

External Influence and Politics of Refugee Management in Africa a Case Study of Nigeria

Alaneme, J. C^{1*}, Nwogu, K. B and Iheanacho, C²

¹Department of Public Administration, Imo State Polytechnic Umuagwo, Nigeria

***Corresponding Author:** Alaneme, J. C, 1Department of Public Administration, Imo State Polytechnic Umuagwo, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This work is on the external influences and politics of refugee management in Africa. There is a general agreement that nationality constitutes a legal bond creating reciprocal right and obligations between an individual and a state. This work aimed at x-raying the roles played by African leaders and the super-powers, which pre-exposed their states or nations for the exploitation of the space by the white lords. Worthy of mention is the fact that a lot of factors forced people in a given state to migrate and take refugee in other states other than theirs. The researcher will seize this study opportunity to bring to light certain things that needs to be done in order to close the gap created for the Whiteman to come in and exploit.

Keywords: Refugee Management, African Leaders, Super Powers, White Lords

INTRODUCTION

The concept of refugee was expanded by regional conventions in Africa and Latin America to include persons who had fled war or other violence in their home country. European Union's minimum standards definition of refugee, underlined of Art 2 of directive No 2004/83/EC essentially reproduces the narrow definition of refugee offered by the UB 1951 convention. Nonetheless the reason of articles 2 (e) and 15 of the same directive, persons who have fled a war caused generalized violence are, at a certain conditions, eligible for a complementary form of protection, called subsidiary protection.

The same form of protection is foreseen for people who, without being, are nevertheless exposed, if returned to their countries of origin to death penalty, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatments.

The term refugee is often used in order to include displaced persons who may fall outside the legal definition in the convention, either because they have left their home countries because of war and not because of a fear of prosecution, or because they have been forced to migrate within their home countries.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

There is hardly a state (nation) in the world today devoid or not having something to do with refugee or refugees. Emphasis has been made

that are people who fled their countries of origin or both due to war or suffering of one problem or the other. Our study holistically covered Africa while emphasizes will be on Nigeria.

Problem of the Study

The reason for this research enterprise was to discover the reasons behind people's movement from their countries of birth to other places. Does this movement affect negatively or positively the nations or countries of movement. Actually this has always been an issue of worry.

Research Questions

- Does cultural background or differences contribute to people's movement from place to place?
- Does the absence of peace and fear attack lead people to migrate?
- Does white man have hand in the sparking off of crisis in the less developed countries in the world?

Objectives of the Study

This study has its general objective the analysis of external influence and politics of refugee management in Africa.

In its specifics the study aimed at:

- To ascertain the root cause of the movement of people from their countries.

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- To investigate the impact of African leaders in the refugee politics today.
- To examine those acts by individuals capable of forcing them to leave their countries and be exiled.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are formulated and will guide in the collection of data

Hypotheses 1

Ho- Crisis, war and violence does not encourage people to migrate and become refugees.

HA- Crisis, war and violence encourages people to migrate and become refugees.

Hypotheses 11

Ho- Offences against the state does not force people to migrate and likewise become refugees

HA- Offences against the state forces people to migrate and likewise become refugees.

Significance of the Study

The significance of this research work or study is divided into two:

Academic significance: in this regard, efforts will be made to bring to light the rudimentary and basic causes of people exiting or taking refugee in another country and from there be regarded as refugees. Academicians and practitioners through this exposition will get to know the reasons why this can also be regarded as a problem.

Practical significance: Uncovering and bringing to bare the reasons why many people flee their nations or countries of origin in search of protection.

METHODOLOGY

This is basically the process through which academic work is brought to a conclusion. This is through the broad scientific and usually qualitative methods or even through the humanistic and qualitative methods. It is necessary to establish that it is not all the researchers that fall into the above broad lines, some still are divided into the quantitative and qualitative approached and also between (Haralambos and Holborn, 2007).

HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF REFUGEES

The idea for instance that a person who sought sanctuary in a holy place conduct be harmed without writing retribution was familiar to the ancient Greeks and ancient Egyptians. However,

the right to seek asylum in a church or other holy places was first codified in law by King Ethelbert of Kent in about 600AD. It is imperative to add that similar laws were implemented through Europe in the middle ages. The related concept of political exile also has a long history. Ovid was sent to tomis, Voltaire was sent to England. Through the 1648 peace of Westphalia, nations recognized each other's sovereignty. However, it was not until the advent of nomadic nationalism in the late 18th century Europe that nationalism gained sufficient prevalence for the phrase "country of nationality" to become practically meaningful, and for people crossing border to be required to provide identification. The term "refugee" is sometimes applied to become who may have fit the definition outlined by the 1951 convention were it is to be applied retroactively. After the edict of Fontainebleau in 1685, outlawed Protestantism in France lead to hundreds of thousands of Huguenots fled to England, the Neteuclaws, Switzerland, South Africa, Germany and Prussia.

The repeated waves of pogroms that swept Eastern Europe in the 19th and early 20th century prompted mass Jewish emigration (more than 2 million Russian Jews emigrate in the period (1881-1920). Beginning of the 19th century, Muslim people emigrated to turkey from Europe. The Balkan wars of (1912-1913) caused 800 numbers of people to leave their homes; of paramount importance is the fact that various groups of people were officially designated refugee beginning in world war. But it is necessary to mention that most Nigerian citizens have at one given time of the other fled their homes or countries of origin in search of protection.

Causes of Refugee in Africa

It is true to say that during the sixties, it was generally assumed that colonization had spread the problem of African refugees, as many came from colonized countries. With progressive independence, however the number of refugees has not diminished, but increasing rapidly. Refugees who today generally flee local ethnic drought and famine have always produced refugees in Africa, during the sixties and seventies with the end of the colonialism, minorities in newly-formed states found themselves under the control of other ethnic groups in states whose boundaries bore no resemblance of the lines of ethnic differentiation. In responses, tribal minorities or

groups out of power pressed for self-determination, ranging from liberation movements to dissident, ethnic-based political parties. Independence for African nations occurred sporadically over a fairly long period of time. Even if all colonial powers had withdrawn simultaneously, it would have been impossible to redraw a myriad of boundaries base on single tribal affiliation, for the whole of the African continent.

Plural societies were unavoidable as would be conflicts as group adjusted to the departure of colonial powers. In fact, many of the larger ethnic groups had a vested interest in keeping minority group with single states.

While the OAU has agreed to retain the borders left by departing colonialists, Africans have left yet to stop, fighting over these boundaries. For various reasons, it was deemed politically expedient to cede specific regions to fledging countries. Yet there are or have been secessionist conflicts in Biafra, Katanga, Eritrea and Ogden to name these few. May it be said that the situation in the Ogden, western, Saharan, and Namibian reflect the failure of colonial powers and later national governments to recognize tribal lines.

Another factor is this; all of Africans refugee problem is not the result of political conflicts within these countries border or between countries. Natural disasters, pollution pressure and economic recession have contributed to the total number of refugees.

Drought is again over Africa. The New York Times estimated that "150 million Africans are facing food shortages" and in the Kara moja area of Uganda alone, 30,000 nomads are believed to have starved to death in the last 18 months. Another point of note is that the more irksome aspects of current food shortages is the growing dependency on south Africa for corn supplies. Kenya imported 128,000 tons of corn from South Africa last year, while Zambia and Mozambique ordered 250,000 and 150,000 tons respectively. It is imperative to mention that the problems resulting from drought are exacerbated by tribal, ethnic and religious feuds. The 30,000 nomads of Uganda's Kara moja who recently starved to death were clearly victims of tribal conflicts who lost most of their cattle in raids staged among them and by starving. Group fleeing such conflict become refugees in the process. Once they cross natural boundaries they face additional problems. They often than not arrive in the poorest countries in otherworld

during times of drought, rising energy costs food deficit's and world recession prohibits the host countries from countries from providing even their own citizens with a minimum standard of living. In countries of asylum, pogroms can at best, provide for emergency needs. Even then, KurtWaldheim apathy observed "the pressures created by the influx felt throughout the economy in the employment, in housing, in transportation and in basic health and education services.

May it be re-emphasized over again that refugees in Africa today including Nigeria are also victims of human rights violations. Oppressive regimes have tortured, massacred, expropriated property, and deprived individuals of civil liberties in order to silence red and imagined opponents.

Human rights have occurred in response to conflicts between states as well as Bokassa (Central African Republic) Njuma (Equatorial Guinea) among others created hundreds of thousands of refugees. Struggles between national leaders often terrorize local population.

