THE IMPACT OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY ON KIDNAPPING

YUSUF ISMAIL IMAM; AMEER SANUSI; ADAMU YAKUBU; & HAUWA KABIR UMAR

Department of General Study, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi, Bauchi State.
Corresponding Author: yiismail.gns@fptb.edu.ng
DOI Link: https://doi.org/10.70382/bejasd.v9i2.043

ABSTRACT

This paper examines impacts of insecurity in Nigeria with the focus on kidnapping. Generally and as an enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution, security and welfare of Nigeria is the primary concern and responsibility of the government. The security is also the backbone of Nigeria's development, but has come under threats attack from different dimensions. This paper identifies the various causes of insecurity, especially kidnapping and offers some solutions to the problems. The paper is qualitative in design and uses both primary and secondary sources of data collection. It traced the history of insecurity which has led to many problems such as joblessness, terrorism, banditary, insurgency, among others. The papers offers some solutions which involve the role of parents, governments, and non-governmental organisations, including youth and women empowerment, adequate jobs creation, awareness on security matters, reduction of poverty and corruption, strict enforcement of laws, especially regarding punishments and proper security network, co-ordination, harmony among others and Nigerian security agencies.

Introduction

Insecurity is a critical issue that has hampered industrialization and unsustainable development in Nigeria. Nigeria is perceived as giant of Africa has witnessed an unprecedented incidences of insecurity ranging from the activities of Kidnapping, Fulani Herdsmen, Boko Haram Insurgencies, Armed Robbery Attacks, Political and Religious Crisis, Destruction of Oil facilities by Niger-Delta Militants, Child Abduction and Trafficking etc. Hence others crimes committed by the Islamic Sects include: destruction of lives and properties, mosque/churches, burning of police station, schools, hospital, clinic, shops, army barracks and residentials houses etc. These challenges have made security a pivotal issue that culminated in

t he allocation of country's resources, (Ndubuisi-Okolo Purity, 2012) global peace index on his Journal articles. (Daily Trust April 5, 2022). "Security is everybody's business". If you noticed anyone that is living above means, let security check the person out" Director DSS Mr Jonathan Kure.

 Nigeria is a republic in West African coastal along the Atlantic Ocean on the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria consists of a low plateau cut by rivers especially the River-Niger and its largest tributary, the River- Benue. The country takes its name from its River Niger, in 1914 by Flora Shaw. The capital is Lagos the largest city located on the South-western coast. However, a new city called Abuja, located at the centre of country became the capital in 1991. Nigeria is a federal form of government and is divided into 36 states and Abuja a federal capital territory.

Hence, Kidnapping in Nigeria first of all attracted national attention on 25th Feb, 2006. When restive youths in Niger Delta abducted some foreign oil workers in the bid to press home their demand for restitution and increased infrastructure development. As initial stages the " Catholic News Agency" of Nigeria, had reported that the Anglican Bishop of Benin Diocese was kidnapped on January 24, 2010 after celebrating sunday mass at Benin city. In fact, the lates of this, the 11 Yauri schoolgirls abducted in Kebbi State. (Daily Trust, April 7, 2022 pg 4). The 15 primary nursery school children innocent were abducted in Abia State (Daily Sun. Sep 29, 2010 pg 1). Although this crime against humanity take place in both rural and urban city areas and is on fact perpetrated in virtually all parts of Nigeria, it is most pronounced in northeast. Christopher (2011).

Statement of the Problem

Kidnapping in Nigeria has become prevalent, increasing in an alarming rate of corruption, abject poverty, fraud, political influences, joblesseness, terrorism, lack of punishment by the government, quickmoney syndrome, intimidate, negligence by both governmental and non- governmental agency etc.

1. The research focused on why some people are engaged in kidnapping.
2. The problem of kidnapping in Nigeria, how is affected societies and individuals.
3. The research highlights the causes and effect of kidnapping in various parts of the country.
4. The research focused on possible solution as far as the ways that eradicate the kidnapping in Nigeria.

Research Questions
1. What are the causes of kidnapping?
2. Why kidnapping menaced in Nigeria?
3. What are the conditions of victims during and after kidnapped?
4. What are the effect of kidnapping?

Aims and Objectives of Research
- To identify the causes of kidnapping.
- To highlight the prevalent of kidnapping in Nigeria.
- To identify the conditioning of victims
- To identify the implications and consequences of kidnapping ni Nigeria.
- To suggest the ways of possible solution of kidnapping in Nigeria.

