
Research Article**Organized Crime, Kidnapping and Nigerian National Security****Dr.Odoma Samuel**Kogi State University, Anyigba-Nigeria

Introduction

One of the greatest challenges human society have faced over the years is crime and delinquency. Crime has been a threat to peace and hope of social reproduction of the society. Many scholars have averred at sundry times and jurisdictions that crime in society is as old as man on earth. For instance, it has been argued that crime and criminality were noticeable human trait in social relation from the creation of man through the Babylonian, Persian, Grecian, and Egyptian epochs, as histories of efforts to check crime at these epochs were documented in extant literature (Ugwuoke, 2015). Crime is a social vice that affects people from different socio-cultural backgrounds in different ways. This has necessitated different perceptions, definitions and content of crime in society. Although there is no agreement among criminologists, sociologists and other scholars of society about an acceptable definition, nature and content of crime across jurisdictions (Reid, 1997; Ugwuoke, 2015), such discrepancies hardly exist among them about the existence, prevalence and abhorrence of majority of citizens for crime in any human society. The reason for this is not farfetched, crime and delinquent behaviours are destructive and anti-development, since it is only when there is peace that people can go about their legitimate duties without fear, and events can more readily be predicted (Nwolise, 2005). Furthermore, crime engenders fear among the citizens. The danger in fear generated by crime in society is succinctly captured by Conklin (2007:326) thus:

Fear of crime is only associated with weak ties to a community, a sense among residents that they cannot control what is happening in their neighbourhood, a lack of powerful local organizations, the absence of knowledge about effective ways to prevent crime, and a perception of disorder or incivility “signs of crime” in the area.

The fear and phobia of becoming crime victims in America have made many for instance, to change their lifestyles created over the years. Many have for instance refused to go out alone at night, while others avoided recreational centres for fear of crime. The fear of crime has slowly paralyzed several societies and their economies as well (Reid, 1997).

Where people lives in perpetual fear, social life can hardly be predicted, and if life cannot be predicted, investors will be scared to invest in such economy. Without investment, the economy may nosedive with the attendant problems of poverty, unemployment, miseries and violence. In spite of this

popular perception necessitating negative reactions, crime cases seem to be daily on the increase in most societies.

Consequently, the search for a crime-free society is unending across the globe because, the cost of containing crime and maintaining criminal justice annually by nations are equally enormous (Bohm and Haley, 1997).

The evolution of human society from band, through hunting and gathering, chiefdom to industrial societies (Oke, 2002) may not have only refined man’s intellect in his efforts to subdue his physical and social environments, but seem to have serendipitously exposed him to advanced form of crime commission in society. This should be expected because, according to Trowler (1987) and Okunola (2002), human socialization in society has not always been smooth. Consciously or unconsciously, man across generations have always deviated in one way or the other from social norms, to the extent that the aspiration of some members are either to usurp the inalienable rights of other citizens or commit heinous crimes in society, not minding the sanctity of societal values (Appadorai, 2004). Thus, crime cases have continued to be on the increase in society in spite of the refinement and advancement of man and the social system. The advancement in knowledge seem to have as well enhanced the upsurge in crime wave in society such that, both individual and collaborative or organized crimes are ever in ascendance in modern societies. While individual criminals are becoming ever evasive, organized crime have become more complicated, often existing in network and in most cases operates internationally, such that their activities are increasingly becoming difficult for social control agencies to decipher.

In this chapter, we shall attempt to understand the meaning of crime, organized crime, the origin and forms of organized crime, proliferation of organized crime in democratic Nigeria, kidnapping cases in Nigeria, implications for national security and suggest possible ways to mitigate organized crime and other anti-social behaviours in the country.

The Concept of Crime

As noted earlier, defining crime in a single sentence will no doubt be a herculean task because of the different perceptions as well as the dynamism of human society. For instance, a behaviour considered a crime by a people could change over time even in the same society, while what used to be a norm could be criminalized by the same society with time. The society is not static about its position on crime. Looking at

crime from the sources may help a great deal in its definition. There are two basic sources of crime in society. Crime could originate from either cultural or legal (penal codes) spheres. There are therefore cultural as well as legal definitions of crime. However, since no two nations share same legal code or same cultural values, and since what is today considered right could possibly become abnormal tomorrow by a people, it becomes difficult to maintain common view of the concept (Bohm and Harley, 1997). This has been the basis of discrepancies among scholars in the definition of crime.

Although there are discrepancies among scholars on what constitute an acceptable definition of crime, every society acknowledges the presence of crime and generally frowns at its presence in society. For instance, Conklin (2007) cited Gottfredson and Hirschi (1990) viewed crime as “acts of force or fraud in pursuit of self interest”. Earlier scholars like Herman and Schwendiger (1975) were equally cited by Conklin (2007) to have conceived crime as violation of the historically determined rights of individuals in society. Yet, recent definitions of crime seem to toe the path of legality. It sees crime as an act or omission that violates criminal law, committed without defence or excuse and is punishable by the state (Conklin, 2007; Bohm and Haley, 1997; Ugwuoke, 2015). What differentiates these definitions is the source of the definitions of crime. While some were derived from long standing cultural norms and values of a people, others were from coded or well articulated laws of the society.

These discrepancies about definition of crime notwithstanding, crime refers to infraction or deviation from approved standard of behaviour by a people to the extent that, the corporate existence of such a group is threatened. In other words, crimes not checked, has the potential to disrupt social relations in society because their impacts on members are often grievous. Whether the source of such approved standard is cultural or penal code or a mixture of both, there must be a deviation from standards of some sort before crime is said to be committed. It should be noted that no society is at any time free of crime (Conklin, 2007), no not even in the holy lands where people visit on pilgrimage, there are confirmed criminals serving different jail terms or undergoing reformation. For one reason or the other, members of society commit crimes (Giddens, 2009). Crime is therefore part and parcel of a dynamic society. It has been argued that a society where every member conforms to all known norms and values is socially dangerous and anti-development (Okunola, 2002). Corroborating Okunola is Trowler (1987) who cited Emile Durkheim, one of the foremost functionalist scholars asserting that, society can hardly survive without crime and deviance. If crime and deviance are absent in human interactions, the society would no doubt be static. What has made the society dynamic is crime and deviance. This is because a form of deviation is required to achieve social change as well as social cohesion in any society. However, deviations that go beyond societal tolerance, but threaten the corporate existence of society are generally criminalized and so treated.

