



THE SECURITIZATION OF NON - MILITARY THREATS: THE COVID-19 HEALTH PANDEMIC AS A GLOBAL HUMAN SECURITY CHALLENGE

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Keywords: Security, Covid 19, Securitization Theory, Human Security, Health, Global Security, Non-Military Threat.	Abstract: The end of the cold war bipolar military stand-off between the super powers (United States and Soviet Union) in 1989, brought to international limelight a new and broad ideology on security Thinking. Thus the idea of viewing security in only military terms of territorial integrity, internal insurrection, piling up of weaponry, arm race, civil war and Conflict of different kinds, was rejigged to accommodate other soft and non-military issues like: health, environment, migration, poverty, identity and cultural crisis, etc. the Global health pandemic (Covid 19) , destabilized the political, economic and social, fabrics of Nations, with severe Human Security challenges in the form of high death toll similar to war, loss to jobs, severe human and civil rights denial and abuses due to several unbearable measures taken by nation states to curb it spread, unemployment, hunger, civil unrest, etc. It is upon this reason. The study invoked and engage the securitization theory to understand the Corona Virus pandemic as a soft security issue. The study utilized the content analysis methodology as data were gotten from secondary sources (textbooks, journal publications internet materials etc). The securitization theory was explored to buttress the work. The study discovered that, countries still downplayed human security and non-military threats like health, poverty, human rights, etc Hence a reorientation of security ideology.hence reforming the security of states to be more robust to prioritize human security, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations should make it a policy thrust to invest in disease surveillance and early warning system.
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INTRODUCTION

The end of the cold war bipolar military feud, fought without arms confrontation between the two superpowers (United States of America and Soviet Union), brought a paradigmatic shift in the security thinking on a Global Scale. Thus, the diminishing threats posed by both United States and Soviet Union to each other, introduced into the security thinking issues such as: environmental degradation, economic security, issues of nationalism, ethnicity, (Lym-jonnes 1991, Baldwin, 1995 and 1997). The conventional militaristic and Westphalian security thinking that held sway in the past, beginning from 1648 to the end of the cold war in 1989 has given way to the inclusion of new forms of global security issues such as: nationalism, ethnic conflicts and civil war, information technology, biological and chemical warfare, resource conflicts, pandemics, mass migrations, transnational terrorism, and environmental dangers. These new buy soft security issues challenged the conventional means of understanding threats and of assuring the security of all regions of the world. Those kind of new threats surpasses the boundaries of the Nation-states and they are interconnected through the processes of globalization, making it impossible for any Nation to solely contend such new threats in and outside its region. Hence security issues in the contemporary world we live today is no longer a thing of foreign policy, using military tools nor conditioned by geopolitics, but also on social, economic environmental cultural and health issues (Aggestian & Hyde-Price, 2000; Alkire, 2003; Booth, 2005; Burgess 2007) The above points out the fact that, the security pendulum and orientation has been rejigged to accommodate other areas so far and previously neglected. Trending non-military threats like:

crime, poverty, health, disease issues such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, Ebola, environmental degradation, identity crisis, hunger, food insecurity, immigration etc. remains a disturbing trend in contemporary global, regional and National security. The Covid-19 health pandemic as a human-security-threats falls under the definitional purview of the 1994 United Nations Development Program of Human Security and securitization ideology. This brings to the fore that covid-19, though a contagious health issue remains a human security challenge of global proportion on whether is should be securitized as a global threat. The post-cold war era, could be appreciated for the emergence of the securitization thinking. As pointed out by Eroukhamanoff (2018) the end of the Covid war spurred a new intellectual view over the ideas of security in international relations between the 'narrowers' and the 'wideners'. The narrowers were concerned with the security of the nation-state specifically analyzing military and political stability between United States and the Soviet Union. Dissatisfied with this, wideners sought to incorporate other types of threat that were not military in nature but affected people rather than the states.

The Covid-19 pandemic, a global security threat,(Ebaye Duke and Bassey 2021; Nsagha and Bassey,2022), was securitized by both Nation States and reputable international organizations due to the destructiveness and it's global effects of in terms of high death tolls, food insecurity, job loss, unemployment, economic decline, denial of human fundamental human rights in the areas of free movement, freedom of worship, association, economic engagements etc. Ramadhan (2020) noted that the Covid-19 pandemic received global attention due to the



rapid nature of its spread. The emergence of Covid-19 outbreak has attracted many fields of science to research including international relations and studies. The International Institute of security studies also examined the phenomenon of Covid-19 as part of international relations. The United Nations Development program (UNDP) informs that health is one of the Fundamental Human Rights. The achievement of this cannot be separated from the concept of human security, (Gomez & Gasper 2013). There is a clear connectivity between disease pandemics and human security when the government fails to address the dangers of such threats, (Yuk-ping & Thomas, 2010: 448). The NEWSLETTER of Summer (2020) reported that the threats to people's survival, livelihood and dignity unleashed by Covid-19, revealed how the pandemic is worst than a health crisis. Beyond the immediate and devastating loss of life, Covid-19 did caused a staggering rise in unemployment and a multi-pronged global economic crisis. As Covid-19 accelerated globally, the time is nigh to prioritize human security at the center of efforts to curb the pandemic, and to build back better towards a more inclusive and resilient future where everyman, women and child can live to their fullest potentials. The Covid-19 pandemic is not only a health crisis, but a human security threat-depriving our freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to have dignity the pandemic demands human security approach of comprehensive across-the-board human

protection and empowerment, (Fukushima 2020 in the News Letter 2021).

