Title of Article: Terrorism and Militia in Nigeria

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Abstract: On every single day, acts of political violence take place across the world for a variety of motives, which include political fanaticism, ethnic hatred, religious extremism and ideological differences. Terrorism, which is a form of political violence has existed for many years, but what distinguishes contemporary forms of violence is the disturbing frequency and monumental degree of damages inflicted, ably accentuated by expanded opportunities available to perpetrators through technological revolution. To this end, states confronted by the threat to terrorism activities recognize the need to initiate effective measures to control and possibly, eliminate imminent attack from unexpected sources. But this role of state is hindered by a particular dilemma in contemporary scholarship. Indeed, the greatest challenge for state response to terrorism is that, while some scholars advocate for massive involvement of state in dealing with the activities of terrorism, others caution against such intervention, citing as the reason, the danger of expansion in governmental powers, capable of leading to unrestrained abuse of human rights. Nevertheless, the state, despite all odds, have introduced mechanisms geared towards the elimination of safe heavens for terrorists, control of financial resources, prevention of sales of weapons and explosives and intensification of cooperation at all levels through inter-agency networking to make their environments safer for individuals, communities and businesses. Specifically, the Nigerian state has taken such steps as re-organizing the police force, equipping it with more sophisticated military-style weapons, organized special workshops and training programme for the police, approved the co-option of the military into crime fighting in notorious areas, established anti-terrorism unit in the police agency saddled with the responsibility of intercepting and obstructing terrorism as well as other forms of large scale
political violence and recently initiated amnesty programme designed to re-integrate erstwhile militants into the larger society. While some of these measures were lauded by the Nigerian public, some have provoked intense controversy about the sincerity of the government in dealing with the issues of terrorism.