

REVIEW OF CHALLENGES TO NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSES*

Abstract

The fundamental principle for the existence of any true democratic society is the promotion of national security. Security is very important for national development. This is because no nation makes meaningful progress if there no peace. Nigeria is of recent greatly challenged by disturbing security situations such as terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping among others. It has become imperative to review the Nigerian security arrangement for optimal performance. It is in the light of the above that this study is geared towards the review of challenges to national security in Nigeria and government responses. This paper adopted doctrinal research method and relied greatly on data collected from primary and secondary sources. However, a thorough examination of the data assembled revealed that the security challenges in Nigeria is huge due to some institutional factors. This therefore, recommended for review of counter-terrorism law; creation of sustainable employment and empowerment opportunities, implementation of Grazing Land Law among others.

Keywords: National Security, Challenges, Law Enforcement Agencies, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

As would be seen, self-preservation is the first law of nature. Logically, security becomes a primary consideration of government. In agreement with this, the law provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be a primary purpose of Government.¹ National security is the measurable state of the capability of a nation to overcome the multi-dimensional threats to the apparent well-being of its people and its survival as a nation-state at any given time, by balancing all instruments of state policy through governance.² In order words, it is the ability of a country's government to protect its citizens, economy and other institutions. Similarly, national security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of economic power, diplomacy, power projection and political power. This is a nation's ability to preserve its internal values from external dangers.³ Peterside contends that national security is the freedom from actual and potential threats to national life that may arise as a result of human actions or inactions or from disaster such as food, earthquake, famine, drought, disease and other natural calamitous events resulting in deaths, human suffering and material damage.⁴ Further, he argued that national security stems from three fundamental convictions. That is, the sanctity and inviolability of human life, the universality and dignity of human life and the existential imperative of the value for individual safety in a world full of multifarious threats.

* **NWAGWU, Uzoamaka Aja** is a Legal Practitioner at M.E Nwocha Law Firm Plot 346 Aguogboriga Abakaliki Ebonyi State and also a Programme Support Staff at Divine Era Development and Social Rights Initiative Ebonyi State.

** **ENWELUM, Ogechukwu Uzoamaka** is a Co-Founder and Executive Director of Divine Era Development and Social Rights Initiative (DEDASRI) Ebonyi State incorporated as African Indigenous Human Rights Organisation with offices in Enugu, Anambra and Ebonyi State. divineeradev@gmail.com.

¹ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Section 14(1).

² P Prabhakaran, *National Security: Imperatives and Challenges*. New Delhi: Tata McGraw-Hill. (2008), p. 521. Retrieved 02/7/2023.

³ M Berkowitz and PG Booke, National Security, *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*. London, (1968), vol. 11, p.4

⁴ ZB. Peterside, "The Impacts of Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons on the quest for National Security in Nigeria", *Saudi Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 3 (7), 852-860, 2018.

The crop of this paper shall be to x-ray the challenges to national security in Nigeria and government response. For this purpose the paper shall consider various challenges to national security in Nigeria and proffer means of managing same for effective and optimal result. The paper shall draw conclusion and make appropriate recommendations.

2. National Security Challenges in Nigeria

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country affected by several internal conflicts based on overlapping ethnic, religious, political and regional divisions including over resources in the Niger Delta region, Christian-Muslim divides in the middle of the country; the rise of Islamist groups in the North, Unknown Gunmen in the South East region, and most importantly, Boko Haram in the North East.⁵ This is as a result of multi-dimension factors. The challenges shall be examined hereunder.

2.1 Boko Haram Insurgency in the North East

Boko Haram Insurgency emanated from the North East part of the country in the year 2002.⁶ Boko Haram simply means "Western education is a sin or forbidden".⁷ The issue started as an insignificant agitation of an Islamic sect with a strange commitment to non-conformist standards of social organization in Muslim-dominated State in the North East. The conflict is taking place within the context of long-standing issues of religious violence between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian communities, and the insurgents' ultimate aim was to establish an Islamic state in the region.⁸ This group started with a leader called Mohammed Yusuf⁹ with a view of opposing western education with his followers.¹⁰ However, the killing of the leader Mohammed Yusuf escalated Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, Nigeria.

In July 2009, the Boko Haram extended its operation to Bauchi and further spread to other Northern States converting hundreds of followers.¹¹ Boko Haram insurgency metamorphosed into deadly group and began to launch severe attacks in various parts of Northern Nigeria leading to the first major incidence of massive kidnapping of 270 young female students in 2014 in Chibok town of Borno State.¹² This conflict gained an international profile and presaged Boko Haram gaining control of multiple district and several towns and mounting a sustained attack on the city of Maiduguri in January 2015. Over the following months, the Nigeria law enforcement agencies took back 11 of the 14 districts previously controlled by Boko Haram, forcing the group back to the Sambisa forest. Book Haram

⁵ DI Owoeye, OJ Nduba and VE Ezeanya. "Nigerian Government Responses to the Menace of Boko Haram and Nigeria's Status in the Global Security Rankings (2009- 2019)" *International Journal of Academic and Applied Research (IJAAR)*, September - 2021, Vol. 5 Issue 9, Pages: 60-72; See also, MA Perouse de Montclos. *Nigeria's Interminable Insurgency? Addressing the Boko Haram Crisis*, London, UK: Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, 2014.

⁶ F Onuoha. "Porous borders and Boko Haram's arms smuggling operations in Nigeria", (2013). Al-Jazeera Centre for Studies. Retrieved from www.studies.aljazeera.net.

⁷ A Abubakar. Reports: "Boko Haram village raids kill hundreds in Nigeria", (2014, June). CNN-World. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2014/06/05/world/africa/boko-haram-village-raids/> See also, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Nigeria: *Fragmented Response to Internal Displacement amid Boko Haram attacks and Flood Season*, Oslo: Norwegian Refugee Council, 2013.

⁸ *BBC News*. 24th November 2016. "Who are Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamist Group"?

⁹ *The Guardian*, 4th February, 2016 "Join us or die: the Birth of Boko Haram.

¹⁰ *The Guardian Nigeria News*, 3rd August, 2022. "Nigeria and World News".

¹¹ M Reinert and L. Garcon. Boko Haram: A Chronology. In Perouse de Montclos M. A., Editor. "Boko Haram: Islamism, Politics, Security and the State in Nigeria". *West African Politics and Society Series*. Leiden, Netherlands: African Studies Centre, Institute Francias de Recherche en Afrique, 2014, vol. 2, p. 237-45.

