CODESRIA

TITLE:

Coordinator: Dr. V. Adefemi Isumonah. ………………..; University of ……Ibadan………………, ……………

Members:

1. Dr. Mahfouz Adedimeji . …………………; University of …Ilorin…………………., …………….
2. Dr. Abosede Babatunde ………..; University of ……… Ilorin ….., ………………..
3. Dr. … Shittu Raji ……………….; University of Ilorin …………………………….., ……………….
4. Mr. Manasseh Wepundi ……………………; Saferworld, Kenya. ………….., ……………

SUMMARY

Institutional Capacity for Managing Violent Religious Extremism in Nigeria and Kenya
Religious Extremism in one country has proven to be a threat not only to its national security but also to regional and global security, validating Galtung's (1996) hypothesized relationship between domestic conflict and global insecurity or the view that conflict anywhere is a threat to peace and security everywhere. In particular, violent extremism has eroded public safety and modest developmental gains, setting the economies of the affected developing countries on the path of retrogression.

Studies have highlighted the role of poor governance, namely, economic and political mismanagement with such consequences as mass deprivation, high youth unemployment, political marginalisation, bigotry, and so on, in the rise of religious extremism. In other words, violent extremism is the direct consequence of the fragile institutions of the state, which can be seen from its capacity to manage diversity, tackle corruption and inequality, eschew gross violations of human rights, stem environmental degradation, etc. The critical question remains: If all sub-Sahara African states suffer from institutional incapacity, what accounts for the presence or absence of violent extremism? As such, the extant literature is short of a clear model by which we can know why there is violent extremism in one state and not in the other state with similar social, political and economic conditions. What explains the seeming inability of the Nigerian military to contain the activities of violent extremism? Is it institutional incapacity or playing politics with violent extremism by Nigerian authorities?

This research is designed to answer the above questions and the following specific questions. What are the factors responsible for violent religious extremism in Nigeria and Kenya? What policy and institutional responses have they put in place to address the violent religious extremism currently stalking them? If they are not effective, why are they not? What is the role of civil society including the media in the escalation or de-escalation of terror in Nigeria and Kenya?

The general objective of this study is to examine the rise of violent extremism and the incapacity of state institutions to tackle it in Nigeria and Kenya. Its specific objectives are to

determine: (1) The causes of religious extremism, (2) The areas of convergence or divergence in respect of the rise and effort at tackling religious terrorism in Nigeria and Kenya as well as the successful prevention of violent extremism in select African countries, (3) The role of extremist entrepreneurs and how they support violent extremism through finance, materials, intelligence gathering, combat training and logistics, and (4) The gap between government declarations or intents and efforts being made to contain violent extremism.

The study will employ qualitative and quantitative research techniques including the use of library and archival resources, structured and semi-structured in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews. The sample site of the study would include Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, the North Eastern part of Nigeria or the three States of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa which, constitute the epicenter of violent extremism in Nigeria as well as Nairobi, the capital of Kenya and Mombasa, Lamu and Garissa in Kenya.