

KIDNAPPING AND NIGERIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY: NORTH-CENTRAL IN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Globally, kidnapping is one of the most common organised crimes that impacts negatively on security. Nigeria has witnessed an overwhelming increase of kidnapping involving every level of the society and motivated by many reasons such as financial or political purposes. This menace portends serious negative consequences to the nation particularly in the North-Central Geo-Political Zone hence necessitating the study titled “Kidnapping and Nigeria's National Security: North-Central in Perspective” which seeks ways to address the issue of kidnapping for enhanced National Security (NS) in Nigeria. The study was mainly a descriptive research which utilized both qualitative and quantitative data. Data was obtained from both primary and secondary sources using field survey method and document analysis. Results were presented with the aid of Charts, Tables, Figures, Annexes and Enclosures following thorough analysis of data using statistical methods and logical reasoning based on facts. The study established an inverse relationship between kidnapping and NS. It also revealed that unemployment, poverty as well as weak law enforcement and security system were major contributing factors to kidnapping. Other factors include moral decadence and easy access to small arms and light weapons. Kidnapping was revealed to have grave effects on human security and economic activities thereby undermining NS. Certain factors hindering the effectiveness of existing measures emplaced to curb kidnapping were identified. These include socio-economic deprivations, poor criminal justice system, porosity of borders as well as lack of cooperation and intelligence sharing among agencies. The prospects for curbing kidnapping in Nigeria for enhanced NS suggested include capital punishment, community policing, establishment of a welfare system and amendment of anti-terrorism act. The strategies preferred include reformation of

criminal justice system, establishment of Integrated Border Management System and provision of employment, enhancing inter-agency liaison and moral re-orientation. The study therefore recommended that Federal Ministry of Justice could commence implementation plan for reformation of criminal justice, Federal Ministry of Interior could commence installation of Integrated Border Management System and Federal Government of Nigeria through Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Ministry of Labour could create jobs and skill acquisition centres. Also, the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Office of National Security Adviser could initiate modalities for inter-agency synergy. Finally, the Federal Government of Nigeria through National Orientation Agency could organize national moral re-orientation campaigns and awareness programs.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Nigeria, North-Central, Security, National

Introduction

The interstate synergy advocated over the years by nations of the world in their quest to achieve global peace and development appears to be threatened by the ever-increasing cases of high profile crimes and delinquency in several parts of the world (Odoma and Akor, 2019). Contemporary states are faced with a major challenge of how to ensure national sustainability when faced with various burgeoning security threats such as organized crimes. These high profile crimes such as piracy, human trafficking, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundry and kidnapping are often perpetuated through transnational syndication and racketeering (Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Globally, kidnapping is one of the organized crimes that impact negatively on security as it gets even more sophisticated and consolidated (Okoli & Agada, 2014). Kidnapping is a criminal act of seizing, detaining or carrying away persons by unlawful force or fraud with demands for ransom. For an act to be considered as kidnapping, it must involve a forceful movement of a victim from one place to the other as well as capture and detention of that person be it a child or an adult. Kidnapping is a business involving a demand for ransom which varies significantly according to the victim's personal status (Ishaya, James & Ezekiel 2019). National security (NS) on the other hand is the continued ability of a country to pursue its internal life without serious interference. It encompasses all that affect the survival of the citizenry and the state.

Kidnapping is continuously evolving; spreading geographically and numerically on the international stage. Constellis, an international security company identified that developed non-conflict countries with sizeable economies and effective governmental frameworks ranked either high or very high for kidnapping. This indicates that kidnapping has metamorphosed into a worldwide phenomenon. Some

Latin American countries such as Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela have reported increases in kidnapping rates due to political instability and economic crisis (Hostage US, 2020). According to Global Economy statistics on kidnapping, Belgium is the topmost country in kidnapping rate in the world with a rate of 10.3 kidnappings per 100,000 people and the lowest value was in Bermuda. Other countries with high kidnapping rates include Canada, South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand, Luxembourg and United Kingdom (UK). Most of these countries have an average of 3 years as the penalty for kidnapping while bank robbery and other crimes such as drug trafficking attract life imprisonment or death. Thus, kidnapping is seen as less risky and more profitable than other high profile crimes. The increase in the rate of kidnapping could be seen as criminals seeking new avenues to make quick money from unlawful activities. However, some countries such as South Korea and Japan have been recorded to have very low crime rate as regards kidnapping which can be attributed to differences in law enforcement. Other contributory factors to the low crime rate reported include longer professional training, high cooperation among officers, a more efficient court system and strict bans on handguns coupled with marked public cooperation with the police. Africa is the continent with the second highest number of kidnapping cases. This can be attributed to the increased conflicts and political upheavals within the region. South Africa recorded the highest number of kidnapping in Africa with a rate of 9.6 kidnappings per 100,000 people. Many countries including Morocco have also recorded low rates of kidnapping. According to Global Economy Morocco has a rate of 2.1 kidnappings per 100,000 people from 2003 - 2017.

In Nigeria, kidnapping has grown over the years as an industry involving every level of the society and motivated by many reasons such as political, ideological, financial, social and cultural purposes. Kidnapping for ransom is one of the most organized crimes in Nigeria that possess a challenge to national security. It is a trade that is difficult for the operators to quit. Kidnapping in Nigeria started in this new millennium. A malady previously unknown to the people has become rapidly domesticated. In 2006 the volatile oil rich regions of Niger Delta witnessed this Phenomenon on a large scale with targets being mostly expatriates and Nigerians in the oil business. It later spread to the North East as a result of Boko Haram insurgency with the agenda to recruit fighters, instill fear and gain more international recognition. It is important to note that kidnapping has become widespread throughout the 36 states with its hotbed being North-West (NW) and North-Central (NC) region of the country.

The kidnapping frenzy has continued in the NW with emboldened bandits spreading their activities to the neighbouring north-central state of Niger and communities on

the fringes of Abuja, the country's capital. According to Premium times' count of kidnapping in the media, an estimated 793 people were kidnapped in the North-Central zone between January and May 2021. In 2018 the media only reported 24 kidnap cases in the region. In 2019, only 30 cases were reported while it rose to 135 in 2020 and 793 in the first five months of 2021. Reports showed that majority of the cases within the period being 674 were in Niger State (Ibekwe and Alabi, 2021). Dataphyte reported that 1486 Nigerians were victims of the insecurity situation in the country in January 2022. Out of this figure, killings accounted for 62% as 915 people lost their lives while the remaining 571 (38%) were victims of kidnapping. In addition, North-Central region accounted for the cumulative highest number of casualties in January. A total of 729 persons were killed or kidnapped in the month of January, 314 people were killed while 415 people were victims of kidnapping (Dataphyte 2022).

