

## **Increase Wave of Violent Crime and Insecurity: A Threat to Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** *Within the framework of deprivation theory, the paper critically examines the issue of high rate of violent crime in Nigeria and its implication on socio-economic development. Research has revealed an increase dimension in the pattern and trend of crime and other forms of insecurity in Nigeria on a geometric rate which constitutes serious threat to lives and properties, hinders business activities and discourages local and foreign investors. The rising wave of violent crime if not properly checked could become a threat to socio-economic development of the country. The paper submits that, apart from given critical attention to issue of security in the areas of intelligence gathering and synergy among security agencies; adequate and appropriate training in line with global best practices; logistics; motivation of members of the security agents; and deploying advanced technology in the fight against the emerging crime as well as addressing the issue of unemployment so as to reduce crime rate in the country and by implication enhanced the socio – economic development in Nigeria..*

**Keywords:** *Crime, Violence, Security, Insecurity, Socio-Economic Development,*

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### **I. Introduction**

The main concept behind the formation of a state is security. Life by nature, according to Thomas Hobbes, was brutish, nasty, delicate and cruel. Every man competes for survival. The rule of Life then was survival of the fittest. The state thereby existed to ensure that there is a peaceful co-existence among the people as every individual now has the liberty to acquire property and live freely with a central body (the state) regulating the affairs of man. The state therefore has the responsibility of maintaining law and order in the society and also to protect and defend the national integrity of the state. In recognition of the above, the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria specifically states that “The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government”

However, it appears government has failed to provide a secured and safe environment for lives, properties and the conduct of economic activities. The rate of increase in criminal activities in Nigeria is alarming. Since the country returned to democratic rule, security of life and property has been so threatened, armed robbery, terrorism and other related crimes is on the increase. This has resulted to high number of casualties on Nigerians and non Nigerians as well as unpalatable consequences for the nation’s economic growth and development.

In an attempt to fight the increasing waves of violent crime in Nigeria, the federal government has enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011, strengthened the Ministry of Defense with huge allocation of fund to fight insecurity in the 2013 and 2014 budget. For example, the National Assemble recently approved a loan of One Billion US Dollar (US\$1Bn) to fight terrorism.

All these monies were meant to purchase fighting equipment and organized special training for the security forces. The National Security Adviser (NSA) has organized several training programmes both local and international. Despite these, it appears the level of violent crime in the country is still high, and a confirmation of this is the low ranking of Nigeria in the Global Peace Index and the declaration of Nigeria as a terrorist Nation by US.

This paper therefore seeks to explore the conceptual analysis of crime and insecurity facing our beloved country –Nigeria with emphasis to violent crime using related deprivation theories to explored the proximate causes of violent crimes, its implications on the socio – economic development of the country, the challenges facing the securities agencies and make recommendations that will assist the society in curbing the rising violent crime in Nigeria.

### **Conceptual Analysis**

The concept of Crime can be viewed as an: illegal act (an action prohibited by Law or failure to act as required by law); illegal activity that involves breaking the Law; immoral activity that is considered unacceptable act that is shameful, unwise or regrettable. Crime by the Law of the Federal republic of Nigeria (FRN, 1999) is defined as ‘An act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment under the criminal code, or any Act or Law’ Crime is brought about by the violation of the

Law as established by the government at all levels. Crime is an infraction of both the basic principles of law and order and the norms of civilized behaviour. Crime is an offence against the values system of a society. The cost and effects of crime vary among the various segments of the population and touch almost everyone by some degree and in general as the economic growth and development of countries increase, it would be expected that crime level reduces. This may not necessarily be. The various cost of crime to victims and the society or the economy include; loss of income, property losses, loss in community productivity etc. Some other cost of crime, which are less tangible; include psychological trauma on victims and their family and friends, pain and suffering and a lower quality of life. In all of these and other associated losses, the ultimate cost is loss of life (Douglason, 2009).

Violent is the physical force destructive in nature capable of causing fear in the mind of people. Therefore violent crimes are those criminal activities that employs the use of violence to intimidate or cause terror (fear) in the mind of people with intend to coerce an individual, group of people or the government in order to affect the conduct of the individual, group of people or influence the policy of the government. No society is immune from this knotty social problem but what differs is the frequency and magnitude of the situation and the response mechanisms to address it.

But the most alarming and terrifying is the present escalation of violent crimes and the barbarity, lethality and trauma the perpetrators unleash on the hapless citizenry across the length and breadth of the country. Notable in this regard are the rising incidents of armed robbery, assassination, ransom-driven kidnapping and terrorism which are now ravaging the Nigeria polity like a tsunami and spreading a climate of fears and anxieties about public safety with kidnappings for ransom and terrorism at the centre stage leading to bloodshed and economic set-backs.

