

The Monumental Challenge of Kidnapping in Abuja:A Ticking Time Bomb

Ladan Ozayashi Nasirudeen, Dr Nadhrah A. Kadir, Muhammad Febriansyah

¹Political Science Section, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

nashon1420@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4255-1201>

²Political Science Section School of Social Science, Universiti Sains, Malaysia.

nadhrah@usm.my

³Political Science Section School of Social Science, Universiti Sains, Malaysia.

febrian@usm.my

How to cite this article: Ladan Ozayashi Nasirudeen, Nadhrah A. Kadir, Muhammad Febriansyah (2024) The Monumental Challenge of Kidnapping in Abuja:A Ticking Time Bomb. *Library Progress International*, 44(3), 7257-7271

ABSTRACT

Kidnapping is an infamous activity that has an enfeebled impact on any human society. The emergence of numerous security threats such as militancy, armed robbery, ritual murder, rebellion, and kidnapping has jeopardized the government's achievement of her priority. Using a vast literature review, and content material evaluation of in-depth personal interviews, the study reveals that Kidnapping in Abuja (Nigeria) will be attributed to unemployment, the mindset of political officeholders, poverty, terrorism, loss of harder penalty through the government, negligence of the part of the well-to-do in households and the quest for materialism/ fast money, corruption, weak security apparatus, porous borders, marginalization, and inequalities. Furthermore, the consequence of abduction is sensed at the economic, security, diplomatic, tourism, democracy, and socio-cultural spheres of the country's security. The study applied Robert Merton's theory of anomie, which best explains the crime of kidnapping in contemporary Abuja (Nigeria). Equally, the methodology of this study is qualitative research that follows a cross-sectional research design to explain how social and demographic characteristics predispose individuals in Abuja contemporary Nigeria to kidnap. The counselled answers consist of the powerful judiciary (rapid prosecution of perpetrators of kidnapping), involvement of religious leaders for value re-orientation, independence of the security agencies, job creation, and community policing. Others are mobilization and focused campaigns in combating kidnapping, involvement of traditional rulers in combating kidnapping, manipulation of rural-city migration, and motivation of security agencies to synergise amongst themselves.

Keywords: Kidnapping, Poverty, Insecurity, Inequality, Terrorism

INTRODUCTION

Kidnapping is a major criminal activity which has greater devastating impacts on any human society. It is because kidnapping results in gang rape, bodily attacks inclusive of beating, kicking/abusing victims, and monetary victimization and it can result in loss of lives. In 2014, over 1,000 kidnapping instances have been registered (Fadipe et al., 2021). Most of the abducted victims are wealthy men, politicians, or their relatives and this includes the case of an undergraduate student at a Nigerian University, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (A.B.U.). As mentioned by Kyrian (2009), kidnapping in Nigeria was known in the early years of independence (1960). It became rampant in the late 1990s culminating in modern-day epidemic proportions.

Kyrian (2009) observes that through searching the kidnapping definition, one might apprehend that kidnapping is the interruption of rules and regulations in a human setting. It is an indication that authorities are impactive and the mechanisms of governance aren't working, with few or no instances being prosecuted. These groups of individuals frequently kidnapped high-ranking officers and personalities throughout the country, from

college professors to chief judges, administrators, and doctors in numerous hospitals. There is likewise the abduction of monetary giants and their circle of relative individuals in numerous spheres of national life. In the phrases of Osumah and Aghedo (2011), the sectarian abduction version is targeted at the religious faithful and their leaders. More so, the abduction of harmless kids and women is hazardous to the future of Nigeria as a nation.

The kidnapping grows on the belief that there's no justice and equality furnished through the organization or society to inspire individuals to portraits and carefully earn a respectable living. In this light, they arm themselves to emerge as impactive to enrol in the prey. Where there's education and civic routing, this impact may be changed, however, now it is no longer in Abuja (Nigeria) in the interim whilst cash is held too excessive and surpasses some other distinctive feature than the quest for existence. In reaction to this undeserved state of the nation, Fadipe et al., (2021), recommend a gory revolution to ease up and keep the country and future generations from falling into the hollow of monetary misery, deprivation, and poverty. However, kidnapping for ransom is hastily getting prominence around the world, with a few towns and international locations ranging from Mexico, Colombia and Brazil most of the towns where scholars suggest kidnappings are taking place heavily (Abimbola et al., 2021).

Nigeria is progressively turning into a Centre of abduction due to a lack of confidence and the nastiest region to stay due to common incidents of abduction. For instance, the 2021 peace index suggests that Nigeria is ranked 147 out of 163 international locations. It approaches the country as one of the pinnacles 20 least peaceful international locations in the (Awopeju, 2021)World (2021 Global Peace Index Score). The kidnapping hazard in Nigeria has generated many security issues in recent times. The common fashion throughout states has created a weather of worry and lack of confidence that undermines sustainable national improvement and security. This security project maintains to have a flowing impact on public security, food security and social cohesion. The rate of kidnapping in Nigeria has elevated thus far in 2021 in comparison to preceding years; as shown by the available statistics (Adamu et al., 2021).

According to the statistics compiled by the Nigeria Security Tracker (NST) for 2015 and June 2021. HumAngle discovered a wide range of abductions and victims kidnapped in the country. In 2015, the figure was 926, while in 2016 it was 347. In 2017, there were 484 kidnapping victims, which increased to 987 in 2018, 1,386 in 2019, and 2,860 in 2020 and equally at least 2,944 people have been abducted between January 1 and June 30, 2021. Making 2021 the worst year based solely on this security index and these figures are higher with settlements in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger Republic's border regions included. The number of kidnappings has also increased, from 110 in 2015 to 135 in 2016, 140 in 2017, 156 in 2018, 330 in 2019, and 437 in 2020, followed by 315 in the first half of 2021 and the aggravating mode is the increase in the number of large kidnappings.

More so, the common variety of losses with the incident has extended from 2.6 in 2016 to 9.4 in 2021. Nigeria recorded 11 kidnappings in 2018, 8 in 2019, 25 in 2020, and 31 in the first six months of 2021, compared to 5 in 2015 with over 20 victims. Teenagers, particularly those who are enrolled in schools, are the most common targets of these carnages. Moreso, over 1,405 college students were abducted in Afaka in Kaduna State Kagara located in Niger State; Yauri in Kebbi State; and Jangebe in Zamfara State; (Adebayo and Oniyinde, 2021). Today nearly all of us are aware of the persons that have been abducted, worry and panic grip the populace as nobody is aware of who the following victim will be. According to Abdulkabir (2017), kidnapping refers to the shipping of someone against their will, typically in the region the individual is kept in captivity unlawfully.