¹² IA Mustapha and C. K. Ezeamaka. "Analysis of Boko Haram Insurgency Activities in North Eastern Nigeria: A Geographical Information System Approach" *American Journal of Geographical Research & Reviews* (2019), 2 (13): 1-9

attacks on both military targets and using suicide bombs against civilian populations. As a matter of fact, attacks in the North East and other parts of the country including bombings, mass shootings, and executions began to rise.¹³ This then made President Goodluck Jonathan in May 2013 to declare a state of emergency in the states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa¹⁴ being defined as “conflict affected” areas. Therefore, as it progresses, people in the non-conflict states became affected by the crisis, but the entire populations of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states are considered directly impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency.¹⁵

2.2 Banditry and Kidnapping in the North West

The pervasive banditry and its associated threats to security, which have enveloped the North West region of Nigeria, particularly Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto and Kebbi States though not limited to Northern Nigeria have become a worrisome national security issue of public concern. This is because banditry is a crime against humanity.¹⁶ It began in form of conflict between pastoralists and farmers over land and recently developed into rural banditry with a heavy human and economic cost, ranging from the sexual assault on women and girls, attacks on villages, to cattle rustling amongst others.¹⁷ This is a serious crime that poses a security challenge to democratic governance and peaceful co-existence in Nigeria. This is not novel to Nigerian society. It is as old as Nigeria as it dates back to inter-tribal periods characterized by conflicts and wars over scarce economic resources and territorial expansion for political influence.¹⁸

In this regard, Jaafar opines that there were recorded instances of banditry in the colonial Nigeria as far back as the 1930s.¹⁹ Thus, the region has a long history of banditry.²⁰ The first recorded case occurred between western Hausaland and Niger border²¹ when a 12,000 strong camel train laden with assorted grains was attacked and 210 merchants killed.²² This violence has affected at least 35 out of 92 Local Government Areas in the aforementioned four states. Recently, banditry has taken dimensions such as village raids, highway robbery, kidnapping and cattle rustling.²³ According to Quartz Africa, the spread of the phenomenon of existential threats mainly in terms of banditry and kidnapping leading to the loss of ten thousand (10,000) lives and huge sums of money in Nigeria in the Northern parts has been a

¹³ M Reinert and L. Garcon. Boko Haram: “*A Chronology*”, in Perouse de Montclos M. A., Editor. Boko Haram: Islamism, Politics, Security and the State in Nigeria. *West African Politics and Society Series*. Leiden, Netherlands: African Studies Centre, Institute Francias de Recherche en Afrique, (2014), vol. 2, p. 237-45

¹⁴Ibid, note 9.

¹⁵ ACAP. Secondary Data Review – 24 August 2015 Northeast Nigeria Conflict – Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States, (2015).

¹⁶ B Bello, “Again, bandits kill 7 farmers, abduct 30 others in Katsina–Lawmaker”. *Vanguard*, December 1st, (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/12/again-bandits-kill-7-farmers-abduct-30-others-in-katsina-lawmaker/>

¹⁷ P MG Lyman, (2007). *Organised crime* (4th Ed). Prentice Hall: Person Education Inc.

¹⁸ A Abdullahi, “Rural banditry, regional security, and integration in West Africa”. *Journal of Social and Political Sciences*, (2019), 2(3), 644-654.

¹⁹ J Jaafar. “Rural banditry, urban violence and the rise of oligarchy”, (2018). Retrieved from: <https://dailynigerian.com/rural-banditry-urban-violence-and-the-rise-of-oligarchy-by-prof-abubakar-liman/>

²⁰ WI Hassan, “Bandits abduct 16 family members on way to farm in Kaduna village”. *Vanguard*, September 13th, (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/09/bandits-abduct-16-family-members-on-way-to-farm-in-kaduna-village/>

²¹ IU Gadzama, NM Saddiq, TC Oduehe, & CJ Dariya, “Appraisal of rural banditry in kamuku forest in BirninGwari Local Government of Kaduna State”. *Nigerian Journal of Rural Sociology*, (2018), 18(1), 42-49.

²²Ibid, note 16.

²³ AC Okoli, & AC Ugwu, “Of marauders and brigands: Scoping the threat of rural banditry in Nigeria’s North West”, *Brazilian Journal of African Studies*, (2019), 4(8), 201-222.

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source of concern for the citizenry.²⁴ This is because the increasing attacks of bandit groups have led to the destruction of lives and properties, displacement of people from their communities; and a growing numbers of widows; widowers and orphans, who now resided in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camps following the continued attacks of armed bandits on both farming and pastoral communities across different areas of the states.²⁵ In a similar vein, banditry which is in terms of cattle rustling and community raids continued to grow in scale and organization where large bandit groups, as well as kidnappers, operate with increasing audacity spanning the vast Northern region.

Banditry could be regarded as a type of organized crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence such as extortion, robbery and murder, either as an individual or in groups.²⁶ In order words, banditry includes kidnapping, armed robbery, murder, rape, cattle rustling and exploitation of persons.²⁷ Accordingly, Egwu described banditry as a practice of stealing cattle and animals from herders or raiding of cattle from their ranches.²⁸ Similarly, banditry is reflected in criminal escapades like cattle rustling, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug abuse, arson, rape, brazen and gruesome massacre of people of agrarian communities with sophisticated weapons by suspected herdsman and reprisal from surviving victims.²⁹

Kidnapping on the other hand is an advance form of banditry. It is a major problem in Nigeria in the early 21st century. This could be traceable to farmer/herder conflict in 2011 and intensified between 2017 and 2019, to include cattle rustling, kidnapping for ransom, sexual violence and killings.³⁰ It is a criminal offence consisting of unlawful taking and carrying away of person by force or fraud. On the other hand, it is a crime committed for ransom. Remarkably, since then, kidnapping became rampant in the entire Northern part of Nigeria especially along the major Kaduna-Abuja Expressway where victims were abducted to the bush for ransom. For instance, in June, 2019, a household was attacked in Zamfara by bandits seizing their property alongside three wives and a 13 year old son.³¹ There were 489 cases in Borno, Kaduna 117, Zamfara 29, Kogi 59, Katsina 52, Taraba 47 and Adamawa 35 in the same 2019.³² In April 24, 2021, gunmen kidnapped students from the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi in Benue State.³³ In May 26, 2022, the head of the Methodist Church in Nigeria, Samuel Kanu

²⁴ Quartz Africa 2009.

²⁵ AC Okoli, & F. Ochim, "Forestlands and national security in Nigeria: A threat-import analysis". *IIARD International Journal of Political and Administrative Studies*, (2016), 2(2), 43-53. See also Mustapha, U. N. "Armed banditry and internal security in Zamfara State", *International Journal of Scientific & Engineering Research*, (2019), 10(8), 1219-1226.

²⁶ OM Maureen & NO Blessing. Insurgency and its implication on Nigeria economic growth. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, (2018), 7(2), 492-501.

²⁷ M Elazeh, "Katsina: Gains of Masari's war against cattle rustling. Leadership", March 7th, 2016. Retrieved from: <http://leadership.ng/features/507182/katsina-gains-masaris-war-cattle-rustling>

²⁸ S. Egwu, *The political economy of rural banditry in contemporary Nigeria*. In Kuna, M.J and Ibrahim, J (eds.). *Rural banditry and conflicts in northern Nigeria*, Abuja: Centre for Democracy and Development.

²⁹ JC Uche, & CK. Iwuamadi, "Nigeria: Rural banditry and community resilience in the Nimbo community". *Conflict Studies Quarterly*, (2018), (24), 71-82.

