

Public perception of media Framing of the operation of the Civilian Joint Task Force in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine media framing of the activities of the Civilian Joint Task Force and how the public perceive such coverage. The study has four research objectives that were converted to research questions. The researchers utilized survey research design with questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. In the analysis of the result of the study, the researchers made use of simple percentages while results were presented in tables. The result of the study showed that media reports did not properly highlight the contribution of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism in Nigeria.

Keywords: Boko Haram; conflict, Civilian Joint Task Force, Nigeria, terrorism

INTRODUCTION

Security has become one of the most urgent issues for many countries. It is an essential requirement for doing business in a globally networked economy and for achieving organizational goals and mission. But it is no task in line with the increasing tension of terrorism. The technical and environment complexity of today's organizations and the ever increasing dependence on technology to drive and automate processes and create competitive advantages make security a challenging activity. Adding to this complexity is a growing list of vulnerabilities and increasing sophisticated threats to which organizations are subjected on a daily basis. Terrorism lives in an organizational and operational context, and thus cannot be managed effectively as standalone business of government agencies. Because security is a business, government and private organizations must activate, coordinate, deploy, and direct many of its existing core competencies to work together to provide effective solutions. And to sustain success, terrorism at an enterprise level requires the civil organization to move toward a security management that is strategic, systematic, and reputable. In others words, civil organizational security must be efficient at using security resources and effective at meeting security goals on a consistent basis (Ade, 2011).

When terrorism first came into light between 2007 and 2009, it was a weak, poorly organized and inchoate movement. Since then, it has been transformed into a powerful organization posing a serious threat to the nation with an impressive strategic strike capability where assailants attack churches, mosques, villages and homes killing scores of hundreds of civilians, vigilantes and security agents. This transformation has been made possible by a more determined better educated and committed leadership. Some of the leaders of the insurgency have University education which accounts for their vastly improved Organizations. NIPSS, (2012). Nigeria is one of the latest to be added to the list of states affected by Sectarian insurgencies. Of some 15 countries surveyed in 2011 by the US Department of State for terrorism ranked fifth. Since then, the tempo of terrorist attacks and kidnappings in Nigeria has certainly increased. While in 2018, Boko haram and Fulani Militia was ranked among the first four deadliest terror groups around the globe which were responsible for over 59% deaths in 2016, 47% deaths in 2017 and 2018, and a global, economic decline and set back of 7% from 2015 to 2019 with a net of over 84 billion US dollars. Note that this calculation does not include the cost associated with countering terrorism. Global Terrorism Index, (2018).

No government has the wherewithal to provide one hundred percent security for the people; hence the need for corporate or civil security organization and strategies to supplement effects of state actors not only in petty crime prevention but also in the emerging acts of terrorism. It is in this regard that criminologists and other experts in the field of security and conflict studies have agitated for more advanced mechanisms of intelligence that place premium on prevention of security crisis rather than post hoc detection and responses to them are needed in today's society development ad dynamism (Odinkalu, 2014).

In these crime and war operational environments of non-states actors, transnational crime enterprises, gangs, warlords' terrorists and insurgents network; the media of communication tends to present the froths of terrorism before the public's and the audience anytime, with a motion that terror can eventually hit anywhere,

(Jorndrup, 2016). This is because reporters and media organizations select which information or news to include in their table frames for presentation which can attract the public to the lens of media communication (Powell, 2018).

The role of media is to shape opinions and present a particular version of reality. They also play an important function in structuring and reorganizing the audience's perspectives about the issues and events that happen around the world. For this issue, they are believed and expected to portray a far picture on any issues that occur at the local, state, national and international level. However, in framing the actions and activities of the dreaded terror group- Boko Haram, especially after a long history of attacks from 2009 to 2018, a number of investigations (Poopola, 2012) & (Odinkalu, 2014) found that the media tend to not strongly depict civilian joint task force (JTF) in their activities and joint efforts to fight terrorism.

The attacks by terrorists on the residents and civilians of the country, especially residents of North East, North West and North Central part of Nigeria have given a massive socio-economic impact and perspective to the whole world. The impact of Nigeria and North Central in particular was bigger in various aspects including economics, political and military as well as the Nigeria position in fighting terror, vis-à-vis the civilians who came together to form a joint Task Force initiated by individuals, vigilante groups and hunters within the terror volatile areas. This led the civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) in the Northern part of the country, to guard their communities and take revengeful actions against those who were targeted to be responsible for the attacks, thus making this an opportunity for civilians and residents themselves to do everything possible to contribute through information, intelligence and actions towards the decimation and fight against terrorism.

