

## **The Nigeria Police Force and the Challenge of Combating Internal Insecurity in Nigeria**

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**Abstract:** This study examined the Nigeria police force and the challenge of combating internal insecurity in Nigeria. The Broken Windows Theory (BWT) was employed as the theoretical framework to guide the study. This theoretical paper draws its arguments primarily from secondary sources of data, such as existing legal frameworks and other associated policies, journal publications and textbooks. The study concluded that peace, security and safety are necessary and indispensable requirement for development and attainment of quality livelihood in society. Nigeria has recently experienced uncommon crises and feeling unsafe, each of which has resulted in the loss of lives and the destruction of property. This study recommended that State governments should be allowed by law to establish local police authority and recruits from within their communities, as opposed to posting officers and men from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds across the country. This will go a long way toward addressing the state's unique security challenges.

**Keywords:** Nigeria police force, internal insecurity, broken windows theory

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## INTRODUCTION

The word "police" is derived from the Greek word "Polis", which denotes the portion of non-ecclesiastical government responsible for maintaining the state's health, safety, and order (Ehinder, 1998). Studies have demonstrated that while "policing" has been practiced for a very long time, the origin of "police forces" is relatively recent (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2005; Oluwaniyi, 2011). This is because "policing" has always been an essential collective action taken by societies to protect its members (individually or collectively) or to rein in their propensity for infractions. 'Yan banga' or 'ode adugbo' (street vigilante group), which still exists in the majority of the country today, was formed by volunteers for traditional policing in Nigeria. But the creation of the police force was required by the state's emergence in relation to the need to safeguard the authority of the state (political elites) during the period of colonial rule (Oluwaniyi, 2011).

The Nigeria Police Force is typically the organization that the public can see and reach, but there are other organizations in Nigeria that keep an eye on the affairs of locals and even visitors inside the nation's borders. Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Nigeria Custom Service (NCS), States Security Services (SSS), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and others are among these organizations. According to Rauch & Spuy (2009), there have been numerous police reform processes over the years that are still ongoing or will soon begin. The foundation of current police practices is the belief that proactive policing tactics will not only reduce crime but also strengthen police-community bonds (Wiley & Esbensen, 2013). It is along this line that community policing was introduced to achieve the above objective.

The adoption of community policing tactics as a key initiative in the developing agenda of police reform since the country's return to democracy was necessary due to the numerous difficulties and limitations the Nigerian Police Force faces, which have negatively impacted police image and relationships with the community (Abiri, 2011). Police and members of the community work together in community policing, which is characterized by collaborative problem-solving efforts to improve public safety. In the 1990s, community policing became popular among law enforcement agencies with the goal of fostering greater trust between the public and the police and maximizing police resources through community participation in public safety initiatives (Schanzer, Kurzman, Toliver, & Miller, 2016). The main justifications for embracing this proactive strategy were outlined by Abiri (2011). They include the need to create a police force that is open, equitable, neutral, accountable, and receptive to the public's views and expectations, as well as the need to develop additional positive and effective strategies outside of the traditional approach to policing, which relies entirely on law enforcement and has a tendency to be reactive.

In attempt to describe the nature of Nigeria internal insecurity, Mbachu (2019) opines that it manifests in increasing incidents of insurgency, militancy, human trafficking, ritual killing, yahoo- yahoo plus (cyber crime) and corruption in high and low places. He further noted that the complexity of the present insecurity in the country has clearly overwhelmed the internal security agencies, particularly the Nigeria police. In looking at the causes of the internal insecurity in the country,

According to Onifade, Imhomi, and Urim (2013), there is a link between rising political rivalry, religious bigotry, and ethnic hatred as well as a population of resentful citizens who feel underappreciated and have little or no

access to the common inheritance. Egwu (2018:14) made a similar observation, noting that the predominating religious fundamentalism and the primordial habits eruption of different ethnic politics had broadened their scope with different ramifications. The most fearful situation is that Nigeria is becoming a nation in terror even when she is not in a state of civil or interstate war. The Nigeria society is gradually becoming a Hobbesian state of nature where life is poor solitary, nasty, brutish and short. This is because as noted by Aja (2019), Nigerians are living under daily threat, anxiety and fear of losing life, liberty and property. No doubt, security management is crucial which requires cooperation and collaboration of all strategic stakeholders such as government security agencies and the public of all stakeholders, the community or public is the most crucial to effective security and policing, particularly when traditional policing system fails, which otherwise known as "Reactive policing Technique", whereby police action commerce after an offence might have been committed (Idris, 2019).