Characteristics of Crime

Crime has some visible characteristics that make it different from other forms of deviations or wrong-doings. These characteristics are however the product of legal definition of crime. It presuppose that all or most of the under listed characteristics in an ideal situation must be identified with an act or in a behaviour for crime to be committed (Bohm and Haley, 1997; Ugwuoke, 2015). The same characteristics have made every known society to abhor crime. They include:

i. Harm

Harm refers to external consequence or impact of a crime on other individuals, citizens, or the larger society and even against self. The harm caused by crime could be physical, psychological, social, financial and emotional. In other words, due to an action or inaction of an individual, another individual or group could suffer losses in the above spheres. Such impact(s) of an act or omission must be felt in a way for crime to be established. It further implies that, intension alone or possessing the potential to commit crime without acting on such potentials, is not a crime. This is because it is only when the intensions are actualized that the impacts on others are possibly felt.

ii. Proscription

Proscription imply that for any action or inaction of individuals or group to qualify as a crime, such act must *abinitio* be prohibited by the criminal law. If this has not been the case, no matter how grievous the act may be, it can best be considered a wrong but not a crime. Bohm and Haley (1997) contend that an act must not be criminalized after it is committed (*ex post facto*) and vice versa. An *ex post facto* crime refers to any behaviour that was not prohibited by law before it was committed, but being made to assume a position of crime after. It could also refer to the act of increasing the prescribed punishment for a crime after it has been committed or alter the rules of evidence of a case after it has been committed. Therefore, the earlier meaning, status and prescribed punishment must apply to an act or its omission considered a crime.

iii. Actus reus

Actus reus or reckless conduct must be established in an act or omission for crime to be committed. In other words, a case of recklessness or dereliction of action/conduct must be traced to an act which results in harmful consequences on other citizens.

iv. Mens ra

Mens rea like actus reus is a Latin term which mean intent or a guilty state of the mind or the mental conception of crime which logically precedes the real criminal act. Criminal action is generally believed to be calculated or purposeful and not by accident. This state of mind is however not possessed by some categories of persons in society, hence they cannot be held liable for their actions even when such actions look very much like crime. Such persons include the imbeciles, morons, idiots, and children who are in a way deficient in their growth or are yet to be fully grown as accountable members of society.

v. Causation

For an act to qualify a crime there must be a direct link between such act or omission and the harm it cause the victim of the act. This also presupposes that the resultant effect(s) of such act is experienced by the victim without delay. For example, a murder charge against an individual accused of poisoning a victim's food should manifest hours or at best days after the act. Such allegation should ordinary not take endless days to manifest as the cause of misfortune of the victim.

vi. Concorrence

For a behaviour to be considered a crime, the criminal intent and the conduct itself must agree or be seen totally. In other words, someone accused of a crime must aside from having the intention to commit such crime have created the opportunity for the intention to be realized.

vii. Punishment

An act or omission is considered a crime if there is a legal provision for punishment or threat of punishment for it. The basis for legally outlawed behaviour is the punishment it attracts. Without the threat of a clear-cut punishment to an act, the law become unenforceable and ambiguous.

Types of Crime

Crimes are categorized based on their perceived impacts on victims as well as the location of their impacts in the social system. Although the impact of some of the crimes transcends a single location and could affect several individuals/groups, crimes are nonetheless categorized into four major kinds. It should be noted that there is a thin line of demarcation between some of the categories. These are violent, property, business and organized crimes.

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes refer to a wide range of antisocial behaviours which effects on victims or the larger society are grievous, physically and psychologically injurious. Violent crimes are mostly committed using violence, force, aggression, and are committed with the aid of offensive or dangerous weapons such as knives guns and objects of threat. Violent crimes include such acts as robbery, rape, assault, homicide, murder, cultism, theft, terrorism, kidnapping, etc. Violent crimes are not limited to, but mostly committed by youth and young adults. The reason for this is not unconnected with youthful exshuberrance, strength and desire to experiment, which are characteristic of youth. Violent crimes attract or encourage fear in society than any other kinds of crime and thus scare tourists and investors with the attendant dismal economic performance (Reid, 1997; Conkline, 2007; Ugwuoke, 2015).

Business Crimes

Business crimes refer to fraudulent practices embarked upon by criminals to deceive, short change or obtain properties by pretence and making unjust profit from unsuspecting individuals and groups. Central to business crimes is that facts are misrepresented and deception employed to mislead

unsuspecting victims with promises that goods, services or financial benefits that do not exist or never intended to be provided will be delivered on consent (Conklin, 2007). Business crimes can be masterminded by individual as well as organized professionals. Business crimes can equally be violent and non-violent. Where the victim is unsuspecting, business crimes could end without violence. They can however turn violent especially when the victim or potential victim(s) are believed to be suspicious or where there is the likelihood of failure or report and arrest. The violence may be a ploy to escape or evade possible arrest. So many business crimes are sometimes committed by highly placed and respected individuals or organizations who capitalize on their respected status in society to defraud others. In other words, business crimes can double as white collar crimes (Reid, 1997). White collar criminals in most cases do not perceive themselves as criminals, but rather as honest people taking advantage of good business situation. Examples of business crimes include fraud, false declaration of income, tax evasion, money laundering, deception, bribery, etc.

Property Crimes

Property crimes are actions or inactions of persons that results in either the destruction or theft of other people's valued belongings. It includes such crimes as theft, burglary, fraud, larceny, motor vehicle theft, as well as arson and vandalism. Property crimes are majorly targeted at people's properties and not necessarily against their person. However, some property crimes such as robbery and arson can be violent and as such could cause bodily or psychological harm on property owners. The major target of property criminals have always been unlawful economic gain from access to their victim's properties.

Organized Crime.