The high rate of violent crime has created an atmosphere of fear, anxiety and tension – a state of insecurity. Okechukwu (2012), argued that “violent crimes such as murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and terrorism are the most inhumane crimes that continue to plague Nigeria..... Lately, kidnappings for ransom and terrorism have taken the centre stage leading to bloodshed and economic set-backs..... The causes are not farfetched as studies have associated rising youth unemployment to the increase in violent crimes”

The concept of security is all encompassing. It involves a wide range of life. Security could take different forms (human security and national security). National security implies the appropriation and deployment of state apparatus of coercive force to protect life and property or to deal with situation of crisis, nationally or internationally while human security involves protecting the citizenry from hunger, disease, poverty, unemployment, natural disasters...(Osawe, 2013). Security has to do with freedom from danger, fear, anxiety or uncertainty. It is a condition of being protected from, or not being exposed to, danger. A secure state is therefore one that is reasonably free from, or not being exposed to, external aggression or internal sabotage ( Imobighe, 1983). Security does not only affect the satisfaction of the needs of the inhabitants but also their very survival. Without security, a people cannot develop and direct their human and material resources towards greater production. In the final analysis, Akpan (2013) contends that security is the capacity to turn hostility into cooperation, injustice into justice and challenges into harmonies. Security is also to Imobighe (1990), an absence to those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the state and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people. Experience has shown that it is human security that presents the most effective instrument for national security and not the building of arms and weapons of warfare. Security need was the basis of the social contract between the people and the state, in which people willingly surrendered their rights to an organ (government) who oversees the survival of all (Ewetan and Urchia, 2013). The security of any country embodies a notion of orders or the conditions necessary to maintain the smooth functioning and reproduction of an existing state in the face of internal and external threat. Akintokunbo cited in Osawe, sees security as keeping peace within the borders of a sovereign state or other self-governing territories which is done by upholding the national law and defending against internal security threat. Security can be generally conceptualized from two stand points; one view holds the opinion of Thomas Hobbs, that the essence of formation of the state is security, and as such security is the primary responsibility of the state. This approach to understanding security was well captured in the supreme law of Nigeria, the 1999 constitution of the FRN section 14(2) (b), when it states that ‘the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. The second view in conceptualizing security beliefs that, security is a business of the citizens (non – state actors). The scholars of this view point argued that the government should be more concerned with the security of economic activities of individual than the security of state. Imobighe (1989), in agreeing with this second school of thought posits that security of a nation is the total security of life and properties, the security of the nation’s economy and economic resources area of the country, security of food, raw material resources security or the general health of the people and creation of employment for the teeming population.

In the context of this paper, security is seen as a situation, an atmosphere of being protected or the feelings of being protected from crime, danger or attack, a state of being safe or the feeling of being safe. It is a state of freedom from worries of loss that may occur as a result of crime where peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of the state are guaranteed. Therefore security (both at individual and national level) is something so desire for economic growth and development of any country.

On the other hand, the concept of insecurity connotes such meanings as: a state or condition of being unsafe or the feeling of being unsafe characterized by self doubt, anxiety, fear and vulnerability; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection etc. At national level, insecurity could be seen as the threats to the general peace ranging from low-level civil disorder, large scale violence, or even an armed insurgency. Threats to national security may be directed at either the state's citizens, or the organs and infrastructure of the state itself, and may range from petty crime, serious organized crime, political or industrial unrest, or even domestic terrorism. The above definitions of insecurity emphasizes that the people affected by insecurity are both aware of what would happen to them and are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when it occur.

The term development is understood as a social condition within a nation, in which the authentic needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems. This utilization of natural resources is based on a technology, which respects the cultural features of the population of a given country. The concept of development includes the specification that social groups have access to organizations, basic services such as education, housing, health services, and nutrition, and above all else, that their cultures and traditions are respected within the social framework of a particular country. Akintoye (2000), argued that National development means a change or transformation into a better state in the areas of Political, economic social and cultural life of the people at a particular time or period and on a sustainable basis. Over the years, development has been defined in various ways by different scholars. Rodney (1969), defines development as a many sided process. At individual level, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self discipline responsibility and material wellbeing. Todaro (1975), sees development as a multi-Dimensional process involving the re-organization and re-orientation of the entire society.

Obasanjo and Mabogunje (1991), posits that development is a process concerned with the people's capacity in a defined area over a definite period to manage and induce positive change; that is to predict, plan, understand and monitor change, and induce or eliminate warranted and unwarranted change. In order words, development is all about the people and how they can best utilize their potentials. According to Seers (1969), development takes place only when the centre problems of poverty, unemployment and inequalities in the society have been reduced from the high level. From the above definitions of development, it is clear that development revolves around man, because the fundamental aim of development is to extend the frontiers of human lives or advances the welfare of the people.