Kidnapping likewise is an unlawful event in which a man or woman is forcibly kidnapped against their will via way or means of every other man or woman to an unknown territory for the cause fine recognised to them. However, the hazard of kidnapping has gone beyond kidnapping teenagers and school students in Nigeria as this cutting-edge government has witnessed quite a few riots and abductions of government officials, politicians, men of influence, teachers, royal families, households and even few kings were abducted. Abraham (2010) agreed that kidnapping has grown to be rampant in Nigerian society. Equally, Omonijo et al., (2019), mentioned that the widespread lack of confidence in some parts of the country has gotten to a degree in which truly all of us are now worried approximately the hazard of kidnapping. People can hardly ever sleep in the intervening time due to the fact they may be fearful of being robbed or abducted.

However, the North-central (where Abuja is located) and North-west have grown to be the hardest-hit regions in 2020 and 2021, due to the spread of terrorism and banditry in such areas. Furthermore, in 2021, states in the North-west had 1,405 kidnapping victims, followed by the North-central region (942), the North-east (211), the Southwest (169), the South-south (140), and the Southeast (140). Similarly, it was predicted that at least \$18.34

million would be paid as ransom to kidnapers in the country between 2011 and 2020 (Ibrahim and Ahmad, 2020). As a result, Nigeria's president, Muhammadu Buhari, pleaded with the military to "respond to the annoying scenario in a language that the bandits will understand". He stated that the security agents had been working on new strategies and rules that resulted in high-quality results in the troubled areas. Thus, no matter the effort and coverage, kidnapping keeps flourishing and poses a debilitating impact on Nigerian society. As such, it's miles vital to apprehend the basic consequences of the risk and give pragmatic insights for the part and implementation of a coverage framework so that it will lower kidnapping and enhance the security scenario in the country. Therefore, this study's the consequences and the impact of kidnapping in Abuja and National security. Specifically, the study aims to find out reasons why the government has been not able to fight kidnapping in Abuja, investigate the impact of the abduction on national security, and advise approaches to enhance the security scenario in the country.

Problem Statement

The emergence of multiple security threats such as militants, armed robberies, ritual killings, insurgencies, and kidnappings have jeopardized the government's achievement of its priority task. Kidnapping has recently become a lucrative business for Nigerian youths. The hostage-taking started as a criminal activity in the Niger Delta region of the country to draw the government's attention to the marginalization of the region, which has recently emerged as a major national security threat that needs to be tackled. One of the country's problems today is kidnapping, which was addressed by successive governments through an "amnesty program" (state pardon for kidnappers) during the Yar'adua government in 2009 in the Niger Delta region, but later spread to other parts of Niger. the country started because of the marginalization and inequality in the southeast, while the northern part of the country suffers from poverty and terrorism.

Abuja is the federal capital of Nigeria, and it is facing kidnapping. This may be due to the influx of lack of inter-agency cooperation, poor logistics and training, rural-to-urban migration for clerical work, unemployment, corruption, poverty, isolation, and inequality, which is subject to investigation. The problems have forced the youth to turn to kidnapping as a means of survival and business. Moreover, terrorists in the North kidnap students for ransom, which is a source of funding for their heinous acts. A seizure in Abuja could affect national security because Abuja is the engine room of the Nigerian government.

However, the existence and protection of life is of vital importance in human society and is the primary responsibility of governments around the world. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 1999) specifically states that "the primary purpose of government shall be the security and welfare of the people". As a result, the government directs a significant part of the country's resources to protect people's lives and property from internal and external threats. In addition, when dealing with security issues, the police and military work together with other security forces to deal with threats.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature overview covers the theoretical and empirical discourse on the reasons, consequences, and impact of kidnapping in Abuja (Nigeria). It is offered thematically in step with the goals of this study.

The reasons for kidnapping

The consequences of kidnapping are a violent, horrific, excessive-profile crime and pose a national protection mission to the country. Kidnapping received momentum in Abuja (Nigeria) in reaction to unemployment, ethical decadence, desperation, and frustration among teenagers. The politicians and disgruntled people took the possibility to preserve the crime. The rogues use this criminal version as the very best manner to intimidate individuals to get smooth admission to cash. Abimbola et al., (2021), argued that kidnapping is a dedication to financial survival that secures political and commercial organization blessings over opponents and fellow competitors. Owolabi et al (2014), discovered that once analysing the reasons for the growing instances of kidnapping in Nigeria, individuals pointed to elements of inclusive greediness, insecurity, poverty, excessive unemployment, loss of contentment, social injustice, political apathy, and desires of the bad in addition to failed financial plans.

Likewise, poverty is one of the essential elements that make individuals interact in kidnapping activities. Poverty is likewise one of the essential causal elements that make many individuals interact in kidnapping activities. Poverty is monetary incapability or a loss of requirements for the basic needs of life. Basic needs which include cash, water, food, and shelter, amongst others, are the scourge of poverty that demoralizes the much less

privileged upon whom the wrath of the ambiguity is inflicted. Furthermore, this study shows that poverty has led to the emergence of infamous kidnappers because of unrelenting famine and an insufficient price range to survive in the financial downturn. The work of Matthews et al., (2016), showed that Nigeria is presently going through critical activity troubles and sizable work spread decent work deficits, an improvement that may boom the unfold of poverty.

The impact of kidnappings in Abuja

Kidnapping has fast-tracked the economy, diplomacy, protection, tourism, democracy, socio-way of life and worse, the country's national image sensing, one of the Speakers of the Nigerian Senate, David Mark says: "As matters stand now, everybody is a potential kidnapping victim. The quicker governments and people take the problem head-on and put an end it, the better for everybody" (Adesina, 2013). The abduction of individuals arbitrarily in Nigeria has a large influence on the mental, sociological, and financial lives of the victims and their households. This is because kidnapping someone is traumatic. Similarly, kidnappers traumatize their victims by frequently blindfolding them, hiding them in the trunks of their vehicles, and transporting them to unknown locations. They inhale tranquilizers to calm their victims and sleep until they achieve their objectives. When victims understand their situation, their intellectual trauma ranges from depression, intense stress, emotional assault, and irritation to fear of the unforeseeable (Danesy, 2011). Furthermore, the victims' relations have been emotionally traumatized.

However, on 4th December 2009, the Director of the United Bank of Africa (UBA) was abducted outside his home for several days before being released after a large ransom was paid (Abimbola et al., 2021). If society is inclined to take part in the bailout negotiations, it'll be very hard to prevent the booming unlawful organization. Kidnapping creates worry amongst indigenous peoples and foreign citizens. People stay in worry about being abducted and foreign traders close their offices for worry of being abducted. In December 2008, in a few states, extensively the capital Uyo, a foreign Exxon Mobil oil employee was kidnapped from a church compound very close to his base in the Mobil neighbourhood of Eket. The victim was later released after an undisclosed ransom was paid. As a result, several oil employees relocated to different parts of the country and others moved out of Nigeria because of threats of kidnapping and insecurity.

