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THE NIGERIA STATE AND THE BIAFRA QUESTION: THREATS TO OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIONAL COHESION?

1.0 INTRODUCTION
The resurgence of the agitation for the creation of the Republic of Biafra in 2015 stems from a long history of agitation for the independence of the Southeastern states and some parts of South south zone of Nigeria from the Nigerian state. The agitation dates back to Nigeria's independence in 1967. The re-precipitation of the agitation for Biafra after the civil war did not put an end to the agitation but led to the emergence of several anti-Biafra movements in the 1980s. In 2000, the Hareed Force with the support of MASSOB eventually founded Radio Biafra and later Biafra Television, a satellite based television station in 2015. In July 2015, Radio 24 Biafra was launched to be the alternative platform for Biafra. Other initiatives including the Biafra Herald, Facebook pages and Twitter handles were created to sustain

nevertheless led to series of operations, arrests, detentions and torture and alleged killings of the members of the movement. In 2002, Nigerian government pronouncing MASSOB an extremist group, arrested several of the members and jailed its acclaimed leader Ralph Uwangurika on treason charges. He was however released in 2007. The Biafra Zionist Movement (BZM) created in the early 2000s is an offshoot of MASSOB, it advocated for the secession of Biafra

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