

**INSECURITY AND THE ABUSE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE (2019 TO 2021)\***

**Abstract**

*Insecurity is an evil wind that blows no one any good. Insecurity impairs the growth and development and survival of any country in the world. Insecurity is the most promoting factor of human rights violation, and it has reached an alarming level in Nigeria between 2019 and 2021 under review. This paper's primary objectives are to point out how insecurity had affected the human rights of the people and is still violating the citizenry's rights in all works of lives and suggests ways to surmount the alarming insecurity in Nigeria. This paper approaches the corruption pandemic by referencing statute books, textbooks, Internet sources, Newspaper publications and journals. The paper finds that security of lives and properties are not given its priority position by the various level of Government in Nigeria. There is the need to bring information regarding security challenges in Nigeria to the international community's attention so that the Nigerian Government will take proactive action to stem the tide of insecurity. Security of lives and properties can only be achieved when there is an adequate flow of information; by so doing, the people can hold the Government accountable for the security of lives and property. This paper finds, amongst others, that despite the Nigerian constitution, the United Nations and other international laws guaranteeing the protection of lives and properties, the Nigerian Government appears complacent to the security challenges in the country. This paper recommends that the Government becomes truthful and sincere in its approach to security matters in Nigeria and takes proactive measures to fight insecurity in Nigeria's ramifications.*

**Keywords:** security of lives and properties, corruption, state police, bandits, insecurity

**1. Introduction**

The article is divided into several sections ranging from defining keywords/concepts to the legal framework and then, causes of rising insecurity, the adverse effect of insecurity in Nigeria, solution/recommendations. The issue of increasing insecurity is not new in Nigeria, but it now takes an alarming dimension in the period under review. The worrisome trend of insecurity from 2019 to 2021 under review with wanton destruction of lives and properties has become an issue of concern, topical and most threatening to Nigerian unity. It has become a matter of concern for Academics, Legal practitioners, Judges, security analysts and politicians. They have all criticised the rate of insecurity, disunity and acrimony in Nigeria. Several domestic instruments are available to punish criminal convicts, yet little has been achieved in the area of security. There is no doubt that for Nigeria to become great, there is the need to take proactive action to protect lives and properties. It is a known fact that a peaceful and stable country will attract foreign investments, attract donor agencies and tourists. There is no doubt that a discussion of this nature will draw the international community's attention to the weak security status that Nigeria has assumed; by so doing Nigerian Government will wake up from her slumber and do the needful to restore stability. The legal framework upon which this research on insecurity is founded are Constitution Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, United Nation Declaration 1948, and Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013. The fundamental concept of this article is insecurity, and we have to define the concept so that we can bring out the enormity of the danger Nigeria has already fallen into. The term insecurity may be defined<sup>1</sup> as 'apprehension of danger or loss: exposed to danger or loss'. If insecurity is a state of apprehension of danger or a state of been exposed to risk or loss, it means that, Nigeria as a country is presently in a condition where her citizens' lives and properties are exposed to destruction if something is not urgently done to stabilise the polity.

**2. Ways Insecurity manifests itself in Nigeria**

Insecurity in Nigeria manifests itself in Bandit rampant killings, Kidnapping, Activities of Fulani herdsmen, Ritual killings in Nigeria, Military person involvement in criminality, and Extra-judicial killings by security forces in Nigeria. We shall address each of these classes one after the other to bring out their roles in heightening insecurity in Nigeria.

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<sup>1</sup> Edited by Bryan A Garner ( 9<sup>th</sup> Revised edn., United States of America: Thomson Reuters 2004) 394

### **Bandit rampant killings in Nigeria**

Nigeria has acquired the notoriety of banditry and naked display of criminality to the point that the Nigerian Government now negotiates with criminals to appease them because the Government is helpless and confused. Bandits kill and abduct citizens at will. Almost daily, people are ambushed and killed by bandits; even the security forces are also victims of banditry. The number of Nigerian soldiers who had lost their lives to bandits in 2020 is alarming, forcing 236 soldiers to resign from the armed force voluntarily<sup>2</sup>. Painfully as it were, 24 soldiers were ambushed and killed by bandits along Gamboa Maiduguri in Borno state Nigeria while about nine soldiers were yet to be located after the attack, while the report was that nineteen soldiers were injured.<sup>3</sup> If soldiers were killed, wounded and missing, who will defend the unarmed civilians who pay taxes to maintain the armed forces? It is a hopeless situation as it stands now. This frequent killing of soldiers compelled the upper house, known as the Senate to move a motion calling to remove the service chiefs for gross incompetence. Similarly, 20 soldiers were ambushed and killed by bandits in Katsina state in Nigeria, and an unspecified number of soldiers were wounded, including civilians. All these wanton killings amounted to breaches of the right to lives of the victims.

