

Kidnapping of School Pupils and Myth of Security in Northern Nigeria: Causes and Solutions

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ABSTRACT

Kidnapping simply connotes an act of illegally and forcefully capturing and detaining human beings to generate financial benefits from the relations of the detainee(s). Kidnapping has become a common criminal exercise and lucrative business in Nigeria. The perpetrators often receive a huge sum of money from their victims, sometimes the kidnappers' victims are murdered whenever the amount of money needed from them is paid and to some extent not redeemed. Therefore, this article examined the kidnapping of school pupils and the myth of security in Northern Nigeria: Causes and Solutions. The paper unveiled some common causes of kidnapping and their consequences in Northern Nigeria that are characterized by poverty, unemployment, insecurity, corruption, and poor policy implementation. The study used a survey descriptive research method. The study adopted frequency distribution analysis to present the data. The results of the findings show that poverty, unemployment, and moral decadence are said to be the commonest causes of the evil called kidnapping in Northern Nigeria. Amongst other recommendations, it is recommended that government should create jobs for the unemployed youths in tandem with skills development training that will help curtail the high levels of idleness as the mother of evil thoughts, evil plans, and evil actions among the Northern youths

KEYWORDS: Kidnapping, School pupils, Myth, Security, Northern Nigeria, Causes, Solutions

INTRODUCTION

Kidnapping is the offspring of terrorism and social vices that spread all over the world. It is an endemic disease that cut across all the state in Nigeria. The word Kidnap was derived from two English words "Kid" meaning (Infant) and "Nap" meaning (Sleep). Literarily, it is a process of abducting people as hostage for a ransom payment. Historically, kidnapping was traceable to 1874 around the 17th century as child abduction in Britain when the kids of the rich families were been abducted for "ransom while asleep (nap)" (Tzanelli, 2019).

Kidnapping is a notorious and nefarious behaviour orchestrated by criminals with the mindset of abducting and hostage students for ransom package. The abduction of 250 girls at high school girls in Chibok, Borno State in 2014 and many more by Boko Haram is an increasing incidence of kidnapping in the Northern part of Nigeria. The record has it that since December 2020 more than 600 students have been kidnapped from schools in the northern part of Nigeria, reflecting the troubling progression of the country's sequestration issue. Ogabido (2021) reported that on 12 February 2021, the abduction of nearly 300 students from the Government Girls Science Secondary School in Jangebe, Zamfara State has been the second mass abduction from a school in the Northern part of Nigeria.

It is widely reported that recent attacks on schools in the northwest are being carried out by "bandits," a loose word for kidnappers, armed robbers, cattle ranchers, Fulani

herdsmen, and other armed militias operating in the area, primarily driven by revenue (Ogabido, 2021). According to Emanemua and Akinlosotu (2016), the abduction of hundreds of students rather than road travelers, the promise of coverage, and government participation in talks may mean millions of dollars in ransom payments. Security specialist KemiOkenyodo claims this has made abductions profitable for criminal groups.

However, other research has also been completed on the problem of abduction. Freeman (2016) carried out a study on the kidnapping incident at the international level, but limited it to child abduction, though seen from a global viewpoint. File-Muriel (2013) also researched the issue of kidnapping but primarily concentrated on political kidnapping. Similar research was undertaken by Uzorma and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014) on abduction and hostage-taking in south-eastern Nigeria. The report restricted the study to Southern Nigeria, where the causal factors could be limited to economic, while the primary cause for kidnapping in the South-South is an environmental struggle, and poverty and insurgency in the North-West and North-East could be, respectively. In view of the above, the present study aims to examine the kidnapping of School Pupils and the Myth of Security in Northern Nigeria: Cause and Solutions

Statement of Problem

Unarguably, one of the contemporary social problems in Nigeria today is the series of kidnapping for ransom that

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have assumed an unprecedented dimension with no end (Ogugbuaja, 2010, Abati, 2010, Osumah and Aghedo, 2011). With the rise of the religious fundamentalist group known as Boko Haram in North East Nigeria and the criminal gang known as bandits in the North West, the issue of violence and kidnapping took a different and devastating turn. Violent attacks and kidnapping became weapons by which to destroy lives and properties.

