



Research Paper

## Civil-Military Relations and National Security in Nigeria, 2009-2019

Obuh Nekabari Moses

Postgraduate Student, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Emmanuel Opuama DAVIES, Ph.D

Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Graham Nsiegebe, Ph.D

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

---

### ABSTRACT

This study evaluated civil-military relations and its impact on national security. The central aim was to investigate the relationship that exists between the Nigerian military and civilians from 2009-2019 with the view to finding out the effects of such relationship on national security. The survey research design was used to accomplish this purpose. The questionnaire and interview guide were the instruments used for data collection. For the survey aspect, 400 questionnaires were distributed and retrieved forming the basis for the questionnaire analysis. For the interview, two respondents were interviewed from the military. The questionnaire data collected were presented in frequency tables and Four-point Likert scale while the interview data were analyzed in themes in line with the research questions. The study found that the relationship between the Nigerian military and the civil society is not as cordial as it should be. It further reviews that effective and positive civil-military relations improve national security. The study concludes that the business of securing the territorial borders of any nation relies on the military. This task is as a result of the critical training the military has received over time. On the internal scene, it is the duty of the police to maintain internal law and order among citizens. The inability of the police to handle these internal crises in the country led to the call for assistance from the military. The powers wielded by these military officers eventually led to the overshadowing of the activities of the police who were trained to relate with civilians. It was therefore recommended that: the military should take the issue of community relations seriously. This community relationship building should involve treating the issues of civilian maltreatment by the military as an ill that need to be eradicated.

**KEY WORDS:** Civil-Military, Relations, National Security, Security, Civilians, Military

Received 27 September, 2021; Revised: 08 October, 2021; Accepted 10 October, 2021 © The author(s) 2021. Published with open access at [www.questjournals.org](http://www.questjournals.org)

### I. INTRODUCTION

This study examines Civil-military Relations and National Security in Nigeria, 2009-2019. The society we live in today is governed by structures and rules. These structures are usually designed such that humans will behave properly following certain rules. All these behavioral patterns are targeted towards building and sustaining functional relationships between people (including the military and civilians). Over the years, the civil-military relationship in Nigeria has been tensed instead of cordial and this has generated great concerns from scholars and policy makers alike. This tensed relationship has denied the Nigerian society proper security as the civil society seemed to have lost trust in security agencies thereby denying them the needed cooperation for effective operation (Abdullahi & Olofin 2019). The overall effect has been a dysfunctional society with crime rising on a daily basis. This crime rise is however coming despite the modest effort of the military to improve its communication with the civil society (Abdullahi & Olofin 2019). This might not be unconnected

with the constant deployment of military personnel into civilian space without adequate training and/or instructions on how to relate with civilian excesses. Both military and civilian structures have rules within which they are expected to operate hence failure to conform to those rules can and will always lead to disagreements.

It is the responsibility of every government anywhere in the world to put measures in place to ensure the safety of lives and properties within its territorial boundaries. This responsibility also includes creating and sustaining a peaceful relationship among citizens (both military & civilians). These measures are usually achieved through the armed forces and the police, which have different roles in the peace building process. While the Nigerian police force are designed to handle milder domestic threats, the Armed Force of Nigeria is constitutionally empowered to handle external threats as well as some lightened internal security challenges that are beyond the Nigerian police force such as insurgency or militancy. Specifically, Section 105 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended states that:

The protection of the country against all forms of internal and external danger/threat or attack is a primary responsibility of government performed through the armed forces in collaboration with the civilian population. Subversion of government policy from within or without, religious intolerance and fanaticism, ethnic antagonism and class struggles, unemployment, hunger, perceived inequality and social injustice, etc. are the major sources of internal threats to security, while the grave forms of external threats are aggression or actual attack on our territorial integrity, both of which represent an assault on our very survival as a people (Section 105).