According to Governor Sani Bello, about 200 people including Chinese nationals were kidnapped and lives lost in attacks involving about 300 communities in Niger State since the beginning of the year 2022 (Ayitogo, 2022). It is frightening as the crime continues to surge. A situation where everyone including toddlers is kidnapped demands that something urgent is done to arrest the menace. Therefore the purpose of this study is to seek ways to address the issue of kidnapping for enhanced NS in Nigeria. The researcher is motivated to undertake this study with a view to advancing proactive strategies towards curbing the menace of kidnapping in Nigeria.

Statement of Research Problem

Kidnapping has become a daily routine in Nigeria. The proliferation of kidnapping has scared a lot of local and foreign investors away which also has affected socio-economic development and given chance to other social vices in the country. The spate of insecurity in Nigeria is a cause for concern as all are affected by it. Citizens are scared to operate businesses, travel from one place to another or even carry out their normal activities without fear of being kidnapped. This menace has brought untold hardship to the citizens with negative consequences to the nation at large. Based on the foregoing, this study seeks to proffer answers to the following research questions.

- a. What is the relationship between kidnapping and NS?
- b. What are the issues associated with kidnapping and Nigeria's NS?
- c. What are the effects of kidnapping on Nigeria's NS?
- d. What are the challenges of curbing kidnapping for enhanced NS in Nigeria?
- e. What are the prospects for curbing kidnapping to enhance Nigeria's NS?
- f. What are the strategies to mitigate kidnapping in Nigeria to enhance NS?

Conceptual Framework

The key variables in this study are kidnapping and NS, been the independent and dependent variable respectively. These would be conceptualized and the relationship between them established.

1. Kidnapping

Zannoni, Eze and Ezeibe (2012) cited in Okoli and Agada (2014) defines kidnapping as an organized crime that has its essence in the unlawful intentional deprivation of a person's freedom of movement in an attempt to exploit the situation to extort money or other advantages. The authors see kidnapping as an act of holding the victim against his or her will both by force or fraud and with the intention of collecting ransom. This definition incorporates economic benefits of kidnapping; however, it did not establish link to NS.

Inyang and Abraham (2013) also defined kidnapping as “the forcible seizure, taking away and unlawful detention of a person against his/her will. It is a common law offence and the key part is that it is unwanted act on the part of the victim”. Here, the authors see kidnapping from a legal point of view as restriction of someone's liberty which violates the provision of freedom of movement as enshrined in the constitution, however, they did not consider the factors responsible for kidnapping which are important for this study. This definition is therefore not adopted for this study.

Siegel (2002) defined kidnapping as a crime involving the use of force or deception to seize, confine, abduct or take away a person while subjecting the person to slavery against his wish in order to collect ransom or to commit another crime such as prostitution, terrorism and other heinous crimes which are inimical to national security. This definition is suitable as it highlights the means, types and effects of kidnapping on national security. It is therefore adopted for this research.

2. National Security

Lippman (2010) views national security as the ability of a country to uphold its essential tenets, and its capacity to sustain such core tenets through triumphs in war. This view is limited to prevention and victory in war situations using the military and so does not consider other aspects of NS. Hence, it is not adopted for this study.

McNamara (2005) defines NS as part of the government policy which aims at generating favourable national and international strategic environment for the protection, promotion and proliferation of national values against existing or potential threats. This definition views security based on national values, development and the military. Other elements of NS like human development, food security and environment were excluded. This definition is therefore not adopted for this study.

According to former President Olusegun Obasanjo (2009) NS may be defined as the aggregation of the security interests of the individuals, political entities, human associations and ethnic groups, which make up the nation. The security interest includes safety of life and property, economic, psychological and mental well-being and the freedom to pursue the attainment of legitimate objectives without hindrance. Obasanjo's definition is comprehensive and suitable as it considers every aspect of human endeavour and the society as well as appropriately covers the components of national security. This definition is therefore adopted for this study.

Relationship Between Kidnapping And National Security

Kidnapping is a criminal act that involves the use of force to seize, abduct or carry away an individual or group for political or economic gains. The attributes of kidnapping is force, involuntary slavery, financial exploitation, terrorism and other heinous crimes which constitute threats to internal security of Nigeria. NS on the other hand encompasses all that affect the survival of the citizenry and the state. It is the ability of the state in line with its statutory power to uphold the quest and the realization of the fundamental needs and vital interests of man and society. Simply put, it is the ability of the state to protect the citizens from threats which maybe economic, social, environmental, political and military. Furthermore, it guarantees the society freedom from threat that could affect quality of life of the populace in a state. Hence, when NS is at its optimal, kidnapping and other criminalities will be contained and conversely, if kidnapping is prevalent, it implies that national security could have been compromised. Therefore, there is an indirect relationship between kidnapping and NS.

Review Of Related Studies

Several researches have been undertaken in kidnapping. According to John Wajim (2020) in his paper titled proliferation of kidnapping in Nigeria: Causes and Consequences unveiled some causes of kidnapping and their consequences to Nigeria as a nation. Poverty, unemployment and moral decadence were the commonest causes identified while the consequences include high level of mistrust among people, increased demand for police escort by diverse public officials and low socio-economic development in the country. The author however, did not consider the implication of kidnapping as a rising threat to NS.

Odoma Samuel (2015) in his work titled Organized Crime, Kidnapping and Nigerian National Security, viewed kidnapping as an organized crime that have become so widespread and lucrative, yielding speedy and high returns to perpetrators of the crime. He further revealed some factors responsible for the emergence and spread of cases of kidnapping to include bad leadership, endemic poverty, weak correctional agencies, lack of synergy among agencies of social control and failure to arrest and

punish offenders. He also highlighted the implication of the menace on NS to have security, economic and social dimensions. Lastly, the author outlined some hindrances to the control of kidnapping to be, poor civil-police relations, involvement of security operatives in kidnapping, inter agency clashes and suspicion, expeditious and decisive handling of criminal cases and poor funding of social control agencies. However, the author did not proffer solutions to the security issues posed by the menace of kidnapping.

Wilson dodo (2010) in his paper titled the causes and remedies of kidnapping in Nigeria viewed kidnapping as a trade that is difficult for the operators to quit and examined the dual domains; causes and remedies of kidnapping. Causes include politicians, poverty, terrorism, as well as lack of stiffer punishment by government, negligence on the part of the well-to-do families and quick money syndrome. Some remedies to tackle the problems of kidnapping suggested were; fight against the criminal business, law making and other policy measures and poverty alleviation programs extended to less-privileged areas in order to ease economic hardship. He further recommended for establishment of micro industries in rural areas to engage youths. However, the study did not address the link between kidnapping and NS which is of paramount interest in this research.