Methodology of The Research
The research adopted library source of data collection, especially to highlight the relevants literature include: current media reports on kidnapping in Nigeria. This method was adopted because it was considered the most effective strategy for obtaining authentic information about this violents crime in the Country. It is also considered the best method for understanding the danger and magnitude of high profile kidnapping in Nigeria. Also considered the secondary sources of data collection such as articles, magzines, news papers and books respectively.

Literature Review
The research aimed to view the related of literature, concerning the subject matter of studying in respecting of prevalent rate of kidnapping, the causes, effect and possible solutions of kidnapping in Nigeria, being the subject matter without over emphasis on its. report that Kidnapping is a major problem in Nigeria in the early 21th century, kidnapping by bandits and insurgents is among the biggest organised or gang crime in Nigeria and is a national security challenges. Tunde (2010) kidnapping is an illegal abuse and financial exploitation of the victims on kidnappng.

According to Wilson Akpevweoghene Dodo in his articles (2010) kidnapping is a national social problem that must be solved nationally. Also Dodo said (2010), kidnapping in Nigeria started in this new millennium. Kidnapping in Nigeria began rising in 2006 when militants in Niger-Delta started kidnapping expatriates for ransom. On Sep 6 2005 when a group name Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) threatens to attack British national and facilitiea in the Niger-Delta if the British police failed to release a former governor who was arrested in London for money laundering offences. The

kidnapping/attacking, is another visible sign of insecurity in the country. The perpetrators of this crime do not spare any one in this new wave of crime that seems to have supplanted armed robbery and other non-contact crimes. Since the act began in Nigeria, aged, children, male and female have been kidnapped for ransom. This has made life unbearable to the citizens. People now live in fear of falling victims to these criminals. While, Security is one of the basic needs; it can also be seen as a basic value in Western societies (Niemelä, 2000), where more and more systems are developed to guarantee security. Security is a highly valued goals, which may be difficult to reach because of different threats and risks in personal lives and global environments. One indicator of the collective quest for security is evident in the literature and studies on different risks. Over a decade ago, Furedi (1997).

However, Samuel et al (2022) Drug use and abuse has been established as strongly associated with severals activities such as poor in academic performance, rape, kidnapping, accidents, other criminal activities etc. The Insecurity is the state of being subject to danger or injury. The anxiety about that is to experienced when one feels vulnerable and insecure. Michael Ezemonye (2011) affirms the above definition of insecurity as "a state of being not secure, lack of confidence'. To enable us understand this term, we now turn to the meaning of the word 'insecure' which the Advance English Dictionary defines as 'not confident about yourself or your relationships with other people; not safe or protected'. This definition further expounds the meaning of the term to include not just the general meaning but it touches the individual person "not being confident about oneself".

More so, Enobakhare et al (2021) in his articles, Section 364 Criminal Code Provides: "any person who (i) unlawfully imprisons any person and takes him out of Nigeria without his consent or (ii) unlawfully imprisons any person within Nigeria in such a manner as to prevent him from applying to a court for his release or from discovering to any other person the place where he is imprisoned or in such manner as to prevent any person entitled to have access to him from discocering the place where he is imprisoned: is quilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for 10 years".

According to report by SBM Intelligence, an average of 13 persons were abducted daily in Nigeria in the first half of 2021. According to Dr Hakeem Baba Ahmed (2022) Director of Northern Elders Forum (NEF) "Northern Elders Forum has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to resign for failing to combat worsening insecurity", according to Baba Ahmed April 12, 2022 " the Nigerian constitution allow the president to stop if he can't solve the challenges confronting the country" sahara news report April 12, 2022. Also he said "the administration of president Muhammadu Buhari does not appear to have answers to the challenges of security to which we are exposed. We cannot continue

to live and die under the dictates of killers, kidnappers, rapist and sundry criminal groups that have deprived us of our right to live in peace and security".

Basic Concept and Finding of the Research

Oxford Dictionary new 9 Edition define the word 'Kidnapping' " somebody to take somebody away illegal and keep them as a prisoner, especially in order to get money or something else for returning them". Encyclopeadia, also spelled kidnapping, Criminal offence consisting of the unlawful taking and carrying away of person by force or fraud or the unlawful seizure and detention of a person against his will. In other word kidnapping referrs to (the abduction and captivity of a person, typically to obtain a ransom). The word derived from 'kid' = "child and nap" the nab which means snatch and was first recorded in 1673. It was originally used as a term for the practice of stealing children for use as servants or labourers in the American colonies. Kidnapping by bandits and insurgents is among the biggest challenges and its national security challenge. Banditry is a types of organised crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threats or use of violence.