The frequent kidnapping of school girls has seen the attendance in schools across the country drop as a result of fear of such events (Ovuorie, 2015). According to Olugbode (2015) children now live in perpetual fear, this because the children who are kidnapped are subjected to emotional trauma such as rape, child marriage, slavery, and torture. The children are also used as human shields and suicide bombers (Sanni, 2015). This paper, therefore, seeks to critically analyze the kidnapping of School Pupils and the Myth of Security in Northern Nigeria: Causes and Solutions.

The objective of the study

This study is on the kidnapping of School Pupils and the Myth of Security in Northern Nigeria. Other specific objectives are:

1. To ascertain the causes of kidnapping in the Northern part of Nigeria
2. To examine consequences of kidnapping in the North
3. To proffer solutions to the kidnapping menace in the North.

Research Questions

1. What are the causes of kidnapping in the Northern part of Nigeria?
2. What are the consequences of kidnapping in the North?
3. What are the solutions to the kidnapping menace in the North?

Literature Review

Kidnapping

Kidnapping is characterized by different researchers with differing degrees of success. First, Inyang and Abraham (2013) described it as 'forceful arrest, removal and unlawful detention of a person against his or her will. It is an offense under common law and the main aspect is that it is an unwelcome act on the part of the perpetrator.' Another meaning is proposed by Fage and Alabi (2017) who considered abduction to be "forceful or deceptive abduction of individuals or groups of individuals for reasons ranging from physical, political and religious to self-determination." The writers later acknowledged, however, that persons captured by coercion or deception are taken as captives for ransom purposes. This means that while political and economic reasons will lead to abduction, the economic reason is the most common predisposing factor of the phenomenon.

Uzorma and Nwanegbo-Ben (2014), also described the abduction as 'the act of capturing and detaining or detaining an individual by unlawful force or fraud, and sometimes by ransom. It includes separating a person from his or her family by force without their permission to keep him or her hostage and make a profit from his or her family.'

From the above, the concept of abduction does not provide the correct way to explain it, but it is obvious that for an act to be considered abduction, it involves the forced transfer of a victim from one location to another, the detention or capture of that person, whether it is a child or an adult. That

is why Inyang and Abraham (2013) have added that they are constitutionally treated as a restraint on someone else's rights, which contradicts the freedom of travel provided for in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, where any other legislation takes its toll.

Moreover, kidnapping is commonly driven by financial gain or political demand. Opportunistic or traditional criminals, as well as political dissidents, may also return to kidnapping in order to achieve economic benefits unlawfully or to get their requests granted. Recent types of abduction, whether they occur in social science or industry, rely on criminal intent. Examples that are part of the advanced end of the theoretical spectrum: Criminologist and risk assessor Elio Zannoni suggest a distinction between criminal (with economic motivation) and political (with political motivation) kidnapping (Zannoni, 2013), stating that 'in many cases 'kidnapping is a 'business' involving ransom demand, which can differ considerably based on the sort of criminal involvement and the victim's status (2013, p. 1, cited in Tnazelli, 2016). Two claims are important here: (a) that in every kidnapping a form of economics is involved, and (b) that the status of the hostage is of significance in the payment of ransom

Kidnapping in Nigeria

Kidnapping is on the rise in Nigeria. Statistically, Nigeria reports more than 1,000 kidnapping cases a year, and there are certainly many that have not been recorded (Catlin Group, 2012). The British Government has criticized the fact that at least 25 British and dual British citizens and more than 200 other foreign nationals have been abducted in the Niger Delta region on their own since January 2007. That is why Fage and Alabi (2017) have recognized that abduction is one of the components of militancy and/or rebellion in the Niger Delta.

As a result of the unstable situation in the Niger Delta, kidnapping has spread throughout the region. These kidnappings may be either for financial or political advantage. Victims were originally migrant oil workers, but today many are residents, mostly employees of multinational oil and oil firms, and not particularly rich; anyone whose family could pay a ransom may be targeted. In June 2012, the police rescued Christian Obodo, an international footballer who had been abducted in front of a church (Catlin Group, 2012).

