

# UNITED NATIONS RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF AFRICA AND NORTH AMERICA

By  
**Ezeibe, Christian**  
Department of Political Science  
University of Nigeria Nsukka  
Titikris2003@yahoo.com

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## Abstract

*This study is an attempt to account for the manner United Nations have responded to emergency situations in continents of North America and Africa. The inspiration for this research was drawn from the author's participation in a number of UN conferences especially the 2007 Harvard National Model United Nations Conference in Boston, USA in which the shape of our present world since 1945 was reflected. This study was predicated on the following questions: Is there any difference in the rapidity of UN response to emergency situations in North American and Africa? Does UN have any better future in the light of her response to emergencies today? We used Marxian political economy theory in our framework of analysis and argued that United Nations response to emergency situations in North America and Africa has shown lots of discrepancies. There appear instances of inadequate United Nations presence during emergencies in African countries like Rwanda, Congo, Somalia, Ethiopia, Chad, Liberia, Angola and Sudan to mention the least on the one hand and instances of adequate UN response during emergencies in North American countries like USA and Canada, on the other.*

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## Introduction

Notably, ideologies have waxed and waned, the developed countries have boomed and bust, empires have collapsed, new nations emerged and sometimes fallen. Although no armed conflict have occurred between the world power since 1945, there have been many other wars especially civil wars in Africa, terrorist attacks (see 9/11), and incidences of hunger, poverty, human rights abuse and diseases are on the increase. These are international emergencies to which UN is supposed to respond to equally.

Today, there appear a lag between expectations and realities as the way UN responds to emergencies reflects inequality, it was region based. Notably, this scenario is both saddening and embarrassing. In fact, it was this inequality that sparkled off a comparative study of UN in responding to North American and African emergencies.

As part of my effort to ~~make~~ this research understandable, this study tackled the following questions: **The beauty** of this work is that it compared the continents of developed and underdeveloped continents. This study is designed for general academic consumption I hope it will also stimulate scholarly discussion. Although, no major armed conflict has occurred between the so-called superpowers after the formation of the United Nations in 1945, there have occurred several emergency situations that threaten human life or environment (McQueen 2002: 14).

Nevertheless, the nature and character of an emergency vary from region to region even within region. Today emergencies like terrorism, carbon emission, hurricane and diseases like SARS and Anthrax could be referred to as global Northern emergencies because they are usually occurring in North America and the rest of the developed countries while emergencies like civil wars, hunger and famine are referred to as global south emergencies found mainly in Africa and rest of the Third World. This is not to say that instances of terrorism or carbon emission cannot be found in Africa or the Third World of those civil wars or hunger cannot be found in North America or the west, but this is to say that the nature of an emergency could be region dependent. This means that instances of emergencies in the form of natural disasters like earthquakes and flooding could be found both in North America and Africa.

Hence, questions like how can we ensure that aid does not become humiliation instead of relief; addiction instead of problem, humanitarian industry instead of real aid? Of course, humanitarian aid could have both positive and negative connotation at the same time depending on whether you are a donor or a receiver. Today, we know that it is the army that provides humanitarian aid in times of emergency in many countries in Africa.

United Nations which succeeds the League of Nations is an international organisation of countries created to promote world peace and cooperation (Okolie, 2005). The UN was founded after World War II ended in 1945. The UN is an alliance of countries that agree to cooperate with one another. It brings together countries that are rich and poor, large and small, and have different social and political systems.

The disaster services programme sets up disaster-preparedness plans and, when disaster occurs, provides emergency care for disaster victims and debilitation assistance to help individuals and families resume normal living. The blood services programme is the largest blood donor service in the world. Blood given by volunteers is collected, processed, and made available to physicians and hospitals for the use of patients. Clinical research is an integral part of the service. Other programmes are a tissue service and the nation's first hone narrow registry, established in the mid-1980s (United Nations Year Book, 1958).

