

**CURRENT WAVE OF KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA:
A BREACH OF RIGHTS OF THE VICTIMS? ***

Abstract

The incidence of the kidnapping of human beings in recent times has taken an alarming dimension for reasons not well addressed by successive governments in Nigeria. This unlawful act has persisted in Nigeria despite the various legislations prohibiting kidnapping both at the state and federal levels of government and at the international level. The law against kidnapping has been passed since 2013 by the federal government of Nigeria with Lagos state domesticating the law in 2017; the United Nation Convention against Transnational organised crime 2000 and the protocols thereto set the pace for the laws against kidnapping yet these laws seem to yield little or insignificant success. There are several accounts of kidnappings of the citizens of Nigeria in 2018 under review. The primary objective of this paper is to identify why kidnapping of human beings has persisted notwithstanding the Constitution, Terrorism (prevention) Act, 2013 and similar laws in the component states. This paper also identifies what constitutes kidnapping, instances of kidnapping in Nigeria, causes of kidnapping and make recommendations towards stemming the tide. This paper approaches the topic by reference to statute books, Law Text Books, Law Reports, Internet sources and Newspapers. The findings in this paper are that widespread poverty, inadequate security network and corruption promotes kidnapping in Nigeria.

Keywords: kidnapping, corruption, Security agencies, Constitution of Nigeria, Terrorism,

1. Introduction

The kidnapping of human beings has assumed a common feature in Nigeria notwithstanding the presence of various security agencies ranging from the police force, the armed forces, state security services and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. There are other civil unarmed vigilante groups in most states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which maintain some appreciable level of security service. Police are saddled with the responsibility of protection of lives and properties in Nigeria. However, despite the presence of the police force and the point task force coupled with legislation prohibiting kidnapping, these ugly incidents and the recurring event of kidnapping appear to defy security agencies. Many well-meaning Nigerians, welcome both international and local legislation prohibiting kidnapping. It is disheartening that the kidnapping of persons has persisted in Nigeria. Sometimes perpetrators of kidnapping are arrested and prosecuted. However, numerous instances abound where the offence is committed, and nobody was arrested by the law enforcement agents; and in some instances, the perpetrators escape justice through the aid of corrupt security agents in Nigeria. The severity and the alarming trends in the kidnapping activities have attracted the attention and criticisms of different stakeholders such as Judges, Lawyers, Academics and social critics, depending on your point of view. Notwithstanding the persistence of concern and criticisms of different stakeholders, the crime of kidnapping human beings has persisted. Many writers in the past and present have dwelt on this subject matter. When issues of kidnapping are brought before the courts, the courts have never failed in making pronouncements and convicting the Accused persons where the cases are proved beyond reasonable doubts by the prosecution. However, there have been legal and policy responses of late to address the menace of kidnapping. Notwithstanding scholarly efforts and judicial contributions on the subject matter, kidnapping by criminals has persisted in Nigeria. In the light of all these, Academics and other stakeholders have made useful contributions toward stemming the tide, and it is ongoing. There is no doubt that a discussion of this nature will serve the immediate and future needs for the advancement of peace, the security of persons, both citizens and foreigners in Nigeria.

2. Meaning and Types of Kidnapping

The Black's Law Dictionary¹ defines kidnapping, thus: (i) 'at common law, the crime of forcibly abducting a person from his or her own country and sending the person to another.' This offence amounts to false imprisonment aggravated by moving the victim to another country. (ii). The crime of seizing and taking away a person by force or fraud² (iii). according to Fage and Alabi³ defined kidnapping thus: 'forceful or fraudulent abduction of an

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¹ Black's Law Dictionary (9th ed, 2009) 948

²Black's Law Dictionary. n 1

³Fage and Alabi, Nigeria Government and Politics, Basfa Global Concept Ltd Abuja. 2017) 289

individual or a group of the individual for a reason ranging from economic, political and religious to (struggle for) for self-determination.’