### **Kidnapping:**

Weak security apparatus in Nigeria had led to frequent kidnap of school children, kidnap of traditional rulers and innocent citizens in Nigeria. The Black's Law Dictionary<sup>4</sup> defines kidnapping, thus:

- a. '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.
- b. The crime of seizing and taking away a person by force or fraud<sup>5</sup>
- c. Accordingly, Fage and Alabi<sup>6</sup> defined kidnapping thus: "forceful or fraudulent abduction of an individual or a group of the individual for a reason ranging from economic, political and religious to (struggle for) for self-determination."

Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 provides as follows<sup>7</sup>

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

Kidnapping has been one of the ravaging sources of insecurity and illegal killing of persons in Nigeria. Kidnapping has become an industry that some criminal elements in Nigeria are investing and reaping profit via ransom payments. Even the Government pays ransom to the kidnapers to free the abductees. On Friday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020, 340 students were reported abducted from Government Science Secondary School Kanakara Katsina state and held hostage in a forest in Zamfara state in Nigeria. During the kidnap operation, the gangsters shot one of the policemen mounting a guard at the school in exchange for fire; nevertheless, the gunmen succeeded in abducting the students.<sup>8</sup> These frequent kidnappings portray the weak security apparatus in Nigeria, and this is what the article is meant to expose.

### **Activities of Fulani herdsmen:**

Several challenges of insecurity have been credited to the unchecked activities of Fulani herdsmen in Nigeria. The presence of these herders anywhere in the country now generates panic and apprehension of insecurity. Several criminalities, to wit: kidnappings, rapping, destruction of lives and properties in several parts of Nigeria, has been linked to the heinous activities of Fulani herders who go about in the guise of cattle of grazers but ended perpetrate horrific crimes. Instances of insecurity caused by these marauders are:<sup>9</sup> four persons killed in Agbon-Ojodu, Yewa North Local Government area of Ogun State have been ascribed to Fulani herders. In the ensuing mayhem, several properties were set ablaze, and many persons were maimed

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<sup>2</sup> *Punch Newspaper* (Lagos August 15 2020) 9

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> Edited by Bryan A Garner (9<sup>th</sup> Revised edn., United States of America: Thomson Reuters 2004) 948

<sup>5</sup> *Black's Law Dictionary*. n 10

<sup>6</sup> Fage and Alabi, *Nigeria Government and Politics*, (Basfa Global Concept Ltd 2017) 289

<sup>7</sup> Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 s 15 sub-s 1

<sup>8</sup> *Guardian newspaper* (Lagos December 12 2020) 2

<sup>9</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2021/02/15/again-herdsmen-kill-four-burn-houses-in-ogun/>>accessed 10 June 2021

and many women raped. The Ogun state Commissioner of Police, Edward Ajogun confirmed the incident. The traditional ruler of the area, the Erelu of Iselu, Oba Akintunde Akinyemi, lamented that the frequent killing of his subjects by herders must be stopped. If the Nigerian Government has respect for the security of the lives and properties of its citizens and regard for human rights, these suspected Fulani herdsmen cannot continue to kill fellow citizens with impunity, and their criminality not abated. No serious-minded government can fold its arms and watch its citizens' lives wasted regularly without being proactive to stop the killings. Fulani herdsmen have the constitutional right to life just like other citizens, which they kill with impunity.