Based on the above, the work set out to examine the extent which health is a human security issue taking into consideration the Covid-19 health pandemic. Also how covid-19 fits into securitization theory developed after the end of cold war, while explaining Covid-19 as a global human security challenges.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The outbreak of the Covid-19 health pandemic- a disease that germinated from the Wuhan City of China, that caused global pandemonium, loss of lives, stretching health systems, causing unbearable human security issues like: unemployment as a result of closure of many companies, business outfits, organizations, commercial enterprises, events, food insecurity, hunger, malnutrition, denial of fundamental rights to freedom of assembly, movements etc. Taking health as a component of human security and non-military threat, the Covid-19 clearly shows the human security side of a global health cum security crisis. Thus not only can citizens of the world view security crisis of a global proportion in a perspective of military threats-war, civil war, terrorism, inter state rivalry for territorial control, ideology preponderance, glory, arms race etc. health remains a core issue and tenets of global human security, that can affect the entire world in few minutes, mostly a communicable health pandemic. The words of yimer, Asheby and Teshome (2020) would suffice, thus:



Public Health emergencies can arise from a wide range of causes, one of which includes outbreaks of contagion. The world has continued to be threatened by various infectious outbreak of different types that have global consequences over the last 50 years different parts of the world have seen at least 10 different disease outbreaks, from Marburg in 1967 to Ebola in 1970 to Middle East respiratory syndrome in 2012 and some, such as Ebola resurfacing multiple times. The 2019 corona virus disease (Covid-19) pandemic is the deepest global crisis of the 21st Century, which has affected nearly every country globally. All these demands a need for global health security resources to protect people around the world against increasing infectious disease outbreaks frequency and intensity.

According to Jegat (2015), the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that since 1945, the world has seen the shocking and devastating impact of three most deadly disease-AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, causing death toll of about 150 million lives, many times the approximately 23 millions deaths from wars, (Peterson 2002;47 in Legat 2015). The views of Oriola and Knight gives credence to the global nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, thus: as Covid broke out from the Wuhan city of China in December 2019, it spread fast to Asia, Europe, North America, Egypt as the first African Country, on the 14th February. The World Health Organization disease a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. As of the time of Floy study on “Covid-19, George Floyd and Human Security” in 2020, African continent was grappling with 6,051 deaths and nearly 225,126 confirmed cases. Muggah and Steven (2020) affirmed that, Covid-19 pandemic wil persist, possibly for years. The global economy is headed for an economic

nose dive that could rival, even exceed the Great Depression. With supply chains fragmenting, food supplies coming under strain, and prices rising, the lights are flashing red, the formal economy is under stress with huge numbers of small and medium-sized business closing down. In the main, joblessness is sky rocketing hitting hundreds of billions and trillions of dollars, growth is being shaved off the global economy. Elflein (2021) is of the view that, approximately 215 countries and territories globally were cobwebbed by Covid-19 disease. The World Health Organization further informed that the pandemic effects had caused loss of human lives worldwide, an unprecedented challenge to public Health, food systems and world of work. The economic and social disarticulations remain precarious, thus: tens of millions of people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while number of under nourished people, currently estimated at near 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the 2020. Millions

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of enterprises experience existential decline. Nearly half of the world 3.3 billion global labour force faces the risk of job loss and hopeless livelihood. Informal economy operators are most vulnerable due to lack of productive assets. Without means to earn income during lockdowns, many are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most of such affected group of vulnerable, no income means no food, or at best food and less nutrition food. The pandemic distorted the entire food systems. Measures such as border closure, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been an impediment to farmers, making them unable to access markets: including buying of farm inputs and selling their produce, and marred agricultural workers from harvesting crops, thus disrupting local and international food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets.

The above, clearly shows the depth which the Covid-19 has caused excruciating and devastating pains to the entire global security, development, peace, health and social life. The outbreak, which came unannounced, taking nations- both developed /industrialized and developing by surprise ,(Nsagha and Bassey 2022) caused untold hardship and destruction that needs years for countries to regain their sovereignty vitality. Thus like the previous military issues in the form of conflict, civil wars, terrorism etc that consumed lives the Covid-19, though a non-military-threats has not only taken the globe by surprise but left deep scars in the security, economic, social and political scape of the world in a more disastrous manner. Based on this the study sets to examine the extent which the Covid-19, a non-military threat has caused severe global human security challenges, taking

into consideration the securitization of non-military threats with covid-19 as a case study.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

In this study, we shall consider some terms and concepts to be clarified. Concepts like, non-military threats, security and human security are the words to be considered.