Specifically, Article 1(3) of 1945 United Nations Charter states one of the purposes of UN as follow: To achieve international cooperation in solving

international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Today it is a general agreement that the manner in which United Nations and the world it represents responds to emergencies is both saddening and embarrassing hence an overhaul of the system has been widely discussed in various conferences at national regional and international levels.

Importantly, the organ of the UN charged with maintenance of global peace and security is the Security Council. The allied powers constitute the permanent member of the council. It was not until 1963 that the Security Council was enlarged to include the 10 elective non permanent members with a veto power for the permanent members. Article 39 of UN charter empowered the Security Council to decide when a situation requires collective form of security, article 42 empowered the same council to restore international peace using the air, sea or land force of member nations to enforce their decisions. It is this council that determines what is and what is not an emergency for the UN, how UN is expected to respond if an emergency occur and even the channeling of the required resource for emergencies.

Although a wide variety of view points have been expressed by journalists, scholars and other observers on varying UN response to emergencies, these views are far from exhausting the issue. While some scholars have adopted political dimension to explain this situation, others have adopted economical, legal, psychological or sociological dimension to explain the situation. Rarely can you find works that took holistic dimension to explain UN response to emergency situations.

Barnett like Reiff have affirmed that UN operations in Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Congo in particular generated criticisms that the UN is unable to provide peace in civil war areas and often arrived too late to make difference in many of these internal conflicts Barnett (2000); Reiff (1994). Though Barnett and Reiff did not conduct a comparative study of North America and Africa their discussion on UN ineffective response to emergencies in Africa exposed the level of the development of UN rapidity in responding to emergencies.

Balaam and Veseth in attempt to defend UN from this criticism posed by Barnett have also claimed that following the complex conditions and factors that generated regional conflicts mainly in Africa, UN peacekeepers could not find political let along military solution to them, all of which contributed to the diminishment of the UN's reputation. However, Balaam and Veseth have also confirmed that recently many states, international organisations and NGOs have recommitted themselves to dealing with terrorism in a cooperative manner since 9/11 attach on United States. UN bodies have passed series of resolutions to study and deal with what is referred to as global terrorism today.

According to Balaam and Veseth, *One factor that has motivated people to take an interest of global issues sometimes is referred to as CNN effect that is the*

*visual images on the issue at all levels of security structure.* Balaam and Veseth noted that NATO bomb fell in Belgrade in 1999 or when terrorist attacked the twin towers and the pentagon, the world witnessed firsthand their impacts on personal lives on CNN, BBC and other global news network. Balaam and Veseth failed to observe that, the same CNN that reported the 9/11 attack to the world within 24 hours has under reported the problems of HIV/AIDS, hunger poverty, Civil wars and genocide that trouble Africans today.

Notably a student of strategic studies from Harvard University in the just concluded HNMUN conference 2007 in Boston USA observed that UN unequal response to emergencies can be attributed to the fact that humanitarian emergency workers do not get guaranteed security in the field in Africa because of prevalence of conflicts.

This meant that UN responds more rapidly in a non conflict related emergencies. Even if this assertion is true in non conflict related emergencies in North America like carbon emission, hurricanes and treatment of diseases like SARS and Anthrax, it is obviously false in non conflict related emergencies in Africa like hunger, poverty and famines. Moreover, was the 9/11 attack not conflict related? Then why did UN responds so rapidly?

Similarly, a student of Finance from the same institution in the same conference noted that emergencies in USA are responded to more rapidly than any other region because of the high level of development of the banking sector. If the level of development of banking sector determines the speed and direction of humanitarian aid flow, then why the generous outpouring of global support to the Indian tsunami in 2005? Is it related to the development banking sector in India?

United Nations Secretary General for humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland has struck the nail on its head when he declared that politics plays a role in determining the size, time and direction of UN humanitarian aid flow. According to him, during the Cold war aid was used by both the West and East bloc to build alliances, reward allies and punish opponents. The end of the Cold war marked the end of the strategic importance of some development countries including Africa.