Socio-economic development as a product of development can be defined as the process of social and economic transformation in a society. Socio-economic development embraces changes taking place in the social sphere mostly of an economic nature. Thus, socio-economic development is made up of processes caused by exogenous and endogenous factors which determine the course and direction of the development (Ewetan and Urchie, 2013). The emphasis therefore of development is on the content of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as well as on other indicators of quality of life such as infantile mortality rate, shift in social status, employment opportunity, life expectancy rate, housing, water supply nutrition education and improved technology (Osawe, 2004). In the words of Seers, poverty is as a result of low income and low productivity. For a Nation to develop or be wealthy, the people must be developed to be able to buy product at a sustainable basis.

### **Theoretical Framework**

There are several theories as to why people take to violent crime. In this context however, the theory of relative deprivation shall be examined.

### **Relative Deprivation Theory**

This classical theory explains why people engage in violence (riots, rebellion, coups, criminal activities etc.). According to Gurr, this is the tension between your actual state, and what you feel you should be able to achieve. It examines the psychological causes involving frustration and aggression as the primary source of human capacity for violence. Frustration is neither necessary nor sufficiently leads to violence but greed may drive to violence. Frustration is a much stronger motivating force and prolonged frustration may cause greater probability for aggression. Relative deprivation is the discrepancy between what people think they deserve and what they actually think they can get (Gurr, 1970). Deprivation therefore occurs when your value expectations exceed your value capabilities. Values expectations include welfare, security, self-actualization etc while value capabilities are those legitimate means of achieving the expectations – employment for instance. Here "incentives for success are provided by the established values of the culture, and the avenues available for moving toward this goal is largely limited by the class structure. It is the combination of the cultural emphasis

and the social structure which produces intense pressure for deviation. Relative deprivation is generally considered to be the central variable in the explanation of social movements and is used to explain the quest for social change that inspires social movements; social movements emerge from collective feelings of relative deprivation (Morrison, 1971).

It is noteworthy that Gurr does not look to a more absolute or objective indicator of deprivation as the source of violence. People can get used to a bad state of affairs, even one that offers so little access to life-sustaining resources that members of the group are starving or dying of remediable diseases or exposure. However, if there is a significant discrepancy between what they think they deserve and what they think they will get, there is a likelihood of rebellion. Gurr posits this to be the case because there is a feeling that their expectation cannot be met if the current status quo is maintained. The first situation may be a desperate one, but it is the second that will be frustrating. So frustration produces aggression at individual, group and societal levels. This theory could be used to link rising number of unemployed youths and violent crimes in Nigeria. The 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, sect. 16(1)(a) states that: "the state shall control the National economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity" This constitutional responsibility of the state has far been abandoned by the government. In Nigeria, many of the qualified youth have been deprived of their employment opportunity. A country that produce thousands of university graduates every year without commensurate employment opportunities may be creating a fertile ground for a feeling of frustration among these unemployed graduates. Naturally, there is a feeling of joy and great expectations when a student graduates from a university- these expectations gradually fades away and is replaced by feeling of frustration after some years of joblessness caused by little opportunities the society offers the young graduates. This condition have placed most of our youths idle, creating more frustration in the life wire of the society. As frustration prolongs and the feeling of deprivation of what that is expected increases, there is a greater probability that the individual or people can resort to illegitimate activities in order to actualize their expectations in the society. The rise in violent crimes (robbery, kidnapping, thuggery, terrorism) committed by youths is a sign of „gap“ in the society. The society already has expectations for individuals and established means of achieving them. When the means are limited as the youth unemployment is 46.5% in 2011, people are forced to achieve the goals through illegal means to fulfill societal expectations. Kidnappings are on the increase across Nigeria and the unemployed youths view the business lucrative. The rising trend of crime in Nigeria is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment. (Kilishi, Mobolaji' Usman, Yakubu and Yaru, 2011).

The high rate of youth unemployment in Nigeria has made available, large people for recruitment by high profile criminals for violent crimes. This leads to a culture that at least accept if not approve, violent action as a means to an end. Growing joblessness and economic hardship will give rise to discontent and protest. Without countervailing international pressure, governments will be tempted to respond to protests with violence and repression (Kenneth, 2009). Deprivation, according to Kenneth can also lead to enhanced competition for limited resources that can spark armed conflict and its often-attendant atrocities and displacement.

### **Etiology of high rate of violent crime in Nigeria**

Recently Nigeria has witnessed amongst others the following forms of crime; armed robbery and other related types of stealing, financial crimes, transnational organized crimes (TOCs), kidnapping, vandalization of government infrastructures, terrorism and insurgency involving the use of heavy weapon and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Crime, especially violent ones in Nigeria can be traceable to the period from 1967 to 1970 after the civil war in Nigeria when arms and ammunitions became widely available in the country. These weapons used during the Nigerian civil war got into the hands of some civilians and ex-military men – most of whom lost their job during the civil war, and they started using the arms for criminal activities such as armed robbery and fighting communal crises. The pattern and trend of crime assumed dangerous dimensions during the prolonged years of military rule when small and light weapon (SALW) begins to infiltrate into the hands of many Nigerians for self defense. Some weapons got into the hands of unemployed youths who used them for criminal activities.