Research shows that news dealing with unrest and crises like the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, Fulani militia and banditry activities in the Northern Nigeria influences public perceptions and concerns. Thus, such can cause panic in the society, since it severely affects members in every given community. Generally, these events allow researchers to assess the degree to which media select news and shape its contents (Okoro & Odoemelam, 2013). While (Papacharissi & Oliveira, 2008) cited in Okoro & Odoemelam (2013) note that news is responsible for providing the "pseudo-environment" upon which people rely on experience and understand events that cannot observe directly and how news frames are important in how these events are reported since they reflect a process of recurring selections and emphasis in communicating perceived reality. Okoro & Odoemelam (2013) concluded that, frames in media are key components in the study of selection and interpretation of news. Thus, news frame affect how a story is told and influence public perception and perspectives. One of the reasons for this is that the public's lack of awareness, with their reliance on media for information and decision-making, make them more likely to be influenced by news framing. (Bullock, 2011) in (Okoro & Odoemelam, 2013). When the media places stories in specific frames, they lend different meaning to the news. The media increases or decreases silence of issues, which allows the public to assume that subtle changes and make judges on such issues; they also frame issues through the use of language, words, captions, and story angles. Nwabueze (2010).

Thus, one manner in which news media shape perceptions of key events is through the act and art of 'framing'. In news media, news frames serve as the journalists' tool through which the media report or recount a story in a limited amount of space, time and place an event within its broader context. Thus, the implication is that as the activities of Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria grows in pedigree, the media are avenues to achieve sustainable peace or victory against terrorism when applied in harnessed manners (Okoro, 2008). But Isika & Enahoro (2009, p.2) assert that "it appears that communication modes and model that have been used in addressing issues, have either been inadequate or inappropriate forth specific environment". Therefore, to enable effective application of the media, hustling and fetching of the froth, analysts, reporters and media correspondents must be made relevant (Hohenburg, 2007, p.3).

In a related aspect, the media, specifically the radio and television have a lot of advantageous characteristics for instilling peaceful virtues in the populace or residence of in particular North-East and Nigeria in general. This assertion is based on the interactive nature of radio and television (Dominick, 2009).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Terrorism in West Africa is the most potent threat to democracy, peace and development. This is because it posed a threat to national security and undermines social cohesion. In Nigeria, terrorism remains the largest single cause of deaths. Global Terrorism Index (2018). The terrorism challenge of the Northern Nigeria is not easy to tackle through a single strategic approach by any government and her actors. As a result, government usually outline the fight against terrorism as part of main agenda since 1999 when Boko Haram became the symbol of terrorism in Nigeria and recently with the emergence of Islamic states for West Africa (ISWA), local bandits and Fulani's militias; the problem has lingered for many years. Thus, persistent activities of crisis and insurgency relating to extremism and terrorism have been witnessed in the region.

However, people's view is often as inept as the factors that shape those views, when there is no influence and channel of interrelation between institutions and stakeholders in the society to shape the views. Therefore, the interest shown toward the media by the government citizens and groups flow from the perceived capacity of the media to present issues and shape public opinion. This study therefore, has a focus of examining the juxtaposition of media framing of the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force and Public perceptions on the Fight Against terrorism in Nigeria. It is a correlation analyses that attempts to get the source with the reception toward better communication in the fight against terror.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study were to:

1. Ascertain the frames used by the media in reporting the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism.
2. Ascertain the view/ perceptions of the people on the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism.
3. Determine the juxtaposition between media framing and public views of the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following questions guided the study:

1. What are the frames used by the media in reporting the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism?
2. What are the perceptions of the public on the operations of civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism?
3. What are the juxtaposition between the media frames and public views of the operations of civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism?

LITERATURE

CONCEPT OF MEDIA FRAMING

Framing underlines to draw attention to a characteristic presentation mode that points to news media construction, presentation and audience consumption chain of relationship. Durfee (2006), states that media messages are constructed in the process of translating scientific information for popular or public consumption.

In essence, research on framing is concerned with the influence of differences in presentation of issues on the attitudes, emotions and decisions of media content consumers (De Vreese, 2005). This means that however the mass media wants the public to perceive an issue; they chose words or framer the news item to suite their opinion. Therefore, it is believe that what a member the audience think about issues, events, activities and people is determined by how the news is presented. This explains the close relationship between news framing and public perception. This is because public perception of an issue or activity is determined in relation to the patterns of media frames.