There is a high risk of kidnapping and other armed assaults involving oil and gas installations and employees. This also refers to ships and offshore oil platforms off the coast of the Niger Delta. In January 2012, the kidnappers kidnapped a US citizen from his Delta vehicle and killed his security guard. In April 2012, robbers abducted a United States resident from Imo State and a Spanish resident from Enugu State in separate cases. In May 2012, criminals abducted an Italian citizen from Kwara State.

On 7 May, a Lebanese national was abducted in Kaduna State and his Lebanese colleague was mercilessly killed during the abduction. More on the cases of abduction in Nigeria, it has also been confirmed that two engineers – one British and one Italian – were killed by their captors in March 2012 when Nigerian security forces, supported by the United Kingdom, tried to rescue them. They had been kidnapped for ten months by members of the Islamic fundamentalist organization Boko Haram (Catlin Group, 2012).

Kidnappings of western nationals for ransom are also linked to Boko Haram. Some examples involve the abduction of a French priest, Georges Vandebeusch, in November 2013 and of a French family of seven, which is reported to have created a ransom of USD 3 million. Both these kidnappings took place in Cameroon (Barna, 2014). Schools and colleges were also attacked: the murder of sleeping students in dormitories in February 2014. (Barna, 2014). On 14 April 2014, 250 female students were abducted from ChibokBorno State Government Girl's Secondary School (Shuaibu, Salleh, & Shehu, 2015).

Another associated group, Ansaru, also targeted Western citizens (kidnappings), Christians and the government. It is active in the northern states, mainly Kano, Katsina, Yobe, Bauchi and Borno. The presence of strategies close to those of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has led some to believe that another possible leader of the organization is Khalid al-Barnawi, who was a member of AQIM and educated in Algeria and maybe a connection between the two organizations (Barna, 2014). In the Catlin Group study (2012), military-led rescue attempts will result in the deaths of hostages.

Causes of Kidnapping in Nigeria

Kidnapping, as a violent criminal offense, is a rather complex phenomenon. It takes place in various contexts and for various reasons. Its causes and consequences are also many. Hazen and Horner (2017) observe that hostages have been taken for two primary reasons: political bargaining and economic gain. This broad classification of kidnapping is very important for understanding the underlying factors for the problem, especially kidnapping for ransom. But beyond these broad typologies, persons are kidnapped and abducted by criminals for various reasons and intentions, such as for adoption, begging, camel racing, illicit intercourse, marriage, prostitution, ransom, revenge, sale, selling body parts, slavery, unlawful activity, murder and for other purposes (NCRB, 2014). Considering the influence of globalisation on the expansion on the increase in crimes as transcending national borders, termed as trans-border crimes, like commercial sex by under-age and human trafficking (Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2016), today physical movement across the borders by illegallyorganised syndicates has become commonplace.

In Nigeria and many other developing countries of Africa and Asia, political factors, poverty, lack of legal/available employment opportunity among the youths are also playing fundamental role in the rise of kidnapping. In line with the above, Tepperman (2006, as cited in Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2016) observed that Nigeria has a large number of adolescents living and making a living on the streets. This has been attributed to economic factors and exposure to all forms of risks.

Closely related to Hazen and Horner's typology is that given by Zannoni (2013), who mentioned that motivations and mode of operation vary, but generally there are two main kinds of kidnapping for ransom. These can be roughly categorised as "criminal kidnapping", where the main motive is to obtain a ransom from the family or business of the victim. This category includes instances where criminals take hostages as a shield to help them escape from the scene of a crime or use them to obtain money or valuables, or the keys or secret codes needed to access areas where these are stored. The other type of kidnapping, according to Zannoni

(2013), is "political kidnapping", where the foremost objective is to further the political aims of a particular political group or movement. In this case, a ransom is usually demanded to obtain money for the group to fund their activities. This made the dividing line between economic and political kidnappings so blurred. In addition, religious and other political extremists use kidnapping as political weapons and as a means of financing their activities (Catlin Group, 2012).