While the police as a result of the wide range of their domestic activities have constant interface with civilians, the military have fewer contacts with civilians yet the military seem to command higher respect among civilians. This respect however is a consequence from a harsh but few contacts between the military and civilians. These harsh contacts which are seen by some civilians as uncalled for, sometimes lead to human right violations with the government doing little or nothing to control it. This has led to a flawed civil-military relationship with civilians sometimes calling for removal of the military in civil space even when the police seem incapable of curtailing the ills of that society. Sometimes the actions mettle out on erring military offices is shielded in secrecy hence the mistrust among civilians.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Civil-Military relationships in Nigeria have encountered a lot of challenges with the issue of poor political leadership compounding other problems. Aside from the leadership era controlled by ex -military personnel's- President Buhari and former President Obasanjo (from 1999 to date) other administrations lacked the will power to control the Armed Forces (International Crises Group, 2016). This lack of will power led to a situation where people used the military illegally with devastating effect on civilians (especially those with less social influence). This inefficiency on the part of government was made worse by the insincerity of purpose in some decisions taken by government (even in this present political era). The contradictions between government policies and speeches led to some insurrection both among citizens and government between the military themselves. The insurrection led to cases of direct confrontations by citizens on military deployment, (like in the case of the south east operation Python Dance) which led to the loss of lives.

Also, the issue of corruption and lack of accountability among military and government officials also pose a problem for this study. Corruption contributes immensely to the decline of civil-military relations (International Crises Watch 2016) with the military gradually losing their respect due to misuse of power. This corruption includes budget padding and subsequent unaccountability for funds spend making the military vulnerable to civilian manipulation. This widespread corruption has made it near impossible to probe erring officials as almost everyone seems to have one secret or the other which they don't want the public to know. This also results in the indiscriminate and unlawful use of the military to the detriment of ordinary citizens (civilians).

### **Research Questions**

1. What is the nature of the relationship between the Nigerian military and civilians?
2. How do civil-military relations enhance national security?

### **Theoretical Framework**

Every research draws inspiration from time-tested scholarly positions on the subject matter (Dii, 2018). Theories facilitate the understanding of issues in the affected field. For the purpose of this research, stakeholders' theory will form the foundation for the study.

The concept "Stakeholder" was first used in 1963 in an internal memorandum at the Stanford Research Institute (Amodu 2012). According to its first usage, stakeholders are groups whose support the organization needs so as to remain in existence. The concept was developed into a theory and championed by Edward Freeman in the 1980s (Freeman & Reed, 1983, p. 89). Freeman and Reed (1983) later write on the comparison

between stockholder and stakeholder, and Freeman (1984) cited in Amodu (2012) provides more details on the theory. The stakeholder theory states that an organization has stakeholders who are generally the groups and individuals that benefit from, or are harmed by the organization's actions. The rights of these parties can either be violated or respected by the organization (Hartman, 2005). This theory identifies the groups and individuals relative to an organization. It also describes as well as recommends methods by which the interests of each party can be catered for by the management of the organization (Freeman & Reed, 1983 cited in Amodu 2012).

The existence of an organization depends on its ability to create value and acceptable outcomes for different groups of stakeholders (Jones, 2004). Stakeholders (the civil society) are generally motivated to participate in an organization if the inducements they receive exceed the value of the contributions they are required to make. This means that the civil society will be happy with military presence if the price (including security of lives and brutality meted on citizens) they pay is less than the benefits they derive from military presence. Different stakeholders use the organization simultaneously to achieve their goals hence it is important to note that the viability of the organization and its ability to accomplish its missions of providing goods and services depends mainly on the contributions of its stakeholders. The military need the assistance of the civil society in order for them to ensure proper security.

When talking about issues of national security, everyone is a stakeholder. This mean that for any nation to enjoy certain level of security (because no nation is completely secure), every player has to be on the watch. A mutually beneficial relationship between the military and civilians (citizens) is a necessary step towards ensuring national security. This is what links stakeholders theory to this work.

## **Conceptual Review**

### **Civil-Military Relations**

The term "Civil-Military Relations" has often been used by many writers and scholars alike, without making any conscious effort to explain it. This misnomer has led many to talk about different issues under the same subject. In this study we shall attempt a conceptual clarification on the subject matter with the hope that a meaning can be given to it.

Civil-Military relation is the relationship between the civil society and the armed forces. It is an essential part of a polity, democratic or otherwise, since military force is almost a universal feature of social systems. To Fayemi (2006:1), civil-military relations can be seen as part of complex political process which must address the root causes of militarism in society beyond the formal removal of the military from political power. While formal mechanisms of control are not in themselves wrong, the realities underpinning the crisis of governance in Nigeria is how the subordination of the armed forces to civil control can be achieved. When civil control is seen as part of a democratic struggle that goes beyond obeying presidential orders, it will ensure accountability to the rest of the society.