According to Kofi (2015), security as a concept defies attempts to provide a generally accepted definition due to its nebulousity, fluid and interdisciplinary character. To different people, security may mean the same thing, different things or nothing at all. Generally, security remains one of the most valuable currencies for social existence. Every human formation desires some valuable degree of freedom from threats, the need to be independent, thrive economically, politically and otherwise undistracted and unperturbed, bearing in mind that various forms of insecurity such as food insecurity, industrial insecurity etc. In the words of security, which captures survival interest as vital interest. This interest encapsulates the following: self-preservation and maintenance of sovereignty and integrity, defence of a country's independence and ensuring (socio-economic) well-being of the people, (Kofi 2015). The view that "security refers to being protected, free from danger, safety. when a nation is internally secured, this enhances its chances of survival at the international level. National security is therefore considered to be important to the survival of a nation because it guarantees freedom from threats to lives and property. It is perhaps for this reason that global security has to do with freedom from danger, or with threats to a Nation's ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the wellbeing of its people.



Security is very crucial in ensuring social harmony and peaceful co-existence among its people. It is one of the responsibilities of a leader of every sovereignty to ensure the survival of his/her nation.

NON-MILITARY THREATS

According to Chaudhuri (undated), non-military threats are security issues that are generally non-military in nature, transnational in scope-neither totally domestic nor purely inter-state and are transmitted rapidly due to globalization and communication revolution. These threats can affect both government institutions and civilian populations and can originate from a variety of non-state actors, human natural causes, which rapid mobility and expanding activities of humans accelerates and deepens the impacts and spread globally. Such non-military threats unleashed severe economic catastrophe and losses as shown in the Asian financial crisis of 1997 and the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak of 2002-2003. However, non-military threats to include the following: international terrorism, transnational organized crime, Environmental Security, illegal migration, Energy security and human security etc.

According to Asian Consortium of Non-traditional Security Studies, (NTS) thus: non-traditional security issues are challenges to the survival and wellbeing of peoples and states that arises primarily out of non-military sources, such as climate change, resources scarcity, infectious disease, natural disaster, irregular migration, food shortages, people smuggling, drug trafficking and transnational crime. These dangers are often transnational in magnitude, defying unilateral remedies and requiring comprehensive-political, economic, social

responses, as well as humanitarian use of military force.

The study, adopts the definition of Asian Consortium of Non-traditional Security Studies (NTS). Thus, the definition captures the interest and crux of the study as it takes into consideration infectious disease, which Covid-19 remains an element of infectious disease. Though other definitions on non-military threats remains adequate, articulate and having relevance in the study, that of (NTS) remains encompassing. In this study non-military threats and non-traditional security threats and non-conventional threats are used interchangeably.

HUMAN SECURITY

According to Appiagyei et al., (2017), the notion of human security introduces a new and important dimension to the security and human rights/democracy and development debate. It places emphasis on the individual, as opposed to state. The threats posed to the individual in the human security parlance include, disease; environmental problems; the violation of human rights; and bad governance. This brings to our understanding that the security of the individual in the other words human security is critical to the maintenance of National Security.

According to Omenka, Dickson, Ali, Agishi and Coker (2017), though the talk about human security seems to be a nascent term in the security science discourse, the thinking and practice of the concept is historically rooted back to the 1860s with the emergence of the Red Cross Society. From that time the idea based on the safety of persons especially in conflict situations began to grab the interest of Nations and International Organizations. This was later formalized in the Geneva Convention of 1929, the charter of the United Nations in 1945 and the



Universal Declaration of human rights of 1948, (Abgu and Dakobu, 2006 in Omenka, Dickson, Ali, Agishi and Coker 2017). The commission on Human Security (CHS) of the UN, in its final report on Human Security, now define human security as the protection of fundamental freedoms-freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. A former UN secretary General Kofi Anan (2000;2001) conceptualizes human security to include: freedom from wants, freedom from fear, and freedom from futures to inherit a healthy natural environment-these are the interrelated building blocks of human security and therefore National Security.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The study, explored the utility of the Securitization theory. The Securitization theory, according to Eroukhmanoff (2018), depicts that national security policy is not a natural given, but carefully designated by politicians and decision-makers. According to securitization theory, political issues are constituted as extreme security issues to be dealt with urgently when they have been labeled as 'dangerous', 'menacing', 'threatening', 'alarming' and so on by a 'securitization actor' who has the social and institutional power to move the issue 'beyond politics'. So security issues are not simply out there but must be articulated as problems by securitizing actors. For instance calling immigration a 'threat to national security', shifts immigration from a low priority political concern to a high priority issue that requires action such as securing borders. Eroukhmanoff further affirmed that, the end of the cold war triggered a debate over the ideas of security in International Relations between 'narrowers and wideners'. The

Narrowers were preoccupied with the security of the state and often focused on analyzing the military and political stability between the United States and the Soviet Union. Dissatisfied with this, the wideners sought to include other types of threat that were not military in nature and that affected people rather than states. This broadened the security agenda to capture concepts such as human security and regional security-together with ideas of culture and identity.