Economic deprivation and a sense of desperation have planted the seeds of kidnapping as a way of getting money in poor communities. It can then become a way of life, even when legal options become available (Catlin Group, 2012). The disparity between rich and poor is growing, and thanks to the internet and global media, everyone can see how the rich are living. It fuels resentment and a desire for a bigger share (Catlin Group, 2012).

In summary, Ogabido (2019) highlights the following as causes of kidnapping in Nigeria:

1. **Poverty:** The impoverished lifestyle of people has prompt many have-nots to involve in kidnapping activities to use the ransom fees to cater to their basic needs. Our society has riddle with poverty to the extent that citizen is serious hungry with pauper and penury way of life.
2. **Youth Unemployment:** the problem of unemployment is one of such reasons why kidnapping in Nigeria is often associated with youth unemployment (Inyang, 2019). He used the widely acknowledged adage, which says that "an idle man is the devil's workshop" to present the situation of unemployment in Nigeria. He noted that there are uncountable able-bodied men and women in Nigeria roaming the streets in search of non-existing jobs. Out of frustration together with mounting responsibilities to tackle many idle young persons have ventured into criminal activities of which kidnapping are not an exemption. However, he further acknowledged that a graduate who is unable to secure a job is psychologically bereft of other means of survival. In such a situation the young person could develop a negative attitude towards society and attribute his failure to that society.
3. **Corruption and Insecurity:** corruption within the law enforcement agencies sometimes thwarts serious effort in crime prevention. Nwaorah (2019) noted that, in a situation where government officials, especially top-ranking persons in civil services who are the custodian of government resources spend recklessly or loot, it could automatically encourage a few of the dissatisfied persons to vent their anger on them and their relatives.
4. **Social Injustice:** many people today who are desperate for economic and social needs are often the ones who commit kidnappings. So where the gap between the rich and the poor is constantly widening and where the possibilities to earn money honestly are often difficult to attain kidnapping turns out to be a lucrative means to fall back on and to draw attention to what is considered an intolerable situation
5. **Indiscipline and Moral Decadence:** The issue of "moral decadence" and the "quest to get rich quick" syndrome have been identified as some of the causative factors of kidnapping. Nobody asks questions on how

people make their wealth. According to him, a poor person today can show up with an expensive car tomorrow and nobody dare to question the sudden wealth. Also, people who have donated money to develop their communities are rewarded with chieftaincy titles thereby creating a wrong impression in the minds of Nigerian youths who thereafter take to kidnapping (Inyang (2019)).

6. **The proliferation of dangerous weapon:** the proliferation of arms as a result of political patronage of the miscreant who was dumped after elections may indirectly encourage and enhanced kidnapping

Consequences of Kidnapping on Victims

Irrespective of the nature of abduction and the reason behind it, the psychological and financial effect of the issue may be traumatic on both the victims and their significant others. Victims of abduction vary in age, race, socio-economic class, educational qualification, and country of birth. While everyone can become a victim of trafficking, certain communities are particularly vulnerable to this type of victimization (Kaylor, 2015). The paper would first discuss the impact of child abduction, a more serious and deeply ingrained crime worldwide. Not only does the forceful removal of a child from his/her family traumatizes the victim, but it also unravels the lives of his/her parents, family, and community (Orset, 2018). One common effect of the abduction which seemed memorably traumatic for those concerned, and which was raised many times was the lack of contact for many parents with their children during the period that they were away. This was often because the left-behind parent did not know the children's whereabouts (Freeman, 2006). Child sexual abuse as a result of kidnapping also exposes the child to the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Another guided form of sexual molestation of kidnapped children is that the abducted underage victims are often subjected to a forced marriage with older husbands. As reported by Clark (2014), the child brides are married to older, more sexually experienced men with whom it is difficult to negotiate safe sexual behaviours, especially when under pressure to bear children. A study conducted in Kenya and Zambia in 2004 finds that married girls aged 15-19 were 75 percent more likely to contract HIV than sexually active, unmarried girls of the same age. Similar figures have been found in 29 countries across Africa and Latin America (Clark, 2014)

Apart from psychological trauma on the victim and the victim's family, as well as physiological implications, kidnapping is also accompanied by huge economic or financial implications. According to Catlin Group (2012), one estimate suggests that globally, ransom payments could be worth US\$500 million annually, but an authoritative figure simply is not possible when the total number of incidents is open to great uncertainty. The vast majority of kidnaps, perhaps 70 percent, go unreported for fear of reprisals or a lack of confidence in the police.