The rising crime rate or the increase in criminal acts prevalent in our society today is a symptom of a much more serious, deeply rooted problem of which studies have associated it to the rising youth unemployment resulting from bad governance. The government has been too corrupt; the citizens have become desperately and hopelessly poor day by day. Available records indicate that Nigeria ranks sixth in the world oil producing country, yet greater population lives below the poverty line of 1USD per day (Eregha, 2007). Ahokegh (2013), identified that poverty arising from injustices, lack of fairness in the polity and imbalance in resource allocation is responsible for the insurrection in Nigeria. The two major threatening organized violent criminal groups that have caused a serious insecurity atmosphere in Nigeria in last one decade are the Niger/Delta Militant and the Boko Haram.

**Niger- Delta Militancy:** For years now, Nigeria has been affected by the heat of the Niger-Delta militant, causing havoc in the south-south region of the country where much part of Nigeria's crude oil has been lost due to oil pipeline vandalization, lost of lives and kidnapping of expatriate by the N/D militant, the killing of the 12 police man in Bayelsa on April 2013 which the N/D Militants claimed responsibility. For about fifty - four years since Nigeria declared independence from British colonial rule, oil has been produced in Nigeria. Throughout this period, corporate politics has intersected with successive dictatorships. Under these dictatorships the Nigerian government has signed laws that appropriated oil resources and placed these under the control of multinational oil companies, such as Chevron Corporation and most notoriously, Royal Dutch Shell.

From the point of view of Militants, and its supporters, the people of the Niger Delta have suffered an unprecedented degradation of their environment due to unchecked pollution produced by the oil industry. As a result of this continuous process of dispossessing the people from their lands in favor of foreign oil interests, within a single generation, many now have no ability to fish or farm. People living in the Niger Delta have found themselves in a situation where their government and the international oil companies own all the oil under their feet, the revenues of which are rarely seen by the people who are suffering from the consequences of it. Their farmlands are no longer viable for agricultural activities, and majority of the youth are left unemployed. Kenneth Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch on 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008 made this comment of the situation,

"The oil companies can't pretend they don't know what's happening all around them. The Nigerian government obviously has the primary responsibility to stop human rights abuse. But the oil companies are directly benefiting from these crude attempts to suppress dissent, and that means they have a duty to try and stop it"

Eghare W.O. Ojhogar, chief of the Ugborodo community, said: "It is like paradise and hell. They have everything. We have nothing... If we protest, they send soldiers"

Over the last twenty years, various political movements and activists have emerged in opposition to the perceived injustices perpetrated upon the people of the Niger Delta by the government and the oil companies. These were usually nonviolent; Ken Saro-Wiwa was one of the most famous activists. Saro-Wiwa was an Ogoni poet-turned-activist who was executed by the Nigerian government in 1995 on what many believe to be deliberately false charges with the aim of silencing his vocal opposition to the oil interests in Nigeria. In Saro-Wiwa's footsteps came others who, having seen the government's reaction to nonviolent activism, advocated violence as resistance to what they regarded as the enslavement of their people with unemployment and poverty. Militants in the Niger/Delta enjoy widespread support among the region most of whom live in poverty despite the enormous wealth generated in the oil-rich region. In the wake of the above feelings among the people of the Niger/Delta, different groups of Militancy begin to come up using militant force to attack oil installations within the Niger/Delta region. Such groups amongst others include; Federation of Niger Delta Ijaw Communities (FNDIC), Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF), and Greenlanders led to the emergence of a new group called MEND. The Niger-Delta crisis in Nigeria presents a classic case of this violent struggle that has been on since the end of the Nigerian civil war in 1970. These violent agitations have claimed many lives of Nigerians and foreigners, military and para-military personnel, and properties worth billions of naira. It has also resulted in economic misfortune in Nigeria through loss of oil revenue as a result of shortfall in crude oil exports by the oil companies occasioned by disruption of oil exploration activities by the Niger-Delta militants (Wikipedia, retrieved 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014).

Although by no means limited to oil in the Niger Delta, the most prevalent campaign about the link between resources and conflict in Nigeria focuses on oil and the Delta region. No doubt oil has given rise to vertical and horizontal conflicts between National, State and society or between dominant and subordinate geopolitical zones, classes and groups across Nigeria, given the pivotal role that oil plays in the political economy, and power relations in Nigeria.

The Niger/Delta Militants' attacks involve substantially sophisticated tactics *visa – viz*;

- Swarm-based maneuvers: The Niger/Delta Militants uses speed boats in the Niger Delta's swamps to quickly attack targets in succession. Multiple, highly maneuverable units have kept the government and Shell's defensive systems off-balance defending their sprawling networks.
- Radically improved firepower and combat training: allowing guerrillas to overpower a combination of Shell's Western-trained private military guards and elite Nigerian units in several engagements. (One of Shell's private military operators was captured as a hostage.)
- Effective use of system disruption: targets have been systematically and accurately selected to completely shut down production and delay and/or halt repairs, and the guerrillas are making effective use of Shell's hostages to coerce both the government and the multinational.