The conclusion that can be drawn from this, is that what we need is not just civilian control but also democratization of the security sector (including the military). This can only be achieved through a range of measures ensuring comprehensive constitutional dimensions of democratic oversight of security sector expertise, ensuring professional autonomy over military matters and recognizing the holistic nature of human security in terms of ensuring freedom from fear and want and not just absence of war and societal violence (Braithwaite, 2006:7). According to Nwoli (2005), "civil-military relations mean the total game of interaction between soldiers and civilians as individuals or groups. It assumes the interdependence of civil and military sectors based on the principle of civil control of the military organization as a fundamental requirement for a lawful, free and democratic society" (p.108).

### **Prospects for civil-military relations**

The increasing role taken by the military in internal security operations have been criticized by people who are of the opinion that the military are not that trained to manage internal operations like other civil authorities such as the police. However, it must be said that the involvement of the military in internal security operations has had its advantages notwithstanding the negativity associated with it. The military will also go a long way in providing aid to civil authorities if the proper mechanism necessary for civil protection and internal operation are put in place.

### **Militarization and Politicization of Civil-Military Humanitarian Assistance**

The use of humanitarian assistance for political or military gain is entirely contrary to the concept of humanitarian action, which should be 'exclusively humanitarian and impartial in nature particularly prominent in the literature are the specific challenges posed by comprehensive or stabilization approaches and counterinsurgency (Itodo 2014). These trends are not new: since their conception in the 1950s, counterinsurgency strategies for example have consistently sought to use humanitarian assistance and the provision of basic services to pursue political or military objectives. The concerns of humanitarian actors

regarding explicit linking of humanitarian action with political and/or military strategies relate primarily to both 'contagion' and 'complicity', and the implications these have for their own principles, strategies and operations (Slim, 2011).

Notwithstanding the comparative advantages the military may have in certain contexts and in relation to certain capabilities (which some humanitarian actors acknowledge, in principle at least (SCHR, 2010; IASC, 2011; NMCG, 2011 cited in Itodo 2014), there remain serious concerns about the explicit linking of humanitarian and military or political objectives and the resulting expansion of the military into activities beyond their traditional mandates and areas of expertise. The discourse has focused mainly on conflicts, though the same principle applies in natural disasters. As Krahenbuhl (2011) asserts, in accordance with international humanitarian law the military have an obligation to undertake certain humanitarian activities, such as the evacuation of the wounded (Gordon, 2006). However, concerns regarding 'contagion' arise when humanitarian assistance becomes part of the military strategy: 'if humanitarian assistance is perceived, rightly or wrongly, as associated with military activities, being support to, or as being partisan to, one party to the conflict, humanitarian actors at best lose the acceptance necessary to operate safely and at worst become deliberate targets of attacks' (Fast, 2010; OCHA, 2011).

### **National Security**

Since man was created or since his evolution as believed by science, human society has continuously experienced different ways and methods trend for life sustenance and improved social relation (Ogah, 2011). The need for man to have an orderly and a well-structured and organized system aimed at achieving comfort, harmony and peace has been the pre-occupation of modern states. Much as society tries, fundamental challenges have thwarted man's efforts towards the realization of an egalitarian and just society. The various Nigerian constitutions and the statute books and other legal enactments in place aimed at providing backbone to governance to enhance national security and socio-economic growth are still confronted with obvious challenges (Ogah, 2011). According to Ogah, "the need therefore, for a peaceful and decent environment to allow for harmonious coexistence and enabling climate for socio-economic and political advancement cannot be overstated" (p.70)

The military being a critical component of any nations' security alongside other security agencies would have to ensure that the territorial integrity of their state viz-a-viz the internal security of the nation is assured. Successive governments from the period of colonialism to independence up until the current administrations have tried to put in place stable security networks. However, persistent internal political tussle, socio-economic conditions, religious affiliations, ethnic differences, lack of integrity as well as some social vices have all contributed pressure on the national thinking and these have adversely impinged on the potentialities of the Nigerian nation (Ogah, 2011). To put this in check, Ogah (2011) further elaborates that:

A nation's national security is predicated on her national interest, as well as her strategic calculations within the region and in the global arena. For us to have an effective and result-oriented National Security therefore, the socioeconomic terrain and the entrepreneurial needs of the nation must be well enhanced, as these are the catalysts that propel growth and development, which in turn assures the wellbeing of the citizenry. This cannot be achieved by one sector alone, a combination of all elements of national power and our strategic alliance would have to be harnessed. The armed forces however remain a vital element in the overall national security strategy (p.71).

