



GLOBALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study interrogated globalization and human rights in Nigeria. Scholars are divided on their views on the relationship between globalization and human rights. The proponents are of the view that globalization favours the developing countries and makes their countries to join global market, shift from production of raw materials to manufacturing of goods and services for rapid growth and development. While the opponents viewed globalization as an evil wind that blows no good to the poor countries. Nigeria return to democratic governance in 1999 raises the hope that human rights abuse in the country will reduce. On the contrary human rights violation is on the increase. This study is aimed at examining globalization impacts on human rights in Nigeria. Data for the study were generated through secondary sources. The study used trend research analysis in analyzing the data, the Neo-liberal theory was applied, as it encourages the idea of dependence by the capitalist countries. The study discovered that globalization has not impacted respect for human rights in Nigeria. The study recommended among other things, that Nigeria should punish human rights offenders and create a conducive environment to allow for cordial relationship of globalization and human rights.

Keywords: Globalization, Human Rights, Freedom, Violation, Nigeria.

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INTRODUCTION

Globalization has two faces, the gains and the pains (Maldini, 2008). The ongoing debate on the two faces is as old as 'globalization'. Scholars have made various attempts to unmask the 'gains and loses' of globalization for both developed and developing countries. Globalization is a concept that encourages free exchange, one except that Nigeria needs to be celebrating the positive effects of globalization in the country. The opponent of globalization scholars such as Adedeji (2005) Egbadju (2007); Okpalaobi, (2014); Alli, (2005); Amir, (1998); Ihonvbere (1996); Maldini, (2008) and Obuoforibo (2010), etc. affirmed that globalization is a dominant

tool for capitalists expansion, as it affect the political, social, cultural and religious beliefs and practices which result to dilution of some cultures in some part of the world.

The proponents such as Nayyar (2015), World Bank (2002) asserted that globalization has aided respect for human rights and coincided with the spread of political democracy across countries. Since, globalization emerged as one of the most popular issues of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the phenomenon has captured global attention in several unique ways, never experienced in human history. It has increased economic, cultural and social connections between individuals, business and public organization across international borders.

Nigeria return to democratic governance in 1999 raises the hope that, human rights abuse in the face of globalised world will reduce and respect of peoples freedom will be enhanced and will create more opportunity for Nigeria to integrate with other countries. It is against this background that the paper examined how globalization has impacted on human rights in Nigeria from 1999-2018.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted qualitative method in carrying out its investigations. The research adopted trend research design for the study. The justification for the adoption of trend research design is that it traces the past records of even as they unfold.

CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on the neo-liberalism theory as espoused by Adam Smith (Vincent, 2009). The theory is premised on the thesis that unquestionable moral justification of the market as the best mechanism of resource allocation is the basic idea of neo-liberalism. This was vividly espoused in his work: the wealth of a nation. The theory prepositions according to Bresser-Pereira (2010) are as follows:

- Free exchange is a transaction from which parties involved necessarily benefit from, since nobody would voluntarily engage in an exchange from which they would emerge worse off. As Milton Friedman put it, neoliberalism rests on the elementary proposition that both parties to an economic transaction benefit from it, provided the transaction is bilaterally voluntary and informed.
- Any restriction on the freedom of trade will reduce well-being by denying individuals the opportunity to improve their situations.
- Smith argued, the expansion of the market permitted increasing specialisation and so the development of the division of labour. The advantages gained through exchange were not advantages gained by party at the expense of another.
- Exchange was the means by which the advantages gained through the increased division of labour were shared between the two parties to the exchange.

Therefore, the immediate implication of Smith's argument is that any barriers to the freedom of exchange limits the development of the division of labour and so the growth of the wealth of the nation and the prosperity of each and every one of its citizens. Essentially, Smith's argument was

premised on the economic recession, international debt crisis, as a solution to the crisis of a state of prosperity. Smith also believed and argued that answer to solve the economic problem is to promote the market as the main mechanism of allocation and competitive market of capitalism, empowerment of the private ownership by privatization of traditionally public or state social services and institutions, free commerce, economic development oriented to export, and significant diminishment of the state re-distributive role in the economy (Vincent, 2009).