However, Insecurity is just the opposite of what we have as security. Insecurity like security is often used in a number of ways. Many people would take it to mean lack of safety or the existence of danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of trust; doubtful; inadequately guarded or protected; lack of stability; disturbed; lack of protection and unsafe (Achumba et al, 2013). Insecurity will make you lose trust, be frightened, unsettled, oppressed, lose focus, and be devastated and lose your humanity. Adebanjoko & Ugwuoke (2014) have opined that, insecurity is the State of being subjected in every respect to terror, threat, risk, molestation, bullying, harassment, etc. Insecurity, for example, can be conceived as a threat to the state that often accounted for the arms and nuclear weapons race to protect the state.

Hence, Insecurity and experiences of young people in a changing society are relevant in social science research but security and insecurity are not simple as scientific concepts. Different fields of science address the topics. Psychology, social psychology and psychiatry provide the earliest debates and notions about the need to develop these concepts. Erich (2000) was one of the scholars who wrote about feelings of inferiority. He emphasized security as a need to belong and avoid loneliness. Alfred Adler (1964; 1971) analysed security as a basic need. A human being tries to choose goals so that they guarantee a prevent feelings of inferiority, support self-esteem, and bring security.

More so, the bases finding of the research is the causes, effect and suggest the possible solution of the kidnapping in Nigeria. One of the major problem of kidnapping is abject poverty. As have observed earlier, kidnapping for monetary gains in Nigeria originated from the activities of restive militants in the Niger-Delta regions, although the agitation

of Niger-Delta youth can be traced to the problem of political influence or marginalization. It can be argued that their involvement in kidnapping for the purpose of obtaining huge ransom from expatriate oil workers are partly motivated by the desire to get rich quick which is an essential aspect of our changing value system.(Ugwuoke 2005).

The Negligences of governmental and non- governmental agencies according to Daily Trust April 5, 2022. Bandits in "'military uniform" killed Zamfara commissioner's son, 3 others. Bandits last night invaded Tsafe town, the headquarters of Tsafe LGA of Zamfara State and killed four persons including the son of the state's Commissioner for security and Home Affairs, retired DIG Ibrahim Mamman Tsafe.

The bandits, believed to be fleeing military operations in some states, are gradually turning parts of Tsafe Local Government to their new haven. Residents told Daily Trust that the criminals, wearing military uniforms, stormed Shiyar Namada area closed to the commissioner's residence and opened fire on people.

Although, terrorists have killed 17 villagers and abducted several people including male and female in communities across kagarko and kachia LGAs of Kaduna State. This happened barely 24 hours after the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Usman Alkali Baba, visited the highway. Daily Trust (2022).This negligence was led to menace of kidnapping in Nigeria.

Other important factors/causes that contributed to kidnapping in Nigeria include: the high level of unemployment especially among youths, exploitation of the poor by the few rich individuals and government apathy to the needs of youth. It is often said that "an idle mind is the devils workshop". Many unemployed youths in Nigeria are poverty strickens and usually find solace in criminal activities which of course include: participation in kidnapping and armed robbery. Therefore be arqued that a number of Nigerian youths who have taken to crime such as kidnapping are poor and unemployed, this is most prevalent in the southeast. Christopher Uche, (2022).

Odey (2000) said, exploitation and marginalization also account in measure to the incidences of kidnapping in Nigeria. The long period of exploitation of the people of the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria by the Federal Government equally motivated the aggrieved youth in that part of the country to take kidnapping as an alternative approach to the solution of their problems. While, Ibrahim A Yerima April 5, 2022 Daily Trust, a former minister of Education has said "the country's security problem is fueled by injustice and disregard for the rule of law".

Therefore, Dodo and Ohwonohwo (2008) expressed, lack of capital punishment by government, lack of stiffer penalty of kidnappers is one of the reasons why this ugly pratice still thrived and menaced in Nigeria. The kidnappers sees this criminal business as a huge profit making and therefor, it difficult to quit. This business is like child

trafficking, if the govt imposes a strict penalty on those caught for kidnapping;this trade will definatly die completely.