This observation determined the following occurrences when drawing the activities of kidnapping incidents in the country: On July 10, 2003, the mother of Chris Ngige (former Governor of Anambra State) and the father of Pete Edochie were kidnapped, and ransom was paid in equal amounts for their release. On November 25, 2005, an unknown person abducted a Uyo University student named Samuel Ita Inickong and Mrs Comfort Etok (spouse of the senator representing Ikot Ekpene's Senate district) was kidnapped, also (Abimbola et al., 2021). Since 2003, kidnappings have expanded in the country (each as a protection mission and as social unrest), underscoring several of the federal government's efforts to deal with this protection mission (Lang et al., 2006).

Theoretical framework

Robert Merton's theory of anomie seems best to explain the crime of kidnapping in contemporary Abuja. The word "anomie" is of French origin, which denotes normlessness (lawlessness). It was anglicized and conceptualized in the 20th century by sociologist Emile Durkheim (1858–1917) in his seminal thesis to generally mean the absence or violation of norms (laws) and basic values that govern human behaviour in society. However, Emile Durkheim's anomie-strain theory was adapted by Robert K Merton in 1938 into a means-end paradigm. Anomie theory argues that society creates its brand of crime and criminals by defining its goals, standards, and values without providing corresponding legislation. opportunities to achieve them. According to Merton (1938), all societies have a cultural system that embodies socially approved values and goals and the institutionalized means to achieve them. Unfortunately, the prescribed goals and means do not allow all members of the company to strive only for success in a legitimate way. This puts undue pressure on some segments of society in non-conformist (criminal) ways as they strive to achieve the goals and values of success.

This occurs when the goal of success is overemphasized more than the acceptable means of achieving it. Merton, on the other hand, recognizes that not all people are deviant or criminal; he did this by identifying five adaptive ways in which people tend to respond when under structural stress. Merton's typology of individual adaptations to structural pressures is referred to as the "plus-minus paradigm", namely Conformity: (+ +), Innovation: (+ -), Ritualism: (- +), Retreatism: (- -), and Rebellion: ($\pm \pm$). A plus sign (+) indicates acceptance, a minus sign (-) indicates rejection, and and minus sign ($\pm \pm$) indicates rejection of both institutionalized ends and

means and replacement of ends and means with new ones (Merton, 1938). Innovation, the subject of this study, explains the situation where individuals accept the culturally defined goals of society (+) but reject the legitimate means to achieve them (-). Rather, the innovator assumes criminal roles by adopting illegitimate means to achieve material success.

Merton argues that innovation is particularly characteristic of the lower class, that is, the location in the class structure of American society (as applicable to contemporary Nigerian society) where access to legitimate means is limited and the "tension toward anomie" is most severe. Burdened by structural blockages, as the researcher observes, individuals at the bottom of the social ladder then use illegal means to achieve the culturally overemphasized goal (success) of society. This class of people is believed to have been driven into abduction due to the environmental pressures and economic deprivations that are common in Abuja (Nigeria). The relevance of anomie theory to the study lies in its far-reaching impact and analytical analysis of abductions and abductors about "innovation", as it gradually emerges. Igbo and Anugwom (2002) applaud this theory when they say that social problems (such as kidnapping) are often linked to changes brought about by the adoption of innovations in society. The theory of anomie is relevant to this study given that the acquisition of wealth is a common feature of contemporary Nigerian society concerning Abuja in particular.

However, a female was arrested as she organized her kidnapping so that her husband could pay the ransom while she picked it up and shared the percentage along with her accomplice. On Thursday, July 13, 2017, a case of Lagos (Ba'ale) leader made a headline. While security agents determined that the leader, alongside together along with his spouse and brother, faked his kidnapping (Fadipe et al., 2021). Equally, Bukola Ogun a 37-year-woman, faked her kidnapping to enable her husband to take her and their children to the United States (Owolabi et al., 2014). It's essential to observe that if aggression is a discovered behaviour, abduction, which is a selected sort of aggression, also can be discovered.

Nonetheless, through a vast literature review, and in-depth interviews we can gain the perspectives and views of different classes of individuals which include Legislators, Police, the Judiciary, the Military, and the overall public have been harnessed, transcribed, and interpreted, and the result of the evaluation identified the consequences, impact, and answers to the trouble of kidnapping as provided by the questions below:

Are you aware of kidnapping taking place in Abuja; why has the government been unable to combat kidnapping in Abuja; How does Abuja's kidnapping problem affect national security; how can Abuja's security situation be improved, and the threat of kidnapping reduced; what is responsible for the high-rate kidnapping in Abuja and its environs; do you think the government has the political will and capability to stamp out kidnapping/hostage-taking in Abuja and the country at large; what is the major cause of kidnapping in Abuja and how would you classify the activities of kidnapers in Abuja?

Major Causes of Kidnapping in Abuja

The interview solicited solutions to the consequences of kidnapping in Abuja. Although this isn't the principal cognizance of this study, the responses offer the premise for figuring out the approaches to fighting crime. Kidnapping in Abuja (Nigeria) will be attributed to several factors: unemployment, the mindset of politicians, poverty, terrorism, loss of stiffer penalties with the aid of using the negligence on the part of the government, the well-to-do households and the quest for materialism/ quick money, corruption, weak security apparatus, porous borders, marginalization and inequalities, horrific governance which result to the excessive price of insecurity:

Unemployment

According to Ibrahim and Mukhtar (2017), the major reason why abduction is frequently associated with youth unemployment in Abuja (Nigeria) is because of the famous adage "an idle guy is the devil's workshop" to explain unemployment in Nigeria. He referred to that untold numbers of abled women and men in Nigeria roamed the streets searching out a process that no longer exists. As a result, many idle youths have engaged in criminal activities, which include kidnapping, on account of frustration and mounting responsibilities. Inyang similarly recounted that a graduate who can't stabilise a process is psychologically bereft of different manners of subsistence. In one of these situations, the younger individual may want to broaden a terrible mindset toward society. Ibrahim and Mukhtar (2017), additionally believed that the spread of arms because of the miscreant political patronage dumped after elections may circuitously inspire and beautify abduction. More so, Ibrahim and

Mukhtar (2017) likened the ultra-modern kidnapping scenario to the scourge of armed theft in the early 1980s.

Many youths who fought at some point in the Nigerian civil battle had been discharged and despatched domestic with nothing. Meanwhile, the faculties they had abandoned in the back had been destroyed, and there had been no jobs to keep them busy. Meanwhile, the deserted colleges have been destroyed; there had been no jobs to keep them occupied. As a result, lots of them became armed robbers because, as ex-soldiers, they had been armed with guns and had found out the way to use them at some point in the battle and today, politicians rent maximum idle youths as political thugs for elections.