There are different types of kidnapping. *Kidnapping for ransom*⁴ is the offence of unlawfully seizing a person and then confining the person, usually in the secret place, while attempting to extort ransom. This grave crime is sometimes made a capital offence. In addition to the abductor, a person who acts as a go-between to collect the ransom is generally considered guilty of the crime. *Child-kidnapping*⁵ is the kidnapping of a minor, often without the element of force or fraud (as when someone walks off with another's baby). This is also termed child stealing, baby-snatching; child napping. *Kidnapping by cesarean*⁶ is the kidnapping of a newborn baby by a person who causes the unlawful and forcible delivery of the baby by cesarean section without the mother's consent. The kidnapper is usually a woman of childbearing age who has lost a baby or is unable to bear one. This is also term newborn kidnapping by cesarean section. *Parental kidnapping*⁷ is the kidnapping of a child in violation of the other parent's custody or visitation right. *Simple kidnapping*⁸ refers to kidnapping not accompanied by aggravating factor. *Political kidnapping*⁹ is a kidnapping activity motivated to advance the interest of another political party of a political opponent. This is achieved by kidnapping an opponent, and thereafter demand for ransom which proceeds will be used to advance or finance the political fortune of an opponent

Those who are not well informed may think and presume that kidnapping and human trafficking are one and the same concept. This is not the case. This misconception stems from the fact that the two concepts of kidnapping and human trafficking involve taking persons away from one destination to another for almost the same or similar reasons. To resolve this, let us revert to the Black's Law Dictionary as our guide. The Black Law Dictionary¹⁰ defines Human Trafficking; thus: ‘Human Trafficking is the illegal recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a person, especially one from another country, with the intent to hold the person captive or exploit the person for labour, services, or body part.’ The Black Law Dictionary also defines kidnapping as ‘the crime of seizing and taking away a person by force or fraud.’¹¹ A cursory look at the definition of human trafficking shows that it entails the recruitment of persons, albeit illegal recruitment. This recruitment may or may not be forcefully carried out. It can still be with the consent of the persons trafficked, wherefore; the victim of the trafficking gave his willful consent as in the case of Nigerians attempting to migrate to Europe via Libya. On the case of kidnap, the victims are never in a position to pay any sum for kidnappers to kidnap them as in the cases human trafficking reported above. The crime of kidnapping usually entails seizing and taking away a person by force or fraud, while human trafficking does not, as we have seen, involve force or any fraud because the victims of trafficking in some instances we analysed above sought after the unscrupulous agents and negotiates fees by his own volition. Summarily speaking, the following ingredients of kidnapping are noted:

- i. It entails taking away of a person by another person or group of persons
- ii. The taking away must necessarily be by force or fraud
- iii. The person that is taken away never gives consent for the crime
- iv. The kidnappers carry out the act or crime without lawful justification or legal backing

3. Legal Framework on Kidnapping in Nigeria

The Legal framework for this research on the incessant incidents of kidnapping in 2018 and 2019 in the corrosive environment of Nigeria includes the followings: Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, United Nation Convention against Transnational Organised Crime 2000 and the Protocol thereto Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment Act) 2013, Lagos State Government Kidnapping Prohibition Law, 2017. The legislation against kidnapping in Nigeria, just like other laws, had its root from the Nigerian Constitution.¹² The Constitution is the basic law or the *grundnorm*. To this end, section 35 specifically states:¹³(1) ‘Every person shall be entitled to his personal liberty and no one shall be deprived of such liberty save in a manner permitted by law’. This being the

⁴Black's Law Dictionary. n 2

⁵ Black's Law Dictionary. n 3

⁶ Black's Law Dictionary. n 4

⁷ Black's Law Dictionary. n 4

⁸ Black's Law Dictionary. n 4

⁹.Catlin Group. kidnap and ransom today (A report by Catlin Group limited London UK. 2012)12

