INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE, MANAGEMENT, PEACE AND CONFLICT RESEARCH (IJSMPCR)
Journal homepage: https://ijsmpcr.com/

Impact of communal and government measures in combating armed banditry on human security in Niger state, Nigeria

BY

MOHAMMED Umar J G., LIMAN Abdullahi N Prof., YUSUF Usman Alhaji Prof., & OYINLOYE Gabriel Olayinka

[1-4]Department of Security and Strategic Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi

International Journal of Social Science, Management, Peace and Conflict Research, 2023, 01(08), 107–118
Publication history: Received on 28 July 2023; Revised on 10 August 2023; Accepted on 17 August 2023

Abstract

This interconnectedness that eludes government security agencies are largely found in the underworld and such collaboration could be seen leveraged upon by bandits. From Zamfara State mining fields to kidnapping spree in Kaduna and cattle rustling in Niger State while both communal and governments efforts struggle to curtail the extensive effects of banditry in the northern region of Nigeria. It was against this background that this study engaged the Theory of Structural Functionalism in a thematic study to examine effects of communal and government measures in combating armed banditry on human security in Niger state, Nigeria. The research is conducted by examining literature banditry, communal strategies and government intervention measures. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references in term of banditry. The study revealed that communal efforts have positive though marginal effects on tackling banditry in Niger State. While government efforts are largely seen as reactive and less effective at confronting banditry. Based on these findings, the study concludes that community oriented policing will go a long way in addressing banditry. The study equally concludes that national security architecture is too over concentrated at the federal level thus reactive through overcentralised commands of all law enforcement agencies. The study recommends that Federal and State Government should bring security apparatus closer to the community as against warehousing security in the exclusive list. The study also recommends that government narratives to counter banditry should be the deployment of good governance as good governance will engender employment and provision of basic amenities

Keywords: Communal Measures, Government Measures, Human Security, Theory of Structural Functionalism

Introduction

The collapse of Momar Ghadafi's government in Libya, gave different warlords across the Sahelian States unbridled access to large cache of arms and ammunition which further destabilized the fragile peace of States; Mali, Niger, Chad and of which Nigeria is not exempted since the country shared boundary on the North East flank of her borders (Venter, 2018). This development was demand meets supply for all existing agitations and crime and criminalities clothed in terrorism, insurgency, secessionism, militancy, kidnapping and armed banditry. These menace not only harm people but make them insecure both in public and private places, with ample restrain from opportunities to earn a living or engage in social activities (Odalonu, 2022).

Armed banditry is a type of organized crime occasioned by outlaws which primarily involves threat or use of violence. It is a hazy concept of criminality and in modern usage can be synonymous for gangsterism, brigandage, pickpockets, cattle rustlers, thuggery, land grabber, kidnapper, marauding, and thievery. While

armed banditry undermines national security it gravely endangers human security thereby endangering the people's freedom from fear and freedom from want which essentially, is the flagship of human security. Human security has human as referent of security as a departure from State centric approach. It is a concept that emphasizes developments and protections of individual against safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression and protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life (UN, 1994).

The activities of armed bandits all over the country are undermining subsistence farming activities, Agro-allied enterprises, industrial expansion, socio economic activities both of communities and commuters. The pervading insecurity could further make Nigeria extractive industries uncompetitive with negative impacts on employment. Commuters daily seek routes devoid of armed banditry menace which affects communities and settlement along the abandon route. Government measures to curb this growing bandit economy ranges from mobilisation of more armed men to flashpoint State, setting up of more roadblocks of checking point and deployment of special armed squad to support existing ones. The helplessness of the Nigeria Police in quelling such development is also worrisome; being rated as the 'worst', out of 127 countries assessed; in terms of its inability to handle internal security challenge (World Internal Security and Police Index International, 2017).