The militants have repeatedly bombed pipelines, oil tank farms and vessels triggering an international increase in the cost of oil. They have also kidnapped many oil workers, majority of whom are foreign expatriate.

The table below shows some of the numerous activities of the Niger/Delta between 2006 and 2013.

**The profile Niger/Delta activities**

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2006	Nigerian/Royal Dutch Shell convoy was attacked in the Port Harcourt region resulting in some people being wounded.	Port Harcourt Rivers state
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007	MEND attacked Chevron's Oloibiri floating production, storage, and offloading vessel off the coast of the southern Bayelsa state. After one hour of fighting with security boats, resulting in the death of 10 people, MEND seized six expatriate workers, published photos of the captives seated on white plastic chairs in a wooden shelter around the remains of a campfire.	Oloibiri I Bayelsa state
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007	MEND seized eight foreign hostages from another offshore vessel. The hostages were released less than 24 hours later, stating they had intended to destroy the vessel and did not want more hostages,	Nimbe area of Bayelsa state
May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2007	Three major oil pipelines (one in Brass and two in the Akasa area) were attacked, shutting down oil production and cutting power to a facility run by Italian oil company Agip, part of the ENI energy group. An e-mail statement from a MEND spokesperson said, "Fighters of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) attacked and destroyed three major pipelines in Bayelsa state... We will continue indefinitely with attacks on all pipelines, platforms and support vessels."	Bayelsa state
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2008	Militants attacked Shell-operated pipelines in Nigeria, forcing the company to halt 170,000 barrels per day (27,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d) of exports of Bonny Light crude.	Bonny in Rivers State
June 20, 2008	Militants in Niger/Delta attacked the Shell-operated Bonga oil platform, shutting down 10% of Nigeria's oil production in one fell swoop. The oil platform, Shell's flagship project in the area capable of extracting a massive 200,000 barrels (32,000 m <sup>3</sup> ) of oil a day, was widely assumed to be outside the reach of the militants due to its location 120 km off-shore	
September 14 <sup>th</sup> 2008	MEND inaugurated the Operation Hurricane Barbarossa with an ongoing string of militant attacks to bring down the oil industry in Rivers State. In September 2008, MEND released a statement proclaiming that their militants had launched an "oil war" throughout the Niger Delta against both pipelines and oil production facilities, and the Nigerian soldiers that protect them. The Nigerian government confirmed that their troops were attacked in numerous locations, but said that all assaults were repelled with the infliction of heavy casualties on the militants. On September 27, a week after declaring an oil war and destroying several significant oil production and transportation hubs in the Delta, the group declared a ceasefire until "further notice" upon the intervention of Ijaw and other elders in the region.	Rivers State.
June 18 <sup>th</sup> 2009	MEND claimed they had blown up a Shell pipeline, as a warning to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev who was arriving to Nigeria the next day and to any potential foreign investors	
July 6 <sup>th</sup> 2009	MEND claimed responsibility for an attack on the Okan oil manifold. The pipeline was blown up at 8:45 p.m. (3:45 p.m. ET) Sunday. The militants claim that the manifold carried some 80 percent of Chevron Nigeria Limited's off-shore crude oil to a loading platform.	
Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> 2010	MEND attack on an Exxon Mobil oil platform, kidnapping seven Nigerian workers	
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup> 2010	The rebels say they have sabotaged an oil pipeline feeding the refinery in Warri in the Niger Delta	Warri in Delta State.
Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> 2011	MEND gunmen hijacked the ExxonMobil tanker AHST Wilbert Tide near Opobo. The gunmen kidnapped the captain before stealing large amounts of oil. The captain was released soon after.	Rivers state
February 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> 2012	MEND gunmen attempted to hijack an oil carrier but are repelled by gunfire from the vessel. Two days later they carried out sabotage an oil pipeline belonging to Agip in Bayelsa State.	Bayelsa State
July 27 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Niger/Delta gunmen attacked an oil carrier operated by Agip off the coast of Bayelsa State leaving 1 sailor dead.	Bayelsa State
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> 2012	5 Indian sailors aboard the SP Brussels were kidnapped by militants. The entire ship was looted and set ablaze about 40 miles from shore. All 5 men were later released on January 27, 2013 for ransom.	
Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup> 2012	MEND gunmen attacked an oil barge operated by Agip in Rivers State. No oil workers were killed or kidnapped.	Rivers State
Feb. 4 <sup>th</sup> 2013	MEND militants hijacked a Filipino operated oil vessel near Bonny Island. 1 sailor was killed and another was kidnapped	Rivers state
Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup> 2013	MEND militants were responsible for attacking and destroying an oil barge operated by an Indian company. During the ensuing battle 4 Indian oil workers were killed.	

