NGOs play a pivotal role. Empowerment is the 'strategies (that) enable people to develop their resilience to difficult situations' and implies 'bottom-up' measures that aim to develop the capacity of individuals and communities to make informed choices and to act on their own behalf. Empowerment not only enables people to develop their full potential but also permits them to participate in the design and implementation of solutions to ensure human security for themselves and others.

Principles

6. Principles of Human Security

Human security is based on the following five principles:⁴²

People-centered: Human security places the individual at the center of the analysis and, therefore, considers conditions that threaten their survival, livelihood and dignity.

Multi-sectoral: Human security is based on a multi-sectoral understanding of insecurities and, therefore, in addition to national security, it entails a broadened understanding of threats and their possible causes related to economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security. Human security emphasizes the interconnectedness of threats and responses to them in two ways. 'First, they are interlinked in a domino effect in the sense that each threat feeds on the other. For example, violent conflicts can lead to deprivation and poverty which in turn could lead to resource depletion, infectious diseases, education deficits, etc. Second, threats in a given country or area can spread into a wider region and have negative externalities for regional or

³⁸ Commission on Human Security: Human Security Now, New York, 2003, p.4

³⁹ Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada: Summative Evaluation of the Human Security Program. Available at http://www.international.gc.ca/about-a_propos/oig-big/2004/evaluation/human_security-secrite_humaine.aspx?lang=eng accessed on 16 February 2022.

⁴⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: Human Security. Available at http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human_secu/index.html accessed on 16th February 2022.

⁴¹ Available at http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/human_secu/friends/index.html, <http://ochaonline.un.org/SixthMeetingoftheFriendsofHumanSecurity/tabid/5709/language/en-US/Default.aspx> accessed on 16 February 2022.

⁴² Human Security Unit – OCHA (2010): Applying the Human Security Concept in Project and Programme Development, Implementation and Impact Assessment, Regional Training Workshop, San José, Costa Rica, 12-15 October.

international security’.

Comprehensive: Human security implies a comprehensive focus that emphasizes the need for cooperative and multi-sectoral responses that bring together agendas on security, development and human rights.

Context-specific: Human security acknowledges that insecurities vary considerably across different settings and, therefore, promotes the search for contextualized solutions that appropriately respond to each particular situation.

7. Conclusion

This research topic, as simple as it seems to look represents a package of thoughts that can continue to unfold. The more you look at the issues, the more you see other angles of human security in the age of pandemic. The complexity of the subject matter of the research shows that the topic is a type of watershed touching on almost all areas of human endeavor ranging from personal security through community security, political security, environmental security, health security, food security to economic security. This shows that apart from the police, the military and other accredited security agencies in a State, all other persons and all other institutions should be involved in bringing about enduring peace by taking active part in the security situation around us.

All policies of the State should have a human security aspect so that distortions from unsuspecting agents can be timely put in check. The focus should be directed more to the area of prevention of insecurity than focus on prosecution and punishment of offenders against the law. There should be general awareness of the security situation in a locality for people to chart a way to sustain a good security situation and at the same time work towards frustrating marauders. It is equally important for different States (especially in the same region) to form alliance and cooperate against security threat or breach in their region.