Furthermore, communities in Niger State could be seen with local arrangements as measures to protect themselves from armed bandits. Such arrangements entails setting up of Vigilantes on the lengths and breath of highways, prayer and fasting at communal, compound and family levels, going to markets or farms in groups due to fear of bandits. These are people who cultivate crops and other food items which the city dwellers rely on. They also produce certain raw materials needed for the continued survival of local industries. As long as these farmers keep away from their farms for fear of their lives, the local production of food and these raw materials could be affected and the resultant effect will be an unprecedented increase in price of food and other human necessities in the markets (Wuyo, 2021).

Official measures by government in tackling banditry could be seen classified as reactive, seen that crime would have taken place before arrival at the scene of crime by law enforcement agencies. The predictable absence of police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), State Security Service could be seen impacting negatively on the confidence and psyche of the populace. The non-collaborative characteristics of law enforcement could be responsible for the largely unchecked banditry activities; kidnapping, cattle rustling, raiding of villages, enforcement of tax levies on villages due to absence of governance, human trafficking, drug trafficking (Rufai, 2021). Thus, seated beneath, at the base of the pyramid of crime and criminality, is the wider base of banditry which feeds insurgency and terrorism at the

top. Particularly of interest is the extent of which human security in Niger State is being infringed upon by armed banditry.

The rational for choosing Niger State as a case study could be seen with her shared boundaries with Kaduna and Zamfara States that presently rated as the Nigeria hub of banditry (Rufai, 2021). The shared boundary with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kwara State and proximity to Oyo State in the South West region shows how important to engage this study. Also, that Niger State's eighteen out of her twenty five Local Government Areas are been affected by banditry such that commercial motorcycles. Agriculture and fishing is the mainstay of Niger State economy. Banditry nefarious activities has put the State along with others North West State into international limelight when remotely located schools of learning in the State were closed down which further put the State at a disadvantage position in addressing food security, education security, social security, economic security related issues

To the extent of literature studied, most studies done on banditry were with emphasis on national security; global coalition to protect education from attack (2020); Odoma and Akor (2019); Nwozor et al. (2019); Ezinwa and Ezedinachi (2019).While the works of Rufai, (2021), Mudasiru and Fatai (2020), Ladan and Matawalli (2020), Gadzama et al. (2018), Uche and Iwuamadi (2018), Afzal (2020), Alao et al. (2019), Tari et al. (2016), Lawal et al. (2020), were state specific studies. But to the extent of literature reviewed no studies have considered impact of communal and government measures to curb armed banditry on human security in Niger State, Nigeria. It is against this backdrop that this study expand the frontier of knowledge. This study provides answers to the following research questions;

i. How do measures put in place by community to curb armed banditry affect Human Security in Niger State?
ii. How do measures put in place by government to curb armed banditry affect Human Security in Niger State?

Literature Review
Conceptual Framework
Human Security

The UN General Assembly's (2012) resolution 66/290 defines human security as an approach to assist Member States in recognizing and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people. It calls for "people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented. The human security approach was introduced in the 1994 global Human Development Report (HDR), in its landmark publication where human security was relayed as ensuring "freedom from want" and "freedom from fear" for all persons is the best path to tackle the problem of global insecurity. Proponents of human security actually contest the traditional concept of national security through military

security by asserting that the appropriate referent for security should be at the human rather than national level.

The 1994 Human Development Report was more explicit, by listing out seven critical dimensions of human security: which are economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political.. Human security is a flexible approach and can be tailored to different contexts and topics, according to the specific context. No matter which topic is addressed, a guiding principle of the human security approach is that it requires understanding the particular threats experienced by particular groups of people, as well as the participation of those people in the analysis process. Threats to human security can exist at all levels of development. They can emerge slowly and silently or appear suddenly and dramatically.

Armed Banditry

Armed banditry refers to the incidences of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raids. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill. Economic or political interests motivate armed banditry. The former refers to banditries motivated by the imperative of material accumulation while the latter has to do with those driven by the quest to rob, to assault or to liquidate a person or a group of persons based on political or ideological considerations (Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014).