Although due to a wide range of criminal activities involved in by organized criminals, an acceptable definition of the term has been very difficult. A consideration of some scholarly views will suffice. For instance, the u-s-history.com (2017) defined organized crime as systematically unlawful activity of profit on a city-wide, interstate, and even international scale. Chukwuma and Fakumo, (2014) perceive organized crime as high profile crimes which are often perpetrated through transnational syndication and racketeering. To Giddens (2009), organized crime refers to forms of activity that have many of the characteristics of orthodox business but are illegal. Cases in point include terrorism, piracy, human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping. Furthermore, organized crime can be viewed as an enduring small group of professional criminals hierarchically structured for the purpose of carrying out illicit activities of economic value to the group. Organized criminals often work in network and sometimes operate on international scale, using official or legitimate structures to carry out specific kind of crime. The membership is often carefully selected from a wide range of religious, professional, and highly indoctrinated individuals into a specific but calculated agenda considered generally at variance

with internationally approved conventions. Hence, nations are defrauded most of the times through illegal business activities of organized criminals. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC, 2003) defines organize crime in its Article 2(a) with four characteristics which include:

- . A group of three or more persons that was not randomly formed.
- . A group existing for a period of time.
- . A group acting in concert with the aim of committing at least one crime punishable by at least four years' incarceration.
- . A group existing in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

From the United Nations characterization, it is safe to define organized crime as any crime committed by a group of persons carefully recruited and united, working under cover over time and articulating plans to commit heinous crime(s) of financial and or material benefits to its members but against the popular will/interest of the larger or mainstream society.

Arising from their peculiar criminal drive, their membership is not only restricted, but shrouded in secrecy with astute determination to succeed with the aid of violence, threat and craftiness. Organized criminals have been identified with such high profile crimes as kidnapping, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, cyber crimes, terrorism, hijacking, money laundering, to mention but a few of them. Although organized crime can be identified with any nation and groups, people such as Chinese, Japanese, Colombians, Vietnamese, Jamaicans, Russians, Israelis, Nigerians, Arabians are known internationally to be notorious in divers form of organized crime in recent times (Conklin, 2007). As rightly noted by Ugwuoke (2015) and Aremu and Dzever (2015), these categories of crime are mostly responsible for the notorious image for which Nigeria is known among the league of nations of the world today.

Organized crime transcends local boundaries, cultures, and nations. Its effects are often on national and international governments and politics. The derogatory impacts of organized crime are attested by the United Nation thus:

Organized crime has diversified, gone global and reached macro-economic proportions: illicit goods may be sourced from one continent, trafficked across another, and marketed in the third. Transnational organized crime can permeate government agencies and institutions, fuelling corruption, infiltrating business and politics, and hindering economic and social development. And it is undermining governance and democracy by empowering those who operate outside the law. (UNTOC, 2003).

The above scenario has led to international outcry against organized crime and has further encouraged synergy among nations to control the ugly development and evolve a crimeless global community.

Nigeria and Organized Crime

Organized crime is to a large extent a social experience that is

fairly strange in Nigeria. It has been argued that organized crime is an alien behaviour in Nigeria (Chukwuma and Agada, 2014). The emergence and proliferation of organized crime in Nigeria is an unfortunate development that became widespread in the third democratic experimentation that span between 1999 till date (Odoma, 2016). Furthermore, globalization through its attributes such as information and communication technology (ICT) that have reduced the universe into a global village appear to have speeded-up the impact of organized crime on developing countries and Nigeria in particular. Third-world countries seem to have adopted Rostow's prescriptions to development by copying wholesale, western route to development including organized crime (Kirby, Kidd, Koubel, Barter, Hope, Kirton, Madry, Manning, and Triggs, 1997). The common forms of organized criminal activities in Nigeria include kidnapping, terrorism, politically motivated killings, armed robbery, militancy, official corruption, money laundering, etc. Although organized crimes appear to be the defining characteristics of Nigeria in comity of nations in recent times, they were hardly ever noticed during the military regimes that lasted for more than half of her life as an independent state. Emphasizing on militancy, a dominant form of organized crime in Nigeria in the 21st century, Odoma (2016: 31) succinctly avers that:

It is a known fact that ethnic militia never existed in Nigeria at least, not in the way they are today during military rule that lasted for over two-third of her existence as a sovereign state. Yet, members of these groups have lived as adults several years before the last democratic dispensation that began on 29 May, 1999. What could have kept them inactive waiting until 1999 to develop the kind of consciousness that encouraged the formation of militia groups, when they probably have faced similar, if not worse political experience under various military governments? Reflecting on 'political evils' inherent in military dictatorship, scholars have argued that no matter how poorly constituted, democratic rule is by far better than the best military government (Amuwo, 1992). Amuwo's position seems to present the popular perception of most Nigerian citizens. Yet, militancy against such unpopular regimes was hardly noticed until 1999.

Military dictatorships are traditionally characterized by naked use of force, intimidation and repression of human rights. To achieve this feat, whenever in office, they suspended the constitution and administered the state by decrees. Citizens were forced to comply with decrees through elaborate and brutal application of force. For instance, Appadorai (2004:239) ably posits that:

It was not regarded as the mark of civilized polity that every citizen should be able to think as liked, to speak as liked and to vote as liked. Dictatorships make maximum use of force in government. They employ the secret police on a large scale.....They therefore refuse to tolerate organized minorities and insist on state monopoly of those forces-the press, the radio, the film etc.....

Appadorai’s position was true in Nigeria where the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), the only pro-democracy group that tried to resist the Babangida and Abacha dictatorships were forced to operate underground, while most of their members went on self-exile and operated from outside the shore of the country as long as the military regime lasted.

The foregoing no doubt would have forced Nigerians whose rights were infringed upon by the military dictators before 1999 to maintain ceiled lips probably for safer opportunities to demand for their rights. It is therefore safe to suggest that the absence of militancy during military rule in Nigeria does not mean all was well, it does not mean the groups were docile, it does not mean there was peace. It rather meant a period of enforced peace, period of terror, and of waiting for opportunities to vent such anger. It will also be safe to further suggest that, there cannot be better opportunities for the citizens to vent their displeasure than under democracy that preaches freedom, rights and dignity of man in society. This probably explains the widespread formation of militia groups and other forms of criminal gangs by a people that have internalized military socialization for decades (Onyeonoru, 2002). The failure of most Nigerians to demand the rights cautiously and constitutionally as expected in a democratic

polity may have been responsible in part for the formation ethnic militias and other forms of organized crimes in the democratic Nigeria of 21st century.