Although news framing represents an important aspect of media, and communication, many puzzles remain about the reasons why one frame rather than another becomes adopted and reinforced as the conventional interpretation of a particular event, especially where rival interpretations are initially offered and adopted by different actors in a security contest like terrorism and the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force. Thus, the media frame becomes an exigence requiring a socio-political response to assure residents or the public that actions are being taken to keep their lives and property safe (Wagner 2013).

MEDIA FUNCTION AND FRAMING OF TERRORISM

The place of the media function in supporting structures for increased debate and widened public sphere, which guarantee the actualization of the democratic project in Nigeria as well as a bridge to re-enforce the fight against terrorism, insecurity and insurgency in the North East, Nigeria is crucial. Thus, Owens-Ibie (2002,p.32) notes that the media is naturally attracted to conflict, insecurity and terror. Therefore, an "understanding of the mass media's function in shaping beliefs and behaviors especially prejudiced belief and behaviors are central in resolving terrorism challenge and managing the conflict of insecurity" (Palluck 2009, p.574).

One of the major functions of the mass media is the provision of adequate information about ongoing or current events in the society as a way of serving the public need to know. The news media, in particular, serve this basic human needs by providing information on what, who, why and where of a particular event, which the media consider worthy of relying to the public. Indeed, it is possible to argue that there is no particular time the public is

more in need of information from the media than when the safety, or even the survival of the public is threatened. In other words, the public is in greater need of more extensive information during a current danger in order to reduce uncertainty about the danger (Schlesinger, et al, 1983: 114). Thus, that is why the news media, particularly the broadcast media, because rallying point of the public when terrorists strike.

Nevertheless, reporting on terrorism presents a number of dilemmas and paradoxes to journalists whose responsibility is to inform public objectively, fairly and accurately. It is dilemma to them because on the main objectives of a terrorist act is to maximize publicity in order to create a psychological effect on the public. This leads to some questions concerning the role of the media in reporting terrorism, for example: is the media acting as an accomplice to the aims of the terrorists, who crave cheap publicity, is the media not magnifying the threat and fear in the way they report terrorism instead of allaying the fear; are the media reports of terrorism encouraging more such act, as the terrorism may be more emboldened by the massive publicity they gain for their terror and intensify the acts of terrorism; are the media really objective and accurate in the way they report terrorism in their narrative and framing of the terrorists; how best should the media then report incidents of terrorist violence.

In line with above questions means that globally, the broadcast media owes it as a duty to perform its surveillance function on the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. This can be done by reporting activities such as planned attacks, how citizens can be vigilant and other security tips etc. Wilkinson (2002, p.195) cited in (Gever & Nwabuzor, 2018) recommends some practical steps through which the media can check terrorists activities to include: television channels can transmit warnings issued by the police to the public as well as instructions on how to behave in dangerous situations; responsible and accurate reporting on incidents would increase vigilance among the public with respect to unusual parcels, suspicious persons and behaviors; the media also constitute an absolutely indispensable forum for quality discussions of terrorism's social and political implications, as well as, for the development of appropriate procedures, countermeasures and there are no better fora than other media channels providing this platform; broadcast media channels, as well as, their print counterpart can remind authorities that the response to terrorism should comply with the rule of law, basic rights and requirements of social justice. Thus, the responsibility of fighting terrorism by media should take a global dimension. Foreign media with international outreach must be fully committed to and join the Nigerian media in the fight against the Boko Haram insurgency.

THE MEDIA FRAME, AUDIENCE AND PUBLIC COMPASS

The mass media offer immediate, accurate and efficient way to inform the public about concerned issues within the society, it becomes pertinent to know how the media frame such issues and how their portrayal of such issues influences public perception. People learn about their environments from obtrusive source-personal experience-and unobtrusive sources-issues learnt about only through the media. As issue such as sexual scandal of clergy in high places of society is obstructive to the audience and the media play key roles in fostering knowledge about it and to exemplify how truthful such issue might be.

Media frames shape schemas, which determine the compass of public perception and opinion. As a result, how the media report cases of scandal within the social circle can attract great scrutiny among critics, political elite, religious institution and the masses alike. Any of the institution may worry about the inaccuracies of the news reports and how it may contradict facts on one hand. Audiences need accurate facts or information to make their own judgment about an issue on the other hand.