Gourevitch (1999:1-2) expressed inadequate response on the part of United Nations to events of Rwanda. According to him:

UN's performance in Rwanda, coming in the wake of its intervention in Somalia following the collapse of the peacekeeping process in Angola, represented for many other stage in the accumulating failure of UN peacekeeping force in Africa in the 1990's.

McQueen (2002) assessed UN performance in Africa prior to the tragedies of the 1990's and revealed that UN performance was successful in the region. For instance UN intervention was crucial to the essentially peaceful Namibian

Independence in 1989-1990. UN was also successful in the specific task of managing the withdrawal of Cuba from Angola in 1990 and 1991. The small observer mission in northern Chad deployed just weeks before the Rwandan genocide began contributed to a lasting solution to a previously intractable border problem with Libya. McQueen furthered that UN could also claim credit for the resolution of civil war and management of democratic transformation in Mozambique in 1992 and 1993. These shows the perceptions of both success and failure in an area as politically and diplomatically fraught as multilateral (UN) military intervention are inevitably volatile.

Nevertheless, we observed that scholarly discussions so far showed that no comparative study has been done in the two regions under study in the subject matter. In fact it is on this premise that we shall proceed to devise a framework for our study.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Although most academic works on international institutions and organisations are analysed within the structural functional scope, the framework is inadequate for understanding and explaining United Nations response in emergencies in regions. This is because the framework is basically descriptive, conservative and devoid of scientific analysis (Okolie, 2004; 2005) and (Asogwa, 1999).

This work will be discussed under the perspective prism of Marxian political economy as expounded in the work of Karl Marx "A contribution to the critique of political economy" in Karl Marx and Frederick Engels (1968). Karl Marx critically reviewed the Hegelian philosophy of right which appeared in 1844 and found that material (economic) life conditions the social, political and intellectual life process in general. In the words of Marx, "it is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary, their social being determine their consciousness". Hence, dialectical materialism, as its defining method is characterised by:

- Dynamic character of social reality;
- Inter relatedness of different levels of structure; and
- Primacy of material condition.

This paradigm, therefore, tends to analyse how UN reaction to emergencies differed among countries of North American and African continents from several disciplinary perspectives and from all the three levels of analysis namely: individual, state and international system, taking into account the many actors and institutions involved, since each discipline makes important but incomplete contribution to our understanding of global events.

(Landes, 1998) captured this prevailing unequal world order which moves with western Capitalism as its fulcrum was transferred to international Organisations

like UN since its formation in 1945 in his work why some people are rich others are poor. The UN was formed when none of the African states have achieved national independence hence the interest of African states was not considered when the organisation was formed.

United Nations was basically formed to maintain peace and security among the superpowers which was in the economic interest of its formulators. Without global peace, world trade collapse and foreign direct investment terminated thus income diminishes.

Recall, none of the African states is a member of the Security Council, a council that has the power of life and death in deciding the fate of Africans. Regrettably, African have grown to be more dependent on foreign agencies and groups like the international Red Cross, Green movement, UNHRC, WHO, OXFAM, etc in responding to their emergencies than in their national and regional bodies. Various peacekeeping efforts since 1950's onwards had no place in the original conception of the role of UN as provided by the organisation's charter. The intention was that UN would deploy military power as forceful instrument in a global system of collective security. This was shared with varying degree of enthusiasm by all give of the powers that became permanent members of the Security Council (United States, United Kingdom, Russia, France and China).

Frequently, the interest involved in responding to an emergency would always be economical as well as political. The United Nations, her agencies and NGOs are seen as one big market that allocates and distributes global scarce resources to victims in times of emergencies on the basis of equality of states. Behind this seeming equality of states, lies a UN that still prioritize the political and economic interest of the global dominant (developed states) group. Decision on who gets to benefit from this distribution is affected by the capacity of the benefactor to influence the Security Council and contribution to the general purse of the organization.

Moreover, this analytic frame enabled us to understand the dynamics of unequal UN response to emergencies in states that assumed equal status in United Nations charter. It illuminates the logic behind UN prioritisation of urgency: poverty or terrorism, peacekeeping or correcting carbon emission.