The reason is that banditry is not ideologically based and gives freedom to individual fighters Moreover, there is what may called bountiful wealth in banditry (Barnett et al., 2022) even as the Boko Haram fighters from the Northeast were sent by the Shekau faction to support bandits in the Northwest. Eventually they became integrated with the bandits and abandoned the course of Boko Haram (Iocchi, 2022). Interestingly, the interconnectedness that is largely missing among Government Security agency could be seen among banditry who do not only share information but could move from one cells to the other in collaborative services. This could be seen by the alliance forged by the notorious bandit; Dogo Gide with Boko Haram in the last quarter of 2019. Thus, from his base in the forest of Wawa in Niger state, Gide was recruiting members for this group and ensuring the group has stronghold in Zamfara state (Bernett et al., 2022)

Challenges of Curbing Armed Banditry in Niger State

Empowerment of Warlords as Extension of Government

Notable criminals giving police the toughest time across the country from the north to the south, are products of politicians either jostling for power or trying to retain it. There is no State in Nigeria where politicians don't have thugs armed at election times with no disarming plan after election (Ajoku & Adigwe, 2022). The "ECOMOG boys" in Borno state, who obviously ended up in Boko Haram after the 2003 general election, the "Yandaba boys" in Kano State who were readily deployed as political thugs before, during and after elections, Mc Oluomo in the Southwest, whose networks perpetuate criminality

and banditry without any consequences. The "Area boys" in Minna were read Riots Act, during invitation by State government, all these developments that confers affluence on warlords is a predictor to crime and criminalities (Kolole, 2021; Dipo, 2022).

Prevalence of Drug Substance

The uncontrolled and unregulated access to hard substance has also encouraged crime and criminalities such that; alcohol, Goskolo, Tramol, Tranabolic steroids, Club drug, Cocaine, Heroin, Inhalant, Burukutu, Marijuana, and Mkpuru Mmiri (Igbo slang for Methamphetamine) or Crystal Meth, are some of the illicit substances that promotes banditry kidnapping, unnecessary violence, and many other imperil atrocities to Nigeria. The psychoactive effects these substance produce include sedation, euphoria, mood changes, figment of the evil imagination, perceptual and other cognitive distortions with direct effects on motor-neuron. The Mexican drug cartels introduced it into Nigeria via illegal laboratories in 2016. Despite the launch of the Offensive Action campaign by NDLEA with significant seizures of kilogrammes the drug menace abate (Njoku et al., 2021).

Unemployment

The apparent inability of the federal government albeit state or local government to provide employment for teeming graduates in this 21st century is geometrically is worrisome and all proactive measure engaged by all tiers of government to hold back the unemployment monsters and its menace has failed woefully to the extent that the numbers of unemployed youths continue to increase every day. Hence, it is unbearable to pronounce how Nigeria graduates losing their lives searching for job in spite their academic or technical accomplishment. Contemptibly, many of them were prancing as sex hawker to the politicians in order to secure job (Abdulkadir, 2017). The problem of unemployment in Nigeria is one of the major syndromes that upturned youths to become atrocious actors (Suleiman, 2017).

Unregulated Street Economic Activities

Most Northern States are widely known for street economic activities; also known as street trading, on both her expressways, highways and arterial roads of which Niger State is not exempted. It's a trade plied by the poor lower-class residents in search of economic survival. These unwholesome activities around bus stops and garages are often done during traffic congestions. This malady apart from encouraging child abuse also expose the female hawkers to preying rapists while the able body youths are easily recruited by armed robbers and drug traffickers who take advantage of the medium. It also a known fact that there is always a warlords that owns each areas of the cities onto whom most of these street hawkers pay royalty for security and protection and these acts are not without the knowledge of the government who have been deeply fingered in empowering these warlords for political ends (Akiyode, 2018).

Empirical Review

Community Measures on Armed Banditry and Human Security

Mbah (2020) empirically examined Lagos home's defence against curfew bandits and the One Million Man March Boys during the Covid-19 lockdown. Findings from the study revealed that quick mobilization of residents into forming of vigilantes averted being overrun by bandits who had earlier ransacked homes, carted away valuables and injured some residents who put up a fight on nearby streets dispossessing residents of their personal belongings. Residents barricaded entrance into their streets by arming themselves with cutlasses, clubs and all sorts of crude weapons. The study, though a state specific study only examined communal efforts against banditry of which this study extends to government efforts on banditry in Niger State.