¹⁰ Catlin Group. kidnap and ransom today. n 1. 1635

¹¹Catlin Group. kidnap and ransom today. n 2. 948

¹² *Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended*

¹³ *Constitution*. n 1

case, any attempt by any person to forcibly or without force takes away a human being from his lawful abode or custody and prevents such a person from having his liberty against his wish or the wish of the person having custody of such person has violated the Constitution and has by that action stepped into the offence of kidnapping. The above was the position of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria prior to the passage of the United Nation Convention against Transnational organised crime 2000 and the protocol thereto. This was followed by the Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 in Nigeria. In spite of the constitutional provisions guaranteeing liberty of persons, inhuman or degrading treatment, torture or slavery or servitude and forced labour¹⁴, Sale of newly born babies, kidnapping, killing and harvesting of human organs have persisted in the Nigeria society. The truth is that the constitutional provisions are no longer guaranteeing in practical terms the freedom of movement of the citizens of Nigeria and foreigners who reside or visit Nigeria because criminals who engage in kidnapping get away with their heinous actions unarrested and unnoticed. Nigeria who is member of the United Nations and also a signatory to the United Nation Convention against Transnational organised crime 2004 and the protocol thereto, had to take a further step in domesticating the Convention bypassing the kidnapping in persons (prohibition) Act: Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013. There is no doubt that it is a step in the right direction. Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 provides as follows¹⁵

Any person who knowingly:

- (a) seizes, detains or attempts to seize or detain,
- (b) threatens to kill, injures or continues to detain another person in order to compel a third party to do or abstain from doing an act, or
- (c) gives an explicit condition for the release of the person held hostage,
Commits an offence under this Act and is liable on conviction to life imprisonment

The Lagos state anti-kidnapping law added that if death results by an act of kidnapping, the convict is liable to a death sentence¹⁶ The federal parliament of Nigeria chooses to classify kidnapping under terrorism; hence; the Act did not specifically use the word kidnapping. It classified the offence as terrorism in whatever shades the offence appears. The Lagos state legislature on its part called the offence as kidnapping. The big question is, to what extent have these legislations against the kidnapping of persons stem the tide of the crime of kidnapping in Nigeria? It is our humble submission that kidnapping is not just an offence contrary to the domestic and international legislations, kidnapping amounts to a crime against humanity in general. Several states in Nigeria also have domesticated kidnapping Prohibition Law, notably the Lagos State kidnapping Prohibition 2017 which is one of the legal frameworks upon which this article is hinged.

4. Kidnapping in Nigeria

The genesis of kidnapping in Nigeria could be traced to scramble to get fair or lion share of petroleum and other natural resources endowed by nature in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. The people of the Niger Delta region, especially the youths, felt that they were marginalised in the distribution of the rich oil deposits in their land. The youths felt that they were not benefitting sufficiently from their God-given resources; hence in protest of what they perceived as injustice began to indulge in hostage-taking, hijacking and kidnapping of the prominent workers of the oil companies and in some instances their children were kidnapped to drive home the agitation for resource control or fair distribution of natural resources deposits in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria¹⁷

There is no gainsaying that kidnapping had been going on in Nigeria before now, and could be traced back to 2206, but what is striking is the escalated wave of this crime against humanity in the year 2018 and 2019. The question is- what could have fuelled the unprecedented rise in the kidnapping? Could it be security lapses and failure of security agencies in Nigeria? Could it be that the Nigeria society approves of kidnapping for ransom? Let us now consider the following factors for escalation of kidnapping.

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons

Small and light weapons are the arms used by kidnappers in carrying out their nefarious activities. The category arms have become so numerous in the hands of civilians through the activities of smugglers across the Nigerian borders with her neighbouring West African countries. This smuggling venture is further facilitated by the porous

¹⁴ *Constitution*. n 2 s 34,

¹⁵ Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 s 15 (1)

¹⁶ Lagos kidnapping prohibition law 2017, s 2 (3)

¹⁷Essien, A.M and Ema, E B. 'The socio-religious perspective of kidnapping and democratic sustainability in Akwaibom state Nigeria' (2013), vol. 3, N.4 special issue-February, International journal of humanities and social sciences.

borders security system. The arm builds up in Nigeria illegally acquired proliferated small and light weapons; intending kidnappers find it easy to acquire small sophisticated weapons to execute this crime. The rate at which these sophisticated AK 47 rifles get into the hands of kidnappers is alarming within the years under review.