³⁰ MJ Kuna, & I. Jibrin (eds.), *Rural banditry and conflicts in Northern Nigeria*, (2016). Abuja: Centre for Democracy and Development.

³¹ Unknown Author: "Blood Thirsty Demons of Zamfara, Killing for Fun, Kidnapping for Ransom", *the Cable*; 2019-04-01. Retrieved 2023-08-04.

³² OM Maureen & NO Blessing. "Insurgency and its implication on Nigeria economic growth", *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*, (2018), 7(2), 492-501.

³³ Unknown Author: "Gunmen Abduct Benue University Students". *The Guardian (Nig.)* 26 April 2021. Retrieved 8th August 2023; also "Gunmen Kidnapped three University Students in Benue". *Premium Times* 26 April, 2021.

was kidnapped when the assailants' bullets punctured the tyres of the vehicle he was travelling with.³⁴ In June 6, 2024, bandits attacked a commercial vehicle near Dan Market village, where 5 persons were killed.³⁵ In its entirety, banditry and kidnapping have the potential of creating social tension, psychological trauma (mental and emotional problems), insecurity, untimely death among others in the society.

2.3 Herder-Farmer Clashes and Land grabbing in the North Central

The prevailing clashes between farmers and herders in many parts of Nigeria have been attributed to the destruction of farmlands by cattle which are mostly owned by the Fulani herdsmen. The herdsmen are mostly migrants who transit especially in dry season to seek for greener pasture for their livestock. These movements are mostly orchestrated by the rate of deforestation and desertification.³⁶ The cattle are controlled by human beings, but human beings may not be able to control them in totality, hence this menace. Sometimes, the herders allow willful destructions of farmers' crops and raping with impunity. The movements have therefore been characterized by cattle entering the farmed land and sometimes causing serious damage, which eventually leads to terrific conflicts between herdsmen and farmers.³⁷ For instance, in May 31, 2024, 3 farmers were killed by the herders in Katsina State. In a separate incident, 2 persons were in a vehicle and were killed at Unguwar Daudun Noma.³⁸

Thus, Ofem and Inyang described these continuous conflicts between farmers and herdsmen as a result of the destruction of farmland by the cattle.³⁹ They further stated that the contamination of water, overgrazing, and indiscriminate defecation by the cattle have not in any way helped in resolving the problem.⁴⁰ More so, they identified sexual harassment of women by the herders as another factor responsible for the prevalent farmers–herdsmen conflicts.⁴¹ In addition to these acts, negligence on the relationship that exists between farmers and herdsmen remained one of the major factors responsible for the farmers and herders conflicts.⁴² On the contrary, bush burning and blockage of cattle routes and water points should be attributed to the farmers. Thus, Adebayo and Olaniyi attributed the destruction or what they referred to as intentional grazing on farm crops as the basic cause of conflict between farmers and herdsmen.⁴³ This has been responsible for the reduction in the quantity of farm production (agricultural output) and subsequently increasing unemployment rate, poverty and hunger in Nigeria.

³⁴ S Kanu, "Kidnapped Nigerian Methodist Church Leader Freed". *BBC News* 2022-05-30. Retrieved 14-8-2023. see also *Arise Exclusive: The Kidnappers Threatened to Us as we Negotiated Ransom – Samuel KanuUche*, retrieved 14-08-2023.

³⁵ Unknown Author, "17 Killed as Bandits Strike Katsina Communities", *Cardtonic*, May 31st, 2024.

³⁶ J. C. Udemezie and N. A. Kanu. "Challenges of Nigerian agricultural sector in the twenty first century: The case of nomadic insurgence and terrorist sects", *Universal Journal of Agricultural Research*, (2019), 7(2), 117–124.

³⁷ OA Solomon and OO Chinwe "Climate change and pastoral conflicts in the middle belt and South-East Nigeria: Implication on human resource of the regions", *Global Journal of Human Resource Management*, (2015), 3(5), 44–51.

³⁸ Unknown Author, "17 Killed as Bandits Strike Katsina Communities", *Cardtonic*, May 31st, 2024.

³⁹ OO Ofem and B Inyang. "Livelihood and Conflict Dimension Among Crop Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in Yakurr Region of Cross River State", *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, (2014), vol. 5 No. 8

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, note 37.

⁴¹ OO Ofem and B Inyang. "Livelihood and Conflict Dimension Among Crop Farmers and Fulani Herdsmen in Yakurr Region of Cross River State", *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, (2014), vol. 5 No. 8, 512.

⁴² G Burton, *Background report: The Fulani herdsmen*. Project Cyma Publication, (2016, November), 1-18.

⁴³ OO Adebayo and OA Olaniyi. "Factors associated with pastoral and crop farmers conflict in derived Savannah Zone of Oyo State, Nigeria", *Journal of Human Ecology*, (2008), 23(1), 71–74.

2.4 Unknown Gunmen and Insecurity in the South East

Unknown gunmen have committed grievous crimes against the state, against the people resident in the area of their influence and against property. According to Tappan, Crime is an intentional act in violation of the criminal law, committed without defence or excuse, and penalized by the state as a felony or misdemeanour.⁴⁴ According to Umahi, “unknown gunmen are not really unknown gunmen, they are our young men and women who would defend our land tomorrow...”.⁴⁵ This started in the South-East region (Ebonyi, Enugu, Abia, Imo and Anambra) in the year 2021 as a result of extra rendition of Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) from Kenya to Nigeria which led to two developments that took place simultaneously in Enugu State, the political headquarters of the South-East. First, was the launching of a new military operation called “Operation Python Dance” by the military to curb rising cases of insecurity in the zone.⁴⁶ Then, the second event was a meeting convened by governors of the South-East states, to explore political and operational solutions to the skyrocketing wave of insecurity and uncertainty in the region. This meeting also resolved to put an end to the frequent “sit at home” orders regularly imposed on the South-East people and indiscriminate killings of the citizens.⁴⁷

Violence escalated during the following months, leading to a region- wide insurgency against the security formations. For instance, in August 2020, violence has been escalating between the IPOB and the Nigerian government.⁴⁸ In the same August, Nigerian police forces executed 21 IPOB members at a meeting, with two police officers dead and both sides accused each other of firing the first shot. In July 7th 2021, Ndubuisi, the Director General, Scientific Equipment Development Institute was killed along Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway. This took place two days after Ifeanyi Okeke, the Chief Executive officer of AutoEase was killed in the same area,⁴⁹ just to mention but a few. This made the government to defang the IPOB and silence Kanu, sometimes through illegal or quasi-legal methods.⁵⁰

2.5 Illegal Oil Bunkering and Militancy in the South South

Without doubt, there has been a high rate of insecurity in the South South region. This region includes, Akwa-Ibom, Cross-River, Edo, Ondo, Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers states, but for the purpose of this work, it shall be “core Niger Delta States” that is Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States. However, the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta region in the year 1957 triggered a chain of events that led to the political and economic marginalization of the inhabitants,⁵¹ environmental degradation,⁵² oil bunkering,⁵³

⁴⁴ PW Tappan. “Criminology and Police Science”, *Journal of Criminal Law*, (1947), vol. II, pt. 3, pp. 1007 - 1030

⁴⁵ Dave Umahi, “Who are the unknown gunmen?” *Channels TV*, June 1, 2021.