### Ritual killings in Nigeria

A ritual killing in Southern Nigeria is an aspect of insecurity that gives concern to every well-meaning Nigerian. The dictionary had defined Ritual killing thus – 'the act of killing an animal or person in order to propitiate a deity; Sacrificing an animal, animate being, beast, creature, fauna, brute - a living organism characterised by voluntary movement; Kill or putting to death, killing - the act of terminating a life.'<sup>10</sup> As heinous as the definition of Ritual killing appears above, the crime of ritual killings have become a common feature in Nigeria and have contributed to heightening insecurity in Nigeria. The media reported that two siblings named Monsuru and Lawal were arrested by the police command in Ogun state Nigeria for ritual killing offences, causing the community to react and set the suspects' houses ablaze. The suspects were alleged to have killed one Mutiat Alani. When the police operatives raided the suspects' home, some skulls and mutilated human bodies were recovered. In another development, the Police Public Relations Officer in Osun state, Yemisi Opalola, narrated how two suspects whose names were given as Monsuru Tajudeen, and Lawal Tajudeen, were arrested in a building at Yemoja Compound, Iwo, Osun state. The duo confessed to the police that they had killed many persons in their criminalities for ritual purposes.<sup>11</sup> Numerous lives have been lost in Nigeria through various violent crimes of killings. In June 2020, five persons were killed by suspected ritual killers in the Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State. The desire to get rich speedily via diabolical means was believed to have prompted the youths into ritual killings.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. How Security forces promote insecurity in Nigeria

The worst thing that could happen to the security situation is for the security personnel to be eating and dining with enemies of the country-the bandits. Worst still if the security forces now involve themselves directly in criminality against their country that recruited and paid them salaries from the payers' money. Men of Security forces also involve themselves in crime in Nigeria. When a dog which is supposed to protect its owner now resorts to attacking the owner, what will be the fate of other inhabitants in the premises? The citizens are in great trouble in such a situation. The security forces (Police<sup>13</sup> and the Armed forces<sup>14</sup>) were created to protect lives and properties but often, the personnel of the forces attack and kill innocent unarmed citizens. The citizens get apprehensive about sighting the security forces, especially the personnel of the Nigeria Army. Through the rascality of the Security forces, the feelings of insecurity among the citizens have heightened. The following instances of security men involvement in criminality will give a clue on insecurity perpetrated by the security forces in Nigeria. Traditional Rulers in Ogun state, Nigeria, had raised the alarm and accused the Army of conniving with herders in carrying out attacks on citizens of the communities. The Army was alleged to be giving protection to Fulani herders while the latter unleash mayhem on the rural communities. The traditional rulers are the Oba Micheal Dosumu, Onigguwa of Iggualand; the Erelu of Iseluland, Oba Akintunde Akinyemi; and Oba Gabriel Olalowo, the Alademeso of Igan Alade. The monarchs, via a petition dated 7th January 2020 sent to the Brigade Commander, 35 Artillery Brigade, Nigerian Army, Alamala, Abeokuta, complained that soldiers were backing herdsmen in unleashing mayhem on the community. The incident occurred around 2 pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020.<sup>15</sup> There were also reports of seven military personnel arrested by the police in Zamfara state for aiding bandits. The military personnel supplied intelligent information, bulletproofs, jungle boots, shin guards,

<sup>10</sup><https://www.thefreedictionary.com/ritual+killing#:~:text=1.,act%20of%20terminating%20a%20life;https://www.google.com/search?q=ritual+killing+meaning&oq=ritaul+killing&aqs=chrome.5.69i57j0i1319.54835j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8> >accessed 10 June 2021

<sup>11</sup> *Punch newspaper* (Lagos December 9 2020 ) 6

<sup>12</sup><https://punchng.com/reign-of-ritual-killers-police-caught-napping-as-ibadan-communitys-hope-stands-on-hunters-opc/> >accessed 10 June 2021

<sup>13</sup>s 215sub-s 3 & sub-4 CFRN 1999

<sup>14</sup> s21 sub-2 CFRN 1999

<sup>15</sup>*Guardian newspaper* (Lagos April 16 2021) 1 & 3; <https://www.thecable.ng/seven-security-operatives-arrested-for-supplying-arms-military-kits-to-bandits-in-zamfara>>accessed 10 June 2021

identity cards, military uniforms and arms and ammunition to bandits, thus making it difficult for the military to conquer the bandits.

#### **4. What the Federal Government of Nigeria has done towards curbing insecurity in Nigeria**

The primary duty of the Government is to protect lives and properties. Protection has to do with the security of lives and properties. This protection is constitutional<sup>16</sup>, and every Government must strive to achieve security with every resource at its disposal. The Government had set up the following security outfits:

##### *The Nigeria Police authorities had established what they operation 'Puff Adder'*

The operation 'Puff Adder' is 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 former 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. The promise of the IGP has not been realised, as kidnapping has continued to date.

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

The Government set up a Special Joint Operation made up of the 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, 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.