This shows that the issue of national security is an age long thing which has always and will always affect the successes of any nation on the surface of the earth.

Nnoli, (2006) cited in Peter (2017) in explaining national security states that:

National security has become a coveted and cherished goal globally. With the positioning of the state as the guarantor of safety and security for the populace, security becomes the exclusive preserve of the state. This is most critical in countries where continual threats both domestically and internationally exist against their security. It is evidently considered within the standpoint of human security, environmental security, food security and health security. Parochial understanding and great ambiguity surround "national security." This makes its pursuit in African countries synonymous to increased insecurity (p.5).

The centrality and acute relevance of security to the existence of the African state and the harmonious co-existence between citizens at the horizontal level and state-citizens relationship at the vertical scale make African countries to spend much of their yearly national budget on security. The money budgeted for defence, however, end-up being used in the importation of arms thereby increasing the militarization of the continent. The consequent of this is the increasing state of African insecurity (Peter, 2017).

### **Empirical Review**

Ainabor, Idomeh& Braimah (2010) in a study entitled "*Civil military relations as a strategy for democratic consolidation in Nigeria 1999-2007*" set out to examine how the military can enhance how the

relationship between the civil society and the military can enhance democracy in Nigeria. The article did a historical exploration of the relationship between the military and the civil society in Nigeria and described the relation as that surround by mutual suspicion. The study was anchored on the group theory which posits that the interaction between groups is the central fact in politics hence it is an important element in the process of governance. The study therefore concludes that as a result of the previous eras of military rule in Nigeria, the military lost touch with professionalism and thus became corrupt. This created the need for an overhaul in the military and the complete replacement of the officers' corps.

Based on this finding and more, the study recommends that Based on the finding and more, the study recommends that:

1. There is need for effective and exemplary political leadership in the country in order to consolidate democracy. This requires credible elections that can throw up credible leaders.

2. There is also the need for the establishment of parliamentary supervision of the democratic structures in order to prevent the drift of democracy in Nigeria.

3. Citizenship and democratic education is equally needed to re-orientate the Nigerian populace to enable them appreciate the need to sustain democracy in Nigeria.

The link between this study and the present one is that while the previous study targeted civil-military relations as it relates to democratic practices, the present study explores this relationship regarding the security of the nation (national security). This became necessary because insecurity can cripple a democracy.

Tafida (2015) in a study entitled; "*an assessment of civil military relations in Nigeria as an emerging democracy*" set out to achieve the following objectives:

1. To examine the historical antecedents of civil-military relations under past civilian and military dispensations before 1999 and how it has shaped the nature of civil-military relations between 1999 and 2007;

2. To assess the nature and role of the civilian leadership in crafting and exercising control of the military between 1999 and 2007;

3. To assess the nature and role of the military in the context of the military leadership's acceptance of the supremacy of civilian authority;

4. To examine the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in shaping civil-military relations in Nigeria's post-military regime; and

5. To examine and assess the contribution of the international community especially the Western powers in assisting the Nigerian civilian leadership's effort to exercise control of the military.

To achieve these objectives, the researcher used the case study design. The study proposed that certain factors shapes the relationship between military formations and civilian leadership in Nigeria's emergent democracy from 1999 to 2007 and these factors are domiciled in Nigeria's domestic and external environments and within military establishment itself. The theoretical foundation of the study was bordered around agency theory, concordance theory, civil-military analogy of the Fox and the Hedgehog. The agency theory on which the work was anchored sees the military as an agent of the civilian leadership and the civilian is seen as the principal (Tafida 2015).

