



Research Paper

Disruption of Social Lifestyles and Prevalence of Informal Security Groups: Evidence of Kidnapping and Banditry on Human Security in Southwest, Nigeria

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Abstract

Spate of kidnapping and banditry with ritual proclivity in the Southwest region is fast assuming an alarming dimension; from worship centres, to highways, learning institutions, hotels, palaces and security barrack, none is insulated from this rampaging menace, not the superrich nor the poor. It was against this background that this study leverages on the queer ladder theory to investigate the disruption of social lives activities and prevalence of informal security groups on human security in Southwest, Nigeria. This study adopts qualitative research design using exploratory research design of publicly available archive documents; study also relies solely on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning kidnapping and banditry and its effects on human security in Southwest, Nigeria. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references in term of effects of kidnapping and banditry. Results that emanate from this study revealed that one of the effects of kidnapping and banditry is the disruptions of social live activities which are negatively aggravated. This study also submits that prevalence of informal security of all shades in the Southwest region is as a fallouts of banditry and kidnapping in the region which is an additional security cost apart from tax payment to all tiers of government. The study thus concludes that the inability to assure human security in the Southwest, Nigeria is not only apparent but it assuming alarming dimension. The study recommends that the Southwest Governors Forum should use the newly created Amotekun security outfit to enthroned and stabilize human security by ensuring non-disrupted social lifestyles of the region. The need to improve collaborative efforts of Federal security agencies with good governance can change the narratives leading to the prevalence of informal security who have also been found sometimes culpable of criminality.

Keywords: Amotekun Security Outfit, Human Security, Informal Security Outfits, Queer Ladder Theory,

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I. Introduction

It is only the galloping inflationary trends that can rival the spate of crimes and criminalities in most developing economies, so much so that kidnapers and bandits can access premises of their targets, effect outright killing, hostage taking and later demand ransom (Punch, 2020). Presently in Africa, nations' national securities are as much threatened through the surge of violent crimes in armed robbery, ritual killing, rape, gender violence, cybercrimes, ethnic violence, banditry and kidnapping thereby endangering the people's freedom from fear and freedom from want which essentially, is the flagship of human security (Gage, 2014).

Human security is a people-centred security concept which ensures the protection of individuals from hurtful and sudden disruptions in the patterns of daily life. It connotes safety from chronic threats such as hunger, fear, disease, and repression. Simply put, human security shelters all the aspects that potentially endanger survival, daily life, and human dignity. The absence of human security portends adverse consequences on economic growth, and development. Human security has the end goal of enthroning a more humane world free

from want and fear and where people can fully develop their human potential. This background as upheld by human security could be seen threatened in Southwest, Nigeria, by the menace of banditry and kidnapping

Kidnapping, is the forceful taking away of a person or persons without the victim's consent, in a bid to make material or financial gain. It has become a daily phenomenon with the frequency of holding people captive in exchange for ransom, particularly in Southwest, Nigeria. This is probably caused by the ample monetary benefits the perpetrators enjoy from the crime and the apparent inability of the nation's security operatives to arrest and promptly punish offenders. The incidences of kidnapping in Southwest Nigeria, are forcing individual to change lifestyles while schools are approaching insurance companies, formal and informal security agencies in the State for protection of students to protect their students, employees from being kidnapped and assure the parents adequate measures in place (Odoma & Akor, 2019). The recent efforts of the region in establishing a regional security outfits codenamed *Amotekun* security outfits, signifies the presence of insecurity in the Southwest that needs handling.

Banditry, which entails the use of threat or force to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to dispossess, rob, rape or kill. It is an outlawry that encompasses armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as rape, hooliganism, highway robbery, pickpockets, street raids, land grabbing and all sorts of criminalities. It is an act targeted at dispossessing an individual or groups of their possessions. The organised network of banditry has led law enforcement agencies tracing rustled cattle in Borno and Yobe states to Agege in Lagos markets, where there exist established syndicates (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), 2020). The effects of kidnapping and banditry on human security in Southwest, Nigeria could be seen from its weakening effects on the populace distrust in formal security, economic loss consequences, prevalence of informal security and disruption of social lives.

