

Protecting Right to Life and Combating Terrorism through the Instrument of Law in Nigeria

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Abstract : The right to life is a moral principle based on the belief that a human being has the right to life and, in particular, should not be unjustly killed by another human being. However, the most worrisome security challenge in Nigeria which has cut short the lives of innocent Nigerians is the activities of the dreaded terrorist group known as Boko Haram (which means Western Education is a sin). Between 2004 till date, over 15000 people have been gruesomely murdered by this terrorist group. However, despite the facts that suspected terrorists are arrested and paraded almost on a daily basis, cases of terrorism in our courts in Nigeria today have not been expeditiously dealt with by the judiciary. This paper examines the concept of right to life. The right to life is an inherent right for each and every person. From his or her birth; the individual is considered a living being that must be protected. The right to life connotes also right to live and grow in a healthy environment where there is appropriate health care, qualitative education and adequate security of lives and property. The paper also examines the fight against terrorism and the duty of the government to protect right to life of every individual even in the midst of the fight against terrorism. The paper further reviews the Terrorism Act 2011(as amended) and the clogs in the wheel of prosecution of suspected terrorists. The paper concludes that since terrorism is a new security challenge, to prevent conflict of interest, only one security agency should be trained and saddled with the responsibility of prosecuting suspected terrorist, Law should be enacted to compel intelligent gathering and sharing of information among security agencies and in addition, a special court should be established to deal expeditiously with cases of terrorism in Nigeria.

Keywords : terrorism, intelligent gathering, right to life, prosecution

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