We, therefore, predicate this research on the hypothesis that there is a notable difference in the manner UN responds to emergency situations in North America and Africa. Data for this study were collected mainly from secondary sources such as textbooks, magazines, newspapers, academic journals, publications of other International agencies and institutions, unpublished materials from United Nations Conferences and United Nations year book (1958-1963). Internet materials were also used as a source of recent information on UN response to emergencies in the two regions under study. We relied essentially on the content analysis as our *methods of data analysis* in this study.

In order to do this we identified a number of emergencies commonly associated with the regions under study. While emergencies like civil wars and genocides, drought, hunger, poverty, famine, flooding and response to diseases such as HIV/AIDS are common in Africa, emergencies like terrorism, carbon emission, hurricane and response to diseases such as anthrax and SARS are common to North America. Although there are no hard rules for this categorisation of emergencies, scholars find it necessary for convenience to categorise. Countries randomly selected in North America for study are USA and Canada while Rwanda, Somalia, Congo, Ethiopia, Chad, Angola, Uganda were selected in Africa. We looked at how UN and the international community it represents have responded to the various emergencies identified above in the two regions.

### **Diverse People, Culture and Emergencies: Africans and North Americans Compared**

Africa is the second largest of Earth's seven continents, covering 23 percent of the world's total land area and containing 13 percent of the world's population. Africa straddles the equator and most of its area lies within the tropics. It is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the West, the Indian Ocean and Red Sea on the east, and the Mediterranean Sea on the north. In the northeastern corner of the continent, Africa is connected with Asia by the Sinai Peninsula.

You would meet diverse people with a wide range of cultures and backgrounds and hear hundreds of different languages. Through slow reform or violent struggle, most Africa states won independence in the 1950s and 1960s. Independent Africa inherited from colonisation a weak position in the global economy, underdeveloped communication and transportation systems and arbitrarily drawn national boundaries. The citizens of these new nations generally had little in terms of history of culture to bind them together.

North America is the third largest of the seven continents, including Canada (the 2nd largest country in area in the world), the United States (4rd largest), and Mexico (14th largest). The continent also includes Greenland, the largest island, as well as the small French overseas department of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and the British dependency on Bermuda (both made up of small islands in the Atlantic Ocean). With more than 405 million inhabitants estimate), North America is the 4th most populous continent; the United States ranks 3rd and Mexico 11th in population among the world's countries. Canada and the United States have technologically developed early modern economies, and Mexico, although less technologically developed than its neighbors, contains some of the world's greatest deposits of petroleum and natural gas.

### **UN Response to Civil Wars and Genocide**

Regrettably, most instances of instability, insecurity and environmental catastrophes continue to be more pronounced in the 3rd world thus Africa. Evans (1997:10) agreed that these horrifying situations are not international but internal to states. Out break of civil wars and problem of refugees further reflects this variation.

In 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) passed an act called the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, also known as the Genocide Convention. This act, which took effect in 1951, provided a legal definition of genocide and established genocide as a crime under international law. According to the Genocide Convention, any of the following actions, when committed with the intent to eliminate a particular national, ethnic, racial or religious group, constitutes genocide.

Since Boutros Ghali accused America of continued obstruction on the basis of PDD 25, disputes and debates about culpability for the UN's failure to act decisively and in a timely manner became some what academic. On 17 May, 1994, the Security Council agreed on the dispatch of UNAMIR II force of 5500 to Rwanda as proposed by Ghali. Despite public requests by the then Secretary General of UN Boutros Ghali (1999:14), resources were simply not coming. By the end of July 1994 that is more than two months after the authorization of UNAMIR II had been given by the Security Council only about 550 troops (one tent of the total proposed force) had been found. UN document S/RES/918, 17 May 1994.

Kofi Annan, the immediate past Secretary General of UN reported that his approach to a hundred different governments (about half of total membership of UN) with request for contingent in his capacity as under secretary for peace keeping affairs met with virtually no success (McQueen 2005:40).