Ethnic violence - We have heard in some areas like Plateau and Benue States reprisal attacks by ethnic militia unleashing the insecurity in these areas. While security in some parts of the country, like the South-south, Southeast and the Southwest has been compromised, the Northern zone that has always been shown a propensity for violent conflicts did not disappoint security watchers. The starting with the usual religious/ethnic oriented conflicts to the Jos ethnicity/religious/political conflicts on 2008 till date, the northern states have shown that security of persons and properties are still far from being realized and recognized.

IMPACTS OF INSECURITY IN NIGERIA:

The Political Impacts: The Insecurity in Nigeria, the current security situation in Nigeria has forced the political leaders to be "rethinking the national security" as Ibrahim Bashir of the Daily Sun puts it. This situation demands Nigeria security agencies to rethink and refocus our national security resources on the unique character of security threats in Nigeria. (Ibrahim, Thursday, March 24, 2011). Nigerians are daily becoming more and more apprehensive about the security effect to the country before, during and after the elections. I agreed with Shafi'u S Zurmi that the general anxiety over the nation's security is determine and should be a source of concern to the government." (Daily Sun, Friday January 21, 2011). The weakness of Nigeria's Criminal Justice System has been exposed greatly. This has posed a challenge and showed the ineffectiveness and delay the implementation of the policy.

However, General Owoye Andrew Azazi**,** has given some and many imperative, one of which is, the need for a more robust legislation on Anti-Terrorism. The effective and enabling Anti-Terrorism Act must provide the institutional and co-ordination framework for combating and elimination the acts of terrorism in and against the Federal Republic of Nigeria...provide for additional judicial guidelines to the Criminal Justice System for the effective and speedy prosecution of terrorists and must clearly enable NSO to conduct their anti-terrorism measures and activities across many of our national ethnic-centric, religious, political and social biases. Very important is whether the government will be willing to take the bold steps necessary to clearly articulate, communicate and implement whatever policy that is in place. Political instability sometimes results from uncontrollable state of insecurity in a nation. The growing insecurity challenges in Nigeria are signs of the growing popular discontent with the national political system and indications that past elections were not free and fair. Many years ago John Calvin condemned any practice that could harm or oppressed the poorest element in society as spiritually and politically illegitimate (qtd. by Brenda K. Savage).

Then If the government is unable to control and solve the problem of insecurity it means that the government for the common has failed. This is because the basic goals of any civilized are the survival and security of life and property. The Karl Marx added a voice that "Insecurity as destabilizing" (qtd. By Benjamin Ryan: 2008). This is true in that when a nation is not secure it can destabilize the economy, agriculture, governance and increases criminality in community and the society. It can also destroy the structures put in place by the government for political stability.

The Religious Impact: The tendency is highjacked any form of violence and branding it religious is possible. Based on this the 'outsider' of religion will give it a bad name in order to hang it. Religious worship places are being desecrated through blood shedding resulting from indiscriminate bombing of religious worship centres. It scares members away from regular religious worship and fellowship. The Insecurity in a nation can help spread or promote fake religious faith and practice. The violence or an insecure situation drives people into various religious groups not by reason of believing but for security purposes. In an environment where a particular religion commands majority, the residents would like to align with the popular religion there for the sake of securing their lives and that of their relations and possibly their business investments. Nothing thrives in an insecure environment. The economic, religious activities, as well as governance can be frustrating in such an atmosphere. The religion can play a positive roll of preaching peace and living out same in an environment that is prone to violence. Dialogue could be initiated amongst warring groups.

 The Cultural Impact: It is expected that the continuous growth and development of ethnic communities into an integrated society based on Islamic solidarity cemented by increased inter-dependence and harmonization of shared values and goals will bring about transformation of the relationship between the various ethnic groups. But in a situation where there is insecurity this desire cannot materialize. T. A. Imobighe (2002) commenting on an experience said "Rather than the expected evolutionary change towards ethnic integration and peaceful co-existence, what has taken place in Warri is a heightened awareness of ethnic identity, extreme communal disharmony and a more intense rivalry and hostility (p.66).