Unemployment cum poverty

Unemployment is a state of idle hands, not finding a job to do even when the person concerned is willing and able to engage himself in productive activities for survival. Poverty and unemployment are twin brothers that induce persons into criminalities. Lending his voice to this assertion is Thom Otuya BN¹⁸ said that poverty is a grave factor luring people into criminal activities all over the globe. An idle mind is the devil's workshop goes the popular saying. When a man is unemployed, he slides into poverty, whether he desires poverty or not. In a desperate bid to come out of poverty coupled with the survival instincts in man, the unemployed are compelled and lured into the criminality of all sorts, kidnapping inclusive.

Corruption and inept leadership in Nigeria

Corruption is the cankerworm that has eaten deep in the national life of Nigeria; hence nothing seems to work as planned in the Nigeria society. Laws are passed with every sense of good intention, but enforcement has remained the major challenge. A wretched man suddenly becomes very rich, and nobody questions the source of the wealth he is flaunting about. This wealth must have from the heinous crime of kidnapping. Even when there is reasonable ground to suspect the sudden wealthy man is a kidnapper, nobody would report him to security agencies; rather the community he hails from would confer him with chieftaincy titles, thereby encouraging the kidnappers to continue his crime.

Uncontrolled desire for quick wealth among the youths

There is a growing trend of moral bankruptcy in Nigeria because most Nigerians are desperate to become wealthy, especially the youths. Nigeria youths have taken to kidnapping to actualise the quick wealth ambitions almost as a profession nowadays. Inyang and Ubong¹⁹ argued that the moral bankruptcy in Nigeria degenerated further because nobody cares to ask questions on how anybody makes his millions of Nigerian naira and the US dollars.

Kidnapping as a career

Some citizens of Nigeria have taken this violent criminal activity called kidnapping as a career and source of permanent means of livelihood. A good example of this category of professional kidnappers include Chukwudi Dumeme Onwuamadike popularly called Evans whom report had it that the billionaire kidnap kingpin started his kidnap business in 2012 and had continued it as a career till 2018 when the Nigeria police force arrested and he is currently facing criminal charges at a High court in the Lagos state of Nigeria. The list of Evans kidnapping record attests to the fact that he took kidnapping as a career with some persons working with him as co kidnapping Entrepreneurs and syndicate.

5. Consequences of kidnapping

Citizens of Nigeria move about in fear and anxiety, especially during festive periods:

Citizens of Nigeria move nearly in fear and anxiety especially during festive periods in kidnap prone zones like Lagos state, Benin City in Edo state, Ondo state, Abia state, Imo state, Bayelsa state, Rivers state and the federal capital territory Abuja. Due to large vehicular movements from one part of Nigeria to the other during festivities of Easter, Christmas and various Islamic celebrations, kidnappers keep many Nigerians in intense fear of being kidnapped. Some people remain in their homes, especially the affluent citizens, to reduce the chances of being captured in public places.

Torture and death of victims

There is no doubt that kidnapping is a moral bankruptcy, cancer that has eaten deep in the fabrics of the Nigeria national life, inflicting pain, torture and leading to the death of so many victims. Such emotional torture was the case of the one hundred and ten (110) students of Government technical and science college, *Dapchi* in *Yobe* state Nigeria who were abducted by the dreaded *BokoHaram* Islamic insurgents on 19th February 2108. Incidentally, due to torture and maltreatments, five of the students were reported dead.²⁰ After negotiation with the terrorists

¹⁸ Thom Otuya BN, 'Poverty luring people into criminal activities all over the globe' (2010) vol.2 No.8 *International Journal of Social sciences* 107-136

¹⁹ Thom Otuya BN. n1

²⁰ 'Boko Haram released chibok school girls,' *The Punch Newspaper* (Lagos 28 October 2018) 2

and ransom paid, the students were eventually released; but one of them was kept behind, and the insurgent demanded a new payment of one hundred million naira for her release, failure which they threatened to kill the girl named Lear Sharibu²¹.