Obidiegwu and Elekwa (2019) investigated the extent vigilante security group collaborate with the Nigerian police in minimizing crime in Abia State. The study employed purposive sampling technique on 726 respondents with questionnaire tool to elicit data, analysed by mean and t-test statistics. The findings showed that result oriented activities of the vigilante earned them collaborative status with the Nigerian police force in minimising crime to a high extent. Study posited that that the government should augment collaboration between the vigilante and formal security networks which will enable fusion both at brainstorming, decision making and actions. The study, carried out in Abia State was limited to non formal security network while present study extends to other impact of banditry on human security in Niger State.

Nwogwugwu and Odedina (2018) investigated the impact of effective alternate policing to arrest the rising security challenges in Nigeria. The study engaged qualitative method with reliance on secondary data sourced from journals, relevant textbooks, newspapers, magazines, and materials downloaded from internet. Findings from the study revealed that the local vigilante groups scatter all over communities has made valuable inroad in curtailing some of the security challenges including terrorist insurgency as a result of their resilience and knowledge of the terrain. The study submitted that the country's traditional security agencies singularly or jointly have failed toeffectively combat the many security challenges that Nigeria faces hence people resulted to an alternate security network. This study relates to Nigeria as a whole hence there exist the need for similar but state specific study to be carried out in Niger.

Uche and Iwuamadi (2018) leveraged on frustration-aggression theory to investigate the upsurge in rural violence in Nigeria occasioned by the activities of armed herdsmen specifically the invasion of Nimbo Community in Enugu State. The study engaged traditional qualitative research design with data from primary sources through interviews of key informants. Findings showed that people especially women and children, could no longer go to farms freely except accompanied by able-bodied men or local vigilante.

Such that the rural markets – *Eke Nimbo, AforUkpabi and Opanda*known for cheap and affordable farm products and which used to be bee-hive of commercial activities degenerated into near-extinction with all social activities paralyse on the altar of palpable fears that grip the landscape.

Onwuegbusi (2017) employed a cross sectional survey design to examine the services of vigilante groups in Anambra State. The study engaged multi-stage sampling technique with structured questionnaire to elicit data while focused group discussion and In-depth Interview guides were used to collect the qualitative data, univariate and bivariate statistics were used interpret the data. The study showed that the citizens of the State are very supportive to the emergence of vigilantism despite their shortfalls and that the overwhelming supports they enjoy lead to more of such informal group springing up in order to curb violent crimes in the State. Study submitted the need for consistent and regular training of the vigilante members in the State. The study though a State centered study was limited to prevalence of vigilante groups as an effect of crimes while other variables as capture by the present study was not considered

Oyagi (2016) explored the position of vigilante groups in the management of security to urban centres in Kisii County of Nairobi. The study underpinned by the social institutionalism theory and the Marxist theory of conflict employed judgmental sampling method on a sample size of 110 respondents with questionnaires to elicit data analysed by content analysis method and the use of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). Results so analysed by the study showed that crime prevalence was the influencing factors that motivated individuals to join the vigilante group. The study conducted in Kenya whose cultural, economic and security architecture differs from Nigeria hence the result obtained cannot be gerneralised more so that the present study looks beyond prevalence of informal security as effects of banditry through other constructs like social lives security, economic security, education security as a measure of impact of banditry on human security in Niger State.

Government Measures on Armed Banditry and Human Security

Mahmoud(2021) thematically examined banditry dynamism and operating pattern of crime in northwest Nigeria as a threat to national security. The study relied on qualitative study approach of extant and related journal materials and publications. Result from the study showed that failure on the part of government security agents to protect its citizens from incessant attacks by armed bandits could be seen as a failure on the part of government to fulfill its part of the social contract such that little efforts so far seen of government security agencies wetting up road block has not in any way provide the needed security to stem the tide of armed banditry in view of the nature of the terrain and operation of the bandits who attack and escape into the hills/bushes for cover.