Okoli, Chukwuma and Agada et al (2014) reported that kidnapping has been motivated and sustained by criminal quest for material accumulation. According to the authors, kidnapping hinders sustainable development therefore constitutes a threat to NS of Nigeria. The threats posed were identified as loss of life, threat to public safety, sabotage to economic growth and development by way of capital and investment flight, negative perception of Nigeria on international scene with accompanying negative consequences on trade, tourism and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Other implications include an atmosphere of public insecurity which endangers the prospects of societal progress, loss of investment capital, closure of businesses and unemployment. The authors dwelt extensively on the implication of kidnapping to NS however did not offer strategies for curbing kidnapping.

The reviewed literature of relevant studies has no doubt made substantial contributions to the understanding of kidnapping. That notwithstanding, very few studies addressed the link between kidnapping and NS or provides solution to curbing the menace of kidnapping for enhanced Nigeria's national security. Also, none of the studies comprehensively addressed the convergent factors that challenge curbing kidnapping in Nigeria. This study therefore seeks to fill this gap. In doing this, it is necessary to present the theoretical framework upon which the study is situated.

Theoretical Framework

The researcher adopted the Queer Ladder Theory (QLT) as its analytical framework. The QTL was influenced by an American sociologist, Daniel Bell (1919-2011), who coined the idea of 'queer ladder' in an attempt to explain the instrumental essence of organized crime as a desperate means of economic empowerment and social climbing. The basic 3 assumptions of QLT as highlighted by Mallory, 2007; Okoli & Orinya, 2013 are firstly, organized crime is an instrumental behaviour; it is a means to an end. Secondly, it is an instrument of social climbing and/or socio-economic advancement. Thirdly, it is a means to accumulate wealth and build power.

The theory supports the notion that organized crime thrives in contexts where the government's capacity to dictate, sanction and deter crime is poor; where public corruption is endemic; and where prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities are slim (Nwoye, 2000; Lyman, 2007; Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Under these circumstances, the incentive to indulge in crime is high, while deterrence from criminal living is low. In other words, the benefits of committing a crime surpass the costs and/or risks. This creates ample pretext and motivation for criminal impunity and franchise (Okoli & Orinya, 2013).

Applied to the analysis of this paper, QLT would enable one to come to terms with the prevalence of organized crime and sundry acts of criminality in Nigeria. In this regard, it is to be observed that the phenomenon of kidnapping in Nigeria has been driven by criminal quest for economic accumulation in an environment that more or less condones crimes. This has been worsened by the prevailing socio-economic malaise and the apparent lethargy of relevant government agencies to ensure efficient punishment of crime in Nigeria has all the more complicated and accentuated the problem (Okoli & Orinya, 2013). The theory brings to bear the reality of the prevalence of criminal impunity in Nigeria. Thus, the choice of QLT for this research is informed by its analytical utility in providing insights into the socio-political foundations of organized crime, prominent among which is kidnapping in developing nations.

The Cases of Indonesia And Mexicoto

Kidnapping in Indonesia and Mexico were examined in order to draw lessons for the study. The countries were selected because of their concerted efforts to decrease rate of kidnapping to enhance NS.

1. Indonesia

Generally, Indonesia is known to have a low kidnapping rate when compared to other countries of the world. According to Globaleconomy statistics, Indonesia recorded a

maximum rate of 0.3 kidnappings per 100,000 people in 2008, with a value of 0.2 per 100,000 people from 2009 to 2012. However, the rate of kidnapping significantly decreased to 0.1 per 100,000 people from 2013 - 2017 which is far below the world's average for 2017 which was at the rate of 1.8 per 100,000 people.

The low kidnapping rate in Indonesia could be attributed to the strong belief and morals among individuals which are evident in their social practice of alms giving. Another contributory factor is the effectiveness of the Indonesian criminal and penal code which clearly spell out punishments for criminal offences such as kidnapping. Instructive is the strict adherence to the penal code which in turn serves as deterrence to criminality. All these efforts have contributed significantly to stabilizing her NS.

2. Mexico

According to Mexican Congressional, kidnapping increased by 317 percent between 2005 and 2010 (Mexico Sept. 2010). Report also showed that an average of 72 people a day were kidnapped in Mexico in 2012, with the statistics excluding incidents of express kidnapping (20 Dec. 2012). The rate of kidnapping in the country hit a maximum of 1.5 kidnappings per 100,000 people in 2013 with anyone being a likely target irrespective of socio-economic status. Similarly, in 2015, the number of kidnapping cases was 1,311 compared to the global average of 1,014 cases (Central Intelligence Agency: World Fact Book, 2021). However, the kidnapping rate in Mexico was significantly decreased to 831 cases in 2020 which impacted on her NS.

The reduction was due to certain measures emplaced to combat the spate of kidnapping for improved NS. Such measures include the creation of central intelligence co-ordination centre which enhanced cooperation among security agencies leading to effective anti-kidnap operations in Mexico. Also, there was an inter-state collaboration with the United States of America (USA) to join efforts against drug trafficking organizations which was a major cause of kidnapping. Additionally, the government reformed the judicial system and prescribed capital punishment as the highest degree and life sentence as the minimum punishment for kidnapping offences in the country; thus enhancing the country's NS.

Lessons From The Study

From the examination of kidnapping and NS in Indonesia and Mexico, some lessons have been drawn for the study. They include High Moral Standards in the Society, Effectiveness of Judicial System and the need for Strong Collaboration among Security Agencies. These are discussed subsequently.

1. High Moral Standards in the Society

Due to the high moral standard and support among individuals and families in Indonesia, kidnapping is not seen as a tool for struggle or financial gain being a motivating factor. It is rather perceived as a moral evil and act of wickedness because it lacks communal good. The lesson here lies in the practice of humanity where everyone sees each other as brothers and sisters. This could be achieved by good parental upbringing and re-ordering of societal values.

2. Effectiveness of Justice System

The decreased rate of kidnapping in Mexico and Indonesia aided by judiciary reforms underscores the need for the enactment of laws as well as strict adherence to the existing criminal code. Through the reforms, better deterrence to the menace was emplaced by the government. Therefore, this has brought to fore the need to reform justice delivery system in such a way that no offender would escape punishment.

3. Strong Collaboration among Security Agencies

The importance of strengthening co-ordination of security agencies was demonstrated by Mexico. The creation of the central intelligence co-ordination centre and the collaboration with security forces of the USA was effective in combating the menace significantly. Therefore, there is need to improve and sustain co-operation and collaboration among the nation's security agencies and by extension her foreign counter parts for enhanced NS.