According to Munster (2020), the concept of securitization is generally associated with the Copenhagen school of the security studies, which is generally taken to include Ole Wave, Barry Buzan and a range of other more loosely associated researchers. Originally devised by Ole waever, the concept of securitization provided a fresh take on the increasingly tiresome debate between those who claimed that threats are objective (i.e what really constitutes threat to international security) on the one hand, and those that argued that security is subjective (what is perceived to be a threat) on the other. The theory further holds that: an actor (i) claims that a referent object is existentially threatened (ii) demands the right to take extraordinary countermeasures to deal with that threat convinces an audience that rule-breaking behavior to counter threat is justified. In short by labeling something as "security" an issue is dramatized as an issue of supreme priority.

The input, of the securitization theory as espoused above, shows that no more can we think of threat form solely military dimension (war, conflict, arm, race etc). But the cogent need to include other soft security and non-military issues such as: environmental degradation, identity, food insecurity, health, poverty,



unemployment, etc.) The Corona virus, being a non-military threats remains a clear example of human security challenge, (Ebaye, Duke and Bassey 2021). The loss of lives, skyrocketed unemployment as a result of job loss, hunger and food insecurity emanating from lockdown, closure of market, embargo on international movement of goods and services, etc are all human security challenge and a global threat. Stivas and Shwinski (2020) eloquently affirmed that as of the beginning of September, 2020, it became clear that the loss of lives caused by corona pandemic as tragic as it is, pales even compared to the common flu. Millions of jobs have already been lost worldwide and countless small and medium enterprises have gone bankrupt. State leaders around the globe were quick to announce, amid draconian restrictions, that their countries are at war with the virus. In the context of the covid-19 outbreak, most governments across the world moved along a securitization to hyper-securitization gamut. The Covid-19 pandemic was securitized by nations all over the world.

According to Sears (2020), the global response to Covid-19 contains all the critical elements of securitization: referent object(s), threats, audiences, securitization acts and actors, and emergency measures. Since the World Health Organization (WHO) characterized Covid-19 as a “pandemic” on March 11th, two opposing discourses have shaped the politics of securitization. On the one hand, the pandemic is framed as a common threat to the citizens of the three worlds which requires international cooperation between governments and global coordination of policy responses. For instance, United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has stated that “all of us face a common

threat” and that no one country can address it alone”. Similarly, WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros, has said that Covid-19 represents an unprecedented threat; but its also an unprecedented opportunity to come together as one against a common enemy – an enemy against humanity”. On the other hand the pandemic is framed as a threat to “National Security” whereby nation-states seek to protect their citizens and institutions.

SECURITIZATION OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

That the contemporary threats, which plagues Nations today, are mostly non-military threats in the form of poverty, ethnic nationalism, unemployment, climate change, piracy, violent non-state actors is not to be disputed. This became more obvious in the post-cold period, as the United States-Soviet rivalry ended. The idea of human security as espoused by the United Nations Development Report of 1994 coincided with the Copenhagen school’s idea of “securitization” of non-military issues like health, unemployment climate change, environment degradation, immigration etc. as security issues, capable of perturbing and destabilizing social existence.

According Gaudino (2020), theorist in the field of securitization includes Buzan, Waever and other generation of scholars. The Copenhagen school original version, (Gandino 2020), has been the most common one privileged by scholars who delved into health issues. The views of Radmadhan (2020), buttress the point further, thus; issues of diseases and pandemic clearly fits into the calculations of human security when governments fail to address such threats. In essence the Covid-19 pandemic can push society towards insecurity (Chattu *et al.*,



2019:3 in Ramadhan 2020). Pandemics are transnational in nature capable of threatening not only one country or environment of origin but also the entire world. Moreover, the threat of Covid-19 pandemic threatens human health and the stigma attached to the victims (Dwinnato& Sumami, 2020:78 in Ramadhan 2020). Patients suffering from Covid-19 tend to have a negative stigma in society (Dwinanto & Sumami, 2020: TTS in Ramadhan 2020). The securitization of Covid-19 as a global security threat was made public when the World Health Institutions such as the WHO declared Covid-19 as a pandemic threat on 11 March 2020, (Capano *et al.*, 2020: in Ramadhan 2020). This pronouncement by the World Health Organization commenced after the health agency began an analysis of corona virus movements, which started to spread to several countries, (Capano *et al.*, 2020:285 in Ramadhan 2020). Unlike natural disasters occurrence in the form of floods or landslides, the threat of a pandemic such as a disease is invisible, (Capano *et al.*, and 2020:286 in Ramadhan 2020). However, the threats are dangerous and harmful to human health. The threats posed by Covid-19 must therefore be dealt with seriously by state, (Capano *et al.* 2020:286-288 in Ramadhan 2020). After the declaration by WHO that Covid-19 is a threat, all other countries followed suit, mapping out measures to curtail the threat of securitization. China is one of the countries that are securitizing against the threat of Covid-19. Having remembered China's experience with SARS, the Chinese government immediately took steps, such as lockdown in Wuhan, and prohibited any citizen of its country from carrying out activities in the vicinity of Wuhan.