Another cause of increased violence contributing to the number of refugees is the availability of sophisticated arms, which take many more lives in tribal conflicts. Religious conflicts also contribute to the swelling numbers of refugees in Africa.

How African Leaders Perpetuated the Refugee Problem

A lot have been carried out in recent years by our African leaders in order to give way for the whites to troop in under the guise of peace-keeping and peace making.

It is necessary to outline the most policies carried out or implemented in the so called developing countries or economies are imported, foreign and brought from outside the continent.

Most of the African leaders lack enough courage at times and cannot do or take steps that come from inside them, they prefer to play the role of second fiddle to the whites who capitalize on their ignorance to make their own states or countries ungovernable and put to question their integrity.

Another fact is that due to difference in interests among the African leaders, some sponsor and stage manage different forms of crisis situations and still come in under false pretense to fight or help the victimized heads or presidents to

restore peace. Who is fooling who? Which way Nigeria? One other point of note is that citizens or individuals must always fight for their rights. In a bid by government to subdue or suppress such individuals, the people or such individuals in a bid to save their heads and lives resort to taking refuge or asylum in other countries or nations instead of staying back home and answering citizens and finally lose their loves in the process.

Politics and the International Politics of Refugee Management in Africa

Let it be stated that the economists claim that “conflicting East, West interest in Africa, defended by the super-powers such as France or Cuba, have influenced events. But the refugee ups-wing in Africa appeared to eat as much a product of black power struggles as per ideological conflicts.

Africa affairs indicate that as long as local and regional problems are not solved politically, these problems are bound to cause the super powers to take sides in the issues.

Actually the involvement of super-powers complicates already difficult situations: for example Somalia broke with the Soviets in 1997, the Somalian socialist system was not transformed into a democratic or pluralist society, yet the aid given by the US, English, Saudi Arabia and the Shah of Iran prolonged conflict in the Ogden area and Ethiopian still relied on the Soviets.

This in turn allowed the Soviet to consolidate their position in Ethiopian. For the Soviets, Ethiopian was clearly the most important country politically in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia offers an entry into the North and East Africa.

For the United States of America, Somalia offered costal bases from which a presence can be established both in Middle East and the Indian Ocean. Before gaining the confidence of the Ethiopian government, the Soviets supplied arms to the extremes, a secessionist group in Ethiopia occupying laws along red sea.

Soviet allies shell supply arms to the Eritreans. The conflict “locks the Ethiopian revolutionary leadership into dependence on Russian arms”.

In such cases, tribal groups and ethnic minorities are little more than pawns in national and international power struggles, and while it is unclear how much the national governments will gain from these conflicts, ethnic minorities

will undoubtedly be forgotten once they have served a special strategic purpose.

The Possible Ways Out

The question has always been what must be done, when, how and with what intensity in order to solve the problem. Among the points to be mentioned is that refugee action is a leading UK charity helping refugees and asylum seekers to build new lives. People from time to time seek protection from time to time and from place to place, such refugees need to be rehabilitated and taken good care of other than having them to themselves.

Setting up Refugee Council

This council will go a long way in counseling people on individuals' levels that are displaced. This will also inculcate in them the idea that being displaced does not mean the end of their lives. Encouraging them to pick their pieces from where they left them, striving to survive and succeed.

The united nations organization have always caught in this act, this only because under the guise of international aid or the other, they try to subtly lure the African leaders into accepting whatever they have in stock to offer. Occasionally, we see or countries or less developed worlds. African leaders must recognize among other things that they need not to play second fiddle act or behavior to their white counterparts. They must be courageous enough to know that under whatever guise and or practice, the whites cannot give and refuse to ask for something in exchange. Seeking advice from the whites spells doom including asking for whatever form of aid or alms such as economic or materials.

SUMMARY

May it be categorically stated that politics and a lot of underground activities keep going on in the international scene. One other thing that the whites keep doing is the fact that they keep painting the Blackman as devil while they claim to be gods. Little wonder they try from time to time to spark off crisis situations in the African countries in order to come in as peace makers and alms givers, only seeking their selfish interest, fulfillment and praise.

CONCLUSION

It has been said over and over again in the course of this research study that a refugee is a person or one owing to a well-founded fear of

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being prosecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, owing to such fear is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.

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