Key Issues Of Kidnapping And Nigeria's National Security

According to Tzannelli cited in Okoli and Agada (2017), the practice of kidnapping dates back to 17th Century in Britain where infants of wealthy families were 'napped' for ransom. Kidnapping is derived from two English root words, namely, 'kid' (meaning infant) and, 'napping' (meaning to be caught/snatched sleeping). Until the 1980s, kidnapping was a crime that was alien to many Nigerians. The first kidnap case linked to Nigeria as a nation occurred outside the shores of the country on July 4, 1984, in London (Odoma and Akor, 2019). It was a case involving Umaru Dikko, a one-time Minister of Transport in the defunct civilian regime of President Shehu Shagari. Evidence showed that the current wave of kidnapping began with the abduction of expatriate oil workers by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND) in late 2005 as a means of alerting the world of the many years of injustice, exploitation, marginalization and underdevelopment of Niger-Delta region (Onduku, 2001).

The heinous crime extended to the South-Eastern part of Nigeria and had Abia State as the 'defacto kidnap headquarters' of the region. Within few years, the entire Southern Nigeria was overtaken by the malaise of kidnapping. Reports by Catlin

Group (2012) showed that there are more than 1000 kidnapping incidents per year in Nigeria with many more undoubtedly unreported cases. The menace eventually spread to other parts of present-day Nigeria. Following the kidnap of the 276 secondary school girls in Chibok community of Borno State in North-Eastern Nigeria by Boko Haram terrorists on 14 April 2014, kidnapping became a lucrative criminal venture embarked upon by hoodlums from virtually all the states of Nigeria. In Kogi State, several cases of kidnapping were reported to have taken place at the Lokoja-Okene federal highway which was known as the den of kidnappers with high profile Nigerians falling victim (Odoma and Akor, 2019). Overtime, there has been an extension of the crime to relatives of politicians, relatives of those in Diaspora and now anybody on sight with kidnappers employing weapons such as guns, knives, and other offensive items to carry out their mission. Kidnappers target people who are perceived to have high Kidnap Ransom Value (KRV) which is the net worth of a kidnappee (Okoli and Agada, 2014; Mutum, 2016). The underlying logic of kidnapping business is that the victim is worth a ransom value and that he/she can pay, whether by self or proxy. Okoli and Agada (2014) aver that this value is determined by several factors. In other words, the socio-economic status of a potential victim on the one hand and the kidnappers' perception of the victim on the other hand, determine his/her KRV. Also, an individual may not directly possess kidnap value, but still, stand the risk of being kidnapped if he/she is linked to someone perceived by kidnappers to possess kidnap value.

According to Oladeinde (2017) kidnapping is categorized into three broad categories as, target, spontaneous and aggravated. Other forms include bride, express and tiger kidnappings (Okoli and Agada, 2014). Bride kidnapping entails taking a bride/bridegroom against the consent of his or her parent to an unknown destination to marry while express kidnapping is a type that is motivated by pecuniary interests and tiger kidnapping is one done in an attempt to perpetrate another crime; e.g., holding a bank manager hostage to get him to instruct his staffers to effect an illegal transfer. This and similar acts of criminality, have earned for Nigeria, the unfortunate description as a violent nation and one of the most unsafe countries to do business within Africa (Odoma, 2011; Ugwuoke, 2015). Also, Chidi (2014) reports that kidnappers who engage in such criminality do so for reasons bothering on unemployment, loss of societal value, idleness, vengeance, rituals, monetary gains, and political considerations. Further emphasis was laid on unemployment and loss of societal value been at the heart of kidnapping in Nigeria. However, these heinous acts have eluded Nigeria's national security.

Methodology of Study

The methodology employed for this study covers 7 key areas, which include Research Design, Sources of Data, Sampling Process and Methods of Data

Collection. It also covers Instrument of Data Collection, Methods of Data Analysis and Methods of Data Presentation. All these and the Limitation of the Study would be discussed subsequently.

Research Design

The research design intends to cover Field Research Design, Nature of Research and Level of Research. These are discussed in the proceeding paragraphs.

Field Research Design

The field research design was adopted for the study. This method entailed embarking on field visits for unstructured interviews and administering of questionnaires. Additionally, document analysis was carried out to gather data.

Nature of Research

The study was an applied research. The data used was an integration of qualitative and quantitative data collected from primary and secondary data sources and analysed to establish correlation between kidnapping and national security in Nigeria.

Level of Research

The level of research was descriptive with the researcher actively involved and conscious of manipulating the research environment. The descriptive approach was adopted to describe kidnapping and national security in Nigeria.

Sources Of Data

The data for the research were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. These are further discussed in the following paragraphs.

Primary Sources: Primary sources of data were obtained from strategic and operational level personnel who were directly or indirectly involved in efforts to curb kidnapping in Nigeria. Some of the personnel interviewed were military, Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) officers among others.

Secondary Sources: Secondary data were sourced from relevant books, journals, magazines, newspapers, thesis, reports and official publications. Some data were also obtained from seminar and workshop papers, the internet and libraries.

Population/Sampling Process

The sampling process in the study covers the population of the study, sample size and the sampling techniques applied. These are subsequently discussed.

Population of the Study: The population of the study comprised of 2 categories of people who are directly involved in combating kidnapping for enhanced national security. The first category includes some personnel of the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) and NPF while the second categories of people are from the Security Agencies society such as Defence Intelligence Agency and Department of State Security Services. The population consists of 37,850 persons. Breakdown of the population is at Annex A.

Sample Size: The Taro Yamane formula was used to calculate the sample size for the study. Using the population size of 37,850 with a confidence level of 95 percent and an error margin of 5 percent, a sample size of 395.81 was obtained as shown in Annex B.

Sampling Technique: The purposive non-probabilistic sampling and simple random sampling techniques were used in the study. The purposive non-probabilistic sampling technique was to target specific individuals that were involved in the subject matter. This technique allowed for opinions of experts. However, the technique is sometimes seen as being biased, which was then nullified by the use of the simple random sampling technique for selection of samples to obtain divergent views.

Method Of Data Collection

The methods of data collection adopted were document analysis and field method. These are discussed in the subsequent paragraphs.

Document Analysis

Secondary data were generated through document analysis using historical/archival library search method in the form of electronic and print documents. This was done through reading and analyzing published and unpublished works to obtain literature on kidnapping and national security in North Central Region of Nigeria.

Field Method

Primary data were sourced using field method through close ended questionnaires and unstructured interviews. Unstructured interviews were also conducted via telephone and face-to-face encounters with personnel involved in combating kidnapping in North Central Region.

Instrument Of Data Collection

The instruments of data collection in the research were questionnaire, mobile phone, notebook, interview guide and unstructured interview. Through the questionnaires, quantitative data were collected from the respondents while the qualitative data were

obtained from books and others materials. Also, the unstructured interviews allowed the researcher to generate more questions during the interview process.