The Chinese government also coordinates the dissemination of the hazards of corona virus, (Zhao and Wu, 2020:778 in Ramadhan 2020). In Italy too on the 11th March, 2020, that the Italian Ministry of Health securitized the Covid-19 when it issued a rule to lockdown ten cities in the province of Lombardia because they were categorized as red zones due to an increase in Covid-19 cases, (Capano *et al.*, 2020:331 in Ramadhan 2020). This was due to increase in number of patients leading to loss of hospital capacity to manage the number of patients being treated (, (Capano *et al.*, 2020:338 in Ramadhan 2020). The Italian government established the Covid-19 taskforce to mitigate this threat: a taskforce made up of various ministries responsible for alleviating the threat posed by Covid-19, such as strategies to track disease sufferers, formulating post-pandemic social, economic and political recovery, and even handling case of corona virus spread in static prisons, (Capano, 2020: 338 in Ramadhan 2020). South Korea was also one of the countries that securitized the Covid-19. The country created the Korea Center for Diseases Control and Prevention or KCDC to monitor and manage the threat of pandemic disease that could potentially disrupt their country, (Lee *et al.* 2020: 371 in Ramadhan 2020). Indonesia also securitized the Covid-19 when the country established National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), announced the spread of the disease as a national disaster on 28th of February, 2020, (Djalante *et al.* 2020: 4 in Ramadhan 2020).

According to Ogunnoiki (2021), from the day of virus outbreak, to the period of measures taken to curb the spread and response to Covid-19 is a semblance of all the vital tenets of securitization:



securitization actor, illocutionary act, existential threat, referent object, audience and emergency measures, (Sears 2020 in Ogunnoiki 2021). In China, President Xi Jinping on the 22nd of January, 2020 ordered the immediate imposition of tight restrictions on the movement of people and channels of exit in Hubai and Wuhan. (The state Council information office of the People's Republic of China, 2020). Three days after, the Chinese President spoke of the "battle to contain the virus" at a meeting of top communist party of China (CPC) officials (Caballero-Anthony and Gong 2021, p.160). On the same tone, the World Health Organization declared the contagious disease a "pandemic" (i.e an epidemic occurring globally, over a very wide area, penetrating international boundaries and

usually affecting a large number of people), (Kelly 2011) as cited in Rolland 2020 in Ogunnoiki 2021) to the people of the world, who did not object to its declaration, (Makherjee, 2020; Sears 2020 in Ogunnoiki 2021). Following suit with China and the World Health Organizations as securitizing actors that framed the viral disease as an existential threat to an audience are the leaders of states national governments. President Trump for example, declared Covid-19 a "National Emergency" to the American public on the 13th of March, 2020, (Hawkins et al. 2020 in Ogunnoiki 2021). In his speech on 16th of March, 2020, the France president Emmanuel Macron affirmed the Covid-19 securitization thus:

We are at war, admittedly health war: we are fighting neither an army nor another Nation. But the enemy is there, invisible, elusive and it's making headway. And that requires our widespread mobilization"
(French Embassy in London 2020)

The French Embassy Publication further informed that even the United Kingdom prime minister, Boris Johnson used the same war rhetoric on the 17th of March, 2020 in announcing steps to counter the spread of the pandemic. He went further to emphatically state that the pandemic is so dangerous and so infectious that without drastic measures to contain it growth and spread it would overwhelm the health system in world. Thus the prevalence and overarching nature of the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating onslaught on humans the world over has left a deep scar on the world. The pandemic saw both developed and

underdeveloped nations wobbling and struggling to protect such invisible enemy of man: an enemy that nations, international organizations and scientists never envisaged, even those countries known for their sophistication in medicine, disease surveillance and early warning system were taken by surprise, (Nkang and Bassey, 2023). In their study on "globalization and Covid-19 Pandemic: a threat to global security, Ebaye, Duke and Bassey opined that such aggressive emergence of Covid-19 and its attendant adverse effects with the response by state adopting military style to counter the



spread of the pandemic, proved that it was a global security issue.

COVID-19: A NON-MILITARY THREATS AND GLOBAL HUMAN SECURITY CHALLENGE

Scholars in the study of International Relations, beginning from the demise of the cold war invoked the resurgence of non-military threats: threats emanating from other issues, other than military confrontations, wars, civil wars etc to issues like: employment, poverty health/disease, environmental, hunger/food security, immigration etc most of these non-military threats, tagged human security, are capable of truncating national, regional and global security. For instance, terrorism can snowball and spill over beyond its domestic environment of origin to affects neighboring states and becomes a global issue. Cases like health pandemic, as that of Ebola, SARS, HIV/AIDS and other influenza reached global proportion never imagined, with concomitant high death Ebaye, Duke and Bassey in their study on "Covid-19 and it's implication on Socioeconomic development of Nigeria", reiterated that the terrible effects of Covid-19 on a global scale was an attack at economic development of the world people, mostly in price of food hike, transportation cost, closure of business and markets, leading to hunger unemployment, etc. which proved to be an economic warfare. As a third world country already struggling with it's myriads of developmental challenges, coping with the immediate effects of Covid-19 was not easy. Human security have come to stay in the lexicon of development and security beginning from the end of the cold war to the 1994 United Nations Human Development Report which prioritize the concept of human security and it's

components being economic, environmental, education, health, freedom, human rights, etc. thus keeping human at the core of security and development, (see Duke, Ebaye and Bassey on "the interplay of governance and human security challenges: the case of the Nigeria's fourth republic").

