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ENHANCING MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO DEFEAT TERRORISM THROUGH A NON-KINETIC APPROACH IN AFRICA: LESSONS FROM THE GREAT LAKES REGION

David GONYI[1]

Abstract

The second decade of the 21st century has witnessed a daunting challenge of increasing cases of violent radicalization and terrorist activities in Africa, especially in the Great Lakes Region (GLR). In response, several multilateral arrangements have been expanded to address these threats on the continent. Notwithstanding the efforts made by the various multilateral frameworks, the challenges have remained largely unabated. Using a qualitative method of inquiry
this study seeks to examine the utility of existing multilateral arrangements in combating terrorism in the Great Lakes Region. I argue that the threat of terrorism continues unabated because counter terrorism efforts on the continent have been largely over-focused on kinetic operational requirements, which do not take into account the specific vulnerabilities, and structural challenges that facilitate the mobilization, recruitment and movement of the various terrorist groups in each part of the continent. The paper identifies the over focus on 'hard' security issues especially in ensuring that states are individually strong, with little or no focus on the underlying factors that facilitate terrorism as a primary reason for the continuance of terror attacks and violent radicalisation, in the region and recommends the recalibration of the focus of the regional mechanisms for enhancing the utility of existing multilateral arrangements in countering terrorism.

Introduction

One of the main security threats confronting the African continent is terrorism. Although this situation was originally more common in the Great

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DIMENSION OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP: RETURNING REFUGEES AS AGENTS FOR PEACEBUILDING IN LIBERIA

Amanda COFFIE[1]

Abstract

A major component of building sustainable peace is the local participation and ownership of the process. However, existing policies and research have not opened up spaces and opportunities to harness and promote effective participation of locals, especially refugee returnees, such as could lead to local ownership of the process. Using the case of Liberian refugee returnees from Ghana and Guinea, the article argues that the institutional, top-down and state centric focus of peacebuilding practices and policies in Africa in general and Liberia in particular, are a major source of limitations on the engagement of local actors, such as refugee returnees, in the process. The current practice, therefore, favours institutions and elite actors over locals. In such a framework, refugee returnees are thus presented as passive, and as recipients of charity from the state or Inter Governmental Organizations, rather than as active participants in their individual reintegration and in the broader socio-economic, political, and security transformation of their society. These constraints notwithstanding, the findings of the article reveals that through their agency in rebuilding their lives and their communities, in general, the returnees engage with the process of post-conflict reconstruction which has gone unnoticed by both the Liberian government and its international partners.

Introduction

Depending on the motives and background of the actors involved (local and international agencies) in the process of peacebuilding, the term "peacebuilding" has come to have and imply a multiplicity of meanings and actions (Bush, 1995). In general, however, the broad working conception put forward by a former UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to the UN General Assembly, that peacebuilding is part of an overall "peace process", has been very influential. Boutros-Ghali saw "peace" as a process spread along a continuum of events, which included

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MONITORING COMPLIANCE OF AFRICAN UNION INSTRUMENTS: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

Linda DARKWA[1]

Abstract

In line with international good practices and its determination to effectively protect the rights of the African people, the African Union indicated its determination "to monitor the implementation of policies and decisions of the Union as well as ensure compliance by all Member States". Thus, the AU working with a consortium of Civil Society Organisations, instituted the State of the Union Report. Though the process and the outcome are useful mechanisms for encouraging citizens' engagement which is critical to ensuring accountability and transparency in governance,. in light of the existing state of information availability and management in several countries, the current methodologies for collecting data for the SOTU report face several constraints that limit its ability to present a clear report on the state of implementation and compliance of the Union's policies.

Introduction

In 2002, after the coming into force of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, African leaders took an unprecedented step by declaring their willingness to hold themselves accountable for the implementation of the Union's rules and norms. In Article 4.1(b) of its Rules of Procedures, African leaders stated their determination to "monitor the implementation of policies and decisions of the Union as well as ensure compliance by all Member States through appropriate mechanisms" Assembly of the African Union (2002). Three months after the decision, Civil Society Organisations engaged in advocacy for the ratification, domestication and implementation of African Union instruments, established the State of the Union Project to partner the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (AHSG) in undertaking the task of monitoring the implementation and compliance of the Union's policies and decisions (State of the Union

MANAGING MARITIME SECURITY THREATS IN THE GULF OF GUINEA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

Ken AHORSU[1]

Abstract

The Gulf of Guinea remains a lightening rod of insecurity from West to Central Africa. The article draws attention to these security perils and demonstrates how the intended purpose of promoting security in the Gulf of Guinea would have benign ramifications for regional integration. It highlights the precarious state of security in the Gulf of Guinea against the backdrop of the prevalence of piracy and other related maritime crimes, and paints an ominous state of maritime infrastructure in West Africa. It concludes that the responsibility of safeguarding the Gulf of Guinea is a collective responsibility, but ultimate responsibility lies with West African states that urgently need to invest in maritime infrastructure particularly by Nigeria, whose Niger Delta region is the epicentre of crimes that occur in the Gulf of Guinea.