Organized crime is one the greatest problems facing national and global economy, politics and security. Nations, organizations, and individuals have been defrauded several times to the tune of billions of dollars. For instance, Matthews (2014) present a frightening scenario thus:

.... Compared that to estimates of pure revenue from other forms of organized crime like drug trade and human trafficking: the Organization of American States estimates that the revenue for cocaine sales in the U.S has reached \$34 billion annually. When you add the market for other illicit drugs and revenue generators like human trafficking and extortion, it becomes clear that organized crime is still making most of its money from its legacy business.....

Although organized crime could be identified with virtually all countries of the world, some groups are globally known to be notorious organized crime gangs extorting enormous human and financial resources from nations. Most of these transborder organized crimes are committed without clues for possible arrest by security operatives.

Table 1: Globally Acclaimed Notorious Organized Crime Gangs

Serial	Organized Crime Gang	Base	Types of Crime Committed	Accruable Income
1.	Solntsevskaya	Russia	Drug and Human trafficking	\$8.5 billion
2.	Yamaguchi Gumi	Japan	Drug trafficking, gambling and extortion	\$6.6 billion
3.	Camorra	Italy	Sexual exploitation, arm and drug trafficking, counterfeiting, gambling, usury and extortion	\$4.9 billion
4.	‘Ndrangheta	Italy	Drug trafficking	\$4.5 billion
5.	Sinaloa Cartel	Mexico	Drug trafficking	\$3 billion

Source: (Matthews, 2014)

Table 1 above provide insight to the enormity of organized crime and further explains why groups and nations have often canvassed support for the control of organized crime across the globe.

Kidnapping in Nigeria

One form of organized crime that has become widespread and has thus dented the hallowed image of Nigeria and Nigerians in recent times is kidnapping. Of all forms of crime, kidnapping seem to have become so widespread and lucrative, yielding speedy and high returns to perpetrators of the crime through payment of ransom by victims or their families (Okoli and Agada, 2014). Yet, police and other security operatives working round the clock have not been able to make substantial arrest of these enemies of our society, and stem the tide (Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008; Chidi, 2014). The word kidnap is a compound word. It is a product of two separate English words: ‘Kid’ (meaning young or child) and ‘nap’ (meaning short sleep). Kidnapping originally imply the act of abducting children of influential parents in their period of short sleep or rest for the purpose of compelling them to act in some ways. The act of kidnapping came to be identified with the illegal seizure of adults against their will for several criminal reasons (Chidi, 2014). Zannoni, Eze and Ezeibe (2012) cited in Okoli

and Agada (2014) defines kidnapping as an organized crime that has its essence in the unlawful intentional deprivation of a person’s freedom of movement in an attempt to exploit the situation to extort money or other advantages.

The first kidnap case linked to Nigeria occurred outside the shore of the country on 4th July, 1984. It was the kidnap of one time Nigerian Transport Minister during the defunct Shagari regime: Alhaji Umaru Dikko in London (Nairaland, 2014). The act was allegedly planned and executed by a joint Nigerian-Israeli kidnap gang believed to be the handiwork of the then military junta of General Muhamadu Buhari who was bent on fighting corrupt politicians he ousted. The story that sounded strange to most Nigerians then, has suddenly become a recurrent decimal in Nigerian crime diary in recent times. Hardly does a day pass by in the Nigeria of 21st century that kidnap cases are not reported. There are reasons to believe that crime statistics alone cannot present accurate picture of kidnap cases in Nigeria (Chidi, 2014; Okoli and Agada, 2014). The reason for this is not farfetched as some kidnap cases are not reported as a way of playing along with kidnapers, so as to

guarantee the release of victims from captivity alive. Succinctly, Chidi (2014: 135) posits that:

But beyond statistics being available, it is a known fact that most kidnap cases are never reported to the police authority for fear of murder of the victims hence most families prefer to pay ransom to losing of its own. For instance in Kano, N80 million ransom was allegedly paid to kidnappers for the release of Kano-based multi-millionaire businessman, without a recourse to the police authorities. An industrialist in Nnewi paid 70 million to regain his freedom from his captors; another multi-millionaire businessman was kidnapped and released after he allegedly paid a ransom without recourse to the police....

After the Umaru Dikko’s attempted kidnap of 1984 in London, rarely was any case of kidnap heard of Nigeria until the Niger Delta restiveness of early year 2000s. Kidnapping became a repeated crime in the Niger Delta region in 2006 when the people of the area, spearheaded by their militant youth began the agitation against inequality and the supposed unfair treatment by Nigerian government and oil explorers. The feelings of deprivation by the angry Niger Delta youth manifested in the abduction of experitriats and senior oil workers, politicians and the clergy, with the aim of extorting

money from them as ransom (Chidi, 2014). The ease with which the act was carried out and the bounty that regularly ensured with little or no resistance from law enforcement agencies led to the expansion of the act to the South-Eastern Nigeria, with Abia State as the ‘defacto headquarters’. The height of the onslaught of kidnappers in South-Eastern Nigeria was the kidnap of Dr.Chris Ngige, the then sitting governor of Anambra State (Awuzie, 2004). If it was easy for the State Chief Executive and the Chief Security Officer (CSO) of a state to be kidnapped, then ordinary citizens need divine intervention to survive. Thus within the spate of three years, the entire Southern-Nigeria was overtaken by the ‘wild fire’ of kidnapping which have further spread to every parts of Nigeria. Following the kidnap of two hundred and seventy-six school girls in Chibok by the terrorist Boko-Haram on 14 April, 2014, kidnapping became a lucrative criminal venture embarked upon by hoodlums from virtually all the states of Nigeria. Nigeria has for this and similar criminal activities been defined as a violent and one of the most unsafe country to do business with in Africa (Odoma, 2011). Aside from uncountable numbers of kidnap cases between year 2000- 2015 (Chidi, 2014), the Table 2 below presents some kidnap cases between 2016 and 2017 in parts of Nigeria.