According to Ewing and Caballero-Anthony (2021), the broadening of intellectual reasoning on security studies that accelerated after the demise of the Soviet Union has proven to be more than a passing fad. Contemporary trends and occurrence in the environmental, food, energy, health development, and other sectors that was erstwhile not considered as security issues, have propelled these issue areas up the policy strata of many states, international organizations, and civil society agendas. These recent areas of security that have been securitized, are necessary, because they have a clear capacity to affect lives of individuals and the progress of societies, and can potentially torment geopolitical competition, instability and violent conflict. This broad understanding of security to include the above non-military traditional threat was already unavoidable and obvious by early 1990s, and the end of the cold war gave impetus even in traditional security settings. Individuals and organizations formerly overwhelmed by traditional security affairs began widening their scope of enquiry. The North-Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary of the time, for example, affirmed that issues of demography, climate change, wealth differentials, and the like must be coopted into NATO's security parlance. In the same parlance of intellectual expansion, on the widening scope of security that brings to bear other non-military security problems that is worthy of cognizance, Cook (2017) gave some



intellectual breakthrough thus: crisis like, devastating floods, earthquakes, storms, heat-waves and drought that affects 107 million people across 94 countries in 2014, (IFRC 2015 in Cork 2017); the piracy attacks off the Horn of Africa peaking in 2007-2008; the unabated occurrence of human trafficking; and the impact of the food price crisis of 2007-2008, etc which caused widespread political and economic instability in both developed and developing worlds. These non-traditional security (NTS) are defined as challenges to the survival and well-being of societies that arise out of primarily non-military sources such as: climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, food shortage, trafficking in persons, drugs trafficking and transnational crime. These threatening non-military security challenges have become too much for a particular state alone to tackle hence requires a comprehensive-political, economic and social responses as well as the humanitarian deployment of military force, (NTS-Asia, cited in Caballero-Anthony *et al* 2006:6)

In the case of Covid-19, as a non-military threats, Nurhansanah, Napang and Rohman (2021), are of the views that, the corona virus pandemic is a threat to human security for which governments of Nations should have preempted the attack. But instead they have been focusing more on military build-up and piliation of weapons, while neglecting health, climate change and poverty (Granoff and Kelm, 2020 in Nursangha *et al.*, 2021). As Covid-19 virus spread into 213 Countries, the world began a thinking about a suspicious bioterrorism. In the same vein, Covid-19, infected millions and killed more than two hundred thousand globally. This ugly scenario, could be understood when considering the

nonchalant attitudes of National leaders and policy makers for increasing threats emanating from infectious disease to National Security. Outbreak, of highly pathogenic pandemics like Covid-19 are regarded as black swan events-low probability and high impact. The pandemic is also a reminder that health security is critical to National security; and that countries with weak health infrastructure are poorly equipped to resist and frontally tackle invisible enemy like Covid-19, hence the aftermath of the Covid-19 should be enough to engender National policies of Nations to prioritize health security – freedom from disease and access for all to primary health care.

According Ibrahim (2020) Covid-19 has been uplifted to a level above being a mere health pandemic as National leaders pronounced it to be a global cataclysmic. For instance on May, 7th 2020, President Donald Trump compared Covid-19 with Pearl Harbour and September 11 attacks. While the Indian prime minister Navendra Modi in his address on May, 12 used world war analogy to describe India's response towards corona virus. In the same wavelength, Abang, Duke and Bisong (2021), opined that the Covid-19 remains a threat as its aftermaths led to the eruption of violent protest due to hardship associated with the lockdown policies. Foremost in the cause of this hardship, was hunger and loss of jobs that led to cooperate beginning in the land. Nkang and Bassey in their study on, "securitization of global health pandemic and reiterating the relevance OF 2005 international health regulations: Covid-19 and human security in Africa" buttressed the point further on how Covid-19 fits into soft security issue to be considered as capable of destabilizing global order like the occurrence of war and



conflict, hence nations should prioritize health security and other soft security issues.

In the area of food security, from global perspectives, as regards Covid-19 human security challenges, the World Bank report confirmed that, the already pre-Covid issue of reduced incomes and disrupted supply chains, chronic and acute hunger were on increase due to factors such as: conflict, socio-economic conditions, natural hazards, climate change and pest. The upsurge, the Rapid phone surveys carried out by the World Bank in 48 countries revealed that a significant number of people are running out of food or reducing their consumption. Covid-19 is estimated to have dramatically increased the number of people facing acute food insecurity in 2020-2021. WFP estimates that 272 million people are already or are at risk of becoming acutely Food-insecure in the area it operates. A paper titled “Responding to the Emerging Food Crisis”, in December, 2020, summarizes the World Bank’s response in the poorest countries: IDA has provided \$5.3 billion in new commitments between April and September, 2020 for food security. For instance in Afghanistan, due to inability of farmers to sow their crops in time, while urban areas suffers food price increase and shortage. In Angola the World Bank financed, commercial agricultural development project to assist farmers and cooperative societies. In Bangladesh, a \$96.2 million Emergency Action plan for livestock dairy development project provided US \$ 87.8 million cash transfers to 407,000 vulnerable dairy and poultry farmers. In Bhutan the World Bank supported food production and immigration. In Chad, \$ 30 million emergency financing was mobilized to provide food assistance through the free distribution of food