Method Of Data Analysis

The data collected were analysed quantitatively and qualitatively. Data from interviews and secondary sources were analysed using thematic analysis approach which employed logical reasoning based on facts. While data from Questionnaires as contained in Annex C were analysed quantitatively using the Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) software for descriptive statistical analysis.

Method Of Data Presentation

The data generated in this study were presented in descriptive forms using diagrams, tables and charts to enhance illustration of the relationship between the variables. Additional information was also presented in Annexes and Enclosures.

Limitation Of The Study

The limitation faced while conducting this study was the dispersed nature of the population for the study. However, telephone interviews were used extensively. In essence, the limitation did not significantly affect the validity and reliability of the findings of the study.

Date Presentation and Analysis

Chapter 4 presents the research data and analysis of the study, issues associated with kidnapping and its effects on Nigeria's NS. It also highlights the challenges as well as the prospects of curbing kidnapping for enhanced Nigeria's NS.

This section provides information on the sample used in the study, following the presentation of the data gathered in a logical and meaningful manner.

Information On Sample

The information on sample includes composition of respondents, distribution of data and return rate and validity of sample size. These are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Composition of Respondents. The composition of respondents is in Annex D. It comprises of gender, age, academic qualifications and years of service.

Distribution of Data and Return Rate. A total of 5 respondents were interviewed to review various aspects of the study. The researcher administered a total number of 416 questionnaires putting into consideration the 5 percent error margin for poor or non response. A total of 405 questionnaires were returned, giving a return rate of 97.4

percent. Furthermore, 5 of the questionnaires were invalid thereby leading to only 400 valid questionnaires which were sufficient to realize the objectives of the study.

Validity of the Sample Size. The researcher drew respondents who were knowledgeable stakeholders of various states in NC region to ensure validity of the research instruments.

Issues Associated With Kidnapping And National Security In Nigeria

The issues associated with kidnapping include Unemployment and Poverty, Weak Law Enforcement and Security System, Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Moral Decadence. These issues are subsequently discussed.

Unemployment And Poverty

One of the fundamental factors responsible for the spate of kidnapping in NC region and Nigeria as a whole is unemployment and poverty amongst youths. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), youth unemployment in Nigeria is at 42.5 percent. This implies that able-bodied men and women hover around with no substantial things doing and with very high tendencies of being lured into criminality such as kidnapping.

A recent report by World Bank showed that as many as 4 in 10 Nigerians live below the national poverty line. In addition, many Nigerians especially in the country's north lack education and access to basic infrastructure, such as electricity, safe drinking water and improved sanitation. The report further notes that jobs do not translate Nigerians' hard work into an exit from poverty, because most workers are engaged in small-scale household farm and non-farm enterprises (World Bank, 2022). As a result of massive unemployment and poverty, teeming youths become desperate and result to nursing negative ideas on how to make fast cash through kidnapping with the intention of obtaining ransom or for economic gain, thus undermining NS. This invariably stresses the need for creation of job opportunities for youths in the region for enhanced NS.

Weak Law Enforcement And Security System

The ineffectiveness of the NP and other relevant security agencies in curbing kidnapping has continued to make the heinous act more lucrative. The NP is the principal law enforcement agency in internal security of the country saddled with the responsibility to combat crimes including kidnapping. However, the perceived failure of the police to control crimes such as kidnapping can be attributed to lack of resources such as inadequate manpower and anti-kidnapping equipments. Furthermore, corruption within the Police and other law enforcement agencies sometimes thwarts the efforts in curbing the menace. Consequently, leading to

inefficiency and delay in tracking and arresting suspects thereby impeding the fight against kidnapping. There is therefore a need to empower security agencies through the provision of manpower and modern equipments.

Proliferation Of Small Arms And Light Weapons

Another factor responsible for the incessant rise in kidnapping is the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) through unmanned border posts. The NC states such as Kwara and Niger States are Border States with Niger Republic. Additionally, by virtue of location, the NC States share inter-state boundaries with NW states, some of which have borders with Niger and Chad Republics. As a result of the border porosity, these states are prone to influx of foreign criminals and proliferation of SALW from conflict regions or countries outside Nigeria. This in turn fuels kidnapping in the NC region with resultant effect on NS in Nigeria. It is therefore pertinent for the Nigerian Immigration Service and other security agencies to intensify effort in border control and checks in order to prevent the influx of SALW into the country.

Moral Decadence/Loss Of Societal Value

The progressive state of moral degradation in the Nigerian society is unarguably one of the fundamental causes of restiveness and law violations. Iherue (2011) observed that the texture of social life of contemporary Nigerian Society is riddled with family disorientation, divorce, marital infidelity, child abuse as well as high cost of living which have led to the escalation of other crimes such as ritual killings, armed robbery and kidnapping.

Mukhtar (2021) posits that low moral standards coupled with lack of good upbringing among youths give rise to criminal elements that breach the existing peace in the society by engaging in crimes such as kidnapping. Other contributory factors include parental negligence as well as public celebration of wrong as people who embezzled or misappropriated public funds are celebrated instead of reprimanded. Celebrating people of questionable character is an indictment on the societal and moral value which further encourages societal vices such as kidnapping as it compels people to do anything to get rich and be celebrated. There is therefore a need for proper upbringing among members of the family to forestall social vices such as kidnapping. Also, it is important for FGN to empower institutions and agencies to punish offenders.

Effects Of Kidnapping On National Security In Nigeria

Kidnapping portends grave threats to national security in Nigeria. Some of the major effects are on Human Security and Economic Activities. These are discussed subsequently.

Human Security

Security is the foundation of everything ever desired by man. It takes security for the aspiration, worth and dreams of citizens to be actualized. Indeed in the absence of security, every other thing becomes secondary (Bohm and Haley, 1997). Also, it is only when there is adequate security that there can be peace and without peace, people live in fear, not able to go about their legitimate duties. This ensures that life and events becomes grossly unpredictable (Nwolise, 2005). This can only be achieved if the lives of the people are protected from dangers emanating from crimes such as kidnapping. In Nigeria, kidnapping has led to loss of freedom of movement, loss of lives and displacement of communities among others.

A survey conducted to rate the effect of kidnapping on human security in NC region revealed that 2 percent of the respondents rated it low, 97.5 percent rated it high while 0.5 percent were neutral. A detail of the survey is at Annex 1. The result was corroborated by ASP M. Edet (personal communication 1 Apr 22) who lamented on the intense atmosphere of fear which limits people's movement thereby translating to reduced social and economic activities as well as psychological wellbeing of the populace.

