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CHALLENGES FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF BIAFRA (IPOB) - researchcub.info

## CHAPTER 1---- INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The southeast has witness escalating threat of violence in recent times by a socio- cultural organization known as IPOB. This has resulted in security threat in the region. Consequently there has been fighting between the group and government forces. The region is mainly occupied by the Igbos (Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra, Imo, Abia). The increasing violence is as a result of the demand of the group for the independent republic of Biafra. The agitation started in 1970 and in 1999 MASSOB-Movement for the Actualisation of the sovereign state of Biafra was formed. However the group was banned in 1999. In 2014 another group was formed the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) with its leader Nnamdi Kanu seeking for a referendum for the realization of the sovereign state of Biafra. The Nigerian forces responded between August 2015 and August 2016, killing about least 150 Biafra agitators and in September 2017, arrested over 100 IPOB members in Abia State. The process led to the killing of 15 people while the home of the IPOB leader was invaded. As a result the organization was declared a terrorist organization. The formation of socio-cultural organization is conceived on the basis of two perspective; one is the creation of Institutionalized Thought Structure and secondly the formation of organizations. This basis stipulates the organization areas of interest, outlines the requirements of the organization, and restricts the organization and development operations. Therefore government policies and laws significantly determine and influences the formation of the sociocultural development its Institutionalized Thought and Organization Structures. It is believed that a joint effort involving the government, civil society, business as well as interventions in the political, economic and security sector is required to respond effectively to the governance and security challenges confronting southeast Nigeria. The study seeks to investigate sociocultural organization and insecurity in south east Nigeria a case study of the challenges of the indigenous people of Biafra.

### 1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The level of agitation and violence in the southeast by sociocultural organization as the indigenous people of Biafra constitutes serious security and public safety concerns in Nigeria.

These agitations and demands violate the constitutional provision of the state. Consequently government forces have responded to this threat leading to killings and arrest of IPOB members as well as the ban of the group. The formation and operation of sociocultural organization should be guided by the laws of the state so as to ensure peace, stability and progress. The problem confronting the study is to investigate sociocultural organization and insecurity in south east Nigeria a case study of the challenges of the indigenous people of Biafra.

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