Table 2: Recently Reported Kidnap Cases in parts of Nigeria

S/No	Name	Month Kidnapped	Place Kidnapped	Ransom Demanded	Released/ Killed
1.	Col. Samaila Inusa	27/3/ 2016	Kaduna	Unknown	Killed
2.	Rev. John Adeyi	24/4/ 2016	Benue	Unknown	Killed
3.	Margaret Emefiele	29/9/2016	Delta	N1.5 Billion	Released
4.	Mr & Mrs Pius Mallam	3/10/2016	Kaduna	Unknown	Released
5.	Amb Bagudu Hirse	20/11/ 2016	Kaduna	Unknown	Released
6.	Isa Achuja (HRM)	1/1/2017	Kogi	N20 Million	Released
7.	2 German Archaeologists	22/2/ 2017	Kaduna	Unknown	Released
8.	Oba Joel Daodu	17/4/2017	Ondo	N15 Million	Released
9.	Senator Arinse	4/12/2017	Kogi	N80 Million	Released

Source: The Punch 21/11/2016; Vanguard 4/10/2016; Daily Trust 1/10/2016; Premium Times 12/1/2016; Premium Times 30/9/2016; Nairaland 21/2/2017; Premium Times 25/2/2017; The Punch 18/4/2017; Ogundele and Hanafiz, 2017; Mohammed, 2017.

Kidnapping and Kidnap Value

It is no longer news that kidnapping is a heinous but lucrative business for criminals in several parts of Nigeria. What probably qualify as news is the best way of identifying and tracking down kidnappers before they strike and locating the hideout from where outrageous demands are made for ransom before the release of victims. On a daily basis, Nigerians and nonnationales, young and old are unlawfully abducted against their will to solitary places where demands for ransoms are made. In most cases, the kidnappers had their ways, on other few occasions the police and policing agencies arrested them, while people continue to lose their lives and hard earned

resources.

The activities of kidnappers in Nigeria has no doubt reinforced the Rational Choice theory of Friedman and Hechter (1988) cited in Ritzer (1996).They rightly posits that social actors (kidnappers) are rational in their decision to kidnap others. In other words, kidnappers are purposive or seen as having well calculated intensions. They don’t kidnap by chance. In pursuing a kidnap venture, kidnappers constantly keep their eyes on the cost of forgoing their next most attractive action. They always ensure they maximize the benefits that accrue to them (Ritzer, 1996). This propels their desire to kidnap even when there is the possibility of arrest.

Scholars have argued that there are different forms of kidnap gangs. Speaking as guest of Channels Television in Nigeria, Oladeinde (2017) categorized kidnappers into three. They include: target, spontaneous, and aggravated kidnapers. Similarly, Okoli and Agada (2014) categorized kidnappers into

six forms. They include: bride, express, tiger, criminal, political and emotional/pathological. The different typologies presented above notwithstanding, kidnapping is embarked upon as an act that is meant to achieve financial or economic objective(s). The fact that there is economic motive behind any kidnap venture presupposes that, not all citizens are target of kidnapers. This is because all may not possess the kind of economic value desired by kidnapers (Okoli and Agada, 2014). Furthermore, an individual may not directly possess

kidnap value, but still stand the risk of being kidnapped if he/she can in any way be linked to someone perceived by kidnapers to possess kidnap value. In this case, a relation of a wealthy person, politician, influential, criminal etc, whether young or old, male or female, may be kidnapped even when they themselves are not the direct target of kidnapers. As soon as such persons are kidnapped, their wealthy relations who would not want them harmed are expected to rally round to provide the requested ransoms. This was the case with the kidnap of Mrs Titi Okonjo in December, 2012 and Mrs Margaret Emefiele in September, 2016 (Mutum, 2016).

Theoretical Base

This chapter is guided by the duo of Edwin H Sutherland's Differential Association and Boundless' Relative Deprivation theories.

Differential Association

Differential Association theory basically portrays crime as a creation of society rather than biological attributes of deviants. The theory is generally identified with its major exponent-Edwin H Sutherland. According to Conklin (2007) the theory is woven around the following basic assumptions, that criminal behaviour is learned in interaction with other persons through communication. The interactions that generate criminal ideas occur within small or sub-cultural groups. Therefore, societies that encourage free association with sub-cultural group possess greater potential to generating criminals. Criminal behaviours thrive easily if the definition favourable to violation is in excess of the definition unfavourable to violation of the law. In other words, the possibility to deviate is high when the probability of success and reward is higher than the probability of being caught and punished. The inability of the nation and her agencies of social control to arrest and punish deviant groups over the years may have encouraged the proliferation of organized crime groups in Nigeria. More so, since it looks almost certain that kidnapers will be successful and handsomely rewarded, it is not surprising that kidnap cases are on the increase.

However, the process of learning criminal behaviour in association with significant others is much the same as learning conformity to norms in society. The same needs and values that enhance conformity are the driving forces to deviation in society. The freedom and rights that democracy confers on citizens to freely associate with sub-cultural groups, particularly within these years of third democratic experimentation may have speeded the proliferation of

organized crimes and kidnapping in particular in many parts of the democratic Nigeria.

Relative Deprivation

Human beings have come to agree on acquisition of some virtues, values and properties around their social and physical environments as indispensable for living. Such are sometimes considered as their entitlement for living or being part of the environment. Relative deprivation is the experience of being deprived of something to which one feels to be entitled. It refers to the discontentment people feel when they compare their positions and achievements with those around them and realize that they have less of that which they believe to be entitled. Relative deprivation is often preceded by the perception of unfair treatment in the distribution of resources by the mainstream society (Boundless, 2015).

Relative deprivation has been implicated as potential cause of social movements and deviant acts in many parts of the world. In some situations, it can lead to political violence such as rioting, terrorism, civil wars, and other forms of criminal activities. Relative deprivation is often identified with groups, particularly in multicultural societies. A relatively deprived group could readily identify another group(s) or a people as the source of their perceived predicament. This makes violent acts against such groups inevitable. In a multi-cultural society like Nigeria, relative deprivation may have been responsible in part for the formation of organized crime groups in parts of the country in recent times. This theory may possibly explain kidnap cases and bombing of public installations such as pipelines in the Niger Delta, where citizens feel not much has accrued to them as the zone that produce crude oil when compared with other parts of the country.