Poverty

Kidnapping is common in Abuja (Nigeria) due to the country's extreme poverty. The resident sees abduction as a way out of the song of poverty and into the song of riches. This is because when someone is kidnapped, a ransom is placed on the victim's head, and the abducted victim will not be released to his family until the kidnappers receive the ransom. When this money is given to the kidnapper, who has previously been impoverished, he becomes wealthy. Poverty can manifest itself in immaterial areas such as knowledge or thoughts, as well as in the absence of necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, and health care. According to an adage, a hungry man is an angry man. An angry man will not be reliant on demonstrating a history of poverty, which is affecting protection at a high rate of unemployment in Nigeria. Poverty is a factor in robbery, fraud (419), trafficking, and other crimes that endanger our national security.

Terrorism

Most jobless Nigerian youths have turned to terrorism as a solution to their problems, particularly in the Niger Delta region. In Abuja (Nigeria), we are engrossed in a major security crisis that appears to be a trembling society. Through militants in the Niger Delta, there is a chain of attacks on oil centres. In March 2006, for example, the government lost over 631,000 barrels of crude oil per day to terrorism, accounting for approximately 26 per cent of its daily output of 2.4 million barrels per day, because of an attack on the pipelines of the Italian oil giant, Nigerian Agip oil company. Five soldiers were killed by militants in October 2006 along the oil-rich Cawthorowe Channel, one of the main oil reserves in the southern region. Similarly, 9 (nine) Chinese workers were kidnapped in Bayelsa in February 2007. Terrorism is one of the consequences of kidnapping in Nigeria, based on the examples given above. It is a strategy used by political revolutionaries seeking government concessions.

Corruption

Corruption is defined as deception or illegal behaviour by residents in positions of authority. According to (Ebeh, 2015), corruption is "the inducement of the way of wrong things to violate duty, an inducement in cash or kind to stable offerings or items from public officials or companies illegitimately or abnormally." There will always be insecurity where there is corruption. When society begins to honour and recognise residents who have become wealthy in questionable ways, as Nigeria has done in recent decades, we send signals that crime can pay the wealthy. This discourages hardworking and honest people from pursuing a criminal lifestyle. The Nigerian monetary system has deteriorated so dramatically that we now have a good time with corruption. A fraudster is far more likely than a hardworking member of the community to be rewarded with a traditional name.

In the political sphere, you encounter situations in which candidates spent their resources to compete in party primaries and were successful. And are eventually renamed after governors or the party hierarchy. Consider the scandalous case of Iyiola Omisore, who was a key suspect in Ige's murder trial. While imprisoned, Omisore was allowed to run for senator on the ticket of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). The judges in this case granted Omisore bail two days after the National Assembly's inauguration in June 2003, ostensibly due to "ill health." Of course, the bail allowed him to travel to Abuja to be sworn in as a senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Following that, the detainee/senator was named chairman of the Senate Committee on Industry. Unfortunately, corruption coexists happily with injustice.

Lack of Stiffer Penalty by the Government

The government's failure to impose harsher penalties is to blame for the kidnappers' persistent activities in Abuja. Furthermore, kidnappers see this criminal business as a lucrative one, making it difficult for them to leave, and the business is like child trafficking. The trade will be eradicated if the government imposes harsh penalties on those caught kidnapping. Because traffickers face little risk of prosecution, the trade flourishes (Dodo, and Ohwonohwo, 2008).

Quest for fast Money

The quest for fast money and wealth is responsible for kidnapping/child trafficking in Abuja (Nigeria). The desire to become wealthy quickly and this assertion is not far from the truth (Dodo and Ohwonohwo, 2008). Many Nigerians are unwilling to confront life's ups and downs. Today, the rule of the fittest governs Nigeria. As a result, you can't harvest where you didn't plant, especially for young people with big dreams. How can these goals be realised? It's a question that bothers them, and they want to make money quickly without having to work. They go around looking for citizens to kidnap for a lot of money, and this barbaric practice is endangering the country.

Poor security system

Nigeria's security system is deplorable in terms of manpower and equipment to deal with kidnappings. Most security officers are underqualified and underpaid and therefore lack the necessary expertise to meet today's security challenges. The security personnel's contribution to Nigeria's public safety project is also of serious concern. Corruption, underfunding of police and other security agencies, a lack of modern equipment, poor health of security personnel, and a shortage of staff can all contribute to a weak security system. Nigeria is largely under police jurisdiction, which explains the Nigerian police's inability to fight crime, corruption, and insecurity. According to Zubairu (2020), Nigeria's police population ratio is 1:450, which is below the UN standard. This suggests that the country is severely understaffed, which could explain the police's inability to effectively combat crime and security threats.

Many soldiers fighting insurgency in the north-east of the country were ambushed and many were killed by Boko Haram rebels for leaking information from those who were supposed to be fighting them (i.e. the fifth columnist). However, funds earmarked for the purchase of weapons were misappropriated and misappropriated or obsolete equipment was purchased without the perpetrators being adequately punished.

Porous Boarder

Most of Nigeria's state borders are permeable. As a result, human movements are largely untraceable, contributing to Abuja's high level of insecurity. Especially at the borders of neighbouring countries with high kidnapping rates like Nasarawa, Niger, Kogi and Kaduna. Due to Nigeria's porous borders, small arms and light weapons enter the country unchecked, allowing for militancy and crime. According to Edeko, (2011), Nigeria is home to more than 70% of the estimated 8 million illegal weapons used to trigger a security crisis. In addition, the porous state of Nigeria's two borders has contributed to an uncontrollable influx of migrants from neighbouring countries, mostly young people.

Inequality and Marginalization

Inequality between first- and second-class citizens is a common variable in Abuja (Nigeria) today. This is due to the current Nigerian government's strong association with ethnic disparities and the marginalization of certain parts of the country in terms of providing basic infrastructure, which has significantly worsened Nigeria's security (Adamu et al., 2020). Key political positions are currently held by people of northern descent, leaving the Southeast out of the loop. That could explain the agitation for the Biafra Republic and the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) and subsequent security breaches. In addition, it is abundantly clear that life chances in Nigeria are extremely varied. A large part of the population feels disadvantaged, oppressed, and excluded, which leads to dissatisfaction and hopelessness, especially among young people. Such young people are now expressing their dissatisfaction with the situation through any possible means, legal or illegal, such as kidnapping, leading to increased insecurity (Oyewole, 2016).

Poor leadership/ bad governance

The above has been the root cause of Nigeria's insecurity from the past to the present. The main task of any government is to provide basic services such as water, electricity, a good road network, quality education and general infrastructure. In Nigeria, these necessities do not exist, and people are generally dissatisfied and demoralized. Similarly, undermining and anger fuel aggression and general insecurity, as illustrated by the Abuja kidnapping. The lack of these basic amenities in Nigeria is due to corruption at the highest levels of the governance structure, not a lack of funds. A prosperous country with the poorest people is an articulated reality (Ozoigbo, 2019). Taking on the responsibility of leadership in such communities with multi-ethnic and religious societies like Nigeria is an enormous task given the current scenario of democratic politics in which the nation finds itself.