The wrong image at the international arena for Nigeria

The frequently reported cases of kidnapping in Nigeria create a bad image for Nigeria. Tourists, researchers and investors or even students who may wish to undertake their studies in Nigeria will be scared away for the reason of the growing trend of insecurity, especially crime of kidnapping, which has become prevalent.

6. The federal government of Nigeria action plans toward curbing the escalating trend of kidnapping in Nigeria

The Nigeria Police authorities had established what they operation ‘Puff Adder’

The process is carried out by a combined team of men drawn from the conventional police unit, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), the Force Intelligence Unit, the Special Anti-kidnapping Squads, the Police Mobile Force (PMF), the Counter-Terrorism Unit and the Special Forces. The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu had, on setting up this security intelligence squad, said that the issue of kidnapping would soon be a thing of the past.

Special Joint Operation made up of Army, Air force and the Navy

As a measure to stop kidnapping and other widespread criminalities across Nigeria, the defence headquarters in Abuja the Nigeria capital has constituted a Joint Task Force comprising the military, police and Department of State Service (DSS) and the Nigeria Immigration. The spokesman for the defence headquarters (DHQ) Colonel Onyema Nwachukwu confirmed this position. The Chief of Defence Staff, General Abayomi Olonisakin and the leadership of the police force had met and consequently established a ‘Special Joint Operation’ made up of the Army, Navy and the Air force and paramilitary, all in the determined efforts to rid Nigeria of Kidnappers and Armed robbers and allied criminals.

Community policing initiative

Community policing is an initiative of the incumbent Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mohammed Adamu to bring policing closer to the grass-root level of Nigerian. The idea is to use indigenes of the communities who reside there and who understand the environment and know most of the people so that information regarding any kidnapping or attempted kidnapping will quickly be responded to by the police. The presence of the community policemen would serve as a deterring factor to those who want to carry out the kidnapping. The IGP, therefore, announced the intention of the force to recruit forty thousand (40 000) Community Policing Officers who would serve as police constables. Nigeria has 774 local government areas, so the IGP intends to deploy 50 of the constables to each local government for a start.

7. Assessment of the federal government of Nigeria action plan towards curbing kidnapping especially the operation ‘Puff Adder’ launched by the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu

The operation ‘Puff Adder’ has since swung into action and noticeable results have been achieved. The achievement, according to force Public Relation Officer, Frank Mba, a deputy commissioner of police (DCP), include the recent rescue of twenty-seven (27) kidnapped victims inclusive of 5 Chinese nationals from a forest in Kaduna state.²² It is commendable that the Chinese who were kidnapped on the 15th day of April in Niger state in Nigeria were rescued after about two weeks in Kaduna state in Nigeria, through the concerted effort of the police force search and rescue operation ‘Puff Adder’ launched by the Inspector General of Police. Another twenty-two (22) kidnapped persons were similarly rescued in Zamfara state and parts of Nigeria. In the process of carrying out the rescue operation, some of the kidnappers were killed by the police superior firearms operations.²³

²¹‘Boko Haram released chibok school girls.’ n1

²² ‘The operation ‘Puff Adder’ rescued 5 Chinese nationals from a forest in Kaduna state, *Thisday Newspaper* (10 May 2019) 60

²³ The operation ‘Puff Adder’. n 1

8. The challenges facing the federal government of Nigeria in its effort at ridding the country of kidnapers

The strained relationship between the police and the members of the Nigerian public