Factors Responsible for widespread Kidnapping cases in Nigeria

It is no longer news that organized crime and other forms of criminality that appears to have become the defining characteristic of the 21st century Nigeria became endemic in the period of our third democratic experiment. This period which began on 29 May, 1999 till date is marked by youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region, formation of ethnic militias in several parts of the country to jostle for perceived dividends of democracy that were not delivered by the government. The worst of such militia groups is the dreaded Boko Haram (Odoma, 2016). These militia groups that serendipitously emerged in our democratic epoch include amongst others, the O'dua People's Congress (OPC), defunct Arewa People's Congress (APC), Egbesu Boys (EB), Bakassi Boys (BB) and several others from parts of the country. These groups further developed a strong consciousness of the Marxian group for itself (Ritzer, 1996), to which members first play allegiance before ever thinking they were Nigerians. They eventually became both the fighting forces as well as mouth piece of their various groups (Odoma, 2016). It is members of these same groups that metamorphosed into kidnap gangs and other organized criminal groups that terrorize the nation today. There is little wonder when they struck, that there were hardly

any clue, since their parent ethnic groups gave them underground support. Several factors could be held responsible for the emergence and spread of cases of kidnapping in many parts of democratic Nigeria. Literature is replete with myriads of reasons such as:

Bad Leadership

Leadership failure arising from bad leadership in Nigeria is no doubt responsible for rising wave in crime and criminality in a country adjudged to be one of the richest in human and material resources in Africa. Rather than harnessing the resources of the nation for the development of its citizens, successive leadership of this country have further impoverished the masses through corrupt enrichment and fraudulent practices at various level of governance (Akinola, 2009; Odoma, 2011). Political leaderships have over the years made repeated electioneering promises of improved services, provision of social amenities and employment to millions of employable unemployed Nigerian youths. For instance, Odoma (2011) cited Tribune of 16 December, 2009, wherein the Federal Government admitted its failure to make good the promise of job creation to 4 million youths years after, without any justification. While most Nigerians perpetually live in hopelessness and disillusionment, political leaders who appear to be enjoying the dividend of monetization and privatization policies of Nigerian democracy are busy displaying affluence in the full glare of impoverished majority. Furthermore, reports of misappropriated funds, looted funds and other forms of corrupt practices dot the pages of our national dailies. Yet, the culprits are more often than not celebrated than punished (Agbonifo, 2010). If criminals in leadership are so celebrated, what then is the justification for encouraging commitment and diligence or punishing citizens who have the opportunity to do same and how do we achieve deterrence? Today, many Nigerians have no confidence in their leaders who cheat them year-in year-out. This no doubt, has given impetus to crimes such as kidnapping and other heinous crimes in the country, as the crimes in a way help the criminals to share in the loot.

Endemic Poverty

Arising from chain of bad leadership that Nigerians are 'blessed' with since their political independence in 1960, resources of the Nigerian state have either not been fully exploited for the development of her citizens or where they are exploited, they are misappropriated and laundered to other countries by successive leaderships (Akinola, 2009). The ultimate aftermath of financial impropriety and recklessness of our leaders is widespread poverty in the land, while a few privileged individuals who looted our commonwealth are daily parading themselves in affluence and are so celebrated by the society (Agbonifo, 2010). Today, majority of Nigerian citizens live below poverty line of one Dollar per day, suffer from decayed infrastructure, lack access to medical services, qualitative and affordable education, safe drinking water and sanitation, etc. Average Nigerians daily live in unpredictable and hopeless conditions. The position of poverty in Nigeria and its dangerous implications are rightly captured by Odoma

(2011:107) thus:

Where the aforementioned situations exist, not only will development be difficult, restiveness, agitation, insecurity and wars are always the norm..... It will be safe to suggest therefore, that civil wars, politically motivated killings, hostage taking, kidnapping and other vices that have of late become the defining characteristics of many African countries [Nigeria] cannot be separated from poverty occasioned by bad/poor political leadership that have become widespread.

From the above submission, one can hardly and justifiably condemn some citizens for engaging in criminality either because of survival or to share in the conspicuous display of affluence often exhibited by their corrupt and criminal minded leaders.

Weak Correctional Agencies

The strength of police and other policing agencies in Nigeria to prevent the occurrence of crime before they are committed and detect or arrest crimes when committed have inhibited the control of crime and by extension encouraged criminal activities in the country. The popular perception of Nigerians is that, the policing agencies have failed the nation in protecting lives and property. According to Ajayi and Aderinto (2008), the perceived failure of the police to control crime has made many well to do Nigerians to prefer and engage private security organizations rather than reporting cases of security threat to formal agencies of social control in the land. The same perception has further dampened to a large extent the expected cordial relationship between civil populace and several agencies of social control in managing security threats in the country (Odoma, 2014).

Lack of Synergy among Agencies of Social Control

Provision of security all over the world is a herculean task. It is costly, multifaceted and complicated. Yet, it is generally considered a necessity because, without it any other thing desired by man becomes secondary. This explains why no nation toys with security and security provision (Bohm and Haley, 1997). The enormity and all time relevance of security require not only the cooperation of all, but also the synergy of the living, ancestors, body, soul and spirit of all citizens in the state for a robust security system (Odoma, 2014). With the emergence of formal agencies of social control as one of the characteristics of industrial societies, the popular expectation is that, even though the terrain of their operation differs, inter-agency or operational jointness is mandatory for adequate provision and enjoyment of security in the country (Omoigui, 2006). Regrettably, this popular expectation has not been realized in Nigeria, as security operatives have at different times been involved in unhealthy operational rivalries. This explains the serious security challenges faced by the nation in recent times. It is argued in Nigeria for instance that:

Such rivalry has been noticed between the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) over security duties in several parts of the nation

as well as between the Nigeria Police Force and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) over the management of vehicle registration and licensing.the Nigeria Police and State Security Service (SSS) have had contentions over the management of criminal cases. It is still the problem of status and command or who is best to handle criminal cases.

Source: Odoma (2014b: 150; Odoma 2015:62).

Arising from the above scenario, rather than complementing each other to checkmate crime, the existence and operation of these security operatives are viewed with mutual suspicion. The overall implication of this development is unending serious security challenges such as terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery and other forms of heinous crimes that have dented the image of the nation today (Ugwuoke, 2015).