⁴⁶ DA Tonwe and S. J. Eke, “State Fragility and Violent Uprisings in Nigeria: The Case of Boko Haram”, *African Security Review*, (2013), 22(4), pp.232-243.

⁴⁷ Dave Umahi, “Unknown Gunmen are not known, they are our people from the East”, *Channels TV* (video), June 1, 2021. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch>.

⁴⁸ A Itumo, H Nwobashi and E Offor “Marginalisation of the Igbo People in Nigerian State: Myth or Reality?”, *Middle East Journal of Scientific Research*, (2018), 26(4), pp. 395-409.

⁴⁹ J Nda-Isaiah, “Reign of the Unknown Gunmen”, *The Cable*, June 3, 2021. Available at: <https://www.thecable.ng/reign-of-the-unknown-gunmen>(accessed 16 July 2022).

⁵⁰ N Ikem “Blame Insecurity in South East on Marginalisation” *The Sun*, May 5, 2022. Available at: <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/blame-insecurity-in-south-east-on-marginalisation-ex-enugu-perm-sec/>(accessed:10 September 2022).

⁵¹ HT Ejibunu, “Nigeria’s Niger Delta Crisis: Root Causes of Peacelessness”. *EPU Research Papers*, (2007), issue 07/07. Retrieved on 25/10/2011 from <http://www.aspr.ac.at/epr/research/rp0707.pdf>.

⁵² S Azaiki, *Inequalities in Nigerian Politics*. Nigeria: Longman, (2007).

⁵³ P Oudeman, “Killing blowout caused by Illegal Oil Bunkering involves more unknowns, special challenges”, paper presented at the 2006 IADC European Well Control Conference & Exhibition, 4-5 April 2006, Amsterdam. Retrieved on 03/11/2011 from http://drillingcontractor.org/dpci/dc-marapr07/DC_oudeman.pdf.

militancy,⁵⁴ bad governance, inconsistent policy framework, and the “divide and rule policy” of the oil companies.⁵⁵ In other words, the main reasons behind the problems in the region could be associated to insensitivity of government and oil companies on the plights of the host communities, industrial revolution, population explosion and high demand of luxury items in life. Thus, oil bunkering is a legitimate process where a duly licensed operator provides fuels, water or lubricants (bunkering services) for marine services on request. Therefore, bunkering is simply the fuelling of ship. Then, when petroleum products pipeline get cannibalized, or a ship load of crude oil is stolen and sold off as low-pour fuel oil (LPFO) in the international market, it’s assumed that illegal bunkering has taken place.⁵⁶ Illegal oil bunkering could be seen as oil theft⁵⁷ and has assumed considerable dimensions in the Niger-Delta. It could be likened to establishing a floating fuel service station on the high seas or at coastal jetties to supply fuel and provisions including water to ships. However there is the need to differentiate between bunkering from illegal bunkering or oil theft in order to disabuse what is portrayed in the minds of several Nigerians.

On the other hand, the crisis in the Niger Delta region from the activities of the different militant groups operating in the region has brought about some negative implications, not only on oil production and other economic activities, but also on governance in general.⁵⁸ Militancy in the Niger-Delta arose in the early 1990s over tensions between foreign oil corporations and a number of the Niger Delta’s minority ethnic groups who felt they were being exploited, particularly the Ogoni and the Ijaw. However, militancy simply means using violence or aggressiveness, usually to support a course. Furthermore, the activities of the militants have impacted the Nigerian economy in various ways such as kidnapping, downsizing of oil companies employees, disruption of business activities, discouragement of foreign direct investment among others. The impact is very devastating especially as a result of the fact that Nigeria is a monolithic economy. Since 2006, militant groups in Niger Delta, especially the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), have resorted to taking foreign employees in oil companies hostage.⁵⁹

2.6 Cyber Crimes and the Yahoo Yahoo Syndrome

Nigeria has witnessed tremendous and rapid change through social media where large proportion of this social media features not only in corrupting the Nigerian value system, but constitutes a big threat to people’s financial and privacy security.⁶⁰ This is because the socio-political and economic environment which prevails in the country has imposed constraints in terms of meeting the needs and aspirations of the youth. Surprisingly, it was observed that the poor state of economy and the corrupt political system

⁵⁴ NS Akpa “Kidnapping in Nigeria’s Niger Delta: An Exploratory Study”. *Journal of Social Science*, (2010), 24(1): 33-42.

⁵⁵ V Kemedi, “Oil on troubled waters, Berkeley: Environmental Politics Working Papers”, *Institute of International Studies*, (2002), UC Berkeley (<http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu>).

⁵⁶ SF “Anyio. Illegal Oil Bunkering and Oil Theft in Nigeria: Impact on the National Economy and the Way Forward”, *Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, (2015), Vol. 1 No. 1

⁵⁷ P Oudeman, “Killing blowout caused by Illegal Oil Bunkering involves more unknowns, special challenges”, paper presented at the 2006 IADC European Well Control Conference & Exhibition, 4-5 April 2006, Amsterdam Retrieved on 03/11/2011 from http://drillingcontractor.org/dpci/dc-marapr07/DC_oudeman.pdf.

⁵⁸ HT Ejibunu “Nigeria’s Niger Delta Crisis: Root Causes of Peacelessness”. *EPU Research Papers*, (2007), issue 07/07. Retrieved on 25/10/2011 from <http://www.aspr.ac.at/epu/research/tp0707.pdf>.

⁵⁹ D Oronto, V Kemedt, I Okonta & M. Watts, “Alienation and militancy in the Niger Delta: a Response to CSI on Petroleum, Politics and democracy in Nigeria”, (2003). Retrieved on 30/09/2011 from http://www.fpil.org/articles/alienation_and_militancy_in_the_niger_delta_a_response_to_csis_on_petroleum_politics_and_democracy_in_nigeria.

⁶⁰ MI Ezea. “Leading the Nation out of Economic Mess: A Moral Task for the Government”, *Journal of the Nigerian Academy of Education* (2017), vol. 1.

in Nigeria have motivated various crimes committed by youths whose future seemed distorted by the country's deplorable state.⁶¹ This led to the high increase rate of Cybercrimes and "Yahoo Yahoo" Syndrome in the country. The term started to be used in early 2000s to refer to financially motivated young Nigerians conducting phishing scams. Since internet was popularly referred to as *yahoo* at the point of introducing the internet services to Nigeria,⁶² youths that engaged in fraudulent activities relating to the internet were labeled "yahoo-yahoo-boys". This is a Nigerian slang for young people who engage in cybercrime.⁶³