Social life activities in Southwest, Nigeria have almost been brought to a state of comatose, whereby tourism alongside the entertainment and film industries are wary of the menace of kidnapping and banditry either in public or private places; highways, bar beaches, inside the traffic, night parties, worship centres even the monarch's palace, nor politicians fortified premises are not spared. In the midst of kidnapping and banditry socioeconomic development that oils human security stands challenged. The citizenry lives in fear and are psychologically restrained from carrying about their social activities and maximizing their potentials in opportunities that abound. Many maintain a spurious façade of unfinished look of property by not painting the exterior of their houses, heightened level of mistrust of interpersonal relationship as only few people acknowledge or return greeting by strangers nor oblige strangers asking for direction most people are unwilling to render help to people in distress for fear of being dispossessed of their properties or kidnapped (Ezinwa & Ezedinachi, 2019; Voice of America, 2019).

Armed banditry and kidnapping have also facilitated the emergence of a complex informal security groups in Southwest, Nigeria, including the growth of ethnic militias, armed local vigilante groups, government's neighbourhood Watch alongside the Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC) established to protect street or specific areas against bandits or kidnappers. Worrying is the fact that many of these informal security networks lack adequate security training and are often largely implicated in acts of criminality including human rights abuses, armed robbery, extortion and appropriation of livestock and other properties from both bandits and their victims (Rufai, 2018). During the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic lockdown, some areas in Lagos came under attack from bandits such as *One Million Man March* in which some professed hoodlums wrote to areas in the metropolis announcing their intending invasion and this saw some neighborhoods' response by forming themselves into neighborhood watch or Street Vigilante to protect their communities from such attack under the Covid-19 lockdown (Mbah, 2020).

This study focuses on Southwest region; Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Osun and Ekiti States, reputed to as the industrial and economic hub and where government has allocated large proportion of its budget to security provision while also signaling to the private sector to join in the efforts to stem crime and criminality, particularly, in the mega city of Lagos (BudgIT, 2020). The rationale for choosing Southwest region could also be seen as the region was formerly the federal capital of the country and apart from being a region with a port city it also share landlocked international borders with neighbouring countries. It is based on this background that this study intends to examine the effect of disruption of social life activities and prevalence of informal security outfits on human security in Southwest, Nigeria.

Empirical studies across climes have revealed a significant positive relationship between crime rate and population size particularly in fragile States, indicating that higher populated cities report higher crime rates. The absence of civility from State security agencies to the public, the nonexistence of the state of the arts technology to combat crimes, the poor fusion and cooperation between security agencies, greatly account for could greatly account for the state of insecurity in the Southwest. To the extent of literature studied, most studies done on kidnapping and banditry were nationwide studies, Epron, 2019; Ezinwa and Ezedinachi, 2019; Odoma and Akor, 2019; Ogala, 2018; Nwagboso, 2018; Ajide and Ajisafe, 2017; Okoli and Okpaleke, 2014; while

there exist dearth of similar studies done on regional basis and it is this gap in literature that this study sets out to fill

This study provides answers to the following research questions;

- i. What is the effect of disruption of social lifestyles on human security in Southwest, Nigeria?
- ii. How does prevalence of informal security groups affect human security in Southwest, Nigeria?

II. Literature Review

Human Security

The UN General Assembly's (2012) resolution 66/290 defines human security as an approach to assist Member States in recognizing and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people. It calls for "people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented. The concept of human security is vital in building the resilience of civilian populations, not only in fragile States but world over, working towards the advancement of security before, during and after a crisis and building stability and peace (United Nation Human Security Unit, 2014). Proponents of human security actually contest the traditional concept of national security through military security by asserting that the appropriate referent for security should be at the human rather than national level.

Therefore human security reveals a people-focused and multi-disciplinary understanding of security which involves ensuring the presence of Economic security, Food security, Health security, Environmental security, Personal security, Community security and Political security. The presence of all these will actually strengthen local capacities to build resilience, and promotes solutions that enhance social cohesion and advance respect for human rights and dignity. Human security is a flexible approach and can be tailored to different contexts and topics, according to the specific context. No matter which topic is addressed, a guiding principle of the human security approach is that it requires understanding the particular threats experienced by particular groups of people, as well as the participation of those people in the analysis process. Threats to human security can exist at all levels of development. They can emerge slowly and silently or appear suddenly and dramatically.