METHODOLOGY

This qualitative research follows a cross-sectional research design to explain how social and demographic characteristics predispose individuals in Abuja of contemporary Nigeria to kidnapping. The studies offer human interplay and perspectives; subsequently, the qualitative approach becomes used via in-depth personal interviews and archival documents. It is a greater way of finding because the interviewees are perceived to present greater sincere solutions and critiques via personal interplay (Alshenqeeti, 2014). The pattern length for this study is 40 individuals, which cuts across the security agents and others: the legislature, police, army, judiciary and public. We used purposive sampling to allow us to collect data from individuals primarily based totally on the reason of the study. More so, purposive sampling is beneficial in different to gain data from a selected group of persons including the security personnel, and judiciary. We used content material evaluation to study the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study, through the interview, recognized the following as the reasons for the increasing rate of kidnapping in Nigeria:

i. Business

The research participants revealed that kidnapping is now a lucrative business for most perpetrators. They do it as their business. Abuja is home to rich people in society. So, most of the kidnapped victims in the city or their relatives easily pay ransom to ensure the safe release of their loved ones. The kidnappers consider the payment of the ransom as sales. Thus, the collection of ransom to meet their financial need is the main reason the kidnapping is rising in Abuja. The research participants collectively noted that kidnapping is a business venture. Here are some responses of the interviewees:

Saturation is the most common guiding principle for assessing the adequacy of purposive samples in qualitative research (Hennink and Kaiser, 2022)(Morse, 1995, 2015; Sandelowski, 1995). It widens the understanding of the entire investigation and provides rich detailed data about the situation. The choice of the respondents was made purposively based on the fact the most affected and vulnerable victims of kidnapping are the Public 10; followed by the Police 10; who part take in the investigation, tracking and detection of criminals (kidnappers) when such incidents happened, while Judicial staff 8; interpret the law and punish the offenders (kidnappers) for the crime committed, equally the Legislator 7; make and domesticate laws guiding crime (kidnapping) in Nigeria and more so, the Soldiers/Military 5; perform supportive services along with other security agencies to keep the society crime free when the need arises.

The opinions of the respondents are vividly captured as follows.

Kidnapping has become a lucrative business, and a lot of people venture into it (L5c, Legislator).

Kidnapping is now a lucrative business and the quest for materialism has made many people involved (PO8f, Police officer).

Abuja is the target of kidnapping because of the presence of the ruling elite and top businessmen in which fat ransom is paid for kidnapping (M8e, Military officer).

Kidnapping is now a business in Abuja and its environment because ransom has been paid by elites/Public, ... Kidnapping is a lucrative business operated by syndicates.

(JUD8fe, JUD8f, Judiciary officer).

Kidnapping is a lucrative business targeting the elites in the city (M5e, Military officer).

Kidnapping is a lucrative business because a heavy ransom is paid (PUB8b).

The responses show the consensus opinion of the people is that kidnapping activities are perpetrated for business or commercial gains.

ii. Terrorism

Some respondents considered the kidnapping in Abuja an act of terrorism. It is considered the way through which the terrorists raise funds to finance their activities. According to some of the respondents, kidnapping in Abuja is

[...] combination of terrorism and separatist movement (PO8d, Police officer), [.....] terrorism moving toward the seat of power, the government should be more proactive in its decision (PO8i, Police officer), [.....] terrorism and business as usual in Abuja and its environs (JUD8h, Judiciary officer), [.....] act of terrorism by a syndicate (JUD8e, Judiciary officer).

The increasing wave of insecurity and terrorism in the country is the reason for the increase in the activities of kidnapers in Abuja.

According to Merton (1938), all societies have a cultural system that embodies socially approved values and goals and the institutionalized means to achieve them. Unfortunately, the prescribed goals and means do not allow all members of the company to strive only for success in a legitimate way. This puts undue pressure on some segments of society in non-conformist (criminal) ways as they strive to achieve the goals and values of success.

iii. Political

The political reason was also recognized as a reason for the kidnapping in Abuja. Some respondents believe that it is perpetrated by politicians against their opponents, or as an act of opposition to destroy the image of the government in power.

[...] Kidnapping in Abuja is done for political cum economic reasons (PO7e, Police officer).

[...] kidnapping is done for the selfish interest of political elites (PUB5b, Public)

Reasons for the government's inability to combat kidnapping in Abuja (objective one)

The interview was used to evaluate the views of the participants concerning the reasons for the persistence of kidnapping in Abuja. While some of the respondents believed that the government is making some efforts, numerous factors were identified to be inhibiting the effective fight against kidnapping. The reasons are identified as follows:

i. Poor funding

The interviewees have expressed that poor funding of the security agencies is responsible for the persistence of the kidnapping cases in the federal capital territory (FCT), Abuja. They opined that inadequate funding leads to poor remuneration and motivation of the security personnel, which weakens the fight against crime.

For example, the views of some of the participants from the Judiciary which identified poor funding as the reason for the persistence of the kidnapping are captured in the statements as follows

[...] poor funding of the security outfits and the need for government to do more ... (JUD2a, Judiciary officer). [...] The government is trying its best, but challenges are too enormous ... in handling security matters e.g., poor remuneration to the Police since 1983 to date (JUD6c, Judiciary officer).

Also, the response of a Police officer is that

[...] Poor funding is responsible for the lingering cases of kidnapping in Abuja (PO2h, Police officer).

The view of the members of the Public about poor funding of the security agencies is typified in a statement:

Negligence on the part of the government in handling security issues, poor funding of security outfits (PUB2c, PUB2e, Public).

So, poor funding is responsible for the lingering kidnapping in Abuja. If the Police and other security agencies are adequately funded, the fight against kidnapping will be effective.

Merton argues that innovation is particularly characteristic of the lower class, that is, the location in the class structure of American society (as applicable to contemporary Nigerian society) where access to legitimate means is limited and the "tension toward anomie" is most severe. Burdened by structural blockages, as the researcher observes, individuals at the bottom of the social ladder then use illegal means to achieve the culturally overemphasized goal (success) of society. This class of people is believed to have been driven into abduction due to the environmental pressures and economic deprivations that are common in Abuja (Nigeria).

ii. Lack of synergy among security agencies (outfits)

Another reason for the persistence of kidnapping in Abuja is the lack of cooperation, among the security agencies. There is no proper collaboration between the Police, Military, and other security outfits in the fight against kidnapping in Abuja. This is expressed dominantly by the participants in the interview who are security personnel and Legislators. Some of the statements are:

[...] poor synergy amongst the security outfit.... (PO2h, Police officer),lack of synergy security outfit and duplication of functions (PO2i, Police officer). Lack of cooperation between the security personnel and the Public (PO2g, Police officer). Lack of synergy among the security personnel and need for improvement (M2b, Military officer).