The members of the public lack confidence in the Nigeria police force. Police succeed often based on the credible information supplied by the members of the public. In many Nigeria police stations, when a person goes there to complain, the [police turnaround to apprehend the person as a suspect believing that for such a person to have the information, there is the likelihood that he must be a part of the crime or has a close affinity with the suspected criminal. In other instances, the suspects, when arrested, may offer bribes to the policeman who in turn reveals the identity of the informant to the criminals. The criminals on bribing their ways out of the police custody and regaining freedom proceed to kill the innocent informant. This strained relationship between the police and the members of the Nigerian public makes it difficult for the police to get quick information about the activities of kidnapers

Police officers in Nigeria do not yet possess the requisite training to combat kidnapping.

The Nigeria policemen, officers and the Ranks and file are not yet adequately trained in ways, and manners kidnapers operate so that they can be in a better position to combat their activities. An inadequate trained and ill-equipped police force is a disaster to itself and society. Nigerian police personnel are not well trained as those of the United Kingdom and the United States of America; for high power technology training on policing on they cannot easily track down kidnapers when the criminals have left the scene of the crime. Nigeria policing system is weak and this account for why the bandits find it easy to carry out kidnapping and to get away with ransoms without being arrested by the policemen.

Some policemen and military men also engage in kidnapping for ransom.

In a situation where the dog meant to protect the owner now resorts to attacking the owner, such a dog loses its relevance and must be disposed of. Similarly, there records of security agents participating in the same crime of kidnapping they were recruited to combat. Recently a serving soldier in the Nigeria Army, lance corporal YobiLiok, 32, who was arrested by the Nigeria police for allegedly selling live ammunition to a suspected kidnapper. The soldier is serving in one of the military units in *Jaji* Kaduna state in Nigeria. The soldier confessed to having sold one at the cost of ₦400 (\$ 1.03 to the suspect who after that used the ammunition to terrorise the citizens. The Kaduna state police commissioner, Alli Ajiyang confirmed the incident.

Corruption

The leaders often embezzle allocation meant for police development; this account for why so many police barracks do not have police constables who would respond to distress calls. Often a citizen goes to complain; he will be told that there are not enough police officers to go and make an arrest. The citizen goes away in frustration. The policemen in Nigeria are only willing to attend to distress calls when they receive gratifications from the complainant. Otherwise, such a complainant will be told that there are insufficient police officers on duty.

There is gross inadequate police workforce in Nigeria.

Of a truth, Nigeria does not have sufficient police officers to carry out the statutory responsibilities of the Nigeria Police Force. This account for why crimes often go unnoticed. There are no police patrols on most Nigeria highways where these kidnappings take place daily. The Police has often complained of inadequate operational vehicles and other equipment, yet the government pay deaf ears. The kidnapers continue having field day unchecked.

Security personnel in Nigeria are also victims of kidnapping

Regrettably, the police force which the Nigeria government places reliance on in its fight against abduction is also a victim of the kidnapping. What becomes the hope of the citizens when policemen and other officers of security agencies in Nigeria are victims of kidnapping? On Tuesday the 8th day of October 2019, the Police Public Relation Officer of the Rivers state police command Mr Nnamdi Omoni confirmed the abduction of two police officers by kidnapers around 6 am in *Ngo* community in the Andoni Local government Area of Rivers State, Nigeria. This development prompted the Commissioner of Police in Rivers State to issue an order directing all the 35 police unit commands in the state to intensify action to rescue the two abducted policemen.²⁴

²⁴ 'Rivers State to issue an order directing all the 35 police unit commands to rescue two abducted policemen,' Punch newspaper (9th October 2019) 5