The above theory is apt for the study 'especially in light of the fact that globalization is a complex phenomenon which interfaces with various areas of social life and is suffused with ambiguities, variations, uncertainty and incompatibilities' its core is the inevitable expansion of capitalism world-wide including the spread of its values (Nnoli, 2000) in Itumo et al. (2018). Neo-liberalism as an ideology preaches and promotes economic, political, social and cultural concepts values on the bases of free exchange through integration and cooperation.

Neo-liberalism promotes democracy as the most desirable political order and the only appropriate frame of organizing and operating of free market. The promotion of political order is the most desirable in countries where decision- making and policy-making process power of the state are favoured by ideology of globalization, since, human rights abuse are protected to the core. In Nigeria, where people rights are violated on daily bases without a follow up actions to defend and protect the citizenry, this questions the relevance of this theory in explaining globalization and human right in a country like Nigeria.

Globalization

Globalization is one of the concepts that have no universally accepted conceptual clarification globally. Scholars of different orientations come up with different perspectives on the meaning and origin of globalization. In line with this view Itumo et al. (2018) asserted that no universal conceptualization of globalization has emerged as there are as many perspectives and many scholars. For comprehensive study of globalization and deep understanding of the concept, the following conceptualization will suffice on the areas of economic, social, political and cultural:

Economically, World Bank (2002) defined globalization as the freedom and ability of individual and firms to initiate economic transaction with residents of other countries. To World Bank globalization is the growing integration of economies and societies around the world which is a complex process that affects many aspects of our lives. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2008) asserted that globalization is the growing economic interdependence of countries worldwide through increasing volume and variety of cross border transactions in goods and services, free international capital flows and more rapid and widespread diffusion of technology. It includes raising petrol prices, food from global villages.

Politically, Mkor (2012) in Itumo et al. (2018) succinctly pointed out that globalization is a process of vertical and horizontal integration involving increasing volume of trade and variety of transnational transactions in goods and services, in international capital flows, in human migration, and through a rapid and widespread diffusion of technology. Supporting the above idea on an economic perspective, Prasad (2003) maintained that globalization is the integration of the world economics through trade, financial flows, exchange of technology and information and the movement of people on a free basis across the whole world. It entails an integration of all transactions on a larger scale by business enterprises and the unrestricting of people on earth.

Globalization shapes democratization processes economically, through establishment of global capitalist economy in the world through interdependence and integration of the world

economy to a global village. Adding his voice, Abutundu (2000) stated that “globalization is therefore the increasing breakdown of barriers and obstacles to the world wide diffusion of economic ideas, doctrines, products, services and practices originating from the Western industrialized nations, especially the United State of America” the idea of globalisation to these scholars is centered on economic integration and breakdown of barriers of international boundaries” (p. 56).

Culturally or Socially, Salimono (1999), Kura, (2005) McGrew et al. (1992) believed that globalization is a process of harmonization of different types of culture and beliefs, traditions existing in the world into one entity. Globalization could be conceived as integration of societies along various human endeavours in which hitherto sharp differences that exist among people and nation states are now being bridged for oneness. Thus, globalization as the multiplicity of linkages and inter connections between the states and societies which make up the modern world system.

It explains situation where activities in any part of the world can have implications for the socio-economic and political life of peoples and nations in any part of the world. The point that is clear in these definitions, stem from the fact that globalization goes beyond economic integration and encompasses other areas such as political, social and cultural values and services in the integration of the societies.

Human Rights

Sincerely speaking, according Landman and Carvalho (2009), in the modern manifestation, human rights have become an accepted legal and normative standard through which to judge the quality of human dignity. To Landman (2005) and Landman and Carvaiho (2009), the practices and standards in most developing countries has arisen through the concerted efforts of thousands of people over many years which are inspired by a simple set of ideas that have become organized through the mechanism of public international law and realized through the domestic legal frameworks, and governmental institutions of states around the world (Landman, 2005).

The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights makes reference to the right to take part in government through direct or indirect representatives, equal access to public services, and through periodic elections. The non-binding nature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights along with a paucity of specific reference to democracy itself in subsequent international human rights instruments, means that human rights as such have been more legally codified through international human rights law. According by legal recognition to the moral claim of human rights through international law means that states are legally obliged to ensure that they respect, protect and fulfill these claims.

