

Ukraine War ; It's Effects On Nigeria Security And Africa As A Whole

by Temitope Oladeji

On the 19 June 2021, an alpha jet belonging to the Nigerian Air Force crashed in Zamfara state, northwest of Nigeria, the jet crashed after being under heavy fire from insurgents believed to be ISWAP fighters targeted the Alpha jet aircraft and luckily the pilot Flight Lieutenant Abayomi Dairo, was able to safely eject himself.



Crash Site (Photo Credit : Premium Times)

The crash was the fourth in seven months between 2020/21, which indicates that the insurgents are leveling up in their arsenals and are likely to continue to spread carnage across Northern Nigeria into Chad Province and Niger.

Need I remind you that before the fall of Gadaffi in 2011, which prompted the war in Libya, there hasn't been this much influx of insurgents in Africa.

The war in Libya opened the floodgates of numerous caches of weapons into Africa which gave birth to several terrorist organizations like Boko Haram, ISWAP, Al-Murabitun, Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Mulathamun, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM).

In 2014, a silent war between Russia and Ukraine began with the annexation of Crimea and in February 2021, a full blown war between the two countries began with Russia invading Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine is being fought mostly by air superiority in which the Russian forces have the upper hand, because they have a superior jet fleets and also Kamikaze drones from Iran, the best way Ukraine can try to minimize their enemies attacks is by the use of anti aircraft weapons and one of the most effective anti aircraft weapon is the MANPAD Stinger missiles which are very effective against fighter aircraft, why?

The MANPAD are infrared laced missiles that are built to lock on their targets, these weapons were first introduced into war market in 1967 (Cold War) between Soviet and Western bloc, in 2020 this effective anti aircraft weapon was \$119,320 per missile but since the beginning of the Ukraine war the price tripled to \$480,000 <https://veteranlife.com/gear/stinger-missile/the> international market which has flooded Ukraine and it's certain that the EU (European Union) will do everything within their power to clean up these weapons out of Europe for the fear of insurgency and aviation issues and the best and favorable market suitable dump site is Africa, a continent ravaged by terrorist, Boko Haram, Al Shabab, ISIS, Somalia Pirates etc...

On April 2, 2021 a Nigerian airforce jet was shot down by the deadly Islamic sect Boko Haram, the sect has been ravaging the Northeastern part of Nigeria for the past decade but has never been so sophisticated to the point of shooting down a military jet, this incident came in the wake of Ukraine war and the popular saying goes "When some people see war others see money." This incident has brought another worrisome question to the Nigerian government and other African countries that are being terrorized by this deadly terrorist organization.

In 2015, Global Terrorism Index rated Boko Haram as the deadliest terrorist organization in the world but declined in the recent years but with the recent turn of events of acquisition of anti aircraft missiles might just see this deadly Islamic sect take back the lead in the world of terrorism. The question that lingers in my mind is how this terrorist organization had access to these sophisticated weapons?

Let's take a walk down the memory lane to 2011, the NATO invasion of Libya and death of Gaddafi, has brought an 100 percent increase of terrorism and coup in Africa according to a report by Sean Nevins of MPN NEWS, and the use of weapons used by the anti Gaddafi forces are being used by different terrorists organizations which can be seen in Nigeria, Mali, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Chad, Niger et al.

Nigeria has the largest population in Africa with an estimated population of 210 million and also boasts of the strongest economy in Africa with a GDP of \$390. Billion, according to statista.com <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1207926/quarterly-gdp-of-nigeria/>

A country so blessed with mineral resources and glamorous cultures has suffered heavy economic setbacks according to Dr Charles Omole, who is an International legal scholar, Consultant, and Chief Strategist to governments across Asia, Europe, and Africa, stated in his reports that according to the UNCTAD, FDI flows to Nigeria totalled to USD 1.9 billion in 2018 and showed a significant decrease when compared to the previous years (USD 3.5 billion in 2017 and USD 4.5 billion in 2016).

A country with insecurity issues will definitely have an unproductive economy and that's what Nigeria and other African countries are facing at the moment.

These terrorist groups will gullibly rush to buy these weapons at a cheaper price and are eager to prove that they are formidable enemies to be reckoned with against African countries. There are so many other reasons why the EU and NATO will want to destabilize Africa.

The continent have been a major concern the growth of insurgency since the Somali Civil war (1991) and the fall of Libya in 2014 and have made the continent witnessed an increase of European troops on African soil, which has brought a lot of mistrust between Africa,EU and NATO, in early era of the Ukraine war the United States Secretary of State, Blinken, accused Africa of being passive in the Ukraine war, which some view as a threat and means to coerce Africa into a war that she has no part of.

I want to fold my hands and pray my theory don't come true cause I can remember it was a certain country that provided the Rwandan rebels an anti craft gun that shut down the Rwandan President jet down and sparked one of the deadliest genocide in the history of Africa.

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