Regrettably, as it were, insecurity has heightened all over Nigeria. Suspected Fulani herdsmen have been killing innocent citizens, raping women, kidnapping and destroying farmland and setting houses ablaze. The purported Joint Military Task Force (JTF) inaugurated by the Federal Government and the so-called operation 'Puff Adder' launched by the former Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu have yielded little results. The security forces have become the target of attacks and assassinations by unknown gunmen. The security situation in Nigeria has deteriorated to the extent that it seems the security apparatus is overwhelmed and now a toothless bulldog.

#### **5. Factors weakening the efforts of the Nigeria government in curbing insecurity**

##### *The frequent killing of men of police officers via civil unrest*

The security forces that were constitutionally charged with protecting lives and property are now being attacked and often killed by bandits and terrorists. If the security forces are vulnerable to attacks, their capacity to protect the citizens comes to question. They must first be able to defend themselves to be in the position to fulfill their constitutional mandate. Several members of the security forces have lost their lives to bandits and terrorists. Twenty-eight police officers were killed in Oyo, Abia and Anambra, rivers and Lagos in one week<sup>17</sup>. In addition to the killing of the policemen, it was also reported that about 30 police stations were razed down by the hoodlums who high jacked the END SARS protest in Nigeria, 2020. The former Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mohammed Adamu had to undertake a tour of several police stations in Nigeria to boost the damped morale of the force personnel.<sup>18</sup> In October 2020, there was a protest tagged 'The end SARS protest', a protest by the Nigerian youths nationwide against police brutality on the civil populace. If 28 policemen could be killed in one week by mere youth protest, it reveals the weakness of Nigeria security apparatus. It is correct to say that the Nigeria Police force is incapable of fulfilling its statutory role of protecting lives and property in Nigeria.<sup>19</sup> The Inspector-General of Police (IG) in Nigeria announced with a heavy heart of sorrow that twenty (20) policemen were killed in March 2021 alone. The report was that there has been growing insecurity in Nigeria, and the police force is overwhelmed by the

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<sup>16</sup> s 14 sub- s b CFRN1999

<sup>17</sup> Punch newspaper ( Lagos October 30 2020 ) 1 & 3

<sup>18</sup>[https://web.facebook.com/112055420418350/posts/28-officers-killed-in-lagos-abia-rivers-oyo-anambra-four-states-in-one-week-we-w/202839848006573/?\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://web.facebook.com/112055420418350/posts/28-officers-killed-in-lagos-abia-rivers-oyo-anambra-four-states-in-one-week-we-w/202839848006573/?_rdc=1&_rdr) accessed 22March 2021

<sup>19</sup> P A 2020

volume of criminality in Nigeria. The Police Boss, however, added that the police recorded some successes in arresting 137 murder/culpable homicides suspects, 20 armed robbers, 119 kidnappers, 19 cultists and 11 rape/sexual violence suspects in the first quarter of 2021.<sup>20</sup> If twenty policemen were killed in just one month, it goes to show that the Nigeria security forces are not competent due to inadequate training, low morale and obsolete equipment and corruption among other factors.

*Bandits often kill military personnel.*

It is widely believed that the military possesses the wherewithal to secure a country against external aggression. However, in Nigeria, the military appears weak, only powerful in beat up defenceless civilians at little or no provocation. The army or soldiers who ought to protect the Nigerian state against terrorism are often killed by terrorist groups in Nigeria. If 15 soldiers were killed, 19 wounded in the *Boko Haram* attack on a military base in Bornu state Nigeria<sup>21</sup>, how prepared or capable is the military providing security for lives and properties in Nigeria? How can the military that is not capable of defending itself be able to provide the needed protection in Nigeria? The answer is in the negative. In another onslaught, *Boko Haram* terrorists killed 13 soldiers in northeastern Nigeria in ambush attacks<sup>22</sup>. Also, it was reported that unknown gunmen brutally killed three (3) policemen and three (3) Naval officers in Anambra state Nigeria.<sup>23</sup> The police force and the armed forces keep falling victims to killings by bandits. Gunmen on Thursday reportedly killed four naval men and three police officers in different locations in Anambra State. Bandits killed three police officers in Aniocha Local Government of Anambra state, and their patrol van was set ablaze by the more powerful bandits. The powerful bandit took away the weapons of the fallen police officers. Still in Anambra state, four naval personnel on their duty posts were reportedly attacked and killed at Awkuzu, in the Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra state Nigeria and the guns carted away.<sup>24</sup> We submit that the military is incapable of fulfilling its statutory role of protecting lives and property in Nigeria.<sup>25</sup> Insecurity cannot abate in Nigeria when the security agents are vulnerable to attacks and gruesome murder. A man who is supposed to protect others must be able to defend himself, at least.