Relationship between Globalization and Human Rights in Nigeria

- Encourage free and pluralistic reporting on elections as well as equitable political party access to public service media during election campaigns. Encourage independent organisations to actively monitor the situation of media freedom and pluralism in different countries. Promoting and respecting human rights in cyberspace and other information and communication technologies. Information and communication technologies (ICT) are now part of everyday life and provide’ new opportunities for the fulfillment of human rights and for social and economic development Non-

discriminatory access to information and freedom of expression for all individuals, both online and offline must be ensured and protected.

- The Internet and digital technologies have expanded the possibilities of individuals and media to exercise the right to freedom of expression and freely access online information. Any restriction that prevents the flow of information offline or online must be in line with permissible limitations as set out in international human rights law.
- Freedom of opinion and expression further includes the freedom to express and impart information and ideas of all kinds that can be transmitted to others, in whatever form, and regardless of media. Information or ideas that may be regarded as critical or controversial by the authorities or by a majority of the population, including ideas or views that may “shock offend or disturb”, are also covered by this. Commentary on one’s own or on public affairs, canvassing, discussion on human rights, journalism, scientific research, expression of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity and artistic expression, advertising, teaching are all examples of expressions that are covered by the freedom of expression. It also includes political discourse and advertising during election campaigns. Expression can take all forms including spoken, written and sign language as well as, nonverbal expression such as images and objects of art, all of which are protected. Means of expression can include books, newspapers, pamphlets, posters and banners as well as all forms of audio-visual, electronic and internet-based modes of expression.

Human Rights Violation in Nigeria

Indicators	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Human Freedom	6.15	5.89	6.00	5.84	5.72	5.92	6.05	6.01	6.07
Economic Freedom	6.03	5.89	6.12	6.34	6.22	6.39	6.38	6.39	6.32
Personal freedom	6.27	5.89	5.88	5.34	5.23	5.45	5.72	5.63	5.82

Source: Human Freedom Index (2017)

Table I above is an illustration of Nigerian human condition for the period of 2008 to 2016. On human freedom from 2008 to 2016 shows decrease from 6.15 to 6.07 in 2016. While Economic freedom fluctuates from 6.03 in 2008 to 5.89 in 2009 and insignificant increase from 2010 to 2015. Personal freedom decreased from 6.27 in 2008 to 5.82 in 2016. This is a clear evidence that globalization has not impacted positively to Nigeria in improving the respect to human right to her citizenry.

Human Freedom Represented in Pie Chart

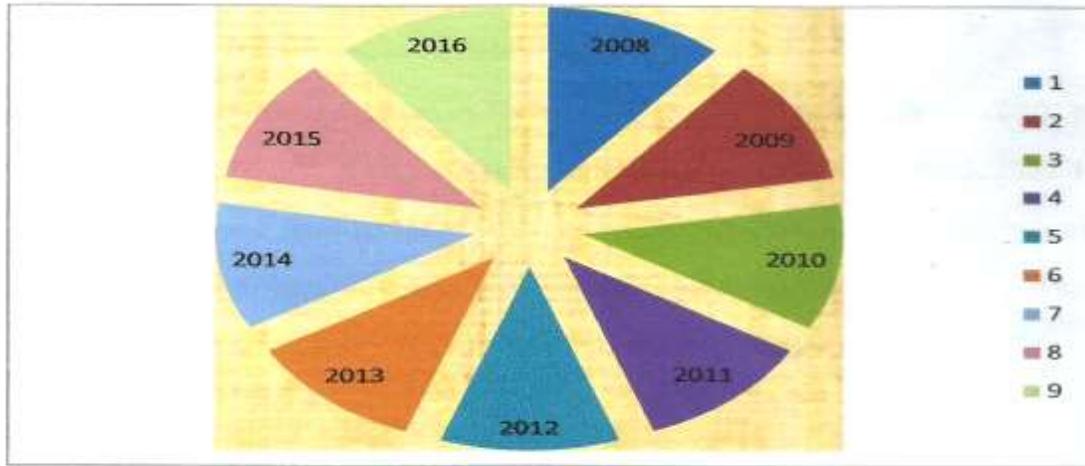


Fig. 1

Source: Human Freedom Index (2018)

Figure 1 above is an illustration of Nigeria regional ranking on human rights index from 2008-2016. For human freedom from 2008 to 2016 is as follows; 2008 6.15 to 5.89 in 2009, 6.00 in 2010 to 5.84 in 2011, 5.73 in 2012 to 5.92 in 2013, 6.05 in 2014 to 6.01 in 2015 and finally in 2016 rose to 6.07. The records from 2008 to 2016 above show that there is no significant reduction to indicate the human rights has improved in the country. Even though it fluctuates, it revolves around the bottom index of the worst security situation of 6.15-6.07 throughout the globe in the era of raising influence of globalization.