Economic Activities

The ever increasing cases of kidnapping have negatively affected economic growth and development in many regions of the country especially the NC region. Ngwama (2014) posits that virtually every economic and commercial activity are bound to be grounded in an environment where insecurity looms as foreign and domestic investors only invest in the economy considered safe, friendly and fairly stable. This is because economic investments require a stable environment to thrive and hostile environment also scare prospective investors who find it difficult to predict the future of investments (Siegle, 2013).

A survey conducted to rate the effect of kidnapping on economic activities in NC region revealed that 97 percent of respondents rated it negative while 3 percent were neutral. A detail of the survey is at Enclosure 2. The result of the survey implies that majority of the respondents believe that kidnapping has negatively impacted on productivity and commercial activities in NC States thereby undermining national security.

Challenges Of Curbing Kidnapping On Nigeria's National Security

The federal and state governments have emplaced some measures to curb kidnapping in Nigeria. However, the menace still persists due to some challenges militating against the efforts of the government, which include Socio-Economic Deprivations, Poor Criminal Justice System, Porous Borders, and Lack of Cooperation and Intelligence Sharing among Agencies. These are further discussed.

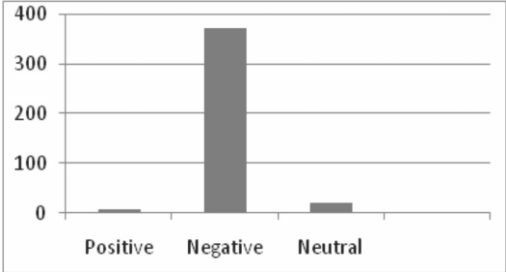
Socio-Economic Deprivations

The challenge of socio-economic deprivation relates to the issue of unemployment, poverty as well as illiteracy and lack of access to basic infrastructure such as electricity, water and excellent environment. Thus, socio-economic deprivation is a limitation to good life. The inability of individuals to live a good life and earn a decent living could lead to the commission of crimes such as kidnapping. The result of the field survey conducted on the role of poverty in curbing kidnapping in Nigeria is as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table1: Respondents' View on Role of Poverty in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria

Seria l	Respon se	Frequen cy	Percentag e (%)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	Positive	8	2
2.	Negativ e	372	93
3.	Neutral	20	5
4.	Total	400	100

Figure 1: Role of Poverty in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria



Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

The survey report shows that 93 percent are of the opinion that socio-economic deprivation is a challenge to curbing kidnapping, 2 percent had contrary opinions while 5 percent were neutral. The result obtained implies that socio-economic deprivation negates efforts towards curbing kidnapping in Nigeria. Additionally, according to SC OE Ikebudu (personal communication, 25 Feb 22) the chances for legitimate means of livelihood are limited making it easy for people to be lured by financial enticement into criminal acts such as kidnapping. Therefore, socio-economic deprivation is a challenge to curbing to kidnapping with attendant negative consequences on NS.

Poor Criminal Justice System

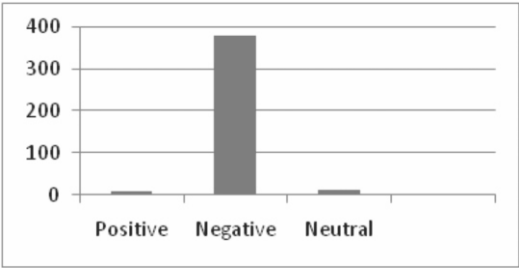
Poor criminal justice system related to the issue of weak law enforcement and security system. According to Odoma (2019) one factor that has been the cog on the wheels of criminal justice is undue delay in the handling of criminal cases in court as well as not taking decisive actions on obvious cases of serious criminal offence. He also reported that not only does the criminal justice system Figure 2: Role of Poor Criminal Justice System in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria appear to take much time,

but eventually when cases are decided, they are sometimes greeted with sentiments and insincerity.

Table 2: Respondents' View on Role of Poor Criminal Justice System in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria

Serial	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	Positive	8	2
2	Negative	380	95
3	Neutral	12	3
4	Total	400	100

Figure 2: Role of Poor Criminal Justice System in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria



Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

The result of the research survey conducted on the role of delay of justice in curbing kidnapping in Nigeria as indicated in Table 2 and Figure 2 above shows that 95 percent of respondents opined that poor criminal justice system is a challenge in curbing kidnapping, 2 percent were of a different view while 3 percent were neutral. This result is supported by Akoni and Olowoopejo (2017) who reported that the position of law about kidnapping is so weak that it allows many culprits escape punishment. This was further corroborated by ACS 1 CC Anyanwu (personal communication, 14 Mar 22) who noted that most criminal cases are thrown out of court due to lack of evidence and poor investigation. The situation in Nigeria is such that the criminal justice system unarguably increases criminal tendencies instead of deterring such. Consequently, poor criminal justice system is a challenge to curbing kidnapping in Nigeria.

Porous Borders

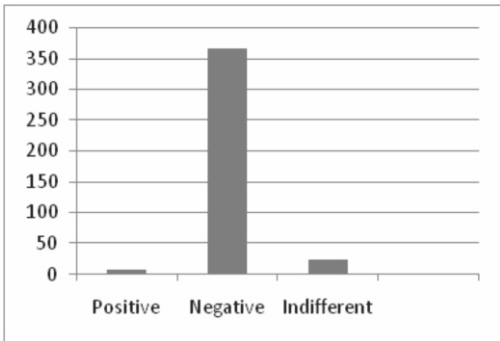
The challenge of porous borders relates to the issue of proliferation of SALW. The porosity of international borders in the NC and NW Geo-political zones negates the efforts of the security agencies in curbing the influx of SALW into Nigeria thereby aiding kidnapping activities. Furthermore, according to Governor Samuel Ortom, foreigners move into the country unchecked to cause the violence and crimes being witnessed in the country due to the porous nature of the borders. Criminal gangs from neighbouring countries exploit the porous borders in Nigeria to bring in illegal weapons as well as perpetrate atrocities unhindered. This affects the overall wellbeing of citizens in the region as they are subjected to constant fear of being

attacked with resultant negative consequences on NS. The result of the survey on the effect of porous borders on curbing kidnapping in North Central states is shown in Table 3 and Figure 3 below.

Table 3: Respondents' View on the Effect of Porous Border in Curbing Kidnapping in North-Central Region

Serial	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	Positive	8	2
2.	Negative	368	92
3.	Indifferent	24	6
4.	Total	400	100

Figure 3: Effect of Porous Border in Curbing Kidnapping in North-Central Region



Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

Table 3 and Figure 3 indicates that 92 percent of the respondents opined that porous border constitutes a challenge in curbing kidnapping, 2 percent believed otherwise while 6 percent were indifferent. This finding was corroborated by ASP M. Edet (personal communication, 1 Apr 22) who opined that the poorly manned borders coupled with numerous illegal routes in the regions contribute greatly to the menace of kidnapping and other crimes. Thus, porous borders constitute a challenge to the efforts of the security agencies in curbing kidnapping thereby impacting negatively on NS.