Cybercrime is an enigma and a paradox.⁶⁴ It is a criminal activity that involves a computer network device or a network. It refers to all forms of crimes committed through the use of internet services. On the other hand, "Yahoo" stands for "Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle".⁶⁵ It became the first such directory with a large following. It is a web services provider that offers both a search engine and a directory of World Wide pages organized in a hierarchy of topic categories. However, the internet has in recent times created unlimited access not just for legitimate transactions but for illegitimate ones with difficulties in investigating several types of cybercrimes and exacerbation of cybercrime.⁶⁶ Most cybercrimes are carried out in order to generate profit for cybercriminals, others are carried out against computer devices directly to damage or disable them, while others use computers or network to spread malware, illegal information, images or other materials. Apparently, the present high value for money and other acquisitions regarded as yardsticks for determining the status of individuals in the society seems to have worsened the plight of the youth. This is because they have eroded the societal values for dignity of labour and moral integrity as they direct their energies towards earning a living through foul means.⁶⁷ This brought about the increasing rate of notorious "yahoo-yahoo" which has become paramount in the country today and has become a huge challenge to international community, governments and individual internet users all over the world.⁶⁸

3 Government Responses to National Security Challenges

Security of lives and properties has been considered as fundamental responsibility of government.⁶⁹ The attack on Nigerian populace by the terrorists has threatened the security of the country. This has led to the killing of innocent citizens and foreign investors in Nigeria and it called for international collaborations against violent crimes, terrorism and insurgency. As a matter of fact, several attempts have been made by Nigerian government as well as international actors towards curbing the menace of terrorism in the country. Some of these steps include:

⁶¹ AI Adeniran. "The Internet and Emergence of Yahoo boys Sub-Culture in Nigeria". *International Journal of Cyber Criminology (IJCC)*, (2008), 2(2), pp. 368–381.

⁶² A Doppelmayr. "It's all About Love: Organisation, Knowledge Sharing and Innovation among the Nigerian Yahoo Boys". Master's thesis submitted at Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo, Norway, (2013).

⁶³ O Akanle and B. R. Shadare. "Why has it been so difficult to Counteract Cyber Crime in Nigeria? Evidence from an Ethnographic Study". *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, (2020), 14(1), pp.29-43. <http://doi.10.5281/zenodo.3738962>.

⁶⁴ A Salifu. "The Impact of Internet Crime on Development", *Journal of Financial Crime*, (2008), vol. 23, Iss. 3

⁶⁵ OM Agunbiade, and T. Ayotunde, *Spirituality in cybercrime (yahoo yahoo) activities among youths in South West Nigeria*. In: E. Dunkels, G. Franberg & C. Hallgren, eds., *Youth Culture and Net Culture: Online Social Practices*. Hershey, Pennsylvania: IGI Global, (2011), pp. 357- 380.

⁶⁶ EA Uwe, P. N. Asuquo, and E. E. Ekuri, "Parenting and Responsibility: Holding Parents Accountable for Children's Antisocial Practices", *Journal of Human Ecology*, (2008), 24(1), pp. 51-57.

⁶⁷ FE Hagan, *Introduction to Criminology: Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behaviour*, Los Angeles: Sage Publications, (2017), 9th ed.

⁶⁸ UA Ojedokun and MC Eraye, "Socioeconomic Lifestyles of the Yahoo-Boys: A Study of Perceptions of University Students in Nigeria", *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, (2012), 6 (2), pp.1001–1013.

⁶⁹ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) Section 14.

3.1 Military Force and Counter-terrorism Approach against Boko Haram Insurgency

Terrorism simply means the use of violence against non-combatants to achieve political or ideological aims.⁷⁰ Counter-terrorism approach refers to all military and humanitarian efforts deployed by the Nigerian state to address the Boko Haram insurgency. In this regard, it covers both military offensive against Boko Haram and defensive provision of security for internally displaced persons and camps by military and paramilitary forces.⁷¹ However, since the inception of terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria, government has developed various strategies towards curbing the activities of Boko Haram. First was the use of brute military force against insurgent groups and deployment of over 8000 troops into affected parts of northern Nigeria, but with no clearly defined Military Code of Justice for the operation.⁷² For instance, this can be evidenced by the invasion of and killings in the Baga community in Borno state on Sunday, April 21, 2013 by Nigerian soldiers.⁷³ The Nigerian soldiers in a single operation killed over 200 civilians suspected to be members of Boko Haram in the aftermath of an attack.⁷⁴ In the recent time, the federal government deployed the specially trained anti-terrorism combat squad to the terrorist zones in order to suppress the activities of Boko Haram.⁷⁵ Second was the acquisition and development of more sophisticated, adequate and appropriate military hardware and the recent approval by the African Union and the violations of a broad-based international coalition to collaborate with our military.⁷⁶ Third was the approval given by the international bodies that give authority to neighbouring countries (Chad, Niger and Cameroon) to lawfully deploy troops on Nigerian soil.⁷⁷ Nigerian military also operate beyond borders to hunt fleeing terrorists, thus removing their safe haven. Fourth was the declaration of a state of emergency in the three most affected northern states, namely Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe.⁷⁸ Fifth was that government encouraged both public and media supports to provide intelligence regarding terrorist groups or their activities.⁷⁹

Moreover, there have been an International Collaborations against Boko Haram in Nigeria. This is because most modern terrorism has international outlook and this has called for international dimensions. This support is in form of manpower, fund, intelligence, arms and ammunitions.⁸⁰ It has been widely believed that terrorism can be curtailed by cutting off their sources of contact especially with other notorious terrorist groups in the middle east and identify their sources of supply of arms and basic essential to terrorists.⁸¹ The international community also employs economic sanctions to punish

⁷⁰ MG Haviland, *Defining Terrorism*, New York: American Diplomacy Publishers Chapel Hill NC, (2012).

⁷¹ A Adebayo, A. Modupe and O. Olowojolu, "Combating Terrorism and Insurgency In Nigeria: An International Collaborations Against Boko Haram", *Fountain University Journal of Management and Social Sciences* (2016), 5(1), 67-74. See also, B. Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, (2006), New York: Columbia University Press.

⁷² AJ Omede. "Nigeria: Analysing the Security Challenges of the Goodluck Jonathan Administration", *Canadian Social Science*, (2011), 7(5), 90-102

⁷³ DD Mungadi, *et al*, "Roadmap to Tackling Insurgency, Armed Banditry and Kidnapping in the North West Region of Nigeria", *Journal of Xidian University*, (2020), 14(10). <https://doi.org/10.37896/jxu14.10/095>.

⁷⁴ L Akande, "UN Warns Jonathan on Amnesty to Boko Haram", *The Guardian* (2013). Retrieved from http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/index.php?Option=com_content&view=article&id=120850:un-warns-jonathan-on-amnesty-to-boko-haram&catid=1:national&Itemid=559

⁷⁵ D Okupe. "The Federal Govt. deployed Squad to Terrorist Zone", *The Guardian* February 26, 2015. P4.

⁷⁶ D Rapoport, *The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism*, In A. Cronin, & J. Ludes (eds.) *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*, (2004). Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

⁷⁷ MO AKanji, "Public Intelligence" (2009). Retrieved from <http://publicintelligence.net/us-government-counterinsurgency>.

⁷⁸ J Baylis, JJ Wirtz and SG Colin, *US Government's National Strategy of Combating Terrorist*, (2006). White House.