kits to 437,000 vulnerable people experiencing severe food and nutritional insecurity. In Guatemala, same thing was done towards improving efficiency of agri-food, providing emergency to Covid-19 pandemic. In Haiti there was the resilient productive landscape project funding to benefit 21,500 family farmers to safeguard production for the next two coping seasons, due to the 35% drop of GDP due to Covid-19. In India, the world Bank in collaboration with National rural livelihoods missions assisted in providing mask and sanitizers, run community kitchens and restore fresh food supplies, provide and support to vulnerable and high family risks. In Kenya, the world Bank is looking at leveraging digital technologies through ongoing partnerships with 15 Agtech startups to transform the delivery of inputs, soil testing, crop insurance, credit extension advice etc. in the Kyrgyz Republic, the world Bank supported the Agricultural productivity and nutrition project. In Liberia, the World Bank responded by fast tracking certain activities and activating a contingency Emergency Response Component (about 87.5 million) through the small holder Agriculture transformation and Agric-business Revitalization Projects. Same with Pakistan, with 8200 million locust Energy and Food Security project. In Rwanda, the sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security received additional financing to help address the impact of Covid-19. In Senegal, a \$150 million IDA credit will help increase exports of high value crops such as shelled groundnuts and horticultural products. In Sierra Leone, there was Emergency Financing under the ongoing small holder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development project. And in

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Tajikistan the Bank finances time-bound cash transfer to food insecure households with children under age of 3 to mitigate the effects of increase in food prices and protect children's nutrition.

In terms of global health security, Yimer, Wassachew, Muluker and Teshome (2021) are noted that the 2019 corona virus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, is the deepest global crisis of the 21st century, which affected nearly every nation globally. Globally, over 18.6 million confirmed cases, including over 700,00 deaths were reported by the World Health Organizations (WHO) as of August 6, 2021, from over 200 countries. The African Continent received its own share of Covid-19 of more than 848,000 confirmed cases. Yan and Fuje opined that, the spread and casualties is as a result of the limited capacity of early detection and response system at its origin which turned into an epidemic of severe global proportions. Also, the problem of weak health systems, inadequate surveillance, and laboratory capacity for diagnostic tests, staff and financial resources as well as uncontrolled population movement would speed the easy spread of the virus; (Yan and Fujie 2020 in Yimer, Wassachew and muluker 2021). In the same vein Cuffanin is of the view that the outbreak of the Covid-19, released a global pandemonium that made other infections and diseases to receive little or no diagnostic attention. Diseases like Malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, were relegated as unimportant, yet still killing many. An assessment carried out by Bill & Melinda Gates foundations in September 2020, assessed data on vaccine coverage from the first portion of the pandemic and came to a conclusion that, vaccine coverage in health systems had been pushed back around 25 years

in 25 weeks. Before the outburst of the Covid-19, many citizens of the world did not have access to essential healthcare, and this number has risen by the pandemic. Outside of the respiratory system, SARS-Cov-2 also appears to affect the cardiovascular gastrointestinal, and urinary systems. There is the psychological effect of the Covid-19 such as hyposmia, dygeusia, encephalitis, meningitis, and acute cerebrovascular disease. All these neurological issues are due to direct infection of the brain, virus-induced hyperinflammatory response, hypercoagulation, and post-infectious immune-mediated processes. As a result, these neurological effects can lead to wide range of psychological issue ranging from depression, anxiety, fatigue, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Also affected by the pandemic were health workers, who experienced a change in their mental state. Health care workers were exposed to high risk due to their contact with Covid-patients on daily basis, (Cuffani, 2021). On the area of unemployment, the United Nations News of June 2, 2020 reported that, the economic crisis unleashed the Covid-19 pandemic was projected to cause global unemployment of more than 200 million people in year 2020 with women and youth workers the worst hit. The worst affected regions in the first half of 2021 have been Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia, all victims of uneven recovery. These regions saw estimated working- hour losses exceed eight percent in the second quarter far higher than the global average (of 4.8 and 4.4 percent respectively). Youth unemployment has also continued to suffer the economic downturn, falling 8.7 percent in 2020, compared with 3.7 percent for adults. Compared to 2019, an additional 108 million workers



worldwide are now categorized as “poor” or “extremely poor” – meaning that they and their families live on the equivalent of less than \$3.20 per person per day. Though the discovery of the vaccine therapy has given some hope of recovery, such is likely to be uneven and skeletal. Mr. Ryder said as International Labor Organization-ILO unveiled its forecast that global unemployment will reach 205 million people in 2022 up from 187 million in 2019. A Geneva-based organization also projected a “jobs gap” increase of 75 million in 2021, which is likely to fall in 23 million in 2022-if the pandemic reduces (The United Nations News, 2021.) In same tone, the International Labour Organization (ILO) informed that, though less developed economics experienced little of the pandemic effect, but yet the impact on their health is continuously eating deeply into the fabrics of African economy. As of November 3rd 2020, the less developed countries came to account for 981,493 confirmed cases, embodying 2.1 percent of the global aggregate. (Close to 40 percent of the cases, moreover were accounted in one country alone-Bangladesh, with Nepal, Ethiopia and Myanmar together composing an additional 30 percent. These figures are likely to be far less than the reality because of limited treating capacity by 19 times since early May of 2020. As of September 30th LDCs altogether still accounted for 6,811 reported tests per million population. This is in contrast to 63,655 and 224,197 reported tests per million population in the other developing countries and the developed world respectively. Due to the measures taken-closure of business, events and religious premises and mobility restrictions to contain the spread of the virus, the less developing countries, their workers experienced 80% closure of workplaces while

over 20 percent were in countries which required closures for all but essential workers,(International Labour Organization)