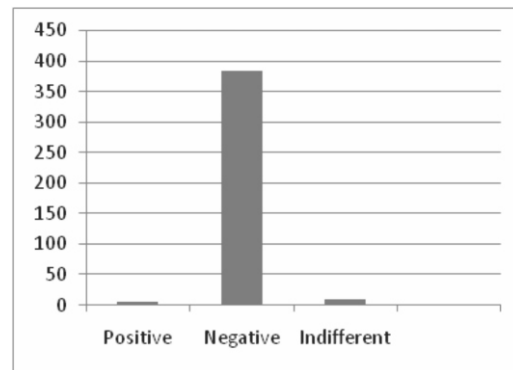
Lack Of Cooperation And Intelligence Sharing Among Agencies

This challenge relates to the ineffectiveness of the Nigerian Police and other relevant security agencies. Unhealthy rivalry among security operatives in Nigeria hinders co-operation and intelligence sharing thereby aiding crimes such as kidnapping. Odoma (2015) reported that there have been cases of inter-agency rivalries arising from vested interests that have stalled the operation and effectiveness of national security. Instructive is the case of 'cold war' between the Army and Police, DSS and NPF as well as between NPF and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Consequently, this has given criminals freedom and confidence to operate with low chances of being apprehended by security operatives.

Table 4: Respondents' Views on the Effect of Poor Inter-Agency Synergy in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria

Serial	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	Positive	6	1.5
2.	Negative	384	96
3.	Indifferent	10	2.5
4.	Total	400	100

Figure 4: The Effect of Poor Inter-Agency Synergy in Curbing Kidnapping in Nigeria



Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2022.

The result of the research survey conducted on the role of poor intelligence sharing in curbing kidnapping in Nigeria as indicated in Table 4 and Figure 4 above illustrates that 96 percent of respondents opined that poor intelligence sharing constitute a challenge to curbing kidnapping, 1.5 percent disagreed while 2.5 percent were indifferent. This result was further supported by Odoma (2019) who posits that except the performance of these security operatives are boosted through commitment, patriotism and operational synergy, criminals will always find ways of escape, while Nigerians continue to languish in endless insecurity. Hence, there is the need for cooperation among agencies to the menace of kidnapping.

Prospects For Curbing Kidnapping For Enhanced National Security

Capital Punishment, Community Policing, Establishment of a Welfare System and Amendment of Anti- Terrorism Act are the major prospects for curbing kidnapping in NC Geo-political zone. These are subsequently discussed.

Capital Punishment

Capital punishment which is deterrent oriented has been an important aspect of African penal policy. According to Timothy et al. (2019), capital punishment must be reserved for kidnappers who have been tried and subsequently convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction. Similarly, about 15 states in Nigeria have made kidnapping a capital offence. These states include Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo amongst others (Umego, 2019). Majority of these states however are in the South-East and South-South geo-political zones. This

therefore highlights the need for the National Assembly to enact laws with stiffer punishment such as death penalty to curb the societal anomaly in NC states.

Community Policing

Albanese (2001:185) defines community policing as 'a service oriented style of law enforcement that focuses on community issues such as; disorder, crime prevention and fear reduction as opposed to the traditional focus on prosecution of serious street crimes'. The context of community policing provides the opportunity for community institutions such as families, schools, neighbourhood associations and merchant groups to be fully involved in safeguarding and securing communities. The application of community policing would obviously allow different communities and police departments to work together to reduce crimes of violence such as kidnapping and improve the quality of life of Nigerian citizens (Timothy *et al.* 2019).

Establishment Of a Welfare System

It is obvious that the war against kidnapping and other crimes would not be successful without addressing the critical issues of poverty and unemployment among youths. Consequently, the government has launched some programs such as N- Power to address these issues however more effort is needed to create jobs, skill acquisition centres as well as basic infrastructure and social amenities that would engender enabling environment for economic activities. This would go a long way to provide assistance to the needy and less privileged members of the society by improving their quality of life.

Amendment Of Anti Terrorism Act

On 27 Apr 22, the senate passed a bill seeking to amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2013 to prohibit the payment of ransom to kidnappers in Nigeria. The passage of the bill was sequel to the consideration of a report by the committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal matters. Also, the bill seeks to outlaw the payment of ransom to abductors, kidnappers and terrorist to discourage the rising spate of kidnapping for ransom which is fast spreading across the country especially in the NC states (Umoru, 2022). The data presentation and analysis underscores the need to discuss the research findings.

Research Findings Strategies And Recommendation

This chapter consists of the summary of research findings and strategies. Others are conclusion, recommendation and implementation outline. These are further discussed.

Summary Of Research Findings

The study established that there exists a strong and inverse relationship between kidnapping and national security. The study showed that kidnapping has serious negative consequences on Nigeria's NS due to issues of unemployment and poverty,

weak law enforcement/security system, proliferation of SALW and moral decadence or loss of societal value.

The study revealed that kidnapping in Nigeria has strong and negative effects on both human security and economic activities. It further emphasized that kidnapping still persists despite measures put in place by the FGND due to factors which include socio-economic deprivations, poor criminal justice system, porous border and lack of co-operation and intelligence sharing among agencies.

The prospects of curbing kidnapping in NC region for enhanced national security identified include capital punishment, community policing and establishment of welfare system. The relationship between kidnapping and NS validates the conceptual relationship established in the study using QLT framework.

Strategies To Curb Kidnapping For Enhanced National Security In Nigeria

This section proffers strategies to mitigate the identified challenges hindering efforts to curtail kidnapping for enhanced NS in Nigeria. The strategies include Reformation of Criminal Justice System, Establishment of Integrated Border Management System (IBMS), Provision of Employment, Liaison among Security Agencies and Moral Re-orientation.

1. Reformation Of Criminal Justice System

An effective criminal justice system would mitigate the challenge of poor criminal justice system. This could be achieved by reviewing the legal processes involved in prosecuting a case and also by ensuring strict adherence to the existing laws as well as making provisions for a more stringent punishment for kidnapping. Furthermore, digitization of court proceeding will ensure accountability as well as speedy disposal of criminal cases such as kidnapping.

The federal minister of justice (FMJ) could set up a committee by Fourth Quarter 2022 to review the current justice delivery system and come up with recommendation on how to improve the system. Additionally, the Legislature could also enact stern punishments that could itself serve as deterrence. The funding for reformation of the judiciary could be drawn from the budgetary allocation of a FMJ while the implementation of the reforms could commence by First Quarter 2024.