Igbolekwu et al. (2020) adopted social capital theory to investigate community participation in crime control and prevention in rural Nigeria. Study engaged survey research design with purposive sampling technique while data extracted was presented using inferential statistics. Findings from the study showed that there is little contact between the community and the law enforcement agencies in controlling crimes even as youths from the communities constitute greater percentage of suspects at police stations for crime. Study submitted that there is need for community participation in crime prevention in rural Nigeria to ensure that security issues become everybody's business.

Mungadiet al. (2020) engaged routine activity theory to explain roadmap to tackling insurgency, armed banditry and kidnapping in the northwest region of Nigeria. Findings from the study revealed there is disconnect between government efforts and commitment of telecom operators cum assistance from satellite based feedback in tracking armed banditry, insurgency and terrorism. Study opined that genuine activation of good governance and adoption of a community participatory policing strategy can significantly reduce insurgency, armed banditry and kidnapping in the North West region. The study focused on northwest while present study intends to study Niger State in the north central.

Olusegun (2016) investigated the joint efforts of the police and the communities in South-West, Nigeria in tackling the worrisome rates of crime. The study underpinned by broken window theory adopted empirical approach though related textbooks, journals, and other relevant publications. Findings from the study showed that the police force alone given their observable inadequacies cannot successfully tackle crimes in the society without adequate supports of the members of the community. The study emphasised that there exist a battered relationship between the Nigeria Police and their host communities as the people sees the police as one of the major threats to community security due to their extortion tendency slanged the *"wetin u bring"* which has caused gap between the Police and other stakeholders. The study only captured police community relationship in internal security while this present study goes further to consider communal efforts in tackling banditry.

Inyang and Abraham (2013) examined the problem of kidnapping and its consequences on Nigerians in general and Uyo dwellers in particular. The study employed Chi-square analytical tool on purposively sampled questionnaire from 260 randomly selected respondents comprising of policemen/women from various departments at the state police headquarters, Ikot Akpan Abia, Uyo, in Akwa Ibom State, lawyers from the state judiciary headquarters as well as clergymen and members of the public in the aforementioned study area. Findings revealed that, the prevalence of kidnapping in Nigeria is as a result of laxity in the law implementation process to prosecute offenders. Study concluded that government also

should endeavour to create employment for the teaming population of youths as this will assist to check the proliferation of the kidnapping.

Theoretical Framework

Theory of Structural Functionalism

The structural functionalism theory is associated with the works of Emile Durkheim (1917), Robert K. Merton (1968) and Talcott Parson (1979). The basic assumption of the theory sees the society as a living organism made up of components part, which functions harmoniously for the survival of the whole system. If any parts fail to contribute to identifiably useful function neither does it promote values consensus among members of the society – it will not be passed on from one generation to the next (Schaefer, 2002). In applying the theory to explain the social security problem ofbanditry in Niger State, and its implication on the human security; structural functionalism assumes that, the Niger State economy, which is part of the social system is not functioning well. This is due to the mismanagement that occurs within the political sector.

This dysfunction within the system causes high level of poverty, unemployment, deprivation as well as marginalization. The result is visualized in the high crime rate of which kidnapping and banditry is at the fore front. The crime of banditry and kidnapping has been identified as profitable and functional to its perpetrators. The lucrative nature of banditry makes it very attractive. Banditry and kidnapping as observed in some parts of Nigeria, is identified as a functional measure of politicians to fight their opponents. The money collected as ransoms are means to destabilize the opponents and as well force them to back-out of the political race which has also been extended to foreign expatriates kidnapping and has drawn government attention to look into the plight of the State. However, the structural functionalism theory is criticized for not being capable of explaining change and also for addressing the issues of a system as "closed" concept (Charles et al., 2005). Despite these criticisms, the theory is justified for its ability to highlight on the functional aspect of crime in our society.

Methodology

This study adopts thematic research design to examine impact of communal and government measures in combating armed banditry on human security in Niger state, Nigeria with reliance on publicly available archive documents. The study relies solely on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning the banditry, communal efforts and government measures.