These are the responses of most of the respondents from security agencies when they were asked about the reasons for the tenacity of the kidnapping in Abuja.

The views of the security personnel are shared and corroborated by the Legislators. According to them, “lack of synergy among the security apparatus in the state in tackling security challenges e.g., kidnapping” (L2d, Legislator).

From the responses above, the lack of synergy between the different security outfits is responsible for the ineffectiveness of the fight against kidnapping, other crimes, and insecurity generally.

iii. Negligence and lack of political will to fight crime

The study further identified that negligence, laxity, and lack of commitment on the part of the government to fight kidnappings in Abuja are contributing to the government’s inability to stop the crime. There is generally a lack of political will to fight kidnap in Abuja. The participants from all the categories (Public, Police, Military, Judiciary and Legislators) expressed the same views on the Negligence and lack of political will to combat kidnapping in Abuja. This could be a result of the fact that most government officials can easily pay ransom to rescue themselves or their relatives when kidnapped. Moreover, there is a high concentration of security apparatus for the government functionaries and their families. For instance, Police and Military personnel are deployed to all the Legislators and executives for the security of themselves and their families. Thus, they are not committed to the fight against kidnapping. Study participants noted thus in response to the question of why the government is unable to combat kidnapping in Abuja:

[...] due to negligence on the part of the government and the need for improvement (L2a, Legislator), laxity on the part of government (L2bi, Legislator), due to lack of interest and commitment on the side of the government (L2c, Legislator). Lack of political will on the side of the government (JUD2f, judicial officer), lack of pro-active measures put in place by the government(JUD2g, judicial officer), and lack of political will in handling the security situation by the government in Nigeria (JUD2f, judicial officer), Negligence on the part of the government in handling security issues due to personal and political motives (PUB2e, Public), weakness of government in the implementation of policies on insecurity (PUB2f, Public),in the words of Late General, he said whenever an act of terrorism lasted for more than 24 hours, government hands are involved and that is the situation in Nigeria (PUB2g, Public), Laxity and negligence in handling security matters by the government (PUB2i, Public).

From the above responses, it can be deduced that lack of commitment and political will is considered one of the reasons for the persistence of the kidnapping problem in Abuja. It is believed that when the government is fully committed to fighting the crime, it will take just a short time to reduce or even eliminate the kidnapping in the city.

iv. Lack of modern equipment (facilities) for intelligence gathering.

The lack of state-of-the-art facilities for intelligence gathering in fighting crime has been collectively acknowledged by the study participants to be militating against the combating of insecurity generally and kidnapping. The kidnapers often abduct their victims and leave without a trace. There are no CCTV cameras and drones for steady surveillance in Abuja. In some places where there are CCTV cameras, the cameras are not connected to the internet. This makes it difficult to trace the whereabouts of the criminals. Moreover, the kidnapers are aware of the places where there is no adequate modern security equipment in the Abuja metropolis. They exploit that weakness to perpetuate their activities. In response to the question of why the government has been unable to combat kidnapping in Abuja, the study participants noted thus:

[...] lack of modern gadgets to fight insecurity in Abuja and its environs (JUD2f, Judiciary officer). Lack of proactive measures put in place by the government and lack of application of modern technology in fighting crime....

Police officers equally affirm the lack of modern security facilities needed for the fight against kidnapping in the city.

Lack of modern gadgets for intelligent gathering e.g., CCTV, drone, are the reasons (PO2e, Police officer). In the words of other Police officers, the lack of modern equipment to fight crime, and lack of the state of art (sic) facilities e.g., drones, CCTV etc.... are the reasons for the ineffectiveness of the fight against insecurity (PO2d, PO2f, Police officers).

v. Lack of motivation of the security personnel

Inadequate remuneration and poor welfare and conditions of service of the security personnel are considered as one of the reasons inhibiting the fight against kidnapping in Abuja. The security personnel are not motivated due to the unfriendly working atmosphere and poor reward system in the service. The families of the security officers who lost their lives in active service are often neglected. This makes it difficult for the security personnel to put in their best in the fight against crime and insecurity in the country. In this regard, some of the respondents shared their thoughts.

[...] and lack of motivation of the security personnel is causing the increase in insecurity and kidnapping in Abuja (PO2i, Police officer).

Poor infrastructures and lack of motivation of the security personnel are making the fight against crime, particularly kidnapping in Abuja, and the country is generally not successful (PO2f, Police officer).

Therefore, the participants revealed that the lack of motivation of the security personnel is another reason for the persistence of the problem of kidnapping in Abuja. Adequate remuneration robust welfare package, and friendly conditions of services will motivate the security agencies to work diligently and stamp out the menace of kidnapping in Abuja, and other parts of Nigeria.

vi. Sabotage

The activities of the fifth columnist, saboteurs are also identified as a reason for the failure of the government in the fight against crime and criminality, particularly kidnapping in Abuja. The saboteurs frustrate the efforts of the government for their personal political or economic gains. This is noted by study participants as thus:

The government can curb kidnapping but most of its activities have been sabotaged by the enemy (PO6c, Police officer).

The government is trying its best but needs to improve but sabotage of government efforts by some political class..... (PO2j, Police officer).

Similarly, Military personnel,

[...] payment of ransom by victims and their family members mitigate kidnapping, and activities of a fifth columnist (sabotage) among the security personnel are truncating government effort in fighting insecurity.

vii. Poor legislation

Poor legislation is another issue expressed as a reason for the ineffectiveness of the fight against kidnapping in Abuja. The necessary laws and regulations such as the death sentence for kidnappers, and regulations need to facilitate the judicial process of prosecuting offenders are lacking. The study participant said:

Poor legislation in handling kidnapping cases makes it difficult to fight the crime (PUB2g, Public).

In the words of respondents from the Judiciary, poor policies on the security architecture in the country mitigate the fight against crime in Nigeria (JUD2d, Judiciary).

Thus, the kidnappers are often acquitted due to loopholes in the law, or a lack of adequate legislation to fight the menace.

viii. Rural-urban migration

The persistence of kidnapping in Abuja is also attributed to rural-urban migration. The incursion of people from rural areas to Abuja in pursuit of greener pastures leads to a population surge with its attendance consequence of the increase in crimes. In the bid to survive the criminals result in kidnapping and other forms of crimes. This is captured in the views of some of the participants.