The Covid-19, which became a global “health warfare” capturing the entire fabrics of the globe in an unprecedented large scale. The government of many countries also showed their concern in ensuring their citizens are immune and safe from such pandemic onslaught, hence the imposing of curfew, movement restrictions, business closure, ban on movement via air, land, ocean etc. This was done in most cases using the military and security apparatus, which posed a threatening and uncivil posture to citizens. The economic and psychological trauma experienced by citizens in the form of unemployment, job loss, denial of basic rights. In many countries of the world, mostly developing ones, the rate of unemployment, hunger, frustration and psychological experienced by citizens, with the fact that some government failed to deliver the necessary palliatives to cushion and ameliorate the effects of lockdown, leading to protest, attack at government through the media, physically destruction of properties, looting etc.

According to Aljazeera news of 2 February, 2021, since the commencement of 2021, a growing number of National states across the globe saw citizens in the streets on protest and demonstrations, some turning into violent in responding to government measures implemented against Covid-19. Over the same period, nearly 100 countries have imposed Nation-wide lock down or stay-at-home orders, nearly one year since the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic. In Netherland for instance, protests turned violent, resulting in more than 240 arrests after the government introduced an



overnight curfew. In Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city, hundreds of angry protesters took to the streets to denounce the absence of any economic and despite a nationwide corona virus lockdown and strict stay-at-home orders. Witnesses and local media reported that police had fired live rounds as protesters tried to storm the city's government building. One person was killed and 200 injured during several night clashes. In neighboring Israel, ultraorthodox demonstrates clashed with police as authorities faced new challenges in enforcing coronavirus restrictions in the country's religious communities. The views of Fleming corroborated the above, thus: between January 2020 and April 2021, pandemic-related violence incidents were recorded in at least 158 countries. These incidents ranged from individual attacks aimed at people of Asian descent through anti-lockdown demonstrations that turned violent. In all there were around 5,000 such incidents according to the Global Peace Index 2021. In the Montreal of Quebec, there were violent protest in hundreds gathered in the city's old port on a Sunday night to demonstrate against the Quebec government's decision to roll back curfew to 8. The curfew was initially put at 8pm, but later the Quebec authority extended it to 9:30pm in mid-March 2020. They protest began relatively calm, with a mostly young crowd dancing to music from loud speakers while lighting fireworks and chanting. However, as some demonstrators began getting destructive, they were met with tear gas from police in a bid to control the crowd, (Manatta and laframboise 2021)

CONCLUSION

The study, unraveled the extent which Covid-19, is closely associated with the non-military, non-conventional and non-traditional military

threats, as espoused by scholars in the field. The idea that non-military threats connote and encapsulates issues that includes social disturbances like: health/infectious disease, environmental security like climate changes, immigration, transnational crimes like: drug trafficking, human trafficking, piracy, terrorism, human security issues like: poverty, hunger, unemployment, remains disturbing issues in today's globalized world. Most of the non-military issues captures the entire globe so easy by virtue of the globalization phenomena. This is so, as the movements of human, goods, services across national frontiers accelerates.

The Covid-19 pandemic, has been securitized by both National and International leaders, international non-governmental agencies and organizations, security agencies etc based on the deep and devastating effects of the pandemic causing huge loss of lives, economic hardship, denial of humans rights to association, freedoms of worships, movements for legitimate business within and across their borders. Also the methods and approaches adopted to contain the onslaught of the pandemic was not without a military cum security undertone, where military and security personnel were mobilized to enforce lockdown and stay-at-home policy, social distancing, curfew, closure of businesses, event centers, etc. leading to violent protest confrontation between citizens and military personnel causing numbers of death and injuries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study further recommends the following below:

- The need for countries, regional and International bodies to reform their thinking about security. This pertains specifically to



incorporate non-military threats like: food security, environmental issues like: oil/resource conflict, climate change, pollution-air, water, land, cyber-crime, transactional threats like terrorism, human/drug trafficking, health pandemics like Ebola, SARS, HIV/AIDS, Corona etc into the security and defence parlance etc.

- That international organizations like: United Nations, World trade organizations, European Union, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, World Bank should be ready and financially prepared to tackle issues relating to non-military threats before it resurgence. Thus, such organizations should not wait until epidemic emerge before action is taken. There should be preparedness in terms of finance, logistics, personnel etc. on ground as part of their policy.
- Nations, should prioritize human security in all ramifications in terms of health, food, environment, political, economic etc.

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