Discussion of Findings

The review of literature reveals that communal measures of sensitizing against lone farming, encouraging group farming alongside usage of hunters and vigilante has a positive effective on slowing down outlawry and banditry. The finding is in tandem with the findings in the previous works of Mbah (2020); Obidiegwu

and Elekwa (2019); Nwogwugwu and Odedina (2018); Onwuegbusi (2017); Oyagi (2016) who found that communal efforts through vigilante services has greatly assisted in stemming the tides of banditry.

The result gotten from empirical literature is that government measures through official security apparatus are not doing well enough to curtail banditry. This could translates into the over concentric nature of the security architecture of the nation where command structure is overcentralised and reactive in nature which embolden outlawry and banditry. Therefore many farmers have been uprooted and displaced from their ancestral farming communities, others are perpetually afraid for their lives and as such cannot optimally engage in farming activities. This finding is consistent with the findings in the previous work of Mahmoud (2021); Igbolekwu et al. (2020); Mungadi et al. (2020); Olusegun (2016); Inyang and Abraham (2013) whose findings revealed that government security apparatus are not doing well enough to curtail banditry.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study concludes that communal efforts is of immense cost burden to the communities and individual engaged in the self-help security efforts yet, communal effort is found by this study to be impactful at curbing banditry. Communal sensitisation of group farming and avoidance of lone farming has also assisted to stem banditry.

The study equally concludes that government measures through official security agencies have little or no effects in curbing banditry as efforts at curbing banditry and other outlawry have no effects as these bandits are soon back to terrorise the community.

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made;

a. The study recommends that Federal and State Government should bring security apparatus closer to the community as against warehousing security in the exclusive list. Such efforts will allow localities to be proactive in handling banditry at their own level instead of awaiting federal forces.
b. The study recommends that government should decentralize the security architecture so as to security proactive. That government narratives to counter banditry should be the deployment of good governance as good governance will engender employment.

References

Abdulkadir, O. S. (2017). Causes and incisive solutions to the widespread of kidnapping in Nigeria current administration: Under scholastic scrutiny. *J Pol Sci Pub Aff 5,* 258-275. doi:10.4172/2332-0761.100025

Akanle, O. (2013). Human security, risk management and urban sustainability in Lagos mega-city, Nigeria. Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282118697

Ajoku, G., & Adigwe, O. P. (2022). Election Related Violence in Nigeria: The Health, Education and Security Perspectives. A Qualitative Study. *Open Journal of Social Sciences*, *10*(10), 152-174.

Akiyode, A. H. (2018). Spaces of the informal economy: Reimagining street trading through accessibility distribution analyses in Lagos Being a Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy to School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University.

Ayuba, M. R. (2020).Trajectories, typology and implications of kidnapping in Nigeria. *International Journal of Management, Social Sciences, Peace and Conflict Studies, 3*(2), 144-160.

Barnett, J., Rufa'i, M. A., & Abdulaziz, A. (2022). Northwestern Nigeria: A Jihadization of Banditry, or a "Banditization" of Jihad?. *CTC Sentinel*, *15*(1), 46-69.

Dipo, L. (August 10, 2022). Niger Reads Riot Act to Minna Thugs. *This Day*. Available at https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/08/10/niger-reads-riot-act-to-minna-thugs/

Igbolekwu, C., Oye, J., Oyeyipo, E., Asamu, F., Rasak, B., & Oyekola, I. (2020). Community participation in crime prevention and control in rural Nigeria. *Heliyon, 6*. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e05015

Inyang, J.D., & Abraham, U. E. (2013). The social problem of kidnapping and its implications on the socio-economic development of Nigeria: A study of Uyo metropolis. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences, 4*(6), 531-544.

Iocchi, A. (2022). *Living through Crisis by Lake Chad: Violence, Labor and Resources*. Taylor & Francis.

Kilishi, A. A., Mobolaji, H.I., Usman, A., Yakubu, A.T., &Yaru, M. A. (2014). The effect of unemployment on crime in Nigeria: A panel data analysis. *British Journal of Economics, Management & Trade 4*(1), 880-895.