Economic Freedom Represented in Column Chart

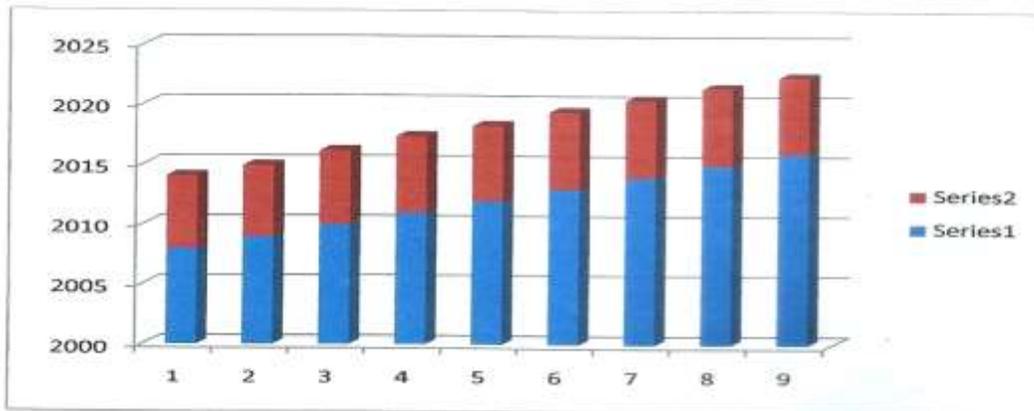


Fig. 2

Source: Human Freedom Index (2018).

Economic freedom is as follows; 6.03 in 2008 to 5.89 in 2009, 6.12 in 2010 to 6.34 in 2011, 6.22 in 2012 to 6.39 in 2013, 6.38 in 2014 to 6.39 in 2015, 6.32 in 2016. The economic freedom increased from 2008 to 2016 as indicated above, it is a very negative sign or indicator to economic growth and development for the country as it enhances poverty, unemployment and decrease in the standard of living for the citizenry in the country.

Human Freedom represented in Column Chart

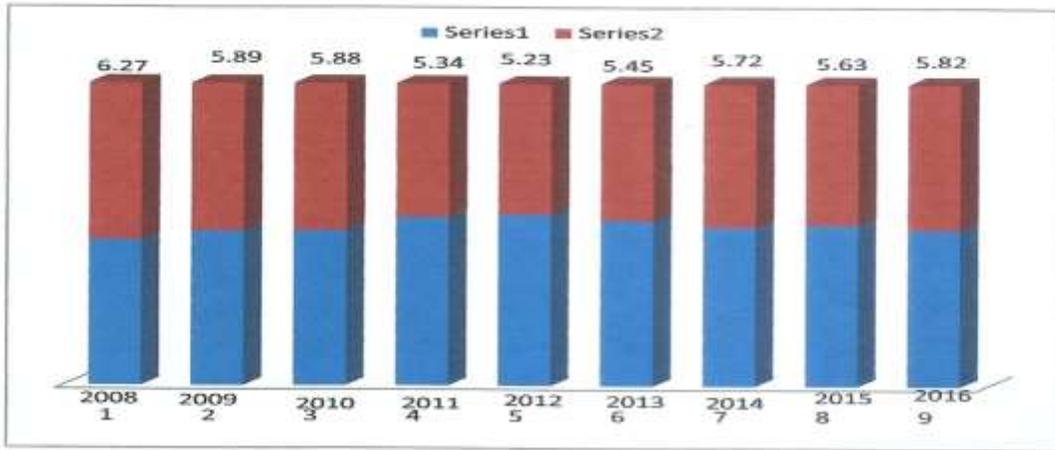


Fig. 3

Source: Human Freedom Index (2018).