*Security men also get involved in criminality*

Security personnel (police and the armed forces) are charged with protecting lives and properties in Nigeria. The police force is charged with the responsibility of preventing and detecting crimes and protecting lives and properties in line with the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights<sup>26</sup>. In Rivers state, two suspected armed robbers were arrested by the Rivers Operatives of the Elekahia Division of the state police command on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021 at about 10 pm. The armed robbers were alleged to have disposed of residents of their valuables using a locally made pistol. Ironically one of the armed robbers was a serving police officer, Sergeant Ibrahim Odege attached to the Operations Department of the Rivers Police Command and one Mr Sampson Inomoghe, 32 years from Nembe in Bayelsa State residing at Rumuokwushi in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers state Nigeria.<sup>27</sup> Mr Nnamdi Omoni, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), the Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), confirmed the incident<sup>28</sup>. In another incident a soldier has been arrested for supplying arms to bandits. The military recently arrested an army officer and his girlfriend, who were engaged in assisting bandits with military uniforms and ammunition. The Governor of Zamfara state, Bello Matawalle, had lamented those criminal elements in the security forces connived with criminals in perpetrating various acts of criminalities in the state<sup>29</sup>. Our argument is this, If the policemen who are constitutionally empowered to combat crimes will turn around to become armed robbers, then society is doomed. The community members are not saved, as exemplified in the activities of Sergeant Ibrahim Odege, who was caught in the armed robbery operation. How can security be maintained when a Nigerian soldier enlisted into the force to defend his father's land will turn around to be supplying arms to bandits? It is appalling and

<sup>20</sup> *The nation newspaper* (Lagos April 5 2021) 1 & 6

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210313-nigeria-jihadists-ambush-military-convoy-19-troops-dead-security-sources-1> accessed 22 March 2021

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.africanews.com/2021/01/11/nigeria-13-soldiers-killed-in-jihadist-attack/> accessed 22 March 2021

<sup>23</sup> <https://punchng.com/gunmen-kill-four-naval-men-three-policemen-in-anambra/> accessed 22 March 2021

<sup>24</sup> *ibid*

<sup>25</sup> A F A Cap A20 2004

<sup>26</sup> s4 of the P A 2020

<sup>27</sup> *Punch newspaper* (Lagos January 18 2020) 1 & 7

<sup>28</sup> *ibid*

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nwest/446971-just-in-nigerian-soldier-arrested-supplying-ammunition-uniforms-to-bandits-zamfara-govt.html> accessed 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

condemnable in every shed of it. The insecurity situation cannot minimise in such environment where security forces themselves are criminals.

## **6. Consequences of Insecurity**

### *Breach of right to life*

Insecurity is a threat to the constitutionally guaranteed right to life<sup>30</sup>. When kidnapping, armed robbery, arson and terrorism thrive freely in a society such as Nigeria, the right to life will have no meaning because people quickly lose their lives. Bandits and kidnappers, and armed robbers kill the citizens with impunity. It was reported that in the first six weeks of 2021, one thousand, five hundred and twenty-five ( 1, 525) persons had been killed extra-judicially in Nigeria, according to the data generated from Nigeria Security Tracker (NST), a project of the Council on Foreign Relations' African programme. These wanton killings came from the activities of the dreaded Boko Haram terrorists, herdsmen crisis, armed robbers, communal clashes, bandits and extrajudicial killings by security forces in Nigeria.<sup>31</sup> Similarly, between April and June 2020, 2,732 people were reported killed in 33 states, and the federal capital Abuja Nigeria, the website Premium Times reported. The media stated that these losses of lives occurred due to the failure of the security agents to respond to distress calls<sup>32</sup>.