Kidnapping and Banditry

This could be difficult to precisely define as it varies from country to country likewise region to region even from state to state. Kidnapping occurs when a person is abducted and taken from one place to another against their will, or a situation in which a person is confined to a controlled space without the confinement being from a legal authority. Consequently, when the transportation or confinement of the person is done for an unlawful purpose, such as for ransom or for the purpose of committing another crime, the act becomes criminal (Uzorma & Nwanegbo, 2014). Most kidnapping in the Southwest do not lead to demand of ransom but of ritual and spiritual proclivity. Some also indulge in acts of raping of aged person, said to quicken fortunes. Many politicians seek protection and victory in elections from spiritual forces by using ritual, charms and various forms of diabolical as a form of protective weapons against assassination and all that characterizes the present political terrain (Jegede, 2014).

Banditry refers to the incidences of armed robbery or allied violent crimes, such as kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or market raids. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person or a group of persons in order to rob, rape or kill. Economic or political interests motivate banditry. The former refers to banditries motivated by the imperative of material accumulation while the latter has to do with those driven by the quest to rob, to assault or to liquidate a person or a group of persons based on political or ideological considerations (Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014).

Banditry is extensively witnessed on construction sites in Southwest by pickpockets or land grabbers who in extreme situation inflict injuries or death depending on the value of the property in questions. It could also be witnessed at market places, in the neighborhood or on the highways. Highway banditry disrupts economic activities and scares away national and foreign investors in Nigeria.

The incidence of highway banditry on the Lagos Ibadan expressway is scary that nobody can wait on the express to give a helping hand to a distressed person with broken down vehicle. Highway banditry is an illegitimate business that transfers the wealth of good people into the hands of criminals. It derails and relegates the Lagos economy, as hardworking people are frightened to invest in the economy. So worrisome that traveler avoid using expensive cars when travelling along hotspots and routes so that they do not attract kidnapers and bandits, since they are after high profile people without adequate security to protect them. Lastly, 'maritime banditry' refers to offshore robbery (piracy) as compared to those that occur on the coast or mainland (Olaniyan & Yahaya, 2016).

Factors Aggravating Kidnapping and Banditry in Southwest, Nigeria Unregulated Street Economic Activities

Southwest, Nigeria is widely known for street economic activities; also known as street trading, on both her expressways, highways and arterial roads. It's a trade plied by the poor lower-class residents in search of economic survival. These unwholesome activities on the bridge, under the bridge, around bus stops and garages are often done during traffic congestions. This malady apart from encouraging child abuse also expose the female hawkers to preying rapists while the able body youths are easily recruited by armed robbers and drug traffickers who take advantage of the medium (Akiyode, 2018).

Empowerment of Warlords as Extension of Government

It has gone beyond speculations that the notorious MC Oluomo is an extension of the Lagos state government, if not entire Southwest, leveraging on the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW). Most government palliative measures are duly channeled through him for His "Boys" either the performance of Hajj or Jerusalem pilgrimage and as such the entire transportation networks in Lagos operates on this Warlords networks and shots calling. The revenue that accrues to warlords and the master; MC Oluomo, at the apex of the warlords structure equals the Internally Generated Revenue of some Local government in the country, MC Oluomo is known to be mobilized to spots within Southwest region to settle political scores for their master during, before and after election. All these developments that confers affluence on warlords are predictor to crime and criminalities as most graduates and illiterates see the power wielded by an illiterate while they can hardly eke a decent living from their decent struggles (Nigerian Bulletin, 2020)

Densely Population and Uncontrolled Migration

Everybody educated or uneducated, desire going to Lagos in search of greener pasture and same attractions hold for criminals. The attraction of cities for the criminal class tends to include the higher pecuniary benefits for crime in large cities and the greater opportunity profit from crime. Criminals are also attracted to densely populated cities due to lower arrest probabilities especially in Nigeria where there exist no data bank and traceability of residents is close to zero. Criminals also benefit from increased level of anonymity and a lower chance of recognition in highly mobile population anonymity.

Proliferation of Shanty Settlements and Demolition

Proliferation of slums and blight settlement is another major predictor of crime and criminalities and government demolition exercises in Southwest, Nigeria (Maroko, Eleko, Ajah, Makoko) have displaced thousand causing housing insecurity. These unabated demolitions have led to structural disadvantage and social destabilization which have exacerbated homelessness and driven many young people to occupy obscure places making them vulnerable to be recruited into criminal gangs and networks (Danoet *al.*, 2019).