2. Establishment Of Integrated Border Management System

The establishment of IBMS would address the challenge of porous borders in the NW and NC Geo-political zones. The objective would be to ensure extensive electronic surveillance of the many unmanned border areas which cannot be physically monitored due to inadequate manpower. This could be achieved through the wide use of electronic gadgets and technologies such as drones, cameras and migration information and data analysis system among others.

The Federal Ministry of Interior (FMOI) could thus constitute a committee by Fourth Quarter 2022 to identify relevant equipment and come up with modalities for launching IBMS. The committee would need to network with agencies such as the Defence Space Administration (DSA) and National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) for useful inputs on electronic border surveillance. The funding for the process could be drawn from FMOI budget allocation. Also, the establishment of IBMS could be approved by Second Quarter 2023 while equipment installation and operation could commence by First Quarter 2024.

3. Provision Of Employment

The provision of employment would mitigate the challenge of socio-economic deprivation. The aim would be to create jobs by diversifying the economy from oil to Agriculture and Agro-Allied Industries along with establishment of skill acquisition or training centres which will in turn improve the quality of life of youths in the region and curtail and forestall youth involvement in criminalities.

103. The FGN through the Ministry of Works (FMW) and Ministry of Labour (FML) could set up a committee to review the issue of unemployment and poverty as well as develop schemes to ameliorate these challenges by Fourth Quarter 2022. The funding for this process could be drawn from the budgets of FMW and FML while the implementation could commence by First Quarter 2024.

4. Enhancing Inter-Agency Co-Operation And Liaison

Enhancing inter-agency co-operation and liaison would ease the challenge of limited co-operation and intelligence sharing between agencies. This could be achieved through carefully planned joint trainings such as Defence Intelligence Officer's Course (DIOC), seminars, sporting activities as well as retreats. This would increase better understanding and improve liaison among security agencies. The FGN through ONSA could set up a committee by Fourth Quarter 2022 to initiate modalities that would enhance inter-agency co-operation.

5. Moral Re-Orientation

An intensive moral re-orientation drive will help address the issue of loss of societal value and moral degradation to curtail the drift towards kidnapping. This could be achieved through sensitization and engagement of churches, mosques, traditional institutions, non-governmental organizations, the media and most importantly the family. The FGN through the National Orientation Agency (NOA) could organize campaigns and awareness programs to positively change attitudes, values and behaviours of youth and sufficiently mobilize them to act in the way that promotes peace and national development.

6. Risk Assessment And Suitability Acceptability Feasibility And Ethical Test

The proffered strategies were subjected to a Suitability, Acceptability, Feasibility and Ethical (SAFE) test. The SAFE test for the strategies is at Enclosure 3. Similarly, a risk assessment was also conducted for the proffered strategies. Detail of the risk assessment is at Enclosure 4.

Conclusion

The spate of insecurity in Nigeria especially the continuous increase in kidnapping in NC region which has unleashed untold hardship to citizens with negative consequences to the nation necessitated the research into the subject. The QLT framework was adopted for the study and field survey methods such as administering of questionnaires and unstructured interview were used to collect data from primary sources.

The study established an inverse and strong negative relationship between kidnapping and national security. The effects of kidnapping in NC region as discussed include negative impact on human security and economic activities as kidnapping creates fear. It also limits freedom of movement and scares investors thereby negatively impacting on productivity and commercial activities in NC States which undermines NS (Para 78).

Some factors responsible for the rising incidence of kidnapping in NC region were identified. They include poverty and unemployment as many youths wander around with no means of livelihood or access to basic amenities leaving them vulnerable to criminal acts such as kidnapping. Other issues identified are weak law enforcement and security system, loss of societal values as well as easy access to SALW through unmanned borders of NW and NC States. This underscores the need for security agencies to intensify border control and checks in order to prevent the influx of SALW into the country (Para 71). Consequently, it is suggested that FMOI could commence installation of IBMS by First Quarter 2024 (Para 101).

Several efforts by the government to stem the tide have not yielded the desired results due to some challenges which include socio-economic deprivations, poor criminal justice system, border porosity and lack synergy among security agencies. The unhealthy rivalry between security agencies hinders co-operation and intelligence sharing which aids crimes. It is pertinent that the performances of security operatives are boosted through commitment, patriotism and operational synergy to stop criminals from finding ways of escape while Nigerians continue to languish in endless insecurity (Para 87). There is therefore a need for ONSA to initiate modalities for inter-agency synergy by October 2023.

Despite the challenges, there are good prospects which if well implemented could contribute to curbing kidnapping in NC region for enhanced national security. These prospects include community policing and capital punishment which necessitate enactment of stiffer punishment as well as reformation of the law enforcement and security system. Others are establishment of welfare system as well as amendment of anti- terrorism act which seeks to outlaw the payment of ransom to abductors, kidnappers and terrorist to discourage the rising spate of kidnapping for ransom which is fast spreading across the country especially the NC states (Para 92). In view of this, the FMJ could commence implementation plan for reformation of the Criminal Justice System by March 2024.

The study further proffered some strategies to mitigate the menace of kidnapping in NC region to include effective criminal justice system, re-integration of border management system, provision of employment, enhancing inter-agency co-operation and liaison and moral re-orientation. It is expected that an intensive national moral re-orientation program would address the loss of societal values. The FGN through NOA could organize campaigns and awareness programs to positively change attitudes, values and behaviours of youth and sufficiently mobilize them to act in the way that promotes peace and national development (Para 105). Therefore, there is need for the NOA to organize national moral re-orientation campaigns and awareness programs by March 2023.

The study posits that creation of jobs by diversifying the economy and establishment of skill acquisition centres would be instrumental in curbing kidnapping and other criminalities in NC region. It is suggested that the FGN through FMW and FML set up a committee to review the issue of unemployment and poverty. The funding for this process could be drawn from the budgets of FMW and FML while implementation could commence by Fourth Quarter 2023 (Para 103). In view of the aforementioned, there is need for the FGN through FMW and FML to create jobs and skill acquisition centres by January 2024.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- a. The FMJ should commence implementation plan for reformation of the Criminal Justice System by March 2024 (Para 111).
- b. The FMOI should commence installation of IBMS by March 2024 (Para 109).
- c. The FGN through FMW and FML should create jobs and skill acquisition centres by January 2024 (Para 113).
- d. The FGN through ONSA should initiate modalities for inter-agency synergy by October 2023 (Para 110).

e. The FGN through NOA should organize national moral re-orientation campaigns and awareness programs by September 2023 (Para 112). The implementation plan for the proposed recommendations covers short, medium and long-term phases. The short-term phase covers 6 months while the medium-term phase covers 12 months. Also, the long-term phases cover the period from 13 months and above. The implementation plan for the proposed recommendations to curb kidnapping is at Enclosure 5.

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