Finding and Possible Solution of The Research

Hence, the contemporary world, the security of life and property remains significant to the socio-economic survival of any given society. To achieve the government owns the responsibility of adequately provide security in a given social formation. Security is the most vital element in human life. Without it, social, economic, and political achievements cannot be attained, (Chacas, 2015). Every nation struggles to protect and deepened its core values, aimed at enabling people to lead their lives in free and secure environments

according to their shared common beliefs by preserving their national interest, identity, and sovereignty. Which lead to a state of national security, first it deals with the state as the most important object to security or traditional security, later it metamorphous to non-traditional security which deals with human as referent object to security, (Baldwin,1997).

Hence, Kidnapping is one of the most sources of worrying and pre-occupation of the researcher's mind, base on these, the following are some possible solutions:

- The government is taken policies to tackles the problems through installed the surveillance and monitoring the system in Nigeria.
- The poverty alleviation programmes but should be strictly and strategy
- The Nigerian government should stop taking any problem as granted
- Provide jobs to the youths, more infrastructure and micro industries should be established
- The government should be enacted the law for free education in the rural and urban centre areas in the Country.
- The parents vigilantee their child, to keep them watch and to observe as far as the community concern, help the security personnel to keep watch the environment.
- The government should provide the peace only if the Judiciary would ensure equity, fairness and justice.

Justification of The Research

The research is great important to study, it will enable the researchers to know more about the genesis, causes, effect and possible solution of kidnapping in Nigeria. The research also help the non-governmental agencies, community leaders, parents, traditional leaders and to call for government attention on kidnapping. It also enable them and security personnel to be aware of the prevailing of kidnapping in the country. Base on these therefore, will enable them to enhance the implicate, the frequent problems of kidnapping in Nigeria and save the country from the devils also barricate its people and country itself (Nigeria). The Presidential Committee on security charged with the responsibility of assessing the challenges in the North East Zone had identified the various security failures, inter-service conflict and lack synergy as factors that have encouraged the proliferation of security crises in the Northern part of the country. It also attributed the issue of insecurity on high level of poverty, unemployment and other social vices or ills (Nwadialor, 2011).

Conclusion

The research is viewing the kidnapping in Nigeria as social phenominace and criminal, illegal businesse, some causes has been identified include: abject poverty, negligence by

the government, unemployment, corruption, joblesness etc. The danger of insecurity can not be over emphasize. When a nation is saddled with the problem of insecurity every other plans are stalled. Nigeria a country with a population of over two hundred millions people cannot allow insecurity to derail her political and economic development plans.The country's young democracy is being threatened. Recently, we have experienced increased in violent activities in Nigeria which has claimed several lives and properties. Therefore an urgent need to tackle it before it makes the country ungovernable. The research profounded the possible solution to reductionist and terminate the kidnapping completely in Nigeria.

References

Adelakun, T. (2007) http:/www.com/artcles.

Adibe. J. (2010) pervasive kidnapping in Nigeria: symptom of a failing state: Http:/wwa.hollerafrica.com/show articles.

Anayochukwu Henry et al (2022) The problem of Terrorism and Insecurity in Nigeria and Its consequences of national development. International journal and Academic Business and Social science research.

Benjamin Ryan, (2008), Political Insecurity.

Daily Trust (2022):www.dailytrust.com, April 5, 2022

Dodo, W.A and Ohwonhwo, T.R. (2008): Child trafficking in Nigeria: causes and remedies. Multidisciplinary journal of empirical research.

International Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies vol.2, N0.4, pp.23-36

Nasiru Zubair (2020): Rising of Insecurity in Nigeria: causes and solution. Journal of social science studies.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (new 9th Edition).

Udoh, Emmanuel Williams (2015) Insecurity in Nigeria: Political Religious and cultural implication.

Onuoha, F. C. (2011). Nigeria's vulnerability to terrorism: the imperative of a counter religious extremism and terrorism. (CONREST) Strategy, Peace and Conflict Monitor.p47

Ojo, E. (2010) A survey of Ethno-Religious Crisis and Its Implications For Nigeria's Nascent Democracy. In: Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa Vol. 12, No. 2 pp. 182 – 198.

William, P. D. (2008). "Security Studies: An Introduction". New York: Routledge.

Tella, C. M. (2015). Insecurity in Northern Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Resolutions.

Riitta V. Maritta et al (2012): The Conceptualising of Insecurity from the Perspective of Young People.

Zumve, S. (2013). Terrorism in contemporary Nigeria: a latent function of official corruption and state neglect; European Scientific Journal, 9 (8): 1857 – 7881.