On the personal freedom in 2008 it was 6.27, and 5.89 in 2009, 5.88 in 2010 to 5.34 in 2011, 5.23 in 2012 to 5.45 in 2013, 5.72 in 2014 to 5.63 in 2015 and 5.82 in 2016. The records show that it is decreasing but the level of decrease is insignificant as it revolves around the worst bottom global ranking of human rights. This is a clear evidence that globalization has not promoted human rights in Nigeria (Figure 3).

Table 2: Ranking of Human Right abuses in Nigeria from 201 5-2016.

Nigeria World Ranking on Human Right index in 2015-2016								Remarks
S/N	Year	Rank	Freedom Rank Change (2015-16)	Personal Freedom	Economic Freedom	Human Freedom	Freedom Score change (2015-16)	
1.	2015	132	2	5.82	6.32	6.07	0.06	

Source: Human Freedom 2018.

Column Chart for Human Right 2015-2016

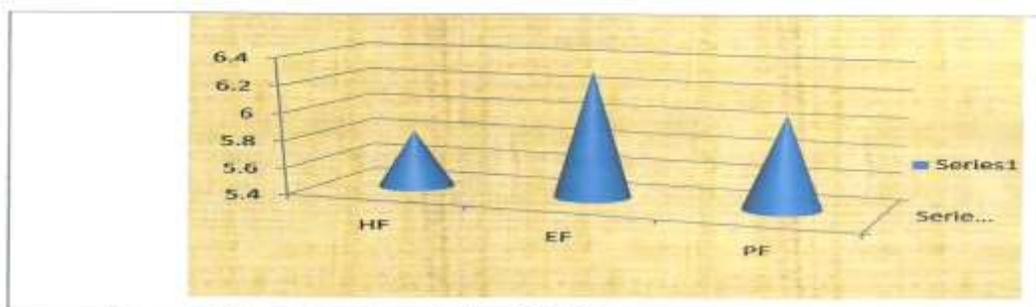


Fig. 4

Source: Human Freedom Index (2018).

The Figure 4 above illustrates the Ranking of Human Rights abuse in Nigeria from 2015- 2016. Human Freedom (HF) is 5.82, Economic Freedom (EF) is 6.32 and Personal Freedom (PF) is 6.07. Nigeria ranked 132 out of 162 in the world in abusing and lack of respect to human rights. Nigeria is among other countries rated to be at bottom index of the worst security condition in the globe despite being involved and heavily committed in the process of globalization in the world.

DISCUSSION

From the data generated and analysed above, the discussion on the violation of respect for human rights in Nigeria will be discussed on the following unit of analysis. Abuses of Freedom of Expression, Media, and Association, Boko Haram abuse of human rights. Abuses by conduct of security forces, Inter-Communal Violence, public sector violation, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, in the country.

Freedom of Expression, Media, and Association Nigerian press, bolstered by strong civil society, claims to remain largely free but journalists, however, face harassment, and the implementation of a 2015 Cyber Crime Act threatens to curtail freedom of expression. In January 2017, police' arrested two journalists, the publisher and judiciary correspondent of an online publication, Premium Times, in Abuja for articles that allegedly showed "deep hatred for the Nigerian army." In June, Ibraheema Yakubu, a journalist with the Hausa radio service of the German Deutsche Welle, was arrested and detained while covering a procession by the Muslim Shiites group in Kaduna. He told media that policemen beat and slapped him. In August, police arrested and detained journalist Danjuma Katsina in Katsina state for posting "injurious comments" about a politician on Facebook. The two journalists were released after a day each in detention following the intervention of officials of the Nigerian Union of Journalists.

The director of defense information announced in August that the military would monitor social media for "hate speech, anti-government and anti-security information." The government also directed the National Broadcasting Commission to sanction any radio or television station that broadcasts hate speech. It threatened to charge people found to spreading hate acclaimed hate speech in the country.

The eight-year conflict of Boko Haram resulted to several human right abuses in the country for example, over 20,000 civilians death was recorded as at 2017. UN, 2018 asserted that 2.1 million people were displaced by the conflict. In February, 2018 the United Nations Secretary- General, together with other key UN agencies, warned, that Nigeria will be facing famine like conditions due to insecurity triggered by the war. In June, 2018 Worst still, Nigerians assisted Cameroonian authorities to unlawfully force almost 1,000 asylum seekers back to Nigeria.