The study therefore concludes that:

Thus, it can be stated that civilian control of the military in Nigeria as an emerging democracy (1999-2007) was shaped by the expertise of the principal or civilian leadership (particularly the executive arm of government) in relating with the military, the acceptance of the military or agent to subject itself to the directives of the civilian leadership and the influence of the international community as a globalizing force in support of the promotion of liberal democratic civil-military relations in Nigeria (Tafida 2015, p.244).

The relationship between this study and the present one is that they both studied civil-military relationship as a concept looking at the nature of the relationship between the military and the civil society. The point of divergence however is that, while the previous study looked at the institutional (official) aspects of civil-military relations in relation to power sharing, the present study evaluates the security implication of the relationship between the military and the civil society.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study adopted triangulation methodology with a survey research design using questionnaire and structured interview as its major source of data collection. The population of this study was therefore limited to residents of Port Harcourt metropolis ranging about 756,600 (NBS), this was as a result of the location of some military barracks around its environment, the sample size is 400 determined through the use of Taro Yamane's formula. The study employed the random and purposive sampling technique. The data generated from the questionnaire were analyzed using frequency table with percentage indicated, responses were tallied on these tables and discussed accordingly. The interview data on the other hand was analyzed thematically through content analysis in line with the research questions, the two sets of data were compared to ascertain disparities and agreements as used for the discussion.

Data Presentation and Analysis

**Table 1: Nature of the relationship between the Nigerian Military and civilians**

Questionnaire	SA	A	D	SD	N	Total	Mean	Rmk
1. The relationship between the military and civilians in Nigeria is cordial.	35 (140)	8 (24)	341 (682)	16 (16)	400	862	2.2	Disagreed
2. The relationship between the Nigerian military and civilians is mutually beneficial to both parties.	19 (76)	50 (150)	277 (554)	54 (54)	400	834	2.1	Disagreed
3. The Nigerian military and civilians are always antagonistic.	266 (1064)	9 (27)	30 (60)	95 (95)	400	1,246	3.1	Agreed
4. The Nigerian military relates well with civilians on a daily basis.	41 (164)	34 (102)	290 (580)	35 (35)	400	881	2.2	Disagreed
5. There is no relationship between the Nigerian Military and civilians	20 (80)	5 (15)	350 (700)	25 (25)	400	820	2.0	Disagreed

Source: Field survey

The table above shows the nature of the relationship between the Nigerian military and civilians. From the table, item 1 reveals that the relationship between the military and civilians in Nigeria is not cordial. The respondents disagreed that the relationship is cordial with a mean score of 2.2.

**Table 2: How civil-military relations enhance national security**

Questionnaire	SA	A	D	SD	N	Total	Mean	Rmk
1. When the military communicate well with civilians, national security is guaranteed	370 (1,480)	28 (84)	1 (2)	1 (1)	400	1,567	3.9	Agreed
2. The impact of civil-military relations on national security is enormous	217 (868)	99 (297)	80 (160)	4 (4)	400	1,329	3.3	Agreed
3. National security is a product of cumulative efforts from both military and civilians	209 (836)	140 (420)	31 (62)	20 (20)	400	1,338	3.3	Agreed
4. The coordination between civilians leaders and the military enhance national security	310 (1,240)	78 (234)	9 (18)	3 (3)	400	1495	3.7	Agreed

Source: Field survey

Data presented on table 2 shows that the respondents agreed on all items that when the military communicate well with civilians, national security is guaranteed and the impact of civil-military relations on national security is enormous.

**Presentation of Interview Data**

**1. Please comment on the relationship between the Nigerian military and civilians.**

**Interviewee 1 Response:**

It depends on your understanding and the information available to the individual, because I do know that the Nigerian Military have cordial relationship with the civic populace, you see, most of the successful operations conducted by the military has always been in conjunction with the public, yes you may say the defense Intelligent Agency does the intelligent gathering but am telling you that is also because the people have that special trust in the military that is why they releases vital information to us.

You may also want to compare the general assumption on some of our para-military and security agencies to that of the armed forces and see that the different is clear, but some people lack that understanding so they stay far and presume that we don't cooperate with the civil society but we do.