Source: Extract from Wikipedia, 26/06/2014.

**Boko Haram** Today, especially in the northern part of the country, the most notorious terrorist group, a religion base Islamic fundamentalist group, popularly known as Boko-Haram is the harbinger of terrorism in Nigeria.

Adherents of the boko-haram attacks government institutions, such as the police, the military, government's building through armed attack, suicide bombing and the use of improvise explosive devices (IEDs). This terrorist group has an ideology that is averse to western education and anything it represents. They also seek an enthronement of Islamic (Sharia) government in the whole of Northern Nigeria. Boko Haram killed more than 5,000 civilians between July 2009 and June 2014, including at least 2,000 in the first half of 2014, in attacks occurring mainly in northeast, north central and central states<sup>4</sup>

The Boko Haram group started as Sahaba group in 1995. The group viewed the western influence on Islamic society as the basis of the religion's weakness. Hence their declaration that western education and indeed all western institution is infidel and as such must be avoided by Muslims.

At first, both cleric and the larger community ignore the gospel as they dismissed the preacher as un knowledgeable, other see them as share age propagandist who will not get the attention of the modern Muslims but events proved all wrong as the sect began to grow from strength to strength. The sect led by Yusuf, took advantage of the poor quality of our educational system, the incessant strike, cult activities, the irresponsible leadership at all levels of government, poverty, corruption and insecurity widespread malpractices that is made worse with no offer of job after graduation (high rate of unemployment) to lure many youths to abandoned schools and embrace Yusuf's new and emerging state that promises to offer them a better education quality of life.. And as he point out such failures, citing verses of Quran and the saying of the prophet, the youth see him as the leader that will indeed deliver them from malevolence to the promises lend. Here many youths who are deprived or have the feelings of being deprived seek for solace in the sect group. Yusuf preaching about their claim was however not given a listening ear but rather, the government repels the group with the power of the state.

Mohammed Yusuf was killed in a controversial circumstance in 2009. Thereafter, Sheinkar Abubarkar emerges as the new sect Boko Haram leader. From 2002 to 2014, this deadly sect has caused lots of damages to the Nigeria citizens and the Economy at large. Notable attacks carried out by this sect with concomitant loss of lives and property includes:

- The Mogadishu barrack bombing in Abuja in December 2010
- Police force headquarter bombing in Abuja in June 2013
- The bombing of United Nations office in Abuja in August 2011
- The bombing of Thursday newspaper officer in Kaduna April 2012
- Kano bomb blast in Jan, 2012 claiming the life of a channel TV reporter Eneche Akogwu who was on official assignment.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> December 2011 bombing of a church in Mandala, Niger state;
- And many numerous attacks of communities in the northern part of the country killing innocent citizens and this have occupied our media almost on daily basis.

This sect seeks to erode the credibility and legitimacy of the government by making it appeared in capable of protecting lives and property of the citizen

Terrorism in Nigeria has been linked to religious, socio-political, economic and cultural factors. Even though terrorism originated from Islamic fanaticism, it is now driven by factors such as inequalities within the country and lack among Nigerians, in terms of livelihood (economic) resources, education or access to education and good values. The current challenge of terrorism to physical security is threatening the Nigeria society on all fronts.

In determining the causes of violent crime in Nigeria, some foreign observers have linked terrorism in Nigeria to a number of factors which include, political conflicts, unbalanced Journal of development that involves horizontal inequalities, religious/ethnic distrust, poor governance linked to leadership failure, and high level corruption (Kufour, 2012; Oluwarotimi, 2012). Therefore the causes of the increasing level of violent crimes in Nigeria can arguably said to has been linked to failure of Nigeria leadership to deliver good governance, and secure the welfare of the citizenry on the principles of freedom, equality, and justice.

Another area to note in considering the causes of violent crime in Nigeria is the corrupt nature of our leaders. The ruling elites in Nigeria in both the military and democratic dispensation are dependent, parasitic, and very corrupt in nature, and mal-administration (Ali, 2013).

Lastly, the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria has left most of the Nigeria youth idle, frustrated, deprived of their expectation and available for any criminal opportunity.

### **The Implication of Violent crimes on Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria**

According to Emetan and Urchie, after fifty three years of nationhood Nigeria still ranks among the poorest countries in the world, also ranks low in all socio economic indicators such as life expectancy, death rate, access to water, poverty rate, mortality rate, and crime rate, and still carries the tag of a developing economy. Nigeria is a country blessed with abundant human and natural resources and yet is classified among the poorest countries in the world. These developmental challenges include endemic rural and urban poverty,

high rate of unemployment, debilitating youth unemployment, low industrial output, unstable and deteriorating exchange rate, high inflation rate, inadequate physical and social infrastructure, very large domestic debt, and rising stock of external debt (Ewetan, 2013). This scenario has been attributed to amongst other factors, to the high rate of violent crime in Nigeria. The inability of government to provide a secure and safe environment for lives and properties has led to the disruption of the conduct of businesses and economic activities, retarding the economic growth and development of Nigeria.