{...} rural-urban migration through porous borders affected the kidnapping activities in Abuja (PUB2f, Abuja resident)

Government potential to curb kidnapping in Abuja

The consensus opinion is that the government has the potential (capability) to curtail the menace of kidnapping in Abuja but lacks the political will to do so. The government can end the menace of kidnapping if there is an adequate political will to do so.

Ways to improve the security situation in Abuja (objective three)

The responses of the participants in the interview on the improved ways of combating kidnapping in Abuja particularly and the country generally were collated. It is identified that the following are the best ways of fighting crime.

i. Modern technology

One of the improved ways of fighting kidnappings in Abuja is the use of modern security gadgets for steady surveillance. The security agencies have been using obsolete facilities for intelligence gathering and tracking of kidnappers. This makes it difficult to fight the crime. The kidnappers are sophisticated technologically. So, the security agencies need to make use of modern gadgets such as drones, internet-connected CCTV cameras, Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology et cetera for intelligence, and modern firearm and combat equipment to engage the kidnappers whenever they are found. Business operators and estate developers should be mandated and guided to provide and install these modern security gadgets to enable constant surveillance of all places in the city. This will ease crime detection and facilitate the provision of sufficient evidence for the prosecution of criminals.

ii. Promote synergy among security agencies.

To ensure the effectiveness of the fight against insecurity (kidnapping inclusive), there must be robust interagency cooperation and coordination among all the security agencies in the countries. The military (Army, Navy, and Air Force), police, National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Directorate of State Security Services (DSS), and all other agencies tasked with combating crime and maintaining security in the country must collaborate to address the issue of kidnapping. This research identified that the security agencies lack the needed synergy to fight the common enemy of the state (criminals). The kidnappers exploit this loophole in the security architecture to perpetrate their heinous activities. It is a common saying that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Put differently, united we stand, divided we fall. The security agencies are interdependent and cannot effectively combat organized crime, especially kidnapping without proper cooperation and coordination among themselves.

This is summarized in the responses of some of the research participants to the question of How can Abuja's security situation be improved, and the threat of kidnapping reduced.

Provisions of modern gadgets to the security officers and synergy should be promoted among them (PO4f, Police, officer). The government should create an awareness campaign among citizens on the dos and don'ts of kidnapping, and synergy should be promoted among security officers (PO4g, Police, officer). [...] adequate synergy amongst the security personnel ((PO4h, Police, officer). To promote synergy among the security personnel and the public (JUD4c, Judiciary). There is a need for synergy between the government and the public to fight the scourge called kidnapping and other crimes (PUB4j). Yes, the government has the capability but needs to do more to improve the situation but there is a need for synergy among the security outfits(M6c).

iii. Control rural-urban migration

Some of the respondents attributed the surge in kidnapping in Abuja to the increasing wave of rural-urban migration. The exodus of people to the federal capital territory (Abuja) for greener pastures is fingered for the rise in kidnapping. Hence, the control of the rural-urban migration will curb the menace. The research participants suggest that rural-urban migration can be controlled through legislation, provision of basic social amenities, and employment opportunities in the rural areas, particularly in the neighbouring states of Niger, Kogi, Nasarawa, and Kaduna. When this is done the rate of population explosion in Abuja will reduce and kidnapping will be rapidly minimized, if not completely curbed.

Rural-urban migration through porous borders is affected by kidnapping activities (PUB2f). Abuja is the seat of government, therefore, attracting an influx of heavy population from rural to urban areas. But due to poor security presence at our border 'bad eggs' move into the city centre and therefore perpetrate criminal acts like kidnapping, robbery etc (PUB3h). Control the influx of rural-urban migration and provide employment opportunities (PO4b). Control the influx of people seeking white-collar jobs from rural areas to urban areas (M5a). Security should monitor Abuja's borders properly to reduce rural-urban drift that is responsible for the high rate of kidnapping (M7b).

vi. Promote community policing

Community policing is one of the ways identified in this study to ensure the effectiveness of the battle against

kidnapping in Abuja. Currently, there are about 40, 000 community policing officers across the 774 local government areas in the country. The idea of the community policy was relaunched in 2019 to improve Police intelligence and minimize crime. However, the number of community policing officers is minute relative to the population of the country. An interview participant noted thus:

The government should invest more in technical equipment and promote community policing to enable security to perform maximally in the fight against kidnapping (PO4j, Police Officer).

The research participants submitted that an increase in the number of community policing officers, and regular remuneration will help in improving Police intelligence, equally reduce the level of unemployment, and thereby minimize crime generally, and kidnapping in Abuja, in particular.

CONCLUSION

Kidnapping is a major notorious activity that has the most enfeebled impact on any human society. According to the study, kidnapping in Abuja (Nigeria) can be attributed to unemployment, the political class's attitude, poverty, terrorism, the government's lack of harsher penalties, negligence on the part of the well-to-do in families and the quest for materialism/quick money, corruption, a weak security apparatus, porous borders, marginalization and inequalities, and bad governance, all of which contribute to a high rate of insecurity. As a result, the study proposes that poverty-reduction programmes be fully extended to the underprivileged, particularly in rural areas, to alleviate economic hardship, rather than to urban areas where already affluent people will benefit. When this issue is addressed, this studio is confident that kidnappings in Nigeria will be drastically reduced or eliminated. The study provides pragmatic solutions to the menace of kidnapping.

The suggested solutions include effective judiciary (swift prosecution of perpetrators of kidnapping), involvement of religious leaders for value reorientation independence of the security agencies, job creation, and community policing. Others are mobilization and awareness campaigns in the fight against kidnapping, involvement of traditional rulers in the fight against kidnapping, use of vigilante (local security outfit), control of rural-urban migration, and motivation of security agencies to promote synergy among security agencies.

References

- Abdulkabir, O. S. (2017). Causes And Incisive Solutions To The Widespread Of Kidnapping In Nigeria Current Administration: Under Scholastic Scrutiny. *Journal Of Political Sciences And Public Affairs*, 5(2), 761–2332.
- Abdulrasheed, A. (2021). Armed Banditry And Human Security In North-Western Nigeria: The Impacts And The Way Forward. Available At SSRN 3881652.
- Abimbola, R., Chukwuwene, J., and Charles, O. (2021). *Research Article Causes And The Remedies For Curbing The Menace Of Kidnapping In Nigeria*. 9(June), 200–206.
- Abraham, U. E. (2010). The Social Problem Of Kidnapping And Its Implication On The Socio-Economic Development: A Case Study Of Uyo Metropolis. *A Masters Degree Thesis, Department Of Sociology And Anthropology, University Of Uyo, Nigeria*.
- Adamu, Z., Chiege, O. B., Ebere, N. N. I., and Umoh, C. O. (N.D.). *Governance And Security Challenges In Nigeria: An Appraisal*.
- Adebayo, A. A. (2014). Implications Of 'Boko Haram'terrorism On National Development In Nigeria: A Critical Review. *Mediterranean Journal Of Social Sciences*, 5(16), 480.
- Adebayo, W. A., and Oniyinde, O. A. (2021). Jurisprudence and the Implications of Morality for Democracy in Nigeria from 2015 to 2020. *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 9(5), 1–21.
- Adesina, O. S. (2013). Unemployment And Security Challenges In Nigeria. *International Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, 3(7), 146–156.
- Alshenqeeti, H. (2014). Interviewing as a data collection method: A critical review. *English Linguistics Research*, 3(1), 39–45.
- Awopeju, A. Y. O. (2021). An Exploration Of Internal Security Challenges And The Consequences On Police Image In Nigeria. *Journal Of The Management Sciences (JOMAS)*, 57, 153.
- Danesy, A. H. (2011). Etiological Factors, Patterns, Effects And Remediation To Youth Restiveness In Nigeria. *European Journal Of Humanities And Social Sciences*, 8(1), 123–135.
- Dodo, A. W. (2010). The Causes And Remedies Of Kidnapping In Nigeria. *The Nigerian Academic Forum*, 19(1),