(Anonymous, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2021)

**Interviewee 2 Response:**

Well, in the present dispensation between 1999 till date is not 100% cordial because of the fact that civilians see the military to be harsh, wicked and all that. But overtime you know that the Nigerian Military basically what they do is to protect the Nigerian territory as a nation as that is supposed to be nation to nation and not just internally but the way the world is going, the warfare now is not state anymore due to insurgency. We no longer fight with states anymore, now we are now our own problem; I mean we now have our own problem that we need to tackle and then the Nigerian Police that is supposed to tackle this internal security issues are incapable due to the fact that they might have been compromised by politicians or that they are under staffed or because the federal government had to involve the military to come in and assist.

(Anonymous, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2021)

**2. How does Civil-Military Relations affect National Security?**

**Interviewee 1 Response:**

National Security is broad and all encompasses thus, it requires total supports from the citizens. The Nigerian Military is well respected across the globe and as such I can boldly say that they are equal to the task but in security information is vital and that is where civil-military relations greatly affect national security, it could be positive or negative so when there is a strong synergy between the civilians and the military then one should expect a stronger national security too.

(Anonymous, Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2021)

**Interviewee 2 Response:**

I will say it does affect national security because lately, the military have come to understand the importance of civil-military relations. Before now, the military have been rigid believing in kill and go. All they understood then was to fight but since they have come to realize that we are in the era of unconventional warfare, they have so far been actually involved in the civil-military relations across the country. When we engaged in civil-military relations, it gave the communities like the host communities a chance to trust us and they were giving us serious information that if we had not come down to that level with them, we may not be privy to such information. The level the military particularly the air force relates currently with the civil society, I will say that the relationship is positive to national security. Before now, people were scared when they saw the military but that has change. For instance, if a policeman is controlling traffic, that place can be chaotic but if a military man, even from the least rank stands to control traffic everyone will obeys peacefully and some of those things are because we have trained our officers and made them understand the place of civil military relationship. That does not mean that we are no longer stubborn.

(Anonymous, Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2021)

### **III. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

**Research Question 1: What is the nature of relationship between the Nigerian Military and civilians?**

The result on table 1 indicates that 75.3% of the respondents have had one encounter or the other with military personnel implying that these respondents have had one course or the other to communicate with officers of the Nigerian military. Harris (2012) opines that communication is needed for relationships to be established and the success of that relationship depends on the effectiveness of the communication between parties. Civilians in a democratic setting are critical stakeholders in the military hence Stephens et al. (2005) is of the view that one of the effective ways to describe the culture of an organization is to consider the nature the organization's relationship with its stakeholders. In answering research question 1, the result on table 1 indicates that respondents disagreed that the relationship between the military and civilians in Nigeria is cordial with a mean score of 2.2. They also disagreed that the relationship is mutually beneficial with a mean score of 2.1. These positions might not be unconnected with the recent activity of the military during the various protests that took place within the country starting from the EndSARS protest of November 2020. The respondents agreed that the military and civilians always antagonistic and disagreed further that the military relates well with civilians with a 2.2 mean Score as shown on table 1.

However, the respondents agreed that there was a relationship between the Nigerian military and civilians. Item 5 on the table which was asked in negative form got a disagreement response with a mean Score of 2.0. These findings agree with the view of Abdullahi and Olofin (2019) which State that the tensed relationship between the military and civilians has denied the Nigerian society proper security and for this reason, the civil society (which constituted the respondents) have lost trust in the military leading to a dysfunctional relationship. The response from *Interviewer 2* who is a military personnel also confirm the position that from 1999 till date the relationship between the military and civilians have not been 100% cordial due to the fact that civilians see the military as harsh and wicked. Justifying her position, the interviewee

explained that this harshness is because the military were not trained to handle internal crisis (between citizens) but came in due to the inability of the police to handle these issues.

Peterside (2014) explains that the military orientation of seeing every threat as an enemy and thus should be eradicated puts the military at an edge when dealing with civilians. This according to Peterside (2014) has resulted to military takeover of operations from the police instead of aiding them and has caused a strained relationship between the military and the civil society due to human rights abuses.

Contradicting this position is the response from *Interviewee 1* which states that the civil society have a cordial relationship with the military according to the interviewee. The implication of these findings is that through the Nigerian military is making conscious effort to relate well with civilians, the effect of such efforts has not been fully impactful in the civil society.