There is no investor whether local or foreign that will be motivated to invest in an unsafe and insecure environment. In a globalized world investors are not only looking for high returns on their investments but also safe haven for their investments. Thus the alarming rate of violent crimes in Nigeria has made the economy unattractive to foreign investors, and this has impacted negatively on economic growth and development. Crime is dysfunctional as it threatens the stability of a Nation (Adebayo, 2013). Economic development does not thrive in an atmosphere of instability.

Ivan and Ginkel (2013) argue that there is a complex but important connection between political violence and socio-economic development Chandler (2007), have identified strong links between security and development since the cold war ended. He argued that development cannot be achieved in any nation where there are conflicts, crisis and war. In the same vein, Imobighe believes that everything about a nation revolves around the security trend of that country. It is a standard measurement of the viability of any Nation. He argued that no warring nation can boast of good health to her people or can build good, viable and sustainable economic development to her people, instead such Nation experiences destruction of the existing socio-economic infrastructure. The assertion of Imobighe could be seen manifesting in the activities of the Niger- Delta Militant whose actions have cost a lot of destruction to the oil facilities of the nation (vandalizing oil pipeline, causing oil spillage and environmental degradation).

Again in the case of the Northern part of the country, where many productive Nigerian has been killed by insurgents, industries closed down and many investors both foreign and local has been sent away. All these are anti – development to National Economy. In the same vein, the Economics Council of European Union (2003), posits that the Sub-Saharan Africa is poorer now than it was 10 years ago in which the economic failure is linked to political problems and violent conflict. Even the huge amount of the Nation's fund that could have been used for more socio-economic development is now committed to the fight against violent crime and replacement of destroyed infrastructures. Recently, the National Assembly approved the whopping sum of one billion US Dollars for the fight against Terrorism. This money if not the problem of insecurity, could have been used for socio-economic development of the country Ewetan and Urchia pointed out that insecurity in Nigeria has retarded socio economic development in Nigeria in the following ways: Social dislocation and population displacement ; Heightens citizenship question which encourages hostility between "indigenes" and "settlers"; Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life; General atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy; Dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse and neglect are used as instruments of war; Deepening of hunger and poverty in the polity; Discourages local and foreign investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people; Halts business operations during period of violence and outright closure of many enterprises in the areas or zones where incidence of insecurity is rife and are on daily occurrence; Increases security spending by business organizations and governments; Migration of people from area or region where there is prevalence of insecurity.

Socio economic development is the primary goal of every well meaning government, and it is essentially dependent on the level of economic activities in a country; the level of economic activities is in turn enhanced by peaceful co-existence by people. In the absence of security, socio-economic development cannot be sustained as it destroys economic, human and social capital.

Nevertheless, the relationship between security and development has also been conceived to be bilateral in nature. There will be no development without security and no security without development. And both development and security also depend on respect for human rights and the rule of law. Klingebiel (2006) argued that in an increasingly interconnected world, progress in the areas of development, security and human rights must go hand in hand. Development is necessary for security to thrive while security on the other hand is a precondition for development.

### **Challenges facing the security forces in curbing the menace of violent crime in Nigeria**

The government ineptitude and laxity in dealing with security challenges has posed a problem for the security forces in discharging their duties. The Nation borders are porous thereby making it possible for infiltration of mercenaries and arms proliferation into the country. The Nigeria security forces are almost barren of expected modern fighting equipment. This was evidence in our esteemed Nigeria soldier (almost 400 soldiers) running away from terrorists under the disguise of tactical withdrawal. This has been attributed to lack of training and lack of modern fighting equipment. The Nigerian military has admitted that hundreds of government troops have fled heavy fighting with Boko Haram, but said their apparent escape to neighbouring

Cameroon was a “tactical manoeuvre” (Nnenah Ibeh, 2014). Also in another conflict between the Boko Haram and the Nigeria Soldiers, the Sahara reporters on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 2014 wrote that “The terrorists arrived suddenly at 4:00 p.m. that ill-fated Wednesday, November 5, catching the Nigerian soldiers and their commanders’ off-guard. As they invaded the headquarters of the 174 Battalion, Abadan Local Government Area of Borno State, located close to the Nigerian border with Niger, the Boko Haram insurgents, in hundreds, began to shoot sporadically in all directions. According to witnesses, the terrorists were led into the battalion headquarters by insurgents bearing a number of Rocket Propelled Grenades (a shoulder-launched anti-tank weapon) and machine guns mounted on Hilux vans. Other insurgents, bearing AK-47 rifles, followed behind, shooting and chanting “Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar (May God be praised).

For minutes, the attackers were repelled by Nigerian soldiers who returned fire, and at some point, appeared to be gaining the upper hand, our sources said.