- 1–4.
- Ebeh, J. I. (2015). National security and national development: A critique. *AFRREV IJAH: An International Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 4(2), 1–14.
- Edeko, S. E. (2011). The legality of the constitution versus the dictates of military power in a state of revolution. *Sacha Journal of Policy and Strategic Studies*, 1(1), 137–158.
- Fadipe, R. A., Uwadia, J. C., and Kayode, O. C. (2021). Causes And The Remedies For Curbing The Menace Of Kidnapping In Nigeria. *Int. J. Of Multidisciplinary And Current Research*, 9.
- Hennink, M., and Kaiser, B. N. (2022). Social Science and Medicine Sample sizes for saturation in qualitative research : A systematic review of empirical tests. *Social Science and Medicine*, 292, 114523. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114523>
- Ibrahim, Y. K., and Ahmad, A. A. (2020). The Causes Of Kidnapping And Its Implications On Nigeria. *Liberal Arts And Social Sciences International Journal (LASSIJ)*, 4(1), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.47264/Idea.Lassij/4.1.1>
- Kyrian, I. (2009). Intelligence Reports And Kidnapping. *Dawn*, May, 17, 9.
- Lang, B., Foster, I., Siebenlist, F., Ananthakrishnan, R., and Freeman, T. (2006). A Multipolicy Authorization Framework For Grid Security. *Fifth IEEE International Symposium On Network Computing And Applications (NCA '06)*, 269–272.
- Matthews, V. O., Atayero, A. A., and Popoola, S. I. (2016). *Development Of A Solar Photovoltaic Vulcanizing Machine Towards Extreme Poverty Eradication In Africa*.
- Adamu, Z., Chiege, O. B., Ebere, N. N. I., and Umoh, C. O. (N.D.). *Governance And Security Challenges In Nigeria: An Appraisal*.
- Adebayo, W. A., and Oniyinde, O. A. (2021). Jurisprudence and the Implications of Morality for Democracy in Nigeria from 2015 to 2020. *Global Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 9(5), 1–21.
- Alshenqeeti, H. (2014). Interviewing as a data collection method: A critical review. *English Linguistics Research*, 3(1), 39–45.
- Awopeju, A. Y. O. (2021). An Exploration Of Internal Security Challenges And The Consequences On Police Image In Nigeria. *Journal Of The Management Sciences (JOMAS)*, 57, 153.
- Dodo, W. A., and Ohwonohwo, T. R. (2008). Child trafficking in Nigeria: Causes and remedies. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Empirical Research*.
- Ebeh, J. I. (2015). National security and national development: A critique. *AFRREV IJAH: An International Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 4(2), 1–14.
- Edeko, S. E. (2011). The legality of the constitution versus the dictates of military power in a state of revolution. *Sacha Journal of Policy and Strategic Studies*, 1(1), 137–158.
- Hennink, M., and Kaiser, B. N. (2022). Social Science and Medicine Sample sizes for saturation in qualitative research : A systematic review of empirical tests. *Social Science and Medicine*, 292, 114523. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114523>
- Ibrahim, B., and Mukhtar, J. I. (2017). An analysis of the causes and consequences of kidnapping in Nigeria. *African Research Review*, 11(4), 134–143.
- Merton, R. K. (1938). Science and the social order. *Philosophy of Science*, 5(3), 321–337.
- Okoli, A. C., and Agada, F. (2014). Kidnapping And National Security In Nigeria. *Research On Humanities And Social Sciences*, 4(6), 137–146.
- Omonijo, D. O., Anyaegbunam, M. C., Obiorah, C. B., Nwagbo, S. N. C., Ayedun, C. A., Adeleke, V. A., Olowookere, E. I., Odukoya, J. A., and Agubo, C. (2019a). Examining The Social Problem Of Kidnapping As A Reaction Against Injustice In Nigeria. *Academic Journal Of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 8(2), 176.
- Omonijo, D. O., Anyaegbunam, M. C., Obiorah, C. B., Nwagbo, S. N. C., Ayedun, C. A., Adeleke, V. A., Olowookere, E. I., Odukoya, J. A., and Agubo, C. (2019b). Examining The Social Problem Of Kidnapping As A Reaction Against Injustice In Nigeria. *Academic Journal Of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 8(2), 176–185. <https://doi.org/10.2478/Ajis-2019-0029>

- Osumah, O., and Aghedo, I. (2011). Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? Nigerian Youths And The Commodification Of Kidnapping. *Review Of African Political Economy*, 38(128), 277–287.
- Owolabi, E. A., Igiebor, G. O., Akpan, N. S., Obarisiagbon, E. I., Omagie, M., Sturmey, P., Breuer, J., Elson, M., Greif, G. L., Bowers, D. T., Moynihan, D. P., Ingraham, P. W., Schultze-Kraft, M., Braithwaite, J., Bento, G., Dias, G., Aldrich, R. J., Herrington, L., Ong, C. S., ... Aminu Musa Audu, B. (2014). 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(1), 531–544. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107415324.004>
- Oyewole, S. (2016). The fate of hostages: Nigeria's conflict theatres in comparative perspective. *African Security Review*, 25(2), 193–207. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2016.1155466>
- Ozoigbo, B. I. (2019). Insecurity in Nigeria: genesis, consequences and panacea. *European Journal of Social Sciences Studies*.
- Ruwan, I. I. F., Garba, M. Y., Ishaya, D. S., and Godiya, A. (2020). An Assessment Of Violent Crimes: Armed Robbery And Murder In Lagos State, Nigeria From 2015-2019. *KIU Journal Of Humanities*, 5(2), 169–176.
- Zubairu, N. (2020). Rising Insecurity in Nigeria: causes and solution. *Journal of Studies in Social Sciences*, 19.