In some interviews, Freeman (2016) also mentioned that some left-behind parents disclosed having thoughts of extreme violence at that time as well as finding solace through religious faith. Others talked of their inability to settle while knowing that their children were somewhere else and of feeling constantly depressed and ill. Examples of this were given when these parents spoke of: losing their

hair, physical sickness, becoming dependent on pills and alcohol, feeling suicidal, being unable to function properly, the feeling of helplessness, feeling "in limbo", as if waiting for a medical diagnosis, and the fear of having lost their children forever.

Theoretical Framework

There are various theoretical sociological or criminological viewpoints that one can use to situate this phenomenon within the right context. This paper hinges on frustration and aggression theory, and greed and grievance theory. The frustration-aggression theory was proposed by John Dollard, Neal E. Miller, Leonard W. Doob, Orval H. Mowrer, and Robert R. Sears in 1939. The theory was further developed by Neal E. Miller in 1941 and refined by Leonard Berkowitz in 1989. The main premise of the theory is that violent behaviour is triggered by an individual's inability to fulfill their needs within society, and this inability results in frustration which ends in aggression expressed as violence.

In other words, frustration often produces aggression. However, it is pertinent to know that not all frustration ends in aggression (Zillmann, 1979). When expectation does not meet attainment, there is a tendency for people to confront those they hold responsible for their frustration, especially when this relates to achieving a set goal. Therefore, frustration-aggression theory proposes that aggression is not just a natural reaction or instinct, as realistic and biological theorists assume, but rather the outcome of frustration gives rise to aggression and violent actions. This means that, in a situation in which the desires of an individual are denied, either directly or indirectly, for example as a consequence of how society is structured – a feeling of disappointment breeds in the very rich and the very poor, which may lead some to express their anger through violence towards those they hold responsible for their frustration.

This is shown explicitly in the violent crimes of kidnapping, terrorism, insurgency and vandalism against pipelines, expressed in particular by bandits and Boko Haram terrorists in the North. Boko Haram emerged from frustration and aggression at a government failure to address their demands and exacerbated by the killing of their leader Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 (Chinwokwu, 2012, 2013). Thus, militancy and terrorism are the products of frustration, corruption, weak and failed governance, fuelled by politics that breeds poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The theory is criticized for assuming that violence is triggered by individual's inability to fulfill their needs. Some social actors perpetrate violence as a means of pleasure (Smith, 2011). Michael (2010) noted that violence unleashed by cultists or militants may be an avenue through which to showcase maturity and not a result of frustration.

Empirical Review

Abiodun, Shittu, Akinyemi, and Momoh (2017) examined to determine the notorious and nefarious atrocities of kidnapping and streamline the impediments to its control. The findings reveal that unemployment, corruption, indiscipline, inadequate security, poverty, economic depression high rate of inflation, loss of societal value, and get rich quick syndrome among others are the major causes of kidnapping. Sequel to these findings, it is recommended amongst others that government should improve on reducing the inflation gap, improve the standard of living for the people by employing youth, ensuring adequate security

to protect lives and properties, establish wealth creation center to reduce poverty, and sentence any political or public officer working in tandem with the kidnapper to life imprisonment.

Bello and Jamilu (2017) examined the nexus between terrorism and kidnapping; investigate the mutual reinforcement between corruption and kidnapping; to find out if kidnapping and poverty are correlated, and examine the consequences of the problem. Using secondary qualitative data, the study found out that kidnapping has been taking place in Nigeria due to the activities of insurgent groups in the Niger Delta region, but it increased with the emergence of "Boko Haram" terrorism in North-eastern Nigeria; corruption is not strongly related to kidnapping, but they have indirect connection whereby youth political thugs served corrupt political leaders and turned out to become kidnappers, sometimes for ransom from political opponents; poverty is correlated with kidnapping in Nigeria; and there are multiple consequences of kidnapping, such as financial victimization, rape and even death of the victims. The paper, therefore, suggested that for kidnapping to be eradicated in Nigeria, poverty and corruption must also be significantly reduced

Obarisiagbon and Aderinto (2018) investigated the challenges confronting the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria to underscore its implication with regards to the prevalence of kidnapping. In order to achieve the objective of the study, the qualitative method – in-depth interviews and key informant interviews were utilized in generating data from 60 interviewees. The qualitative data generated from the study were analyzed using manual content analysis. The study shows that corruption, inadequate courtrooms, and facilities, poor working condition, frequency in the transfer of police officers, the uncooperative attitude of GSM operators, delay emanating from legal practitioners and Director of public prosecution, as well as lack of operating vehicles were some of the major challenges confronting the administration of criminal justice in the prosecution of kidnap cases.

Gap in Knowledge

Series of studies have been done in the area of kidnapping, both international and locally. The majority of the studies reviewed show that kidnapping is a crime that has been driven by the criminal quest for material accumulation, which thrives in an environment that condones crime but also lacks the capacity to efficiently sanction the same. However, none of these works directly link the kidnapping of school pupils to the myth of security in the Northern part of Nigeria. This study, therefore, seeks to fill that void consequently the study will focus on the kidnapping of school pupils and the myth of security in Northern Nigeria, by also highlighting the causes and solutions.

Methodology

Research Design

The study used a survey descriptive research method. This is because descriptive research presents facts concerning the nature and status of the situation as it exists at the time of the study. The descriptive method was used because it describes things the way they are (Neuman, 2007).

Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises Nigerians residing in the Northern part of Nigeria where the activities of Boko Haram and bandits and are more alarming. Obviously, the population of this study is very large and thus may be almost impossible to be covered by the Researcher, Hence sampling becomes imperative.

Sampling Technique and Sample size

Due to the largeness of population of the study, as earlier noted above, the researcher adopted a sampling method in order to obtain data about the general population from a subset of the population. The sampling method adopted by the researcher is the probability sampling method, otherwise known as random sampling. In probability sampling, various techniques are used to ensure that every person in the population or universe has an equal chance of being selected. Here, the researcher adopted random probability sampling due to its suitability and applicability in this study as it eliminates errors and possible bias to a very large extent. The study randomly selected 60 persons residing in Northern Nigeria.

Method of Data Analysis

The method adopted for the analysis of data in this research is the frequency distribution table showing responses, frequency, and percentages. The raw data are collected, collated, and further converted to a percentage. Each item is analyzed on that basis along with the divided affirmation and negation of the proposition. From the total percentage of response, the inference is drawn. The result obtained also forms the basis of the discussion of findings.

Analysis and Findings

Contained herein are the presentation, analysis, and interpretation of data acquired during the research through the use of Questionnaires. The copies of the questionnaire administered were 60 and 33 (55%) of it were returned, while 27 (45%) were not returned. The 33 copies of questionnaires that were returned are considered large and capable enough to make valid deductions and conclusions. Hence, the research analysis was based on the returned copies of the questionnaire.

Table 1: What are the causes of kidnapping in the Northern part of Nigeria

Option	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	4	12.1
Unemployment	13	39.4
Moral decadence	6	18.2
Greed	9	27.3
Religious belief	1	3.0
Total	33	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 1 shows the causes of kidnapping in the Northern part of Nigeria. In the table, 4 respondents representing 12.1% out of the entire respondents indicated poverty, 13 respondents representing 39.4% indicated unemployment, 6 respondents representing 18.2% indicated moral decadence, 9 respondents representing 27.3% out of the entire respondents indicated greed while the remaining 1 respondent representing 3.0% indicated religious belief.