⁷⁹ Ibid, note 78

⁸⁰ JS Migdal and NO Sela. *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press.

⁸¹ P Wilkinson. *Terrorism Versus Democracy: Terrorism, Insurgency and Asymmetrical Conflict*. Routledge.

or disrupt state sponsors of terrorism.⁸² Lastly was the deployment of security assets abroad.⁸³ These deployments can include ground, air, or naval forces in large or very small operational configurations.⁸⁴

3.2 Counter-Terrorism Approach against Banditry in North West

The Nigerian government's response to this security threat has been rather slow and generally reactive. In the year 2014, a concerted effort emerged. This involved the Nigeria Police Force, launching the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Associated Crime.⁸⁵ The task force was to be responsible for patrolling and operating in the context of intelligence gathering on anti-rustling and related crimes, in addition to investigating and possibly prosecuting reported cases of such crimes.⁸⁶ However, the task force has been relatively inactive since its creation. Thus, in the year 2015, some governors of Northern States started showing interest in the anti-rustling fight.⁸⁷ Between July and October of that same year, they held two meetings in which they agreed to pool their resources to fund a joint operation involving the Military, Police, State Security Service, and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in order to comb the forests that are believed to be havens for cow thieves in the affected states.⁸⁸

However, this agreement resulted in more talk than action. In spite of the seeming failure of the attempts in the foregoing explication, the initiative was effectively put into practice by the Niger State government when it established its own Joint Patrol Team, known as Operation Sharan Daji.⁸⁹ Within a week of its establishment, a total of 118 cows and 23 sheep were recovered from bandits.⁹⁰ Then, in the late 2015, the same method of joint patrol operation was also put in place by the Katsina State government. Nevertheless, the most innovative response came from the Katsina State government that is the "*El-Rufai Model*". For example, on 7 March, 2016, the Joint Patrol Team put in place by the Katsina government had recovered 12,000 cattle within a few days of operation.⁹¹ The steps adopted include embedding security agents amongst herders to protect them against bandits; tightening state borders to prevent trans-border influx of bandits; and, most importantly, implanting computer microchips in the animals to monitor their movements and prevent armed bandits from stealing them.⁹² In order to alternatively manage the crisis situation, the idea of Peace Deal and Amnesty was initiated between Zamfara State government and the Leadership of these bandits in 2016.⁹³ Hence, the State government opted for negotiations with the armed bandits with a view to surrendering their

⁸²Ibid, note 81.

⁸³ M Uzochukwu. "Challenges in Nigeria and Solutions on how to resolve them". *Politics and Social Issues*, (2014), 22(4), 122-135.

⁸⁴ G Martin, *Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives and Issues*, (2010). Sage Publications Ltd.

⁸⁵ DD Mungadi, et al "Roadmap to Tackling Insurgency, Armed Banditry and Kidnapping in the North West Region of Nigeria", *Journal of Xidian University*, (2020), 14(10). <https://doi.org/10.37896/jxu14.10/095>

⁸⁶V Yusuf, "Deadly Persistence of Cattle Rustling", *Daily Trust*, May 16th 2015. Retrieved from: www.dailytrust.com.ng/weekly/index.php/features/20488-deadly-persistence-of-cattle-rustling.

⁸⁷ West African Network for Peacebuilding. Addressing Armed Banditry in the North West Region of Nigeria: Exploring the potentials of a multi-dimensional conflict management approach. "Policy Brief on Armed Banditry in Nigeria", (2020), 3.

⁸⁸ L Binniyat. "Northern Governors met again to tackle cattle rustling". *The Vanguard*, October 26th. Retrieved from: www.vanguardngr.com/2015/10/northern-govs-meet-again-to-tackle-cattle-rustling-banditry>

⁸⁹ SD Yaro & T Tobias. "Exploring the State of Human Insecurity in Nigeria: The root cause of the farmers and Pastoralists", *ADRRRI Journal of Arts and Social Science*, (2019), 16(6), 60-98.

⁹⁰ "Niger State Says Efforts to End Cattle Rustling Yielding Results", *Channel TV*, January 22nd, 2016. Retrieved from: www.channelstv.com/2016/01/22/niger-state-says-efforts-to-end-cattle-rustling-yielding-results>.

⁹¹ M Elazeh. "Katsina: Gains of Masari's War Against Cattle Rustling", *Leadership*, March 7th, 2016. Retrieved from <http://leadership.ng/features/507182/katsina-gains-masaris-war-cattle-rustling>>.

⁹² . Jimoh. "Rustling: Cattle to Carry Chips in Kaduna". *Daily Trust*, August 21st, 2015. Retrieved from: www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/news/rustling-cattle-to-carry-chips-in-kaduna/107441.html.

⁹³Ibid, note 92.

weapons to the State government as the best option for ensuring sustainable peace.⁹⁴ The government also proposed some strategic measures of integrating the bandits back to their communities by providing soft grant for them to commence business as well as bringing some of them closer to the government.⁹⁵ Thus, a number of bandits have been arrested and prosecuted.⁹⁶

3.3 Internal Security Operations and Preventive Deployment in the Middle Belt (Operation ‘Cat race’)

In response to these challenges, the Nigerian Military launched various military operations in order to stop the bloodshed in the Middle Belt region. These operations include Operation Crocodile Smile, Operation ‘*L’afiya Dole* (interpreted as peace by force), Operation Crocodile Smile 2, Operation Cat Race among others.⁹⁷ These military operations have not only generated tension and threatened civil military relations in the different regions; they have also raised questions on the constitutional roles of the Armed Forces in a democratic society. Thus, the Military and other Security Agencies, have explained the purpose and objectives of these operations differently. On a general note, it was designed to quell ethno-religious conflicts and other criminal activities in the Middle Belt of Nigeria.⁹⁸

However, Operation Cat Race as an internal security approach is known as “*Ayem Akpatuma*” in a *Tiv* language was launched after the repeated massive killings by herdsmen in the North Central, especially in Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Plateau States. This was meant to deal with the herders-farmers’ clashes and other criminal activities in these states. The operations started on the 15th day of February to 31st March, 2018. This reckless killings of the natives in these States resulted in the massive killings of 1st January, 2018, in Benue State, that terminated the lives of seventy-three (73) indigenes of the State that were given mass burial recently.⁹⁹ Consequently, the incident generated a lot of uproar, both at home and abroad. This then gave birth to the Operation “*Ayem Akpatuma*”. Afterward, Operation Whirl Stroke was introduced in May 18th, 2018 to cover areas like Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara states and it is still ongoing. This operation aims at flushing out criminal gangs responsible for insecurity in the country.¹⁰⁰ But, even with these internal security operations, killings continued especially in the middle belt region of the country.

3.4 Regional Vigilante Arrangements-Ebubeagu and Inter-Agency Security Task Force in the South East

Nigeria continues to suffer from chronic and intensifying insecurity. Many types of security challenges are rising across the country, from various forms of militancy and insurgency to farmer-herder conflicts

⁹⁴ HS Tangaza. “Hausa Report on Fresh Banditry”, *BBC*, Aired on Friday, 11th July 2014 at 06:30am *News*.