The extremist group, continued its violent campaign in the northeast, used suicide bombers in markets, universities and displacement camps; ambushed highway convoys; and raided and looted villages (Human Right Watch, 2018). The extremist group Boko Haram approximately 2,300 were arrested and detained suspects but prior to October, only 13 Boko Haram suspects had faced trial, out of which nine were convicted for alleged involvement in crimes committed by the group. At least 300 civilians died in the group's attacks in 2017 (Human Right Watch, 2018; Brussels, 2014).

Again, Boko Hararn mostly used women and girls as suicide bombers, forcing them to detonate bombs in urban centers. UN Children's Fund (UNICEF, 2017) stated that 83 children

were used as suicide bombers since January: 55 girls and 27 boys, one was a baby strapped to a girl. The group abducted 67 women and children in 2017.

On the abuses by conduct of security forces, in January 17, 2017 the Nigerian Air Force carried out an airstrike on a settlement for displaced people in Rann, Borno State, killing approximately 234 people, including nine aid workers, and injuring 100 military claiming they mistake the settlement of displaced people for insurgent forces. Human Rights Commission said that there was no basis to investigate allegations of war crimes committed by senior army officials in the northeast conflict and elsewhere. The allegations they investigated included extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests of thousands. United States and the United Kingdom, have continued their support for the Nigerian government in the fight against Boko Haram, providing military equipment, funding, and humanitarian aid for the crisis in the northeast.

In August 2017, the US finalized the sale of \$593 million-worth of military equipment to Nigeria. The sale, which was initially delayed under the Obama administration because of human rights concerns, included 12 A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircrafts, laser guided rockets, unguided rockets and other equipment. While members of Congress expressed concern about this sale, there was no attempt to block it. Following an August visit to Nigeria by the UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, the UK pledged \$259 million over five years in an emergency assistance package to provide food, medical treatment, and education, assistance in Nigeria's beleaguered northeast.

Inter-Communal Violence; Violence between nomadic and farming communities spread beyond the north-central region to southern parts of the country in 2017. Hundreds of people were killed, and thousands displaced. In July, two days of clashes between herdsmen and farmers killed over 30 people in Kajuru village, 31 miles outside the city of Kaduna, Kaduna state. A similar attack in Jos, Plateau State left 19 dead and five injured in September.

The governor of Kaduna state called for the intervention of the regional bloc, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to end the perennial violence between the two groups but to no avail. In April 2017, Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the separatist Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was released from detention on the orders of a court. He was arrested in October 2015 and detained on treason charges. On June, 2017 a northern-interest pressure group, the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum (AYCF), issued a notice demanding that Igbos leave northern Nigeria before October 1, or face "visible actions.

Public Sector Corruption, Corruption continues to plague Nigeria despite the Buhari administration's increased efforts at reform and oversight. In October, President Buhari sacked Secretary to the Federal Government, Babachir Lawal, on corruption allegations, and National Intelligence Agency (NIA) Head, Ayodele Oke, after the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) found US\$43 million in cash in his apartment. The EFCC accused Diezani Alison-Madeke, the former oil minister, of bribery, fraud, money laundering and misuse of public funds. In August, a court ordered forfeiture to the government of \$44 million worth of property and \$21 million from bank accounts linked to Alison-Madeke.

CONCLUSION

Globalization is a concept that scholars are yet to have a consensus on the definition because of its nature of multi-dimensional approach. Globalization goes beyond free trade of economic perspective to include both social, political, cultural issues values, and rules and regulations, etc.

The democratic institutions must be strengthened to enhance human rights in Nigeria. The result from investigation of this study on human rights show that international assistance on the abuse of human rights and freedom of expression is mainly to sell their military equipment and advocacy to Nigerians thereby strengthening their economy, while the later suffer economic' crisis. The study alien with the opponents' view that, Nigeria has nothing to celebrate because globalization has failed to promote human rights in the country.

Recommendations

From the discussion, the following recommendations are made:

- There is need for re-orientation of slate security agencies to forestall human rights abuses in the country. The government should develop the political will in ensuring respect to human rights as done in other developed countries where globalization has succeeded.
- Nigeria should implement the constitutional provisions against the abuse of human rights and punish offenders accordingly as deterrent in other to address human rights valuations in the country.

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