Failure to arrest and Punish Offenders

One of the factors that have escalated crime cases in Nigeria today is the inability of government and governmental agencies saddled with the right and power to detect, arrest and prosecute criminals to perform their duties. Because offenders and criminals are not speedily detected, tried and if found guilty punished accordingly, most of the citizens found it difficult to see reasons why they must not deviate from acceptable social norms. To criminologists, punishment serves several functions to keep the society running. It helps to correct, reform, rehabilitate and ensure deterrence of deviants and other members of society (Conklin, 2007).

However, more often than not, criminal members of the society for several reasons evade the punishment of social control agencies in the land. Because they are not punished, they remain largely uncorrected, unreformed, unrehabilitated and never deterred from misdemeanour. Today in Nigeria, many of those who have looted public treasury, killed and destroyed public properties or have committed one atrocity or the other, rather than serve punishment parade themselves as politicians and leaders of our society (Agbonifo, 2010). It is further disheartening that, some of these criminals are given chieftaincy titles that empower them to occupy prominent social status in society, while others are given honorary degrees by our hallowed Ivory Towers. If this is how thieves yesterday are celebrated today, then many would rather aspire to be one than conform. After all, it is the hallowed social values that make people conform to norms. If the same society cares to celebrate people whose lifestyles and sources of wealth are questionable, there would be no reason why people will not venture into such crimes as kidnapping that appears very lucrative in Nigeria today.

Implications for National Security

The implications of protracted heinous crimes such as robbery, murder, terrorism, kidnapping, human and drug trafficking etc for Nigeria popularly believed to be the giant of Africa and the most populous black nations of the world (Kolapo, 2006) is grave. The implications can have security, economic and social dimensions.

Security implication

Security is the foundation of everything ever desired by man. It takes security for the aspiration, worth and dreams of citizens to be actualized. In fact, in the absence of security, every other thing becomes secondary (Bohm and Haley, 1997). Furthermore, it is only when there is adequate security that there can be peace and without peace, people live in fear, not able to go about their legitimate duties. This ensures that life and events becomes grossly unpredictable (Nwolise, 2005). There is no doubt that the spate of kidnapping in Nigeria since the beginning of our third democratic experiment in 1999 is quite alarming. No state in Nigeria is safe. The young, aged, rich and clergy are equally affected as everyone appears obsessed with the fear of kidnapers. Yet, security agencies appear ill-equipped to combat the scourge as even the security operatives and their family members are sometimes victims (Okoli and Agada, 2014; Nairaland, 2017). The fear of kidnapers in Nigeria is further worsened by the fact that, a few success stories in the arrest of culprits by security operatives indicates that security operatives are themselves members of kidnap gangs (Bokemi, 2017; Premium Times, 2017). The ultimate implication of these cases of insecurity in Nigeria is that, an average Nigerian is afraid of his neighbours and agencies of social control. With this state of affairs, there will be no confidence and commitment of citizens to national issues and by extension, dismal economic development.

Economic Implication

This is about the most critical area that the ever increasing cases of kidnapping has negatively affected and still affecting Nigerian citizens. Where insecurity looms as has been the case with many parts of the country in recent times, virtually every economic and commercial activity will be grounded. Foreign and domestic investors only invest in the economy considered safe, friendly and fairly stable, because it require stable and conducive environment for economic activities to thrive. A hostile environment scares prospective investors who find it difficult to predict the future of their investment. For instance, cases of kidnapping and other criminal activities have discouraged investors, businessmen and entrepreneurs in the terrorist threatened states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe (Siegle, 2013). Not only have kidnapping and terrorist activities in the North-eastern Nigeria scared investors, but have equally driven citizens from the zone into the Internally Displaced Person's (IDPs) camps. The influx of citizens into IDP camps has further hampered economic and commercial activities in the area. In the same vein, the kidnap of expatriates and destruction of pipelines and other public installations have made oil companies in the Niger Delta area fold their businesses. The resultant effect of this development is the reduction in income accruable to the nation (Onuoha, 2016).

Social Implication

This is one area that nations identified with serious crimes such as kidnapping, terrorism, human trafficking and their likes have suffered in relation with other countries of the world.

There is wide range of social challenges faced by nations linked with heinous crimes. For instance, one of the first step taken by American president Donald Trump since he assumed office was to severe relations with nations that have terrible organized crime record by placing travel ban on citizens of such nations (Goodman, 2017). With the way kidnapping and other organized crimes are on ascendance in Nigeria, unless serious urgent steps are taken by the government to stem the tide, Nigeria may soon be listed among nations that suffer such ban in the nearest future. At the moment, Nigeria is listed by international community as one of the countries clad notorious for organized crime (Bohm and Haley, 1997; Okoli and Agada, 2014). Furthermore, on business ground, many nations are suspicious of Nigeria even where there are obvious signs of personal integrity. This is just because of our criminal records of late by the Transparency International (Transparency International, 2015). More painful is the fact that, personal integrity of many Nigerians doesn't count, but suffers in the minds of other nationals who are forced to generalize criminogenic tendency on every Nigerian citizens no matter their status.

Some Hindrances to the Control of Kidnapping in Nigeria

Kidnapping has not only become a daunting social problem that has plunged the image of the nation into the lowest ebb in comity of nations, but appear to be resistant to known security prescriptions. This is evident in the inability of law enforcement agencies to detect or make arrest of kidnappers whenever they struck (Odoma, 2015). Nigeria may have to contend with this problem for a very long time, unless the following factors that have encouraged kidnappers to unleash terror on Nigerians are quickly addressed. They include:

Poor civil-police Relations

Due to the nature and scope of security, a single security outfit or a national security system alone without the cooperation and compliment of civil society will certainly not be able to provide a robust security to a people (Abodurin, 2011; Odoma, 2014). However, this all-important cooperation between the civil society and security operatives are more often elusive (Odoma, 2014b). The consistent antipathy is informed by several misgivings between the citizens and police. The failure of the police to protect informants against criminals, provide security to the citizenry, police brutality and involvement of the police and policing agencies in criminal activities, are some of the factors that have hindered the much expected civil-police relations in Nigeria (Oditia, 1993; Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008). If kidnapping and other criminal activities must be checked in Nigeria, efforts must be made to deal with this mutual distrust, so that the police can boost their scope of intelligence sharing with civil society groups.