This means that frames in thought-audiences' mental or psychological frames are determined by an individual's valuation of the dimensions of an issue persistently presented in a media message. The link between media frames and audiences' mental frame is accentuated by the latter's dependence on media for information about news events of the day. The media, being windows of the world of information present a view of the world to their audiences (McQuails, 2010).The frame narrative framework into which a story is persistently fixed could shape the interpretative framework through which the audiences organize meaning about the issue and the personality in the story.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theories underlying this study are framing theory and Agenda setting theory.

Framing Theory

Framing theory which was propounded by Erving Goffman in 1974 in his book *Framing analysis*. Framing is used here to explain how the mass media promote a particular definition of an issue through selection, emphasis, exclusion, and elaboration (Scheufele & Iyengar, 2010).

Previous research has provided sufficient evidence that mass media have the power to select and “pack” the events, and, thus, to influence the way audience/ readers perceive the surrounding reality. Framing is one of the mass media effects theories, largely used to analyze how the mass-media filters information and thus, influences the public’s reactions to a whole range of external stimuli (De Vreese, 2007). Azlan (2012) has analyzed how public attitudes are shaped as a result of media framing of a subject. He notes further that there are two factors that facilitate the adoption of frames “the accessibility of an issue, and the correlation between a subject and the audience’ pre-existing opinions.” In other words, framing effects are not independent (Azlan, 2012,p.320). On the other hand, Shuck & De Vreese (2006) has established that attitudes and knowledge that exist before media exposure play an important role in determining the framing effects. Also, Auerbach & Bloch-Elkon (2005) have found correlations between low levels of political information, on one hand, and the predisposition to adopt frames, on the other hand. Interestingly, Adair (2007) & Shah et al (2004) have shown that, in general, the public is more affected by negative frames than by the positive ones. Therefore, media emphasis and selections of news frames than by the positive ones. Therefore, media emphasis and selections of news frames on the activities of the Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism could influence the perceptions and opinion of the residents’ and citizens of Nigeria. This is because the media has the potentials of selecting and presenting news frame which can attract her audience.

Agenda Setting

The agenda setting theory are considered relevant because McCombs & Shaw (1973), the proponents of the theory, according to Anaeto, Onabanjo & Osifeso (2008, p.89) say:

The agenda setting proposes the fact which people know about public issues tend to be those which the mass media present to them. Also, the significance which they ascribe to the same issues tend to be proportionate to the amount of attention given to the same issues in the media. In other words, the agenda setting propose to the public how to think and what to think about.

From the foregoing the media could set agenda for the masses as a result of the number of times an issue is reported. Also, pictures and images are used to capture the attention of the audience which could later prompt them to discuss the issues and subsequently act in the direction projected by the media. Therefore, reports and programs that creates avenue for positive debates and discussions would contribute to the agenda setting proposition. Thus, media framing for reality would be set the fight against terrorism and contribution for peace agenda for the people of North-Central in particular and Nigeria in general.

To justify the use and application of above mentioned theories; these theories gives an insight into a situation where media ascribe the importance to societal issues (e.g. Terror activities) and the need to report such events and also to allow the audience to think or share their views. Here the framing theory becomes relevant. The framing theory justify the volume of news devoted to the use of Civilian Joint Task Force in fight against terrorism, is not as important as other frames the media adopted. Based on this, audience members who are exposed to think about issues through media framed messages on the use of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism are likely to develop a perception or opinion about the operation of Civilian Joint Task Force.

METHODOLOGY

For this study, the researcher conducted a survey of residents of the North-Central, Nigeria as well as media audience. The population of this study is the entire population of four outlined or select states of North Central Nigeria. These include Kogi (4,473,500), Plateau (4,200,400), Niger (5,556,200), and Nasarawa (2,523,400). Thus, the total population of study is 16,753,500 as projected between 2018 and 2019. According to Nigeria Bureau for statistics 2018.

Thereafter, a cluster sampling technique was adopted to select major cities in each capital cities, the major streets list provided the sampling frames, while available sampling was used to allocate units to each state. A sample of 385 was appropriately drawn while 385 copies of the instruments were returned. However, this sample was determined, using Raosoft sample size. Online calculator’s formula for determining sample size levels where confidence level is 95% (s) margin of error (E) is 5% and response distribution level (R) is 50%.