### *Denial of right to freedom of movement due to kidnapping and banditry; denial of the right to education; Breach of the dignity of the human person*

Nigerians live in apprehension of fear of kidnapping and banditry. Travellers are attacked and kidnapped, and ransom demanded and paid, and where ransoms were not paid, the victims are held hostage and eventually killed. Three hundred and forty students were abducted from Government Science Secondary School Kanakara Katsina state and held hostage in a forest in Zamfara state in Nigeria. On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Three hundred schoolgirls at Government Girls Secondary School, Jangebe in the Talata-Mafara Local Government Area of Zamfara State, Nigeria were also abducted. Also, 42 students and staff were abducted from Government Science Secondary School Kagara, in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State, Nigeria. It amounted to the denial of the kidnapped students' right to freedom of movement guaranteed under the Nigerian constitution,<sup>33</sup> while in the hostages of their abductors. The abducted students were also subjected to degrading treatment and often sexually abused and impregnated by their abductors. These degrading treatments run contrary to the provision of the constitution.<sup>34</sup> One of the abducted girls from Government Girls Science School, Dapchi, in Yobe state abducted in 2018; Miss Leah Sharibu was reported to have given birth twice by her Bokoharam husband as she is still held captive by the Boko haram insurgents. Abduction of children is contrary to Childs Rights Act.<sup>35</sup> Miss Leah Sharibu's rights to parental care, protection and maintenance coupled with her right to education statutorily provided are all violated<sup>36</sup> by her abductors. Someone in the captive cannot be talking of education when their life is at stake. When a ransom demanded is not paid, the victim is killed, and his right to life guaranteed under the constitution is violated.<sup>37</sup>

### *Threat to food production as farmers avoid farms for fear of attacks*

Insecurity in Nigeria is a threat to food production. The reason is because farmers are attacked and sometimes killed in their farms by suspected Fulani herdsmen. For instance, farmers in Ijaye, Akinyele Local Council of Oyo had complained bitterly over the mass destruction of the farmland and crops by herders. The protesting Farmers carried placards with various inscriptions urging the state Governor Seyi Makinde to intervene over Fulani herdsmen activities leading to the destruction of farm crops. The Governor had, in response to the distress calls by the farmers, elicited the cooperation of the commissioner of Police in Oyo state for the training of Amotekun corps (a security outfit established by the south-west governors to compliment the police force) to enhance the security situation in Oyo State, Nigeria.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Section 33 constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria as amended

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/03/killing-fields-1525-nigerians-killed-in-six-weeks-of-2021/>>accessed 24 March 2021

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/nigeria-over-2-700-killed-in-3-months-of-violence/1920052>>accessed 24 March 2021

<sup>33</sup> s 35 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended

<sup>34</sup> s 34 (n53)

<sup>35</sup> s 22 Child Rights Act 2003

<sup>36</sup> ss 14 and 15 of the Child Rights Act 2003

<sup>37</sup> s14 (n55)

<sup>38</sup> *The Guardian Newspaper* (Lagos March 3 2021) 1& 6

*Discourage Tourism cum foreign investors with attendant consequences, and the country loses massive foreign currency inflow and balance of payment deficit occurs*

Nigeria insecurity has thrown Nigeria in a bad light among the comity of nations, and all efforts must be made to restore the confidence of the international community about the security situation of Nigeria. Nigeria cannot continue with the bad image of loss of human lives as it is currently the situation between 2019 and 2021 under review. Enough has been said and written, but little is being done to ameliorate the insecurity ravaging the people of Nigeria. The economic opportunities inherent in Nigeria are vast and enormous, but the leadership failure and ineptitude have allowed insecurity (kidnapping, banditry, human trafficking, rape, killing and Fulani herders cum farmers clashes) to thrive, leaving the country with an international image of criminality where lives and properties have no meaning. No reasonable investor would take his foreign currencies and transfer technology to a country like Nigeria, where Europeans and Americans are frequently kidnapped for ransom. It was reported that two Chinese were kidnapped at a mining site at community called *Ifewara* in Osun state, Nigeria on 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021 and the kidnappers demanded a ransom of 10 million naira (\$ 26, 246. 72 )<sup>39</sup> Tourist would surely keep away from a country like Nigeria where there is no security of lives and properties put in place. In this seemingly incapacitated position of Nigeria, foreign investment and tourism are hindered, and Nigeria began to experience a balance of payment deficit which had led to rising inflation. The Government must learn how to match their words with actions. Mere words on the podium of electioneering campaigns and newspaper pages cannot achieve a success for Nigeria.<sup>40</sup> The government must be exhibit sincerity of purpose and political will to fight insecurity in all its ramifications in Nigeria.

### **7. 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 maintaining or sustaining a secured and virile Nigeria so that the security of lives and property will be guaranteed as enshrined in the constitution. The police force is saddled with enormous duties for which some of them die in active duties, as exemplified in several instances cited in this article. It is necessary to conduct research into what brings about the rising trend of insecurity and proffer solution to stem the tide. The novelty of this research can be seen in the suggestions put forward in the recommendation section, which, if implemented, will prevent or minimise the current wave of violent crimes. Information and knowledge is power; hence this paper is meant to call upon the Nigerian Government and other stakeholders to be proactive in safeguarding the lives of citizens and foreigners in Nigeria.