Since United Nations responds to civil wars and genocide in Africa through her peacekeeping efforts, we shall now look at the various UN operations in the region.

### **UN Peacekeeping Efforts in Africa**

United Nations responds to conflicts, wars or genocides throughout the world today through peacekeeping efforts. Then term peacekeeping has come to be used to describe almost the entire range of activities carried out by international military personnel. Variety of these peacekeeping functions has probably found a broader application in Africa than any other part of the world McQueen (2005:16).

The essence of this approach to international security was to ensure that the UN succeeds where its predecessor the League of Nations failed in the 1930s. One of these failures was in Africa in Abyssinia the area that is now called Ethiopia between 1935 and 1936, the League abandoned Abyssinia to aggressive expansionism of Fascist Italy.

United Nations intervention in Congo from 1960 to 1964 came originally from response to plea from the post-independence government. Similarly, in a later period crisis of statehood underlay the UN's involvement in Somalia between 1992 and 1995. See appendix II.

### **Panel's Report (1999) on the Genocide in Rwanda**

In 1994 a civil war erupted in Rwanda, and within months the war resulted in an estimated death toll of between 500,000 and 1 million Rwandans, mostly members of the Tutsi ethnic group. On December 15, 1999, an independent panel commissioned by United Nations (UN) secretary general Kofi Annan submitted a report on the UN's response to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The report concluded that the UN and its member states could have stepped in and stopped the killing, but failed to do so because of actors like Secretary General, the Secretariat, and Security Council. In 1994 in Rwanda, a country in east central Africa, between 500,000 and 1 million people, mostly of the Tutsi ethnic group, were slain after a coup by extremists of the Hutu ethnic group.

### **United Nations Operation in Somalia**

The UN focused on war in Somalia in 1991. BY July the Security Council approved the designation of operational areas around for centers of Mogadishu, Kismayo, Berbera and Bossaso, yet, UNOSOM was unable to make fundamental impact on the problem of aid distribution. Meanwhile, international public opinion had shown that the overall strength and tactical configuration of UNOSOM was inappropriate to its mandate (Lewis and Mayall, 1996:11). Following the failure of intervention of UNOSOM, the credibility of the UN as mediator was further damaged.

Remarkably, there was a fundamental lack of empathy throughout the UN intervention in Somalia between the international soldiers and the protagonists in the crisis. In this regard Somalia was the first operation in which peacekeepers themselves were guilty of widespread abuse of prisoners (Chabal 1998:30). This can be said to be related to either lack of resources or rather the policies evolved by the UN for UNOSOM.

### **Newspaper Peacekeeping in Ethiopia (Eritrea)**

The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea UNMEE was established by the UN Security Council in June 2000. The war between these two African States was fought with warfare tactic more familiar in 1916 than in 2000, the conflict had taken tens of thousands of lives and threatening to subside into a stalemate.

The particular character of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the nature of its proposed settlement were crucial in eliciting the commitment necessary from the Security Council. The structure and planned sequence of the UN's intervention was similar to the peacekeeping engagement in DRC. In both places a

preliminary deployment of military observer in a liaison capacity was intended to pre-figure a large scale force commitment, the Security Council was not ready to venture into any force. UN document S/2001/608, 19 June 2001. Interventions were in pages of international publications, CNN and BBC.

In Chad, Angola, Burundi, Algeria, Sierra Leone, and all other African countries that have had contact with UN peace keeping force have also criticised UN manner and direction of intervention in these conflict situations. The most recited criticism being that the UN often arrive too late to make difference. United Nations Security Council failed to establish a significant presence in African countries like Somalia because major powers each sided different national groups involved in the fighting.