### **Research Question 3: How do civil-military relations enhance national security?**

The result on table 2 shows how civil-military relations enhance national security. From the table, the respondents agreed on all the items that when the military communicate well with civilians, national security is guaranteed, the impact of civil-military relations on national security is enormous, National security is a product of cumulative efforts from both military and civilians and the coordination between civilians leaders and the military enhance national security.

This shows that there is an unavoidable link between civil-military relations and national security. This is because both the military and the civil society are stakeholders in ensuring national security and the stakeholders' theory states that an organization has stakeholders who benefit from or are harmed by the organization's actions and whose rights are either violated or respected (Hartman 2005). The way the relationship between the military and the civil society is handled affect to a large extent, the security of the nation. *Interviewee 1* explains that security information:

is vital and that is where civil-military relations greatly affect national security, it could be positive or negative so when there is a strong synergy between the civilians and the military then one should expect a stronger national security too.

This means that positive relationship leads to stronger national security and vice versa. *Interviewee 2* agrees that the relationship between military and the civil society affect national security thereby confirming the responses from the questionnaire.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

The business of securing the territorial borders of any nation relies on the military. This task is as a result of the critical training the military has received over time. On the internal scene, it is the duty of the police to maintain internal law and order among citizens. The inability of the police to handle these internal crises in the country led to the call for assistance from the military. The powers wielded by these military officers eventually led to the overshadowing of the activities of the police who were trained to relate with civilians. This led to the rising number of military officers, in civilian space which has caused a tensed relationship between the military and the civil society.

The way some military personnel's have handled civil cases has created a line of mistrust and fear between the military and civilians where the later sees the former as superior. This has reduced the social collaboration needed to ensure national security. The peaceful co-existence of Nigeria depends mainly on the effectiveness of this relationship and there can hardly be peace without civil-military co-operations. The findings from this study have established this view.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

The military should take the issue of community relations more seriously. This community relationship building should involve treating the issues of civilian maltreatment by the military as an ill that need to be eradicated. The military needs to make conscious efforts towards reaching out to the host community members in order to create the needed cordiality for national security to thrive.

There should be a synergy between the military and the civil society in intelligence sharing during military operations. This should be preceded by an enlightenment campaign on the need for information sharing (using codes) between the military and civilians. When the community understands that their security will be guaranteed when they share information with military personnel, information sharing will be freer than it presently is.

## **REFERENCES**

- [1]. Abdullahi, D. E. & Olofin, R. E. (2019). Deepening civil military relations for effective peace-building and democratic governance in Nigeria. Being proceedings of the CLEEN foundation civil - military relations project to foster sustained dialogue and improved understanding among the security agencies and the civil populace in Nigeria. Lagos: CLEEN Foundation.



- [2]. Ainabor, A. E.; Idomeh, A. O. & Braimah, M. O. (2010). Civil-military relations as a strategy for democratic consolidation in Nigeria: 1999 - 2007. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research Development* 15(2), 1-7.
- [3]. Amodu, I. O. (2012). *Community relations strategies and conflict resolution in the Niger delta: A study of three major oil companies*, (PhD Thesis) Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria: Covenant University Printing Press.
- [4]. International Crisis Group (2016). *Nigeria: The Challenge of Military Reform*. Africa Report 237
- [5]. Itodo, S. I. (2014). *Civil-Military relationship in disaster rescue and relief in Nigeria*. Centre for disaster risk management and development studies, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.
- [6]. Ogah (2011). *Law and security in Nigeria: The role of the military*. In E. Azinge, & F. Bello (Eds.), *Law and security in Nigeria* (pp. 70-91). Lagos, Nigeria: Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.
- [7]. Peter, A. M. (2017). [Review of the book, *National Security in Africa: A Radical New Perspective* by A, Nnoli]. *National Development Review* pp.138-141. Retrieved from: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320166623>
- [8]. Peterside, Z. B. (2014). *The Military and Internal Security in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects*. In *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* 5(27), pp.1301-1307.
- [9]. Tafida, M. L. (2015). *An assessment of civil military relations in Nigeria as an emerging democracy, 1999-2007* (Doctoral Dissertation). Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria.