1st International Conference

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHERE, GOMBE STATE, NIGERIA

Book of Conference Proceedings

1st International Conference Organized by the Department of Political Science,
Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria

Date: 20th – 21st May, 2024.

Published by the Department of Political Science,
Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State, Nigeria.

ISBN: 978-978-765-185-8

Disclaimer:

The Department of Political Science, Federal University of Kashere wishes to inform the general public that none of the opinions and views published in this Book of Conference Proceedings belongs to the Department of Political Science, Federal University of Kashere and the Department of Political Science shall not be held accountable and responsible, hence, the presentations, opinions and views belongs to the authors of the said papers.

Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Ndaliman Alhaji Hassan

Corresponding Editor:

Dr. Usman Ahmed

Managing Editor:

Dr. Isaac Terungwa Terwase

Table of Contents

1. **The Interplay between Presidential Democracy, Federalism, and the Push for Political Restructuring in Nigeria**
   Auwalu Musa, Abdullahi Ado Bayero, Fatima Bappah, Zakari Zakariyya Muhammed, Ayuba Ibrahin & Rebecca Shokwonya Auta 1
2. **The Role of Social Media in Political Mobilization: A Study of APC Gubernatorial Election in Gombe State**
   Mamud Yaro Mohammed 11
3. **Farmer-Herder Conflict and National Security in Nigeria: The Benue State in Perspective**
   Dominic Aondowase Ioryue 24
4. **Extreme Poverty Eradication in Post Millennium Development Goals Experiment: Theoretical Perspective, Prospects and Projections on the Sustainable Development Goals**
   Julius John Achanya & Matakhitswen Kefas 39
5. **The Effect of Corruption on Public Financial Management System in Nigeria**
   Achanya Julius John & Varzoa Luma 51
6. **Environmental Security and Climate Change**
   Abubakar Ahmadu & Onyegbulem Emeka Valentine 64
7. **ECOWAS Single Common Market: Portraying Scores of Maladies**
   Ibrahim Baba Shatambaya & Abdulrashid Dalha 73
8. **Farmers-Herders Conflict and Food Security in Benue State of Nigeria**
   Ofotokun Ovoke Andy & Mowete Gabriel Okechukwu 87
9. **Availability of Primary Healthcare Workers and Child Health Management Among Rural Dwellers in Central Senatorial Zone of Taraba State, Nigeria**
   John Wajim, Andeskebtso Yohanna Adaki, Shimfe Grace Harry, Yaweh Filibus & Samuel Ruth Agbu 98
10. **Leadership and Good Governance: The Challenges of Human Security in Nigeria**
    Mowete Gabriel Okechukwu & Ofotokun Ovoke Andy 108
11. **Internally Generated Revenue as Pathway to Economic Security: A Study of Jigawa State, Nigeria**
    Auwalu Salisu Dattijo, Nazifi Bala, Murtala Ahmed & Hussaini Abdullahi 122
12. **Assessing the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Improving of Farmers' Livelihood in Ingawa LGA of Katsina State, Nigeria**
    Ahmed Audu Yusufu, Samuel Uchenna Nzeako & Simon O. Obadahun 133
13. **Jihad or Banditry: Re-Examining the Insecurity in Guinea Savannah and Sudan Savannah of Nigeria**
    Tibwa Abwage Samuila & Kefas Bako 146
14. **Benefits and Challenges in Integrating Blockchain Technology into the Power Sector**
    Marbiyat Tahir Gidado & Ibrahim Usman Pariya 156
15. **Impact of Manipulative Leadership and Governance on Human Security Challenges in Nigeria**
    Henry M. O. Gbagolo 166

16. Winning the War against Corruption in Nigeria: The Missing Link
Ibrahim Echu 178
17. Contemplating Security Challenges and Crime Control: A Reflective Analysis of the Amotekun Corps in the South-West Region of Nigeria
Akeem Ayanda Araba & Yusuf Ibrahim Ajao 196
18. Assessment of the Impact of Neo-Liberal Economic Policies on the Social and Economic Lives of Nigerians
Auwal Alhaji Jingi 214
19. Rethinking Human Security Perspectives: Challenges & Prospects
Joshua Oji Zachariah & Emmanuel Onyemaechi Nnaji 223
20. Health, Insecurity, and Poverty in Yauri Local Government Area of Kebbi State
Muhammad Garba Yauri, Auwalu Sale Yakasai & Aminu Surajo 245
21. Impact of Money Politics During 2022 Primary Elections in Yola North Local Government Area, Adamawa State
Sanusi Ibrahim 254
22. The Behaviour Change Strategies and Mental Health Outcomes Among Youth in Batagarawa Local Government Area of Katsina State, Nigeria
Muhammad Garba Yauri & Muhammad Inuwa 264
23. **The Drivers of African Migrants to Europe and the Mediterranean Sea Death Trap**
Ndaliman Alhaji Hassan & Yakaka Abubakar 271
24. The Challenges of Reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons in Makurdi, Nigeria
Simon Tyoakaa, Isaac Terungwa Terwase, Musa Mohammed Kirfi, Abubakar Mohammed Sambo & Shimenenge Mary Yvonne Atime 280
25. **The Dynamic of Insecurity in Plateau State and Idea of Common Identity as a Panacea for Fighting Insecurity**
Sanda Reuben Nimyel, Bala Kachalla Lummo & Godfery Rekat Dungum 287
26. **Ethical Leadership and Employee Engagement in Nigeria Public Administration amid Global Challenges**
Ugochukwu D. Abasilim & Oluwabimpe O. David 298
27. BRICS-Africa Partnership: An Alternative for Africa's Economic Growth and Sustainable Development Challenges
Bashir Malam & Yusuf Ahmad Lawal 309
28. Examining the Framework of African Continental Free Trade Area and the State Protectionism Policy
Salisu Inusa Hassan, Safwan Sani Mikaila, Bala Lummo Kachalla, & Mohammed Umar 323
29. **Insecurity: A Major Challenge Against The Achievement Of Sustainable Development Goals In Nigeria**
Ishaku Hamidu 334
30. **The Implications of Security Challenges in North-Western Nigeria: A Prognosis from Armed Banditry**
Idris Ibrahim Abdullahi, Salisu Inusa Hassan, Safwan Sani Mikaila & Bala Lummo Kachalla 348
31. **Globalization, Democracy And The Challenges Of Human Security**
Habu Mohammed 362

32. **Globalization, Democracy, and Human Security in Africa: A Multifaceted Analysis**
Yusufu Ali Zoaka 381
33. **Designating Human Security As Legitimate Security Concern In The 'Globalized' Third Word: The Nigerian Narrative**
Mailabari Bitrus Nuhu & Isaac Terungwa Terwase 399
34. The Politics of Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria: A Policy Theatre Ground for Political Elites
Ahmed Wali Doho 408
35. **Food Security and Climate Change in Nigeria**
Nimmyel Nimkur Mallam 417
36. **The Impact of Democracy on the Political Development of Benue State 1999-2015**
Terna Vincent Tavershima & Bartholomew Terwase Anyam 426

Contemplating Security Challenges and Crime Control: A Reflective Analysis of the Amotekun Corps in the South-West Region of Nigeria

Akeem Ayanda Araba & Yusuf Ibrahim Ajao
Department of Politics & Governance,
Kwara State University, Malete, Nigeria
Corresponding author: arabaakeem@gmail.com

Abstract

Given the escalating rates of criminal activities in Nigeria, conventional security agencies, particularly the police in their current structure, appear inadequate to effectively address issues such as kidnapping, robberies, farmland and crop destruction, and violent conflicts between farmers and herdsmen. Recognizing this reality, the governors of the South-west states of Nigeria initiated the Regional Security Network known as Amotekun. This study aims to i) assess the capabilities and empowerment of the Amotekun Corps in ensuring security in the South West Region, and ii) examine whether the establishment of the Amotekun Corps has contributed to a reduction in crime rates and an enhancement of human security in the region. The study employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, drawing data from both primary and secondary sources. Specifically, information was gathered from a major local government within the senatorial district. The study targeted the population of residents and Amotekun officers across Oyo, Ogun, and Ondo States. The Taro Yamane formula and simple percentage calculations were applied. The paper emphasizes the importance of adequately equipping security agencies for effective crime prevention. Furthermore, the study recommends that the federal government permit all states to establish their State Security Networks to supplement existing security agencies in safeguarding lives and property.

Keywords: Amotekun Corps, Security, Crime, Insecurity, Regional security.

Introduction

The fundamental objective of any nation's government is to ensure the security and well-being of its populace. This principle is enshrined in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which declares that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government" (Section 14(2) (b) Constitution 1999). In every civilized society, the paramount duty of the government, arguably above all others, is to protect the welfare and safety of its citizens. This obligation is rooted in the unique capacity of the state to wield military power and enforce laws, a capability that other sectors of society typically lack. Crime poses a universal challenge, endangering not only the safety and security of local communities but also the overall peace and stability of the nation itself (Ambali & Araba, 2020).

The issue of security has emerged as a prominent concern globally, with its inconsistencies being a topic of widespread discussion. Notably, Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa and often regarded as one of its economically developed nations, has experienced a surge in conflicts, rendering it one of the most volatile environments in terms of threats to human lives and property security in recent times.

According to the 2020 Global Terrorism Index (GTI), Nigeria ranks as the third most affected country by terrorism. For over eleven years, Nigeria has been contending with insurgent groups such as Boko Haram and ISWAP, among others. These security challenges have led to incidents such as kidnapping, clashes between farmers and herdsmen, and armed robberies (Thisday, 2023).

The escalating national security threat has become a primary concern for the government, leading to a significant allocation of the national budget towards security measures. In an effort to mitigate crime rates, the federal government enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, intensifying surveillance and investigation of criminal activities. Additionally, there has been a focus on enhancing physical security measures nationwide to deter or disrupt potential attacks. Furthermore, efforts have been made to bolster security agencies by providing them with necessary facilities and disseminating security tips through mass media channels. Despite these initiatives, the country continues to grapple with high levels of insecurity. Moreover, Nigeria's consistent low rankings in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012) underscore the persistent challenges and worsening state of insecurity within the nation.

Over time, successive administrations in Nigeria have implemented various strategies to tackle the challenges of insecurity within the nation. These approaches have ranged from employing both incentives and punitive measures to utilizing direct force, along with periodic assessments of the performance of security agencies tasked with managing the crisis. Noteworthy among these agencies are the National Security Agency (NSA), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the State Security Service (SSS), the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and the Nigerian Armed Forces, encompassing the Army, Air Force, and Navy (as cited in Omoroje, Egbule, & Emuebie, 2020). Despite these efforts, the security situation in Nigeria remains a grave concern.

Despite the aforementioned measures, it is undeniable that Nigeria is currently grappling with severe security challenges, causing apprehension among citizens, government officials, and even security personnel tasked with safeguarding lives and property. Few individuals can rest peacefully, with many feeling constantly on edge. Over the past four years, there has been a significant escalation in the frequency, complexity, and sophistication of insecurity across Nigeria. What was once considered a relatively minor concern among the nation's social issues has now reached alarming levels. While corruption and power failures were traditionally viewed as the foremost challenges, insecurity has now taken center stage (FinIntell, 2013).

A quick review of the daily Nigerian newspapers provides ample evidence of the prevailing state of insecurity within the country. Instances of youth unrest, kidnapping, bombings, arson, militancy, insurgency, and other related incidents have become disturbingly commonplace (Ogheneakoke, 2014). Nigeria is grappling with an unparalleled surge of diverse yet interconnected security challenges, ranging from kidnapping to extremist insurgencies. Virtually every region of the nation has been affected by varying degrees of violence and criminal activities.

As a result, the primary focus of this paper is to explore the concept of a collaborative security initiative among the six states in the South-West region of Nigeria, namely Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Ekiti. This initiative emerged following a summit convened in Ibadan on June 25, 2019, in response to escalating insecurity challenges. The South-West governors faced significant pressure as numerous farmers were forced to abandon their livelihoods and villagers were fleeing their homes due to relentless attacks.

Literature Review

Security refers to the state or quality of being free from danger or threats. It encompasses the feeling of happiness and safety, devoid of worry or apprehension (Stevenson, 2010). Crime prevention involves the implementation of strategies and measures aimed at diminishing the likelihood of crimes transpiring, as well as mitigating their potential adverse impacts on both individuals and society. These measures are designed to address the various root causes of crime, thereby reducing the incidence of criminal activities and alleviating the fear of crime within communities.

Nigeria is grappling with a security crisis primarily due to insufficient, misdirected, and ineffective security policies. The fundamental purpose of any nation is to ensure the safety and security of its inhabitants. However, Nigeria is currently confronted with a myriad of security challenges, including kidnapping and abduction incidents across various regions, rampant cases of robbery, human trafficking, and political assassinations, clashes between farmers and herdsmen, as well as broader national security issues.

Insecurity, reminiscent of the Hobbesian state of nature, characterized by a life described as solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short, reflects the current state of affairs in Nigeria. Similar to the concept articulated by Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679) in his work "Leviathan," published in 1651, wherein he depicts a state where the weak and common individuals are at the mercy of the strong, this tendency finds resonance in contemporary Nigeria. Hobbes argued that in the state of nature, where there is no established society, there is no concept of justice or injustice, and individuals possess an inherent right to all things, including the right to take others' lives. He posited that the State of Nature is a theoretical condition preceding the establishment of 'society' through a hypothetical 'Social Contract.' In this state, Hobbes observed that everyone acts out of self-interest, leading to what he termed a "war of all against all," a scenario mirroring the current situation in Nigeria.

According to Okoro (2018), herdsmen have wreaked havoc on entire communities, carrying out abductions, burning churches, murdering church leaders and congregants, attacking law enforcement personnel, committing rape, looting, and other egregious crimes. Meanwhile, the government's response to this crisis has been perceived as inadequate, posing a significant threat to both national security and development. The displacement of farmers from affected areas has led to a drastic reduction in agricultural output in Nigeria. This is evident from the scarcity of farm produce in both rural and urban markets across central Nigeria.

Scholars such as Adelakun (1990), Egwu (1990), Odekunle (2005), Aderinde (2007), Arinze (2010), and Ajibade, Olapade, and Erinosho (2011) emphasize various factors contributing to the

wave of insecurity in Nigeria. They assert that the Nigerian state's response to crises such as mass unemployment and petroleum shortages has exacerbated the country's crime situation. Additionally, poverty, declining incomes, low savings, high inflation rates, and political intolerance have all played a role in escalating insecurity nationwide.

According to Olakiitan (2016), the government's failure to decisively address the issue of herdsmen attacks carries several implications for Nigeria. The fact that herdsmen now possess sophisticated weapons with which they freely target their perceived adversaries poses a grave threat to national security. This is exacerbated by the inability of security forces, including the police, to effectively counter the boldness and firepower exhibited by armed herdsmen.

According to Onifade, Imhonopi, and Urim (2013), the insecurity challenges in Nigeria have reached alarming levels, prompting widespread lamentation from the country's political and economic leaders, as well as the entire nation. The loss of loved ones and investments, along with the pervasive absence of safety in many parts of the country, has deeply affected the populace. The rapid rate at which innocent lives are being lost daily, coupled with the visible display of bottled-up frustration among citizens, remains a cause for concern.

The frequency of violent crimes, including terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery, banditry, suicide bombings, religious conflicts, ethnic clashes, politically motivated killings, and various other criminal activities, has become a distressingly common aspect of life in Nigeria. The country's consistent low rankings in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), as noted by Achumba, Ighomereho, and Akpor-Robaro (2013), underscore the worsening state of insecurity within the nation.

Olufolabo, Akintande, and Ekum (2015) have identified specific categories of crimes prevalent in both urban and rural areas of Nigeria. They highlight stealing, theft, and burglary as the most commonly committed crimes in many cities. Additionally, they point to factors such as illiteracy, broken families, association with delinquent peers, environmental vulnerabilities, and the perceived failure of law enforcement and judicial authorities in delivering justice as primary contributors to residential urban crime.

As early as the 1980s, reports of increasing crime rates in Nigeria were being documented (Times International, London: November 4, 1985). During this period, lives were no longer considered safe, and the nation grappled with insecurity challenges posed by offenders. However, the surge in crime witnessed in recent years is relatively more pronounced. The reality of insecurity, particularly stemming from criminal activities, has become increasingly apparent. The recent crime wave in Nigeria is characterized by escalating frequency, severity, and brutality. The emergence of security challenges such as kidnapping and clashes between farmers and herdsmen has resulted in the loss of numerous lives and properties.

Methodology and Data Presentation

The research employed a descriptive survey approach, utilizing data gathered from both primary (questionnaires and interviews) and secondary (textbooks, journals, government documents, newspapers, and internet sources) sources. Data collection was conducted within one of the largest local government areas in the senatorial district. The target population for the study comprised residents and Amotekun officers from Oyo, Ogun, and Ondo States. The sample size was determined using the Taro Yamane (1976) technique/method, as follows:

Table 1: The largest Local Government in each Senatorial District

S/N	Senatorial District	The Largest Local Government	Population
1	Ondo North	Akoko South West,	228,383
2	Ondo Central	Akure South,	360,268
3	Ondo South	Ilaje,	289,838
	Total		**878,489**

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria 2006

S/N	Senatorial District	The Largest Local Government	Population
1	Oyo North	Saki West,	273,268
2	Oyo Central	Egbeda	283,643
3	Oyo South	Ibadan North East	331,444
	Total		**888,355**

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria 2006

S/N	Senatorial District	The Largest Local Government	Population
1	Ogun Central	Ifo,	539,170
2	Ogun East	Ijebu North	280,520
3	Ogun West	Ado-Odo/Ota	527,242
	Total		**1,346,932**

Source: National Population Commission of Nigeria 2006

$n=N/ (1+N (e)^2$

Or

$$n= \frac{N}{1+ N (e)^2}$$

Where

n= signifies the sample size

N= signifies the population under study

e= signifies the margin error (it could be 0.10, 0.05 or 0.01)

Ondo

$n=N/ (1+N (e)^2$

n= 878,489 / (1+ 878,489 $(0.05)^2$
n= 878,489 / (1+ 878,489 (0.0025)
n= 878,489 / (1+2,196.2225)
n= 878,489 / 2,197.2225
n=399.8 or 400
Oyo
n=N/ (1+N $(e)^2$
n= 888,355 / (1+ 888,355 $(0.05)^2$
n= 888,355 / (1+ 888,355 (0.0025)
n= 888,355 / (1+2,220.8875)
n= 888,355 / 2,221.8875
n=399.8 or 400
Ogun
n=N/ (1+N $(e)^2$
n= 1,346,932 / (1+ 1,346,932 $(0.05)^2$
n=1,346,932 / (1+ 1,346,932 (0.0025)
n= 1,346,932 / (1+3,367.33)
n= 1,346,932 / 3,368.33
n=399.9 or 400

The sample size for this study was determined to be 1200 respondents for the questionnaire, comprising 400 individuals each from Ondo, Oyo, and Ogun States. This sample size is considered representative of the total population within the three largest local government areas representing the senatorial districts under study.

The simple random sampling technique was employed to select respondents, ensuring each individual had an equal chance of being selected. A total of 1200 questionnaires were distributed, of which 945 were completed and returned accurately. The questionnaire comprised two sections: Section A included demographic questions, while Section B addressed inquiries pertinent to the research topic. Responses were structured using a 5-point Likert scale format, ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree."

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N=100)

CHARACTERISTICS	CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Gender	Male	603	64%
	Female	342	36%
Age Group	21-30	279	30%
	31-40	322	34%
	41-50	190	20%
	51 and above	154	16%
Marital Status	Single	378	40%
	Married	567	60%

Source: Survey data collected from fieldwork, 2023

Table 2 presents the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Among the 945 participants, 603 (64%) are male, while 342 (36%) are female. Additionally, the table reveals that the majority of respondents fall within the age bracket of 31-40, comprising 322 individuals (34%). Those aged 21-30 account for 279 respondents (30%), while 41-50-year-olds constitute 190 individuals (20%). Respondents aged 51 years and above represent the smallest proportion, with 154 individuals (16%).

Table 3: Amotekun Corps Ranks

S/N	OFFICER	
1	AMT Assistant Commander of Corp	B.SC/Equivalent
2	AMT Assistant Superintendent of Corps	An Ex-Servicemen
3	AMT Superintendent of Corps	
4	AMT Inspector of Corps	NCE/ND
5	AMT Field Corps (Operatives)	SSCE/Primary School Certificate

Research Question One: Is Amotekun Corps well equipped and properly empowered to provide security to South West region?

Table 4: Amotekun Corps Instrument

S/N	**Questions**	**Strongly Agree**		**Agree**		**Undecided**		**Disagree**		**Strongly Disagree**	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	The Amotekun Corps has been provided with the necessary security equipment.	403	43%	310	33%	51	5%	117	12%	64	7%
2	Amotekun Corps officials underwent training in community policing aligned with the 21st-century human security framework.	250	26%	290	31%	35	4%	195	21%	175	16%
3	Communication devices were supplied to the Amotekun Corps to improve their ability to quickly respond to human security challenges.	462	49%	395	42%	26	2%	37	4%	25	3%
4	A range of mobility resources were given to	375	40%	298	32%	15	1%	130	14%	127	13%

	facilitate the movement of Amotekun Corps officers within the neighborhood.										
5	A communication channel has been set up between Amotekun Corps officials and other security agencies in the South West Region..	432	46%	346	37%	20	2%	121	13%	26	3%
6	Non-lethal ammunition was supplied to Amotekun Corps officers to support self-defense in appropriate situations.	541	57%	223	24%	10	1%	63	7%	108	11%
7	The appearance of the Amotekun Corps outfit portrays them as responsible individuals within the neighborhood.	305	32%	275	29%	29	3%	139	15%	197	21%
8	In general, the equipment provided to Amotekun Corps officers is advanced and capable of addressing human security challenges in the 21st century.	298	32%	287	30%	23	2%	205	22%	132	14%
9	Amotekun Corps officers received essential and suitable training in operating the security equipment provided to them.	254	27%	289	31%	13	1%	230	24%	159	17%
10	To enhance efficiency, designated areas of coverage were marked for streamlined monitoring and supervision of human security.	359	38%	426	45%	19	2%	69	7%	72	7%

Source: Survey data collected from fieldwork, 2023

NOTE: SA+A=Agreed; D+SD= Disagreed

Table 4 presents the findings regarding the responsibilities of the Amotekun Corps. It indicates that a majority of 713 respondents (76%) agreed that The Amotekun Corps has been provided with the necessary security equipment.However, 540 respondents (57%) believe that Amotekun Corps officials underwent training in community policing aligned with the 21st-century human security framework. Additionally, 857 respondents (91%) perceived that Communication devices were supplied to the Amotekun Corps to improve their ability to quickly respond to human security challenges.

Furthermore, 673 respondents (72%) agreed that a range of mobility resources were given to facilitate the movement of Amotekun Corps officers within the neighborhood. Moreover, the table reveals that 778 respondents (83%), representing the majority, agreed that a communication channel has been set up between Amotekun Corps officials and other security agencies in the South West Region. Moreover, the table indicates that 764 respondents (81%) agreed that Non-lethal ammunition was supplied to Amotekun Corps officers to support self-defense in appropriate situations.

Additionally, 580 respondents (61%) stated that the appearance of the Amotekun Corps outfit portrays them as responsible individuals within the neighborhood. Furthermore, 585 respondents (62%), representing the majority, agreed that In general, the equipment provided to Amotekun Corps officers is advanced and capable of addressing human security challenges in the 21st century. In addition, 543 respondents (58%) reported that Amotekun Corps officers received essential and suitable training in operating the security equipment provided to them. Moreover, 785 respondents (83%) perceived that to enhance efficiency, designated areas of coverage were marked for streamlined monitoring and supervision of human security.

Research Question Two: Does the establishment of Amotekun Corps have reduced the crime rate and improve human security in South West Region?

Table 5: Reduction in Crime Rate

S/N	Questions	Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	The establishment of the Amotekun Corps has bolstered the ongoing security operations in the South West region.	523	55%	213	23%	15	2%	72	7%	122	13%
2	Amotekun Corps officers are more connected to the	473	50%	364	39%	21	2%	33	3%	54	6%

	neighborhood when it comes to gathering information to improve human security.										
3	The collaboration established between the Amotekun Corps and the Nigeria Police Force has enhanced the security situation in the South West region.	289	31%	278	29%	31	3%	196	21%	151	16%
4	The cooperation between the Amotekun Corps and the Nigeria Police Force has enhanced security in the South West region.	131	14%	117	12%	17	2%	357	38%	323	34%
5	The establishment of the Amotekun Corps has exacerbated human security challenges in the South West Region due to competition with other security agencies.	426	45%	359	38%	38	4%	73	8%	49	5%
6	Amotekun Corps officers have successfully identified criminal elements in the neighborhood, leading to a decrease in criminal activities.	430	46%	290	31%	43	5%	103	11%	79	8%

Source: Field Reports

Table 5 displays responses regarding the reduction in crime rate in the South West Region. A majority of 736 respondents (78%) acknowledged that the establishment of the Amotekun Corps has bolstered the ongoing security operations in the South West region. Additionally, 837 respondents (89%) strongly agreed that Amotekun Corps officers are more connected to the neighborhood when it comes to gathering information to improve human security.

Furthermore, 567 respondents (60%) expressed positivity towards the synergy between the collaboration established between the Amotekun Corps and the Nigeria Police Force has enhanced the security situation in the South West region However, 680 respondents (72%) admitted that the cooperation between the Amotekun Corps and the Nigeria Police Force has enhanced security in the South West region.

Moreover, 785 respondents (83%) strongly believed that the establishment of the Amotekun Corps has exacerbated human security challenges in the South West Region due to competition with other security agencies. Additionally, 720 respondents (77%) agreed that Amotekun Corps officers have successfully identified criminal elements in the neighborhood, leading to a decrease in criminal activities.

Discussion on Major Findings

Research Question 1

Is Amotekun Corps well equipped and properly empowered to provide security to South West region?

Insufficient support for police reform is often cited as a significant factor contributing to its failure (Frühling, 2012). From the gathered data, it was observed that the Amotekun corps was adequately equipped. In 2008, the former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero, highlighted the lack of contemporary equipment as a major hindrance to the Nigerian police's ability to combat crime efficiently. He emphasized that the police force faced challenges due to inadequate infrastructural facilities and essential equipment shortages. It can be inferred that the lack of equipment has been a persistent challenge for the Nigerian Police Force in providing security. The inadequacy of equipment and motivation among security forces often negatively impacts their performance and effectiveness in combating destabilizing and subversive activities within a nation.

During an interview with corps personnel, an AMT Assistant Superintendent stated that:

> The Corps is adequately equipped, with all necessary gadgets provided by the State Governors. Additionally, vehicles and machinery have been made available to facilitate their movement.

The National Coordinator of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) asserted that Governors Adeleke, Dapo Abiodun, and Biodun Oyebanji should follow the examples of Ondo and Oyo States in providing the Amotekun Corps with the necessary support to function effectively (Vanguard, 2023). Gani Adams emphasized that the governors should empower local organizations and the Amotekun Corps to complement existing security agencies. He highlighted that the Oyo State Government has significantly strengthened Amotekun by mobilizing up to three thousand personnel, providing them with all necessary equipment, resulting in their commendable performance.

Ambali & Araba (2020) emphasized the importance of making adequate efforts to enhance not only the condition of service and welfare packages of the Neighborhood Safety Corps officers but also to ensure the provision of modern operational equipment. This would enable the Corps on patrol to effectively counter both existing and emerging threats from criminally minded individuals, ultimately leading to an improvement in security within the South West region.

The Nigeria Police Force annual report highlighted several factors that have handicapped the force, including a lack of appropriate and adequate training and an ill-equipped workforce (Nigeria Police Force, 2008). This serves as evidence of the poor performance recorded by the agency.

During an interview, a respondent from the AMT Field Corps (Operatives) stated that;

> The Corps is adequately equipped and sufficiently motivated, both in terms of gadgets and mobilization funds. However, the Corps faces challenges in the non-authorization of the use of modern guns or pistols, leading them to utilize locally made guns.

Soyinka emphasized the importance of frequent training for the personnel of the Western Nigeria Security Network, Amotekun, to prevent them from becoming another SARS. He further suggested that community policing initiatives like Amotekun are a recognition of the need for civic participation in the defense and survival of the entire national polity (Thisday, 2023).

Makinde (2014) argues that the police force requires adequate reinforcement with sophisticated weapons such as arms and ammunition, tear gas, hand/blast grenades, long/short-range tear gas, bulletproof vests, cartridges, etc., for proficient handling of armed bandits. It was reported in the Daily Trust Newspaper that in support of the outfit, all six South West governors contributed 20 vehicles each, with Oyo contributing 33 vehicles, to assist the operatives in carrying out their duties. Additionally, they procured 100 units of motorcycles each (Daily Trust, 2020).

Research Question 2

Does the establishment of Amotekun Corps have reduced the crime rate and improve human security in South West Region?

Ambali & Araba (2020) suggest that the Federal government should adopt community policing as a national policy, allowing all state governments to establish State Neighborhood Corps. This, they argue, would lead to a reduction in the crime rate in Nigeria and enhance levels of human security in society. According to Peak & Glensor (2012), the most effective approach to promoting crime prevention is through joint identification, where the police work in collaboration with the community to identify both actual and potential causes of crime within a community.

Community Policing, as described by the United States Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, is a philosophy that advocates for organizational strategies supporting the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques. Its aim is to proactively address the immediate conditions giving rise to public safety issues, including crime, social disorder, and fear of crime (USDOJ, 2008).

From the above, it can be inferred that regional state security networks are strategies for addressing the challenges posed by the crime virus in the country. State regional security networks are often seen as the ideal policing policy for enhancing the overall policing situation in the country.

During the inauguration of the Neighborhood Safety Corp Agency, former Lagos State Governor Mr. Akinwumi Ambode emphasized that the fight against crime and all other forms of criminality would be significantly enhanced through the adoption of community policing. He

stressed the importance of community policing in complementing the efforts of the police and other law enforcement agencies (ThisDay, 2016).

A pertinent inquiry was posed to a resident of Ogun State regarding the performance of the Amotekun corps and whether they have succeeded in reducing the crime rate in the state. In response, he remarked:

> The corps has effectively addressed several dangerous crimes, notably the apprehension of numerous illegal mining operations in the state. These illegal mines have been shut down by the Amotekun corps.

According to Punch (2023), the Ondo State Security Network Agency, commonly referred to as the Amotekun corps, has successfully prosecuted over 2000 criminals within the two years since its establishment in the state. The agency's grassroots intelligence and network provide a significant advantage that cannot be underestimated, serving as a solution to curbing criminal activities.

In response to the same question, a civil servant in Ondo State emphasized that:

> The corps has encountered over 900 herders who entered the state, often during the midnight hours, disguising themselves as various types of criminals. The respondent noted that these herders typically enter Ondo through border communities in Edo, Kogi, and Ekiti States with large herds of cattle, and subsequently engage in criminal activities.

The Amotekun Corps has been working closely with other security agencies to address issues such as kidnapping, robbery, and notably, to mitigate the frequent clashes between herders and farmers. The security network has successfully recovered weapons from suspected bandits, which were then handed over to the police and other relevant security agencies. Additionally, instances of conflict between herders and farmers have been resolved in various states following the seizure of cattle that encroached upon farmland.

The Ondo Amotekun forces have successfully rescued kidnapped victims, including the wife of the Chief of Staff to Governor Akeredolu, Chief Olugbenga Ale, who was abducted along the Akure/Ondo Expressway in November last year. The rescue operation was conducted by the Amotekun corps, in collaboration with local hunters in the area, leading to the woman's safe recovery within 24 hours of intensive search efforts. Additionally, numerous herders have been arrested and over 5,000 cows seized for damaging farmers' crops in various villages. This has significantly reduced the frequency of clashes between herders and farmers in the state. The recent directive issued by Akeredolu, which bans open grazing and ejects herders from the state's forest reserves, is being enforced by the Amotekun corps (Thisday, 2023).

Responding to the same question, an Assistant Superintendent of Corps with the AMT in Ondo stated that:

> Over the past two years, the corps has prosecuted over 2,000 criminals and obtained favorable judgments in government's favor for no fewer than 1,500 criminal charges. We established the Amotekun Court to assist the judiciary when the influx of criminals per day surpassed the facilities available within the judiciary. Numerous prosecutions have been carried out by the Amotekun Corps across the South West, and the seamless collaboration has further bolstered the security framework in the region.

Recommendations

1. There is a need to enhance synergy between government security agencies and state security network outfits. The findings indicate that when security agencies are adequately equipped, their ability to perform and combat crime is significantly higher. Unfortunately, many state apparatuses are poorly equipped, which contributes to their inability to effectively control crime nationwide. Both the Federal and State governments should allocate funds and provide all necessary gadgets required by security outfits to enhance their performance. Overall, deficiencies in crime prevention often stem from inadequate funding and lack of equipment. It has been observed that when security forces are properly equipped, their response to combating crime improves. Therefore, the government should continue to allocate essential logistics and additional resources to Amotekun security operatives.

2. According to Section 14(2) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the primary responsibility of all government is the welfare of its citizenry. It is imperative for both the federal and state governments to collaborate and establish a robust regional security apparatus to address the security challenges in Nigeria. Creating a joint security outfit would enable citizens to carry out their legitimate business activities safely, thereby ensuring the security of their lives and property. Combining efforts is the only viable solution to the insecurity prevalent in society. Collaborative efforts between the federal and state governments on security matters would facilitate the prompt decision-making process, rather than waiting for instructions from the central authority before responding to security issues. The federal government should empower all states to establish their own State Security Networks to complement the existing security agencies in safeguarding lives and property.

Conclusion

Insecurity has long been a pervasive issue in Nigeria, with the predominant challenge being the centralization of coercive and sovereign instruments under the control of the Federal

Government. It is evident that the Federal Government's capacity to address this issue is limited. Nigeria's vast size and expansive geography make it unsuitable for a singular policing system.

Given the significant increase in criminal activities observed daily in Nigeria, it is evident that the conventional security agencies, such as the police in their current state, are inadequate in addressing the issues of kidnapping, robberies, destruction of farmlands and crops, and the prevalent violent clashes between farmers and herdsmen.

Amotekun serves as a confidence-building measure for the inhabitants of the Western Zone. It is essential to understand that the State Security network does not replicate nor supplant the Nigeria Police Force; rather, it complements it. This security initiative offers reassurance and addresses the community's concerns. Essentially, Amotekun represents a community policing approach to address the social issues faced by the populace.

References

Achumba, I.C., Ighomereho, O.S. & Akpor-Robaro, M.O.M. (2013). Security challenges in Nigeria and the implications for business activities and sustainable development.

Achumba C, Ighomereho, O. S and Akpor –Robaro, M. O. M (2013). Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development l4, (2), 79-99

Ambali, A. R & Araba, A. A (2020). Community Policing and Human Security in Nigeria: A Study of Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC). *Journal of Administrative Science 17(2), 72 - 91* Available online at *http:jas.uitm.edu.my*

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999), available online at: http://www.nigeria-law.org/Constitution of The Federal Republic of Nigeria.htm

Daily Trust (2021) Àmòtékún 'Fails' To Tackle Insecurity In South West. https://dailytrust.com/amotekun-fails-to-tackle-insecurity-in-south-west/ access online 6/8/23.

Daily Trust Newspaper, Published 9th January, 2020

FinIntell, (2013). The Cost and Effect of Insecurity in Nigeria; Culled from http://www.financialintelligence.com/professionalservices. Retrieved 12/09/2019, 12.20pm.

Frühling, H. (2012). A realistic look at Latin American community policing programmes. *Policing and Society, 22*(1), 76-88.

Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012). Global Peace Ranking, Institute for Economics and Peace, Retreived from: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. In Achumba C, Ighomereho ,O.S and Akpor Robaro, M.O.M (2013).Security Challenges in Nigeria and the Implications for Business Activities and Sustainable Development Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development. l4, (2), 79-99

Makinde, A. (2014). Remedying the maladies of the Nigeria Police Force. *Daily Independent Newspaper*, 3(7), 68.

Odekunle, F. (2005). Overview of Policing in Nigeria: Problems and Suggestions. In E. O. Alemika & I.C. Chukwuma, *Crime and Policing in Nigeria: Challenges and Options*. Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN)/CLEEN Foundation. 22-34.

Ogheneakoke, E.C. (2014). Social Studies and National Security, in W.P. Akpochafo and D.I. Mezieobi (ed.), Social Studies and National Security in Nigeria, Enugu; Oshilo Consults

Okoro, J. P. (2018). Herdsmen-farmers' conflicts: Implication on national development (Nigeria in perspective). Paper presented at the 1st International Conference of Social Science (ICOSS, 2018) held at National Open University of Nigeria. 25th June, 2018.

Olakiitan, V. (2016). "OkeAko Fulani herdsmen invasion: Still reeling from the shock" Thisdaylive, Jun 5.

Olufolabo.O.O*, Akintande O.J*, Ekum M.I, (2015) Analyzing the Distribution of Crimes in Oyo State (Nigeria) using Principal Component Analysis (PCA). IOSR Journal of Mathematics (IOSR-JM) e-ISSN: 2278-5728, p-ISSN: 2319-765X. 11(3) Ver. I (May - Jun. 2015), PP 90-96 www.iosrjournals.org

Onifade, C., Imhonopi D. and Urim, U. M. (2013), Addressing the Insecurity Challenges in Nigeria; the Imperative of Moral Values and Virtue Ethics. Global journal of Human Science and Political Science. 13(2),

Peak, K. J., & Glensor, R. W. (2012). *Community policing and problem solving: strategies and practices*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education

Punch (2023) Amotekun prosecutes 2,000 criminals in Ondo. 12 July 2023 https://punchng.com/amotekun-prosecutes-2000-criminals-in-ondo/

Seji D.O. Omoroje, Philip Onyekachukwu Egbule & John Ejime Emuebie (2020) Achieving National Security in Nigeria through Education .UJAH Volume 21 No. 4, 2020 (Special Edition) http://dx.doi./org/10.4314/ujah.v21i4.8

Stevenson, A. (Ed.). (2010). Oxford dictionary of English. Oxford University Press, USA.

Times International, London, November, 4, 1985.

ThisDay (2016) Community Policing Will Help Reduce Crime
https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016/11/24/community-policing-will-help-reduce-crime-says-ambode

Thisday (2021) Ondo's Amotekun and Challenges of Crimes.
https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/05/01/ondos-amotekun-and-challenges-of-crimes access online 6/8/2023