### **8. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Insecurity has become a national issue and is frequently reported in dailies and social media with no solution appearing insight. Regrettably, despite anti-kidnapping law, anti-terrorism and anti murder legislation, these felonious acts persisted in Nigeria as if no laws exist. Nigeria appears to be in a state of anarchy where survival of the fittest is the order of the day. Corruption and insecurity are an indication of a failed state which Nigeria fits into such description. This is why we put forward suggestions to abate insecurity. If these suggestions are adhered to, it will stem the tide of wanton destruction of lives and properties carried out by criminal elements of various classifications that have taken over the Nigeria federation. The perpetrators of insecurity in Nigeria must be dealt with decisively using state security apparatus, but the Government must show a committed political will and transparency in fighting insecurity. It is therefore suggested that local hunters and vigilante groups in various communities should be empowered with logistics to compliment the police efforts to apprehend these criminals and stop the criminals from further unleashing mayhem on the people of the area. Traditional rulers should be engaged in a grassroots security networks. The truth is that in Nigeria, criminal elements in most communities are known by the people of the area. Before a criminal goes to a foreign land to commit the crime of kidnapping or armed robbery, he has accomplices in such a community. If traditional rulers are made partners in fighting crimes by the Government, they could provide helpful information on the criminal activities of the local communities. State police and local government police should be created. Nigeria is overdue to have state police. The present arrangement of a centralised police arrangement is a failure. This is because, it is difficult or impossible for a police officer of Borno state extraction to adequately perform his duties in a remote community in Ebonyi state when the Borno police officer does not know the terrain of the communities and does not understand the language of the communities in question. If a state police, the officers should be recruited from the communities where these

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/464276/nigeria-gunmen-kidnap-two-chinese-nationals-in-osun-state-april-5>>accessed 14 April 2021

<sup>40</sup> *The Guardian Newspaper* (Lagos February 21 2021) 6

officers would serve. A man who lives in a given community would be in better position to detect crimes easier than a stranger. Other states in Nigeria should emulate the security network code name "*Amotekum Corp*" of the South West states by setting up their security network to compliment the regular police force. The recent inauguration of South-Eastern Network code name '*Ebube Agu*' in response to the security threats in the South East is also a welcome development. Other regions should follow suit. However, these security outfits should be well trained and equipped on security matters. They must be equipped with the latest advanced arms and ammunitions to match up with the sophistication of the kidnappers and other bandits. They must also avoid human rights violations as a matter of necessity.

The Government should equip the police with technologically advanced apparatus. The Government should create incentives in boosting police morale. It is now an obvious fact that the Nigerian police force does not possess the requisite skills and modern equipment used by police officers in the technologically advanced countries of Europe and America. This inadequate training and low-quality equipment account for why the police officers are often killed on a daily basis by Bandits in Nigeria. Nigerian Government must live up to expectation of its constitutional duties of protecting lives and property by making sufficient budgetary allocation for the police retraining and acquisition of sophisticated equipment to discharge its role efficiently. Criminality in Nigeria is primarily the aftermath of unemployment, hunger, frustration and poverty. The idle youths, in desperation for survival in the face of hopelessness, took to all forms of criminalities to wit: armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killings and political violence and so on. If the Government would respond to the call for diversification of the economy by developing various sectors of the economy, obviously, jobs would be created for youths. When the youths are gainfully employed, they would think less of banditry and other forms of criminalities. The youths will be productively employed and keep away from criminality. The Government should tighten up security at the land borders to stop the proliferation of small and light weapons through illegal importation or smuggling. At the moment, Nigerian borders are porous, and this calls for urgent actions to halt illicit arms dealings. The youths find it easy and cheap too to pick up rifles and short guns, which they use for crimes all over the country. The customs officers and other security agents in Nigeria must eschew corruption and carry out their statutory functions with professional and patriotic commitments. There must be the political will to fight insecurity and not mere policy statements. Ordinary lip services cannot solve insecurity. Commitment and sincerity of purpose are needed at this challenging time of national insecurity. It is political will that will compel the Government to eschew corruption and make consultation and budgetary allocation to combat crime.