Waves of White-Collar Criminals in Public Service

The degree of impunity seen of corrupt officials in government service is largely setting the tone for grievances and social discontents among the citizen especially the disgruntled youths who are already deeply involved in Cybercrime activities (Yahoo Yahoo). Surely this social malady is communicating wrong message to the youths to jettison the culture of transparency and accountability and probity in their quest for means of livelihood. The ins and outs movements of Bullion Vans during the last General election, from private residence of a top government personality sure sent a wrong signal to the populace and unspoken training to the youths

Unemployment

The apparent inability of the federal government albeit state or local government to provide employment for teeming graduates in this 21st century is geometrically is worrisome and all proactive measure engaged by all tiers of government to hold back the unemployment monsters and its menace has failed woefully to the extent that the numbers of unemployed youths continue to increase every day. To this effect, Kilishiet *al.* (2014), believes that the rising trend of crime in Nigeria is usually blamed on the high rate of unemployment. Hence, Suleiman (2017) concludes that the problem of unemployment in Nigeria is one of the major syndromes that upturned youths to become atrocious actors.

Spiritual and Ritual Proclivity

The preponderance of spiritual and ritual proclivity is predictors to kidnapping, raping, banditry, crimes and criminalities. Ritual involves killing or severing parts of the body, removal of eyes, removal of private parts, breasts of an abducted person for the purpose of using it as a purpose of ritual sacrifice aim to acquire breakthrough, ritual money, favour, fame, success, power and protection (Oyewole, 2016). Meanwhile, the widespread of Kidnapping for ritual and sacrifice has turned to natural phenomenon in such a way that many

people believe that one cannot open the door of success without using human blood to appease the gods of earth or devil.

Prevalence of Drug Substance

The uncontrolled and unregulated access to hard substance has also encouraged crime and criminalities such that; alcohol, Methamphetamine, Tramadol, Tranabolic steroids, Club drug, Cocaine, Heroin, Marijuana, and narcotic wine are some of the illicit substances that promotes banditry kidnapping, unnecessary violence, and many other imperil atrocities to Nigeria and Lagos state specifically. The psychoactive effects these substance produce include sedation, euphoria, mood changes, figment of the evil imagination, perceptual and other cognitive distortions with direct effects on motor-neuron. It is essential to note that, these substances affect the mind to underestimate the gravity acts about to be committed.

III. Empirical Review

Disruption of Social life and Human Security in Southwest, Nigeria

Agbabiaka (2016) employed systematic sampling procedure to investigate social implications that interplayed during Eyo festival in Lagos Island in Nigeria. Study engaged deployment of questionnaire to elicit data while study was underpinned by system exchange theory. Results of findings revealed that there exist an increase in crime rate and banditry as 98.3% respondents emphasised that there is always increase in crime and social vices whenever it is time for Eyo festival, while only 1.7% have different opinion; an indication that to a large extent crimes and social vices like picking pocket, rape, stealing, smoking of Indian helm among others are prevalent due to the porosity in the nature of *Isaleeko* and the influx of people from different part of the country and beyond. A state specific study whose scope was limited to social life activities hence the need to be extended on regional basis to cover more constructs in investigating effects of banditry and kidnapping.

Ezinwa and Ezedinachi (2019) analysed highway banditry in contemporary Nigeria with expose on how very few parts of Nigeria are exempted from the menace of highway banditry, robbery and other violent acts. Study identified no fewer than 133 highways across the six-geopolitical zones in Nigeria as major flash points for banditry, kidnapping and other related vices. The study employed descriptive research design which relied on both primary and secondary sources. Findings of the study established that if one is travelling on some major highways in Nigeria, especially at night, chances are that one may be robbed, abducted, maimed or even killed by armed bandits thus disrupting life activities of citizens who cannot move as they desire. The Study, is limited to effects on life and properties while this study captures other constructs on human security in Southwest region, Nigeria.

Lawalet *al.*(2020) engaged descriptive tools to investigate the determining factors of people's inclination of night entertainment outfits in Abuja, Nigeria. The study was quantitative in approach and has questionnaire as its main tool of data collection. A total 100 respondents were involved in the study. The data collected were analyzed, interpreted in simple percentage. Findings of the study revealed that challenges encountered in night entertainment include harassment by the law enforcement agents (36%), and occasional disturbance by street urchins. Study did not consider prevalence of informal security outfits which this study does in measuring effects on human security in Southwest, Nigeria

Ojedokun and Ogundipe (2017) engaged qualitative and exploratory research design to investigate the criminal and banditry patterns of motorcycle theft and experiences of victimised commercial motorcyclists in Oyo town. Study was underpinned by routine activity theory. Data was extracted through key-informant interview and focus group discussion methods while snowball sampling technique was utilised for the selection of victims of motorcycle theft. Findings from the study revealed that motorcycle thieves are organized bandits that specialized in snatching motorcycles. The study was conducted on banditry using Oyo State data, there exists the need to extend objective of study to Southwest region, Nigeria

WANEP (2020) investigated armed banditry in the North-West part of Nigeria. The study employed thematic research design. Results of findings revealed that banditry create disrupted all feasible lifestyle activities in the communities with a negative impact on young boys and girls, as school activities in vulnerable areas were disrupted. The few existing schools were unable to operate properly for fear of kidnap, as such parents prevented their children from attending schools thus paralyzing social life of numbers of communities. Study submitted that the dwindling income of local farmers and other vulnerable groups especially women, also affect their capacity to support children's education and household income. The study conducted in North West region, result of which cannot be generalised to Southwest region, hence the need for similar study.

Prevalence of Informal Security and Human Security in Southwest, Nigeria

Mbah (2020) empirically examined Lagos home's defence against curfew bandits and the One Million Man March Boys during the Covid-19 lockdown. Findings from the study revealed that quick mobilization of residents into vigilantes formation averted being overrun by bandits who had earlier ransacked homes, carted

away valuables and injured some residents. Study submitted that such incidents are not restricted to Lagos as could be seen in Ogun state also. This study, though a state specific study only examined effects on lives and properties by banditry of which this extends to kidnapping and banditry on human security in Southwest, Nigeria.

Mudasiru and Fatai (2020) empirically investigated vigilantism, the State and youth violence in Nigeria with a focus on Ikorodu in Lagos State. The study adopted a qualitative study approach in establishing the interface between land grabbing, cultism, ritual killings and all forms of banditry. Findings from the study revealed that there exist a thin line between OmoOnile and land grabbers as both are into the trade of recruiting and initiating young people in the community into cultism with Oath-taking and also from confraternities from institutions of learning thus promoting cultism. Study submitted that money made from these dastard activities keep attracting unemployable youths of which the socioeconomic consequences, insecurity, denial of farmland for residential, social distrust and disorder, paralysis of social lives for the fear of these miscreant.

Nwogwugwu and Odedina (2018) investigated the impact of effective alternate policing to arrest the rising security challenges in Nigeria. The study engaged qualitative method with reliance on secondary data. Findings from the study revealed that the local vigilante groups scatter all over communities have made valuable inroad in curtailing some of the security challenges including insurgency as a result of their resilience and knowledge of the terrain. The study submitted that the country's traditional security agencies singularly or jointly have failed to effectively combat the many security challenges that Nigeria faces hence people resulted to an alternate security network. This study relates to Nigeria as a whole hence there exist the need for similar but region specific study which the former study did not explore.

Ogbozor (2016) analysed the informal security sector in Nigeria with a focus on the relationship that exist between the formal security sectors specifically the Nigeria Police and the Vigilante Group of Nigeria across Plateau, Kaduna and Abuja due to the selected State's history of ethno-religion and political-related violence. The study deployed semi-structured interviews of open-ended questions among vigilantes, community leaders, private security guards, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and formal security officials as sources of data collection. The study concluded that the relationship between the police and vigilante groups needs to be redefined with a memorandum of understanding that spells out the terms of collaboration or partnerships. The study was done in North Central while this study focuses on Southwest region, Nigeria.

Onwuegbusi (2017) employed a cross sectional survey design to examine the services of vigilante groups in Anambra State. The study engaged multi-stage sampling technique with structured questionnaire to elicit data. The study showed that the citizens of the State are very supportive to the emergence of vigilantism despite their shortfalls and that the overwhelming supports they enjoy lead to more of such informal group springing up in order to curb violent crimes in the State. Study submitted the need for consistent and regular training of the vigilante members in the State. The study though a State centered study done in the South East region, was limited to prevalence of vigilante groups as an effect of crimes while other variables as captured by this study was not considered.

Theoretical Framework

The Queer Ladder Theory

The queer ladder theory (QLT) as used by Ayuba, 2020; Odoma and Akor, 2019; Okoli and Agada, 2014, was influenced by an American sociologist, Daniel Bell (1919-2011), who coined the idea of 'queer ladder' in an effort to explain the instrumental essence of organized crime as a desperate means of economic empowerment and social climbing. This theoretical perspective has since fertilized into a popular theoretical framework widely used in contemporary crime studies. The basic assumptions of QLT can be highlighted thus that organized crime is an instrumental behavior; it is a means to an end and an instrument of social climbing and/or socio-economic advancement. It is a means to accumulate wealth and build power (Okoli & Orinya, 2013).

Often ascribed to this theory is the notion that organized crime thrives in contexts where the government's capacity to dictate, sanction and deter crime is poor; where public corruption is endemic; and where prospects for legitimate livelihood opportunities are slim (Nwoye, 2000; Lyman, 2007; Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Under these circumstances, the incentive to indulge in crime is high, while deterrence from criminal living is low. In other words, the benefits of committing a crime surpass the costs and/or risks. This creates ample pretext and motivation for criminal impunity and franchise (Okoli & Orinya, 2013). Applied to the analysis of this paper, QLT would enable one to come to terms with the prevalence of organized crime and sundry acts of criminality in Nigeria, a phenomenon driven by criminal quest for economic accumulation in an environment that more or less condone crimes. This has been worsened by the prevailing socioeconomic malaise and concomitant livelihood crisis in the country. The idea of 'ladder' in QLT denotes untoward pattern of social mobility. In effect, those who take to organized crime, such as kidnapping, do so as a desperate means of social climbing (mobility). The adoption of the theory for the purpose of this discourse is informed by its

analytical utility in providing insights into the socio-political foundations of organized crime, prominent among which is kidnapping, in developing nations.

IV. Methodology

This study adopts exploratory research design; it tries to investigate effects of disruption of social lifestyles and prevalence of informal security groups on human security in Southwest, Nigeria. Human security is assessed with disruption of social live activities and prevalence of informal security groups as they relate to human security in Nigeria using content analysis of publicly available archive documents. The study relies solely on secondary data. The research is conducted by examining literature concerning the banditry, kidnapping and human security in Southwest, Nigeria. The literature was obtained through searches in publicly available material. Literature from non-serial publications, official reports, and conferences has been included particularly if they have been cited by other references in term of kidnapping, banditry and human security.

V. Discussion of Findings

The review from hypothesis two is in tandem with empirical literature which reveal that the disruption of social lifestyles of residents of Southwest, Nigeria has negative and threatening effects on human security. The rational for this finding could be the inability to attend social events, change of standard or taste of living in order not to attract kidnappers or bandits attentions or refusal to rendering assistance on highways all in efforts to reduce the risk and exposure to banditry. The finding is in tandem with the findings in the previous works of Lawalet *al.* (2020); WANEP (2020); Ezinwa and Ezedinachi (2019); Agbabiaka (2016) who found that banditry and kidnapping negatively correlates with social lifestyles and other social activities thus a threat to human security.

The result gotten on hypothesis as supported by empirical literature, is that prevalence of informal security outfits while a reflection of a failing formal security structure, also mirrors the rate at which human security is being threatened in the Southwest region of Nigeria, with disruptions in the Nigeria's security architecture so much so that informal security are seen protecting the region under the auspices of Amotekun, from private residence to street, neighbourhood, corporate enterprise, Government own enterprise, schools both public and private, all as additional cost apart from taxes payable. This prevalence of informal security further exposes residents of the Southwest, to the untrained, highhandedness and extrajudicial activities of the informal security outfits. This finding is consistent with the findings in the previous work of Mudasiru and Fatai (2020); Mbah (2020); Nwogwugwu and Odedina (2018); Onwuegbusi (2017); Ogbozor (2016).

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

The study concludes that the non disruption in social life styles of residents of Southwest Nigeria and a well revamped and an all performing formal security agencies, have the potential of assuring residents of the region, presence of human security from both kidnapping and banditry which presently ravages the Southwest region, Nigeria.

The study equally concludes that prevalence of informal security outfits is a signal of the presence of threatened human security from which the people are trying to protect themselves possibly, as the formal available structures are no longer adequately sufficient. There is a well established correlation between the absence of proliferation of informal security outfits and absence of crime and criminality as kidnapping, banditry.

Based on the conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made;

The study recommends that the Southwest Governors Forum should use the newly created Amotekun security outfits to enthroned and stabilize human security by ensuring non-disrupted social lifestyles of the region.

That collaborative efforts of federal security agencies in combating crime and criminality should be improved upon and good governance in all tiers of government will go a long way to counter the narratives of crimes which is precipitating the prevalence of informal security in the Southwest region of Nigeria.

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