But the troops capitulated shortly after more insurgents advanced on the camp from several directions, hurling grenades at them and shooting non-stop, our sources said. The soldiers fled the scene as it became clear they were less armed and prepared for battle.

Several Nigerian soldiers who took part in the fighting have narrated how Boko Haram secured yet again another victory over government forces, a defeat they blamed on their arms and the morale of the fighting force”

Lack of adequate training and motivation of the part of the security forces is another challenge in the fight against violent crime in Nigeria. Most of our security personnel lack the modern fighting technique which is needed in this present situation. The welfare of the personnel also has not adequately been attended to (their feeding (how and who cooks for them, their camping facilities), and the relation of those who died were not given adequate compensation. All these affect the psychology of our fighting force.

As overwhelming and complex as the security challenges in Nigeria may appear, they are not insurmountable. Indeed, they can be managed and possibly be ameliorated if the government will comply with their constitutional responsibilities. This section will examine how it can be achieved.

**The way forward** No doubt security has a vital role to play in bringing about positive socio-economic development in Nigeria. Therefore to enhance an appreciable security atmosphere and an enabling environment for economic development in Nigeria, the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall take all necessary steps to enhance the socio-economic welfare of the her citizens. In lieu of the above, this study makes the following recommendations: The government should put up all necessary steps to improve the level of gainful employment of the Nigeria youths. This will improve the socio status of the youths, gives them all sense of belonging and feel welcome by their government. This will also take their attention away from crime and idleness.

Also in an attempt to expand the employment base of the Nigeria youth, the Federal government should look into the educational structure in the country. In times past, the educational sector was structured in such a way as to train students to be capable of filling up the available colonial posts which were present at that time. The teaching styles and techniques that were present in colonial times were developed towards filling up the available white collar jobs. Nowadays, we find out that the same mindset that facilitated the setup of the educational sector in the era of colonialism is the same mindset that governs the setting up of Educational institutions today. In our Universities and Colleges of Education, the syllabus is still structured in the past colonial ideology of "going-to-school" to "get a-white-collar-job."(Ewetan and Urchia, 2013). Today, getting an employment in the country is no longer as easy as in the colonial era due to population explosion in Nigeria which is not proportionate with industrial growth or rather employment rate. Nigeria educational system which is a process of training and instruction should be designed to give knowledge and develop skills suitable to the dynamic nature of the society. For the problem of crime to be reduced, the government should restructure the educational sector to better equip our youths to cope with the changing times in our economy. This study is of the opinion that not all the terrorists cannot be killed, captured or locked up indefinitely to prevent them from pursuing the life of a terrorist. In such an atmosphere de-radicalization and rehabilitation programs should assume supreme importance. According to Abdullahi (2014), most of the members of Boko Haram that has surrounded their weapon are unemployed youth that needs to be rehabilitation to come back to the society. Again the Federal Government of Nigeria should devote great time and concern to formulation and implementation of redistributive policies that will help in reducing the feeling of inequality among the citizens or regions. The Niger/Delta militants have for a long period feel marginalized by the Federal Government due to the fact that there has been a long period of neglect in the Development of the region considering the fact that the revenue base of the country is under their feet.

Another factor to be address in fighting crime in Nigeria, both presently and in long term is the issue of corruption. Only a corrupt free mind can appreciably fight crime, because corruption itself is a crime. The youth (the teaming unemployed population) perceived the government as a corrupt group of people. This is often frustrating and causes aggression towards the government. The high level of corruption among the government

official and in every sector of the Nigeria economy has led the masses to belief and celebrate corruption as a means of acquiring wealth without recourse to its implication.

Of immediate, the following efforts should be put in place to tackle the present much heated violence especially in the northern part of the country: Over hauling of the entire security forces, equipping the force with the modern fighting weapon and improving the welfare; proper border management and a robust synergy in security operations among and within Africa states. This will help in checkmating influx of arms and ammunitions, and fighting machineries. Again, there should be an improvement in the training standard and level of motivation of members of the security forces.

## II. Conclusion

From all indications security is a big challenge in Nigeria's effort to develop, but violent crimes such as the Niger/Delta militancy and Boko Haram insurgency has compounded the existing threatening security situation in Nigeria. While it could be true that security is a major issue globally, Nigeria's security situation has over the years deteriorated owing to poor governance, political desperation and government inability to deliver the needed dividend with emphases to employment rate in the country.

This paper submitted, that the feeling of deprivation produce frustration and could be expressed through aggression (violence). One of the major means of depriving Nigerians of their expectation is the high rate of unemployment which has engulfed the youths. Again the government in tackling the insecurity problem in the country should always involves more of intelligence and dialogue rather than the use of force. This will give a sense of belonging in power relation. Therefore, the paper concludes by saying that the government should amongst other factor address the problem of youth unemployment in Nigeria in order to reduce violent crimes in the country.

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