### **Chad Crises and Response from Donor Countries**

While British public generously responds, governments look away as Chad crisis worsens. Two weeks after launching its public appeal for Darfur and Chad, Oxfam today criticised international donors, particularly Germany, France, Japan, Italy, Spain and Australia, for their inadequate or non-existent response to the UN humanitarian appeal for Chad and called on them to give generously to the **id effort**. This was opposed to the global out pouring of generosity experienced after the incidence of 9/11 in 2001 and even the Tsunami case in 2005. The table below shows that UN has appealed for \$82.5m (\$174m) for Chad but has only received \$36m (\$72m). Approximately only 20 percent of the total needed has been given in cash that can be used to save lives immediately. It was equally observed that no African state was in the list of donors because of the poor status of there political economy expressed in low GNI.

In stark contrast with the generosity of the public the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Chad has been very disappointing. Rich governments now have the responsibility to respond as generously to the wider humanitarian effort in Chad.

### **Terrorism**

The Attack on 9/11, 2001, had raised the question of terrorism to number 1 global emergency. It was when a team of 19 hijackers on suicide missions carried out the deadliest terrorist attack in United States history, killing more than 3,000 people. It was U.S. Aircraft Accidents Involving Passenger Fatalities since 1982.

The twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were constructed to withstand attacks. But the organisers of the September 11 strike devised a plan that had not been anticipated and for which no effective defense had been prepared: to use a large fuel-laden commercial airliner as a highly explosive bomb. No trained airline pilot would willingly fly his or her aircraft into a building full of people, even at gunpoint, but the terrorists had a way around that problem.

### **United Nations Response to Terrorism**

International cooperation against terrorism historically has had a somewhat uneven record. During the early 1970s international cooperative efforts produced various aircraft anti-hijacking agreements, including the 1970 Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation. Attempts were later made to extend these treaties to embrace a broader array of international antiterrorist agreements. Almost without exception, however, those efforts foundered because of the international community's failure to agree on a definition of terrorism (Metzer 2002:9).

Recent events suggest greater progress toward meaningful cooperation among governments in fighting terrorism. Even before September 11, 2001, the United Nations had taken important steps to punish Afghanistan's Taliban regime for providing sanctuary to Osama bin Laden. UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (passed in 1999), 1333 (2000), and 1363 (2001) imposed sanctions on the Taliban for harboring bin Laden and failing to close down al-Qaeda terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. These resolutions demonstrated a change in international attitudes toward terrorism along with a commitment to isolate states that refuse to adhere to international norms.

On the day after the World Trade Centre and Pentagon attacks that is on 9/12 the UN Security Council approved Resolution 1368, which reaffirmed the UN's commitment "to combat by all means, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", recognised the "inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with the [UN] Charter" against terrorism; and unequivocally condemned "in the strongest terms" the September 11 attacks. Two weeks later, Security Council Resolution 1373 was approved. It called for the prevention and suppression of terrorism financing and greater exchange of the operational informational needed by UN member-states to fight terrorism.

Research has shown that low-income populations and minorities do not receive the same protection from environmental contamination as do higher-income communities. Toxic waste incinerators, chemical plants, and solid waste dumps are often located in low-income communities because of a lack of organised, informed community involvement in municipal decision-making processes.

Urban air pollution is commonly known as smog. In 1948, 19 people died and thousands were sickened by smog in the small U.S. steel-mill town of Donora, Pennsylvania. Eventually, most pollutants are washed out of the air by rain, snow, fog, or mist. Acid rain falls in lakes and on forests, where it can lead to the death of fish and plants, and damage entire ecosystems. Eventually the contaminated lakes and forest may become lifeless. Regions that are downwind of heavily industrialised areas, such as Europe and the eastern United States and Canada, are the hardest hit by acid rain. Acid rain can also affect human health and man-made objects; it is slowly dissolving historic stone statues and building facades in London, Athens and Rome.

### **UN Response to Environmental Problem**

It was not until after 1960s that the global magnitude of environmental problems was fully realised Balaam and Veseth (2005:196). In 1972, a conference on the human environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden at which UN instituted its environmental programme UNEP. UNEP is the first UN agency to be headquartered in Africa (Nairobi and Kenya). Quite often UNEP brokers agreements and pulls together drafts of treaties by other agencies to make sure the environment is considered in them.