Key words: Transnational Security Threats, Gulf of Guinea, Regional Integration, ECOWAS, Niger Delta.

Introduction

Regional integration remains a dominant theme in states' discourse in an increasingly interdependent international system (Mitrany, 1966; Hurell, 1995; Shaw, 2003).Contemporarily, regional integration has gained more currency in the advent of the ever heightening globalisation and transnational security threats. In West Africa, the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 1975 is remarkable as West African states mobilized to pursue regional developmental objec-

IMPLICATIONS OF HACKTIVISM FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Smith ODURO-MARFO[1]

Abstract

Hacktivists by their non-state and often transnational nature, can sit any-where in the world and put pressure on any government to demand transparency, accountability and protection of human rights among others. Hacktivism thus immediately presents a complex for states particularly in terms of security. Is this assertion merely an optimistic guess? In practice, has hacktivism had any significant effect (positive and/or negative) on security in the international system? Guided by Keohane and Nye's pluralism theory, this paper discusses the implications that hacktivism has had for international security by analyzing the activities of WikiLeaks, Anonymous and Edward Snowden. It concludes that the effect that hacktivism has had for international security is significant. Such effects include instigating security reforms and helping fight global terrorism among others.

Introduction

'Hacktivism' is a neologism coined from the words; 'hack' and 'activism'. Basically, if a person or group of people hack a computer system with the intention of pursuing a socio-political change that promotes the good of society, it is hacktivism. For the purposes of this paper, the definition of hacktivism as given by Dorothy Denning is utilized. Denning defines hacktivism as "the nonviolent use of illegal or legally ambiguous digital tools in pursuit of political ends".[1] This definition reduces the centrality of hacking to practical hacktivism and this ensures that other digital tools that facilitate and sustain the motive of hackers seeking to use their craft to promote socio-political change are duly recognized.

This paper discusses the implications that hacktivism has had for international security. The paper first presents the theoretical framework guiding it and briefly profiles the three main 'hacktivist-actors' whose actions constitute the scope of the paper; WikiLeaks, Anonymous and Edward Snowden. These three actors were chosen due to the relatively high attention paid to their actions. In the light of such attention, it is a travesty to discuss the implications of hacktivism and ignore them. Sec-

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THE CONFLICT BETWEEN GHANAIAN CAREER AND NON-CAREER (POLITICAL) DIPLOMATS: REFLECTIONS OF A POST-MODERN POLITICAL DIPLOMAT

Margaret AMOAKOHENE[1]

Abstract

This paper documents portions of a political Ambassador's brief sojourn in diplomacy beginning with how the diplomatic journey started, preparations, functions and responsibilities, as well as the often unspoken conflict between career and non-career (political) diplomats. It tries to situate these in definitions of diplomacy and the diplomat and how these have changed over time. The paper highlights many challenges and frustrations encountered by the practitioner which future political appointees ought to know about, and suggests that by its inaction, shown by several unacknowledged letters of complaint, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appears to sometimes tacitly endorse, or at least overlook, misbehaviour of some career officers. It concludes by asking three rather provocative and debatable but profound questions regarding the ambassadorial position and Ghana's Foreign Service largely based on personal experiences. The paper further asserts that since Ambassadors serve at the pleasure of the President and his Government, animosity and conflict between career and non-career appointees have little or no effect on the appointee per se but on the appointing body and the country of origin. Also, because the ambassadorial position is one of responsibility, hard work and service to country rather than of self-aggrandizement, the choice of an Ambassador is and should be grounded in principles of good performance whether found in the Foreign Service or elsewhere in the country.

Introduction

This paper documents portions of my brief sojourn in diplomacy. It attempts to define diplomacy in both the traditional and post-modern settings explaining who the diplomat is and taking readers through my diplomatic journey, preparations made for it, assignment and responsibil-

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