9. The purpose and theme of this research

The purpose of conducting this research as can be seen from the discussion is to bring out the importance of disseminating information about kidnapping and by so doing proffer solutions to the menace. There is the need to expose the modus operandi of kidnappers so that citizens do not fall victims frequently as it is the case at the moment in Nigeria. Kidnapping breaches the constitutional rights of the victims such as the right to freedom of movement, the freedom of expression and freedom of association and right to dignity of the human person. Ignorance on the part of the government and the citizens alike pave the way for the constant kidnapping cases recorded in the years under review. As a result of all these problems, it is necessary to conduct research into what caused several kidnappings in the year 2018 to 2019 and then proffer solutions as adequate to curb the challenges. The novelty to this research on kidnapping can be observed in the suggestions put forward at the recommendations sections, which if implemented, will keep the Nigeria society safe. Information and knowledge is power; hence, this paper is meant to fill the gap in the area of information and sensitisation of the populace on new ways and means to curb kidnappings. This paper becomes very relevant as it is designed to call upon the government to take specified steps towards cleansing the country of kidnapping, aside legislations.

10. Conclusion and Recommendations

If the Federal Government of Nigeria should strategically implement the entire recommendations above, the incidents of frequent kidnappings as numerous seen in 2018 and 2019 alone will reduce even if it may not be stopped completely. With the recommendations adduced in this article, the terrifying incidents of kidnappings in the Nigeria corrosive and perilous environment will be reasonably reduced contrary to the situation in Nigeria at the moment. All hands must be on deck. The security agencies are working, but with concerted efforts, more success will be recorded against kidnappers in the country. The following recommendations may be apposite:

Police in Nigeria must eschew corruption. A situation where a policeman reveals the identity of the informant to the criminals is disastrous. The criminals on bribing their ways out of the police custody and regaining freedom proceed to kill the innocent informant. This strained relationship between the police and the members of the Nigerian public makes it difficult for the police to get quick information about the activities of the kidnapper. The Nigeria policeman both the rank and file must eschew corruption to gain the confidence of the citizens to provide the needed information about kidnappings. The Federal government should send the policemen to the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and the United States of America for high power intelligence training on detecting and preventing kidnapping in the country. This article recommends that the Nigeria police, officers and the Ranks and file be sent to the United Kingdom and the United States of America for high power technology training on policing, on ways of locating the way about of kidnappers when the criminals have left the scene of the crime. Nigeria policing system is weak and this account for why the bandits find it easy to carry out kidnapping and to get away with ransoms without being arrested by the policemen. Proper emphasis should be placed on professionalism so that Policemen do not fear and tremble at an encounter with the kidnappers.

Nigeria should create community policing and neighbourhood watch. Neighbourhood watch is a process whereby members of a given community are used by the police to monitor whatever goes on in that community and report to the police as quickly as possible for immediate reprisal action. Police on their part must also set up police posts or units in these communities, so that information emanating from the neighbourhood will be quickly relayed to the police or any other security agencies. We recommend that Nigeria needs an additional five hundred thousand (500 000) police officers to serve as a community policing officers to cover 774 local government in Nigeria adequately. The 40 000-community policing officer proposed by the Inspector General of Police is grossly inadequate. There should be free call centres in the communities to give information without the informants being tracked afterwards by the kidnapping gangs. Members of the public should minimise late-night movements. Kidnapping thrives more at nights, even though kidnapping can be carried out any time of the day. People should let their loved ones know their moves per time so that any act of crime will be identified early enough and the police would be alerted for their rescue, and the kidnappers will also be arrested. Members of the public should refrain from ostentations life. The cultural habits of throwing money at the dancing arena during ceremonies such as wedding, naming and burial should be minimized or stopped. Such public display of affluence often attracts the potential kidnappers to want to kidnap those they perceive as wealthy and after that demand for ransom. The root causes of kidnapping are unemployment, poverty, inadequate infrastructure and uneven development. A gainfully employed youth would not conceive the idea of kidnapping his fellow citizen. People engage in kidnapping as a last resort for survival. There is the need to create enabling environment for people to be self-employed, access soft loans and establish small scale enterprises and further create employment. A regular supply of electricity would boost sole proprietorship, which will lead to an increase in goods and service via employment creation.