⁹⁵ AS Anka. “Emerging Issues in Zamfara Armed Banditry and Cattle Rustling: Collapse of the Peace Deal and Resurgence of Fresh Violence”, *International Journal of Innovative Research and Development*, (2017), 6(12). See also, U. N. Mustapha. “Armed Banditry and Internal Security in Zamfara State”, *International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research*, (2019), 10(8), 1219-1226.

⁹⁶ A Godwin, “I was in Agatu, I did not see where 300 People were buried-IG Arase Faults Casualty Figure”, *Daily Post*, March 12th 2016. Retrieved from: <http://dailypost.ng/2016/03/12/i-was-in-agatu-but-not-see-where-300-people-were-buried-ig-arase-faults-casualty-figure>. A Olaniyan and A. Yahaya. “Cows, Bandits and Violent Conflicts: Understanding Cattle Rustling in Northern Nigeria”, *African Spectrum*, (2016), 51(3), 93-105.

⁹⁷ Unknown Author, “Army Launches ‘Operation Cat Race’ in Benue, Taraba, Others, group elated”, *Vanguard*, February 8, 2018, www.vanguardngr.com

⁹⁸ “Middle Belt Group gives update on Operation Cat Race in Benue, Taraba and Plateau State”, *Daily Post Nigeria*, March 6th, 2018, <https://dailypost.ng>

⁹⁹ “Middle Belt Group gives update on Operation Cat Race”, *Vanguard New*, March 6th, 2018, <https://www.vanguardngr.com>.

¹⁰⁰ G Okoh, “Defence Headquarters Launches Operation Whirls Stroke to Flush out Killer Groups in Benue”, *This Day Live*, May, 2018. www.thisdaylive.com.

to murderous cultism and highly violent criminality. Nigeria police and security forces are often brutal and unaccountable while failing to deliver a sense of public safety or to respond adequately to crime and insecurity.¹⁰¹ Therefore, the existence of regional vigilante groups in Nigeria is explained to a large extent by the poor performance of the security forces of Nigeria with regard to law enforcement, the generalised corruption in the Nigeria Police Force and a dramatic increase in crime throughout Nigeria in the past three years. Over the past two decades, and indeed during much of Nigeria's post- and pre-colonial history, extra-legal forces such as anti-crime militias, vigilante groups, community defenders and auxiliary paramilitary forces have arisen or been stood up to respond to the failures of the formal security institutions to improve public security.¹⁰² State-level politicians and governors often eagerly embrace such vigilante groups.¹⁰³ By contrast, the federal Government has at times opposed them, sometimes with excessive force, but mostly ineffectively. The militias persist by developing various forms of co-existence with formal security actors.

Meanwhile, in 2020 and 2021, southern governors in Nigeria have pushed forward with their agenda of forming semi-official structures for vigilante groups.¹⁰⁴ In April 2021, the governors of Nigeria's South East states of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo announced the creation of EbubeAgu (roughly translated as "magnificent tiger"),¹⁰⁵ a security network composed of vigilante groups across the five states. Expectedly, IPOB immediately rejected the formation of Ebubeagu, considering it a local spy outfit operating against IPOB and warning Igbo citizens against cooperating with Ebubeagu in any way,¹⁰⁶ hence, the formation of Eastern Security Network (ESN) by a secessionist political group, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in 2017.¹⁰⁷ But, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), founded in 1999, embraced the creation of Ebubeagu, and its leader derided IPOB's Eastern Security Network as impotent and merely existing online.¹⁰⁸

3.5 Private Security Contracts against Bunkering and Sabotage in the Niger Delta

The prevalence of crude oil theft and petroleum pipeline vandalism can be described as a one of the lucrative businesses flourishing in Nigeria today. From the demand for better living conditions by the people of the Niger Delta to environmental concerns without any positive corresponding response from Nigerian Government and Multinational Oil Companies, in the face of persistent crude oil exploration and production, may have led to crude oil theft and petroleum pipeline vandalism,¹⁰⁹ with significant effect on economy. These overwhelming impacts on the economy and environment have brought responses from both government and the private sector, hence, surveillance contracts against bunkering

¹⁰¹ S. Adegbola, "Amotekun: Malami's too many 'illegalities.'" *Punch Newspaper*, 28 January, 2020. Available at: <https://punchng.com/amotekun-malamis-too-many-illegalities> (accessed 5 July 2021).

¹⁰² Ayodele S (2021) Regionalizing security and decentralizing Nigeria's security architecture: what is the position of the media? *Ianna Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* 3(2): 104–114.

¹⁰³ B. Buzan, *Security, the state, the New World Order and beyond*, In: Lipschutz RD (ed.) *On Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, (1995), pp.187–211.

¹⁰⁴ C Eze, "Re-examining the legality of regional security outfits in Nigeria", *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence* (2020), 11(2): 175–181. Available at: <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/naujili/article/view/200401/189000>.

¹⁰⁵ CK Iwuamadi, EC Ngwu and MC Onyemaobi, "Regional security outfits and challenges of insecurity in Nigeria", *University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy* (2021), 11(2): 480–491.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid*, note 105.

¹⁰⁷ M Madumelu, C. Okafor, U. Okpalibekwe, *et al.* "Herdsman attacks and national security issues in Nigeria: the way forward", *International Journal of Academic Management Science Research* (2020), 4(1): 7–12.

¹⁰⁸ VC Onah, UU Innocent, APQ Uzodima, *et al.*, "State security failures and the formation of informal zonal security networks in Nigeria". *University of Nigeria Journal of Political Economy*, (2021), 11(2): 525–532.

¹⁰⁹ EO Okomugba, "An Evaluation of the Conundrum of Crude Oil Theft and the Need for Petroleum Pipeline Surveillance Contracts in Nigeria" *Baltic Journal of Law and Politics*, (2022), 15(2).

and sabotage in the Niger-Delta region. Therefore, the use of pipeline surveillance contracts to secure and monitor petroleum pipeline routes in Nigeria may be traceable to Multinational Oil Companies (MOC) occasioned by the spate of crude oil theft, kidnapping of staff and destruction of pipelines belonging to these companies. According to Tricker and Tricker, to resolve the security situation, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) developed a policy of paying ‘protection money’ to Armed Militants to provide security and contract surveillance to reward local communities for reporting oil theft.¹¹⁰

Notwithstanding, in 2011, the Nigerian Government under the Oil Pipeline Surveillance and Protection Contracts (OPSPC), awarded a contract to Global West Vessel Specialist Agency (GWVSL), for the strategic concession partnership to provide platform for tracking ships and cargoes, enforce regulatory compliance and surveillance of the entire Nigerian maritime domain.¹¹¹ More so, the Nigerian Government awarded the same pipeline surveillance contract it revoked in 2015 to another indigenous company known as Ocean Marine Solutions. This multimillion dollar contract was not different from the contract awarded to GWVSL in terms of duties but covered about 87 kilometres of the Trans-Forcados Export Pipeline (TFEP) as well as the Bonny-Port Harcourt and Warri-Escravos crude evacuation lines.¹¹² In a dramatic and unexplained circumstance, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), successor to the NNPC, on the recommendation of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), re-awarded part of the Nigerian petroleum pipeline routes to Tantita Security Services Nigerian Limited (TSSNL).¹¹³