Consequently, UNEP receives fewer funds than other UN agencies given its location in Africa. UNEP is sometimes criticised for being too far removed from other UN agencies and organisations.

Multilateral effort to deal with the environment occurred again at the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro officially called UN conference on the Environment and Development UNCED. Agenda 21 laid out plans for States, IOs, NGOs, and private sectors to achieve new goals in variety of different issue related to environment and Development (*New York Times 1 July, 1994*).

In December 1997, 2000 representatives from 159 countries met in Kyoto, Japan and Kyoto Protocol, which requires industrial countries to reduce their green house emission, was established. The protocol was intended to strengthen treaty on global warming negotiated in RIO in 1992 (*New York Times 31 November, 1998*).

A UN sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Third Assessment Report, released in January 2001 and summarised here, sharply increased its projections, predicting a global average surface temperature rise of 1.4 to 5.8°C (2.5 to 10.4°F) over the period of 1990 to 2100 compared to a previous assessment of 1.0 to 3.5°C (1.8 to 6.3°F) for the same period. This IPCC report also for the first time identified human activity as the primary cause for global warming.

### **Conclusion**

While it is true that problems are becoming global, it is also a more fundamental truth that the world is still in its full regional variation. In spite of article 1(3) of 1945 United Nations Charter, people in conflict situations are still categorized according to national, regional, sex, race or religious background. We can then say that in terms of 'quikility' and accuracy of UN response to emergencies, North America is favoured while Africa is disfavoured. This is true not only to conflict situations but also to non conflict situations mostly found in Africa like hunger, poverty, famine, drought and HIV/AIDS largely because of the weak economic base of the African people. There is equally a constantly neglected relationship between the major North American emergency (terrorism) and African emergencies (war and the consequent HIV/AIDS, poverty and hunger). To be clear, all poor persons are hungry an every hunger infested mind in the world today sees US

global economic domination as the cause of their poverty and consequent hunger and in order to revenge this alleged economic hardship caused by America, they resort to armed attacks on America and its allies.

The fact is that the cameras will arrive in time to record the dying in Africa but never in time to prevent the looming crisis. Our observations reveals that the urgent appeals for African countries in crisis such as Sudan and Congo in 2005 attracted just a fraction of the needed resources in contrast to the overwhelming response to the 9/11 2001 in America. Contrarily, after the Hurricane Charley slammed into the Florida Coast between 2am and 3am, as of 7am same day in 2003, 1070 disaster assistance payment totaling more than \$2 million were issued by electronic fund transfer and already showing up in bank account (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2004).

UN operations in Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Congo, in particular have shown that UN is unable to provide peace in civil war areas and often arrived too late to make a difference in many of these internal conflicts while civilians are bearing the brunt of this crisis, leaving many at the very brink of survival. This has been in international political failure.

UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (passed in 1999), 1333 (2000), and 1363 (2001) have demonstrated a change in international attitudes toward terrorism along with a commitment to isolate states that refuse to adhere to international norms. On the day after the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks that is on 9/11, the UN Security Council approved Resolution 1368, which reaffirmed the UN's commitment "to combat by all means threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", recognised the "inherent right of individual or collective self-defence in accordance with the (UN) Charter" against terrorism. The question now is why did UN refused to explore this same charter to intervene in Sudan where inherent human right was also threatened.

United Nations response to emergency situations in both North America and Africa has shown discrepancies. There are instances of inadequate United Nations presence during emergencies in African countries like Rwanda, Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo), Somalia, Ethiopia, Chad, Liberia, Algeria, Sierra Leone, Angola and South Africa to mention the least on the one hand and instances of adequate UN response during emergencies in North American countries like USA, Canada et cetera on the other hand.

However, the most important obligation for United Nations is to ensure generous outpouring of global support to emergency situations. This invariably means building a more systematic pattern to ensure consistent and timely response to emergencies.

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