Mahmoud, A. T. (2021). Banditry dynamism and operating pattern of crime in northwest Nigeria : A threat to national security. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net /publication/350158153

Mbah, F. (2020). Nigeria: Lagos residents defend homes against curfew bandits. Retrieved https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/nigeria-lagos-residents-defend-homes-curfew-bandits-200414165917113.html

Mungadi, D.D., Yusuf, S., Jeremiah, S. O., Owa, F. T., Abubakar, I. A., Agbo-Madaki, A. A., Oyinloye, G. O., & Onibiyo, E. R. (2020). Roadmap to tackling insurgency, armed banditry and kidnapping in the north west region Of Nigeria. *Journal of Xidian University, 14*(10), 914-230

Njoku, L., Sunday, O., Thomas-Odia, I. (2021, November 20). How Mexican drug cartel brought Mkpuru Mmiri to Nigeria. *The Guardian*. Available at https://guardian.ng/news/how-mexican-drug-cartel-brought-mkpuru-mmiri-to-nigeria/

Nwogwugwu, N., & Odedina, A. M. (2018). Policy framework for community and state policing in combating rising security challenges in Nigeria. *International Relations and Diplomacy, 6*(6), 334-345.

Obidiegwu, U. J., & Elekwa, B. C. (2019). The extent vigilante security group collaborate with the police in minimizing crime in Abia State. *Journal of Research & Method in Education, 9(*4), 41-45.

Odalonu, B. H. (2022). Worsening Insecurity in Nigeria and its Implications on Governance and National Development. *African Journal of Humanities and Contemporary Education Research*, *5*(1), 31-49.

Odoma, S. U., & Akor, L. Y. (2019). Kidnapping: A lucrative crime in 21st century Nigeria. *Global Journal of Human-Social Science: Sociology & Culture, 19*(3), 12-24.

Okoli, A. C., & Agada, F. T. (2014). Kidnapping and national security in Nigeria. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences, 4*(6), 137-146.

Okoli, A. C., & Okpaleke, F. (2014). Banditry and crisis of public safety in Nigeria: Issues in national security. *European Scientific Journal, 10*(4), 350-362.

Olusegun, O. J. (2016). Community Policing in South-West Nigeria: Finding a nexus between the Police and the people. *Journal of Education and Practice, 7*(23), 29-36.

Onwuegbusi, C. A. (2017). Services of vigilante groups in AnambraState. *International Journal of Religion & Human Relations, 9*(1), 73-106.

Oyagi, D. H. (2016). The role of vigilante groups in the management of security in urban centres:A case study of Sungusungu in Suneka township, Kisii County of Nairobi. A Research Project Submitted In Partial Fulfilment Of The Requirement for the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi.

Rufai, M. A. (2018). Vigilante groups and rural banditry in Zamfara State: Excesses and contradictions. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Inventions, 7*(6), 69-79.

Rufa'i, M. A. (2021). 'I AM A BANDIT':A Decade of Research in Zamfara State. 15TH University Seminar Series. Graphic Concept Academy: Sokoto-Nigeria

Suleiman, A. O. (2017). Thematic appraisal on the impulsive upsurge of yahoo-yahoo in the 21st century in Nigeria.

Uche, J. C., & Iwuamadi, C. K. (2018). Nigeria: Rural Banditry and Community Resilience in the Nimbo Community. *Conflict Studies Quarterly, 24*(1), 71-82.

United Nations (UN) (1994). United Nations Development Report, New York: United Nations Development Programme. Accessed on: http://unocha.org/humansecurity/about-human-security/human-security-un

Venter, A. J. (2018). *Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb: Shadow of Terror Over the Sahel, from 2007*. Pen and Sword.

World Internal Security and Police Index International. (2017). Nigeria police force as the 'worst'. Available at http://www.ipsa-policeWorld Internal Security and Police Index International (WISPI).org/images/uploaded/Pdf%20file/WISPI%20Report.pdf

Wuyo, H. I. (2021, May 28). D.E.T.A.I.L.E.D: Effects of banditry, kidnapping in Kaduna. *Vangiuard Newspaper*. Available at https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/05/d-e-t-a-i-l-e-d-effects-of-banditry-kidnapping-in-kaduna/