3.6 Inter-Agency Security Task Force against Cyber Crimes in Nigeria

Cybercrime has been on the agenda of the Nigerian Government for many years now. Consequently, in February 2015, the Nigerian Government adopted the National Cyber Security Policy and Strategy prepared by the Inter-Ministerial Committee coordinated by the Office of the National Security Adviser.¹¹⁴ This was based on the understanding that threats to information and communication technology are threats to Nigeria national security touching the economic, political and social fabric of Nigeria. However, Inter-Agency Security task force refers to multiple security agencies charged with the responsibility of promoting active working relationship with a view to protecting the cyber security and improving process outcomes at a reduced cost.¹¹⁵ They include National Advisory Security Council, the Attorney-General, Cybercrimes Advisory Council, Nigerian Computer Emergency Response Team,

¹¹⁰ B Tricker and G Tricker, *Business Ethics: A Stakeholder Governance and Risk Approach*, Routledge, (2014) 94.

¹¹¹ R Adibe, E. Nwagwu and A Okorie, “Rentierism and Security Privatization in the Nigerian Petroleum Industry: Assessment of Oil Pipeline Surveillance and Protection Contracts” *Review of African Political Economy* (2018), 156, no. 45: 353-354.

¹¹² J Eze. “Integrated Oil and Gas Pipeline Monitoring and Incident Mitigation Systems Framework” Being a Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the University of Wolverhampton for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (2017).

¹¹³ TA Ogunleye, “Establishing Oil Theft and Other Related Crimes Tribunal for Speedy Trial: Legal Issues and Challenges” *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, (2021) 21, no. 4: 21

¹¹⁴ Office of the National Security Adviser, ‘National Cybersecurity Strategy’, December 2014, https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Documents/National_Strategies_Repository/Nigeria_2014_NATIONAL_CYBERSECURITY_STRATEGY.pdf. Also, L. Ani, Cyber Crime And National Security: The Role Of The Penal And Procedural Law. See, Office of the National Security Adviser, ‘National Cybersecurity Strategy’.

¹¹⁵ Unknown Author, “Cyber Capabilities and National Power”, *International Institute for Strategic Studies*, (2023), vol. 1.

National Forensic Laboratory, Nigeria Electronic Fraud Forum, Economic Financial Crimes Commission, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, the Nigeria Police, the Army among others.¹¹⁶

More so, in 2015, the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act was introduced. This provides obligations to the private sector including ISPs, telecommunication operators and financial institutions to report and cooperate with law enforcement authorities and the Nigerian Computer Emergency Response Team (Ng-CERT) in the Cybercrimes sector. The Federal Government strengthened its commitment against cybercrimes by approving a Computer Crime Prosecution Unit (CCPU) under the supervision of the Public Prosecution Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice to work with agencies such as the EFCC, the telecoms and banking sector.¹¹⁷ Nevertheless, in the year 2016, Defence Space Administration formally known as Defence Space Agency Act was enacted by 8th National Assembly with a mandate to promote National Security and development, support Military Operations and to improve the Nigerian Armed Forces Cyberspace capabilities.¹¹⁸ The Act also empowers the Attorney-General of the Federation to request or receive assistance from any agency or authority of a foreign State in the investigation or prosecution of offences under this Act; and may authorize or participate in any joint investigation or cooperation either bilateral or multilateral agreements exist between Nigeria and the requested or requesting country,¹¹⁹ to carry out the purpose of detecting, preventing, responding and prosecuting any offence under this Act.¹²⁰ As a matter of fact, Interpol was the first international organization addressing computer crime and penal legislations at a conference in Paris in 1979 and it was adopted in Nigeria.¹²¹

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Obviously, it was discovered that insecurity has become the bane of the society as a result of various insurgency and terrorists attacks in the country. Thus, this emanated from the innate tendencies of human beings to dominate, struggle for supremacy and suppress perceived economic rivals notwithstanding the number of legislations prohibiting them.¹²² As a matter of fact, the citizens are not living responsibly to protect the rights of others within the level of human relationship, hence terrorism. The killings in the country demonstrated the high level of insecurity and the government's loss of its internal security mechanism. However, Nigerian government had made some efforts in combating this ugly menace by engaging the services of security operatives which sometimes endanger the lives of both security agents and the citizenry. Secondly, they are the persons sponsoring the terrorists in their zones because of political and religious squabbles. Therefore, this has brought economic and humanitarian crises that have multiplier effects on the citizenry.

¹¹⁶ JF Adewunmi, *Cybersecurity Policy in Nigeria: A Tool for National Security and Economic Prosperity*, in S. N. Romaniuk and M. Manjikian (eds.), *Routledge Companion to Global Cyber-Security Policy*, New York: Routledge, (2021), p. 553.

¹¹⁷ UV Awhefeada and O. B. Ohwomeregwa, "Appraising the Laws Governing the Control of Cybercrime in Nigeria", *Journal of Law and Criminal Justice*, vol. 8, no. 1, June 2020, p. 42, http://jlcjnet.com/journals/jlcj/Vol_8_No_1_June_2020/3.pdf; and Eboibi, 'A Review of the Legal and Regulatory Frameworks of Nigerian Cybercrimes Act 2015', p. 703.

¹¹⁸ Ministry of Defence, "Defence Policy, A Critical Component of National Security –Permanent Secretary", 12 July 2023, <https://defence.gov.ng/2023/07/12/defence-policy-a-criticalcomponent-of-national-security-permanent-secretary/>.

¹¹⁹ Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015, Section 52 (2).

¹²⁰ Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015, Section 52 (1).

¹²¹ The Third Interpol Symposium on International Fraud, Saint-Cloud, Paris, France, December 11-13, 1979.

¹²² Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, Cap M 18, LFN 2010; Economic and Financial Crimes Act, cap E 11, LFN, 2010; Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, cap A6, LFN, 2010; Failed Bank (Recovery of Debts and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act, cap F2, LFN, 2010; Criminal Code Act, Cap C14, LFN, 2010, Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, cap C31, LFN 2010 etc.

Given the above background, the study holds that while security concerns are growing, it is recommended that there is an overwhelming need to review counter-terrorism laws and policies in ensuring compliance with international standards. This will include the adoption of a comprehensive strategy for countering violent extremism, like Boko Haram; banditry and unknown gunmen in Nigeria. Secondly, there should be an establishment of Local Development Plan and Implementation of Grazing Land Law that will reduce tension on how farmers and herdsmen can effectively use land and participate in decision-making. Consequently, there should be an investigation of illegal bunkering with a view to prosecute the offenders and ensure that the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency is provided with the resources necessary to investigate oil spills independently of the oil companies to avoid militias in delta region. Finally, the Federal and State governments should formulate and sustain policies that will address the issue of socio-economic challenges bedeviling the youth, by focusing on creating sustainable employment and empowerment opportunities to mitigate poverty.