Table 1: Respondents States, Population and Sample size

STATE	POPULATION	SAMPLE SIZE
KOGI	4,473,500	96
PLATEAU	4,200,400	96
NIGER	5,556,200	97
NASARAWA	2,523,400	96
TOTAL	16,753,500	385

Source: National Bureau of statistics.

Data Analysis and Results

Research Question One: What are the frames used by the media in reporting the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism?

Table 2: Frames used by media in reporting the operations of CJTF in fight against terrorism

S/N	Frames Used by Media	SA %	A %	D%	SD%
1.	The media reports operations of CJTF seeking public sympathy in their misdeeds	91 (25.9)	93 (26.4)	97 (27.6)	71 (20.2)
2.	The media does not consider public opinion in reporting CJTF’s fight against terrorism	114 (32.4)	103 (29.3)	79 (22.4)	56 (15.9)
3.	The media politicizes fight against terrorism as long as it affects the political class	82 (23.3)	102 (29.0)	93 (26.4)	75 (21.3)
4.	The media arranges public contents in a way that it would never implicate them	115 (32.7)	100 (28.4)	76 (21.6)	61 (17.3)
5.	The media supports the political class in terrorism that could incriminate such class of people in the society	139 (39.5)	92 (26.1)	65 (18.5)	56 (15.9)

Table 2 reveals the frames used by media in reporting the operations of civilian joint task force in their fight against terrorism in North-central, Nigeria.

Item 1 revealed that 91 (25.9) and 93 (26.4) of the respondents were on strongly agree and agree respectively that the media reports operations of CJTF seeking public sympathy in their misdeeds, while 97 (27.6) and 71 (20.2) were on disagree and strongly disagree. Further, item 2 revealed that 114 (32.4) and 103 (29.3) of the total respondents were on strongly agree and agree that the media does not consider public opinions in reporting CJTF’s fight against terrorism, while 79 (22.4) and 56 (15.9) were on disagree and strongly disagree.

Furthermore, item 3 revealed that 82 (23.3), and 102 (29.0) were on strongly agree and agree respectively that the media politicizes fight against terrorism as long as it affects the political class, while 93 (26.4) and 75 (21.4) were on disagree and strongly disagree. The table further shows information for item 4 that 115 (32.7) and 114 (28.4) of the total respondents were on strongly agree and agree respectively that the media arranges public contents in a way that it would never implicate them, while 76 (21.6) and 61 (17.3) were on disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

Finally, item 5 shows that 139 (39.5) and 92 (26.1) were on strongly agree and agree that the media supports the political class in terrorism that could incriminate such class of people in the society, while 65 (18.5) and 56 (15.9) were on disagree and strongly disagree respectively on the same item.

From the table, it can be deduced that the media ensures that messages are interpreted to the masses in such a way that the political class is not affected as well as ensuring that they also are not involved in any dispute with the public as well as the same political class.

Research Question Two: What are the perceptions of the public on the operations of civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism?

Table 3: Public perception of civilian joint task force operation on fight against terrorism

S/N	Public Perception of CJTF operations	SA %	A %	D%	SD%
1.	I feel the civilian joint task force is doing well in the fight against terrorism as cases are reducing by the day	124 (35.2)	76 (21.6)	83 (23.6)	69 (19.6)
2.	I feel the civilian joint task force conducts operations with due process, without endangering the human right of citizens	92 (26.1)	116 (33.0)	95 (27.0)	49 (13.9)
3.	I feel the civilian joint task force is carrying out operations with endangering civilians and public peace in general	96 (27.3)	108 (30.7)	94 (26.7)	54 (15.3)
4.	I perceive that civilian joint task force is the best way to tackle terrorism in the nation	82 (23.3)	114 (32.4)	99 (28.1)	57 (16.2)
5.	I feel that the civilian joint task force sometimes accuses non-crime participant	85 (24.1)	122 (34.7)	68 (19.3)	77 (21.9)

Table 3 reveals the perception of the public on the operation of civilian joint task force in the fight against terrorism in North-central, Nigeria.

Item 1 revealed that 124 (35.2) and 76 (21.6) of the respondents were on strongly agree and agree respectively that the public feel the civilian joint task force is doing well in the fight against terrorism as cases are reducing by the day, while 83 (23.6) and 69 (19.6) were on disagree and strongly disagree. Further, item 2 revealed that 92 (26.1) and 116 (33.0) of the total respondents were on strongly agree and agree that the public feel the civilian joint task force

conducts operations with due process, without endangering the human right of citizens, while 95 (27.0) and 49 (13.9) were on disagree and strongly disagree.