Involvement of Security Operatives in Kidnapping

As noted earlier, most civilians are economical with vital information needed by the police to check crimes in Nigeria. One of the reasons is the frequent direct involvement or connivance of the same security operatives with criminals in several heinous crimes such as robbery, kidnapping, terrorism,

rape, etc (Chidi, 2014; Odoma, 2014; Bokemi, 2017). The security operatives are employed, trained and remunerated with tax payer's money, only for them to turn and use the same training and weapons to defraud and maim their civilian masters. Aside from causing lack of trust in civilians, the same has made the arrest and prosecution of kidnappers by security operatives almost impossible.

Inter Agency Clashes and Suspicion

Another critical factor that has hindered crime control and may for long jeopardize the dream of evolving crime-free society by government is rancour, acrimony and unhealthy rivalry among security operatives in the land. It has been stressed that virtually all security operatives in Nigeria are engulfed in grudges, dissatisfaction and in-fighting bordering on seniority, vested interests, status struggles, recognition and remuneration. It has been stressed that:

There have been cases of inter-agency rivalries arising from vested interests that have stalled the operation and effectiveness of national security. For instance, there are reported cases of 'cold war' between the Army and Police, State Security Service and the Police, between the Police and Federal Road Safety Corps and between the Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps etc. This unfortunate experience has also hindered the expected intelligence sharing among these security organizations whose collaborations are needed for the achievement of national security. **Source:** (Odoma, 2015: 57)

Rather than capitalizing on their comparative security advantages to work out comprehensive security system for the nation, various security out-fits have been in long period of professional 'cold war' occasioned by vested interests. Their commitments are to personal and organizational glory than to national interest. National security suffer serious setback at the peak of their crises (Omoigui, 2006; Abodurin, 2011; Odoma, 2015). This has given miscreants free days to operate. Except the performance of these security operatives are boosted through commitment, patriotism and operational synergy, criminals will always find ways of escape, while Nigerians continue to languish in endless insecurity.

Expeditious and Decisive Handling of Criminal cases

One factor that has been the cog on the wheels of criminal justice is undue delay in the handling of criminal cases in court as well as not taking decisive actions on obvious cases of serious criminal offence. Criminal justice process appears often to be slow. Too much time and attention is often given to legal technicalities between criminal justice administrators. When eventually such cases are decided, they are sometimes greeted with sentiments and insincerity. There were alleged fraud cases in the past amounting to billions of dollars, where the convict was made to pay some thousands of naira after several years of legal battle. Where serious criminal cases are made to end in such a way, it no doubt increases criminal tendencies instead of deterrence. Furthermore, other serious criminal cases like rape, defilement of minors and kidnapping are yet to receive any decisive legislation of the parliament. The position of law

about such crimes is so weak that it allows many culprits escape punishment. It is however heart-warming to note that Lagos State government has approved death sentence for confirmed crime of kidnapping that results to death of victim(s) and life sentence in cases where death are not recorded (Akoni and Olowoapejo, 2017). In the same vein Kogi and Imo States have also endorsed the demolition of houses/buildings used by kidnapers as custody for kidnap victims (National Helm, 2017). Other states should emulate this stiffer position if kidnapping and other organized crimes must be checked in Nigeria. Furthermore, special courts should be instituted for crimes such as kidnapping, terrorism, robbery, etc. This will allow for speedy administration of justice and regard for the law of the land.

Poor Funding of Social Control Agencies

Funding of formal security operatives in Nigeria has been a daunting challenge that various security agencies have faced over the years. Although expensive, security is the background for the realization of all forms of successes in society (Bohm and Haley, 1997). Therefore, adequate funding is needed by the security operatives for training, procurement and maintenance of the equipment needed for security duties. The popular perception in Nigeria is that, security operatives have been underfunded by successive governments (Onyeonoru, 2002; Omoigui, 2006; Okoli and Agada, 2014). Arising from poor funding, security operatives are often ill-equipped to face criminals who comparatively operate with sophisticated weapons (Ajayi and Aderinto, 2008). Over the years there have been cases of embezzlement of funds meant for the welfare and allowances of these troops by their leaders (Donjour, 2002; Ijediogor and Amzat, 2009). Such cases in addition to poor welfare of troops, poor remuneration and equipment, ends up demoralizing the troops even before they engage the criminals. According to Odoma (2015), security operatives are killed in their numbers today as common criminals in the country. If these security professionals must protect us, their welfare and funding must be uppermost on our priority. It is only when they are adequately catered for, that we as a nation are justified to assess their performance. Until security budgets are objectively prepared and so executed, taming heinous crimes might remain a wishful thinking in Nigeria.

Conclusion

To say that the peace of the entire world is threatened by various forms of organized crime is to state the obvious. The advancement in information and communication technology (ICT) is so epochal and has speeded the compression of time and space to extent that the world is today seen by many as a global village. The expected global advantage in the synergy and interaction of nations in trade and commerce is gradually becoming a mirage as organized crime is to a great extent creating fear in the minds of peoples and nations seeking to evolve a solid global village. Today, nations are getting scared in their interaction with citizens of other nations and have thus begun to revisit their earlier interaction through travel bans and other forms of social restrictions as a result of threat to the

expected unity by organized crimes such as terrorism, kidnapping, robbery, money laundering, human and drug trafficking (Goodman, 2017).

Nigeria as a nation has of late been adjudged one of the topmost notorious nations in organized crime (Conklin, 2007). The upsurge in organized crime in Nigeria particularly between the year 1999 till date, wherein several parts have been under the siege of such crimes as militancy, vandalism, kidnapping, terrorism, etc appear to have been the basis for the high rating of Nigeria as one of the most dangerous and corrupt country do business with (Conklin, 2007; Transparency International, 2015). Factors such as poor civil-police relations, involvement of security forces in kidnapping and other heinous crimes, inter agency clashes and suspicion, and poor funding of social control agencies are discussed as possible reasons why the management of organized crimes might be difficult in Nigeria. If Nigeria must not be listed among nations that should suffer international travel ban in the nearest future as it is the case with some countries today, we must begin to work assiduously on our crime status. Furthermore, our development as a people is to a great extent linked to the interaction and investment of other nations in our economy. This may be far from realization, except our current crime status change for better.

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