Table 2: What are the consequences of kidnapping in the North

Options	Frequency	Percentage
loss of revenue	7	21.2
Loss of societal and human value	6	18.2
Increase of high level of mistrust among people	9	27.3
It cripples socioeconomic development	11	33.3
Total	33	100

Source: Field survey, 2021.

The above table presents the research respondents on what are the consequences of kidnapping in the North. In the table, 7 respondents representing 21.2% of the entire respondents indicated a loss of revenue, 6 respondents representing 18.2% indicated a loss of societal and human value, 9 respondents representing 27.3% indicated an increase of the high level of mistrust among people while 11 respondents representing 33.3% state that it cripples socioeconomic development.

Discussion of Findings

The statistics show that kidnapping has contributed to a relatively high level of mistrust among people. Few people still extend traditional African hospitality to strangers. Some people do not acknowledge or return greeting by strangers nor oblige strangers asking for direction. Also, most people are unwilling to render help to people in distress for fear of being kidnapped. Few people would venture to stop to assist people calling for help on the expressway. Increasingly, many people nowadays barricade themselves in their homes (Soyombo, 2019). Most devastatingly, it has been noted that it is the fear of kidnapping that has contributed to the current high demand for police escort by diverse public officials in the country, thereby further depleting the inadequate police personnel that could have been deployed to street crime control (Soyombo, 2019).

The study shows that due to the constant activities of kidnappings and killings, the Northern region has lost a lot of revenue as a result of multinational companies pulling out their plants and enterprises to more peaceful regions in Nigeria. Above all, kidnapping as one of the social problems that are bedeviling northern Nigeria has greatly affected the socio-economic development of the region by scaring investors away from the region including some professionals who would have been plus to the region among several others. These menaces are worsened by poverty, unemployment, and moral decadence, abandonment of the youths by some politicians, corruption, inadequate relevant information to the security agents by citizens on where and when kidnapping incidents are taking place, inadequate sophisticated equipment for our security agencies for the tracking down of criminals etcetera

Conclusion

This study provides evidence that Kidnapping is one of the offspring of terrorism and social vices in Nigeria. School pupils kidnapping is a nefarious, villainous, terrible and seasonal crime that portend security challenges in Northern Nigeria. It is a major problem being experienced in the North today because categories of criminals are neglecting other means of money-making to this quickest means of making a huge sum of money. In the Northern parts of the country, Boko Haram and other gang groups are reported to have

committed large-scale kidnapping. Conclusively, poverty leads to kidnapping in Nigeria because some of the unemployed youths are turning out to kidnapping and they are using the kidnapping to get money (ransom) as a survival strategy. Corruption is not strongly linked with kidnapping, but there is an indirect link between the two whereby unscrupulous politicians are using youths as political thugs to kidnap opponents or their family members with a certain demand or to intimidate them.

Recommendations

The paper made the following recommendations in order to address the kidnapping correlates and by implication to provide the opportunity for reducing kidnapping in Nigeria.

1. The Nigerian Government shall develop poverty alleviation programs and job opportunities aimed at young people who are mainly engaged in kidnappings and kidnappings as a result of economic frustration, such as unemployment.
2. Poverty alleviation programs should also be aimed at combating the high rate of poverty among women and children who are disadvantaged segments of the population, often abducted by militants or separatists and trapped by organized criminals, resulting in abduction for labor.
3. In order to suppress abduction successfully, the government still fights insurgency and the numerous rebel factions in the northern and southern parts of the country are all resorting to kidnapping innocent people in their attempts to advance their causes.
4. Anti-terrorism programs should be run side-by-side with anti-kidnapping programs in Nigeria.
5. Non-governmental organizations can also be part of the abduction war in Nigeria and neighboring countries through awareness-raising programmes.
6. Law enforcement authorities, such as the police and other anti-trafficking departments, shall also step up monitoring in the battle against kidnapping. They shall get special instruction in how to locate the victims of the abduction and be able to take them away from the kidnappers without hurting them.

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