Furthermore, item 3 revealed that 96 (27.3), and 108 (30.7) were on strongly agree and agree respectively that the public feels the civilian joint task force is carrying out operations without endangering civilians and public peace in general, while 94 (26.7) and 54 (15.3) were on disagree and strongly disagree. The table further shows information for item 4 that 82 (23.3) and 114 (32.4) of the total respondents were on strongly agree and agree respectively that the public perceive that civilian joint task force is the best way to tackle terrorism in the nation, while 99 (28.1) and 57 (16.2) were on disagree and strongly disagree respectively.

Finally, item 5 shows that 85 (24.1) and 122 (34.7) were on strongly agree and agree that the public feels that the civilian joint task force sometimes accuses non-crime participant, while 68 (19.3) and 77 (21.9) were on disagree and strongly disagree respectively on the same item.

From the table, it can be deduced that the public in the North-central Zone of Nigeria have a positive perception to civilian joint task force in the operation against terrorism.

Research Question Three: What is the relationship between media frames and public views of the operations of civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism?

S/N	Variable	N	r	Decision
1.	Media framing	352	.206	Significant
2.	Public Perception			

Data presented on table 3 revealed the summary of Pearson product moment correlation between media framing and public perception of CJTF on terrorism in North-central states, Nigeria.

The analysis in the table shows that the correlation (r) between the predictor variable (Media framing) and the criterion variable (Public Perception) is .206. This implies that a positive relationship exists between the two variables under the study. This is an indication that media framing influences the perception of the public on the operations of civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study found existing frames used by the media in the reports on the operation of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism. Finding also showed that there was prevalence in the use of frames by the media in reporting the activities of the Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism. While the residents or audience within the scope as covered and reached by the mass media accessed the frame content as reported minimally in relations to the operations of civilian joint task force in the fight against terrorism. Ironically, since terrorist activities depend on the media to spread fear, the media frames of the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force could be accepted by audience, which could mean a support toward the joint task force. This was supported in a study by (Wagner, 2013), which states that media frame becomes an exigency requiring a socio-political response to assure residents or the public that actions are being taken to keep their lives and property safe.

However, the results of the findings show that the mass media are not living up to expectation. There seem to be a huge information gap between the media and the public. Considering the extent to which that media reported the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism, the frequency of what kind of frames on the operations of civilian Joint Task Force as found in this study indicates that the mass media outlets gave little prominence to the activities of Civilian Joint Task Force. This finding reinforces the earlier research findings (Powell, 2018) which show that the media organization select which news to include in their table of frames for presentation which can attract public to the lens of media communication.

While it is commendable that the mass media have adopted different kind of frame in reporting the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force related issues, the result of the finding still showed that majority of the activities of Civilian Joint Task Force, were reported as straight news without interpretative and conversational approaches that can encourage proper and broader assimilation of information by the audience or residents. Meanwhile there was an observation in the relationship effect between the positions of media frames on the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism, as a result of the exposure of audience to different frames concerning how the Joint Task Force operates in other to contend terror activities. Thus, the observed relationship may be explained by the perceived random character of terrorist attacks which implies low ability to control the severe consequences, and hence leads to judgements of greater personal fear or risk. This finding supports the results of framing effect studies carried out on news consumer behaviour by (Vreese, 2006) and (Durfee, 2006) states that media messages which are constructed in a process of translating information for the purpose of public consumption and reactions.

Conclusion

Based on the result of the study, the record concludes that there is actually a juxtaposition between the operations of Civilian Joint Task force in the fight against terrorism and public perception of media frame on the terror and insurgency threat in Nigeria. Media frames of terrorism tend to portray the country as one in crisis of war of insurgency. This development turns to the public’s response and perceptions to news framing of events. The findings further enhance the understanding of the relationship between the media and public behaviour by empirically supporting the validity of the framing theory of media effects and agenda setting function of the mass media. Arising from the investigation, the study makes the following **recommendations**:

1. That the media should be encouraged to report in frames, more related news on the operations of Civilian Joint Task Force in the fight against terrorism. This, with endeavour to present news of perceived realities.
2. The media should provide more comprehensive understanding on other forms of media frames, how it was reported and what could be the possible perception and reactions of the public.
- 3.

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