From the above situation discussed, Nigerian state faces internal security challenges due to poor performances of Nigeria police. The situation has made many people agitating for the need for either alternative or supportive sources of security to save lives and properties in Nigeria. Therefore, the study examined the failure of the Nigeria police in combating internal insecurity in Nigeria

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Insecurity**

The concept of insecurity also faces the conceptual challenges like the concept of security as earlier discussed, but scholars have argued that it is the absence of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, lack of protection, and lack of safety. Beland (2005) defines insecurity as "The state of fear or anxiety steaming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection". It refers to

lack or inadequate freedom from danger. Achumba ,et al (2013), view insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, as a state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger (technical insecurity), while danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, insecurity is described as the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety (Perceived insecurity).Where anxiety is a vague, unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune.

Insecurity which is a feature of the Hobbesian State of nature, when life is said to be solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short, and the fear of the common man living at the mercy of the strong, is exactly the case in the country today if not more than. Osodi (2011) described insecurity to include, want of safety; danger; hazard uncertainty, want of confidence; and unsafe, to mention but a few. All these different descriptions however run into a common reference to a state of vulnerability to harm and loss of life, property or livelihood. In the last two decades, Nigeria's six geopolitical zones have become swaths of varying forms and degrees of criminality triggered by an upsurge in the activities of an array of petty and oil thieves, pirates, cultists, kidnapping gangs, murderous ritualistic groups, cybercriminals, secessionists, militants, bandits and terrorists. The sheer number of these criminal gangs, their effrontery, the increasing sophistication of their operations, their use of top-grade military hardware and infiltration by influential trans-border extremists and ideologists has combined to stretch the nation's security apparatus and unsettle the citizenry.

The Nigeria Police effectively curtailed the spread of cultism among youths in the Southern part of Nigeria. The killings and kidnappings which made the South-East unsafe are gradually coming under security check as security forces are increasingly winning the battle

against the ruthless Unknown Gunmen who have enforced a reign of terror in the region. There is much to achieve, but the success so far recorded is encouraging for citizens and investors. The most serious threat to Nigeria's internal security today is the activities of insurgents and terrorists ravaging the North-East and North-West (Olajumoke, 2021). These groups survive by attacking residents, organizing kidnap and mass abduction of students, collecting taxes and levies from communities in exchange for protection from other bandit groups and carrying out raids on one another in a vicious competition for land, resources and dominance. Their stature and influence appear to grow largely as a result of their access to huge cash, seemingly inexhaustible cache of ammunition, mobile nature of their operations and their ability to thrive in ungoverned or under-governed spaces in the North.

Nigeria faces numerous security issues in addition to Boko Haram. Customized solutions require differentiating these threats and comprehending their socio-geographical characteristics. The threat put forward by Boko Haram in the nation's northeast has become known as the emergency (Olajumoke, 2021). This, however, underestimates the complexity and multifaceted nature of Nigeria's security challenges, which have an effect on every region of the nation. However, armed conflict is not pervasive throughout Nigeria; rather, it is mainly confined to a few key regions. The diverse security threats that Nigeria faces, the dangers that they pose, and the environments where they have emerged are discussed below (Oluwakemi, 2016).

#### **Causes of Insecurity in Nigeria**

According to Idris (2019), political conflicts, uneven development that includes horizontal inequalities, religious and ethnic mistrust, and leadership failure are the four main causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Because

of bad governance and widespread corruption, limited economic growth may also be linked to insecurity. Idris went on to list the following factors as Nigeria's security issues:

- i. **Lack of institutional Capacity Resulting in Government failure:** Nigeria's institutional framework is very unbalanced, which has led to poor governance and a lack of democratic accountability. Governmental failure is a contributing factor to Nigeria's current state of insecurity. This can be seen in the government's inability to meet the basic needs of the populace and provide for public services.
- ii. **Ethno -Religious conflicts:** Conflicts between ethnic groups have always resulted from the emergence of new, specific forms of political awareness and identity. Large-scale killings and violence between groups have frequently occurred in Nigeria as a result of claims and presumptions over scarce assets, authority, land, chieftaincy titles, governance of local areas, and control over markets, among other trivial issues. These are a result of mistrust between various ethnic groups and the country's major religious institutions.
- iii. **Pervasive material inequalities and unfairness.** Accordingly, a lot of people have developed grievances against inequality and unfairness. This is a result of a group of people being left out of government development regulations and the distribution of political office; this has turned into a major cause of dissatisfaction and resentment. Because of the disparities and unfairness in governance, Nigerians, especially the youth, are dissatisfied and have given up on the

government. Through unrest and the rise in crime that we are currently seeing, they have conveyed this.

iv. **Weak Security System:**

Insecurity in society is a given when the safety system is weak. This may be due to the security branch of the government's insufficient instruction and weaponry, which exacerbates the unfavorable attitude and mindset of security personnel. As seen in Nigeria, law enforcement officers tasked with handling specific internal security's lack the knowledge and tools necessary to deal with situations or foresee them.

v. **Loss of socio-cultural and communal value system.**

Idris stressed that, African societies are known for such endearing traits as collectivism, attachment to the state and community, honesty, truthfulness, dedication, patience, love for others, collaboration harmony and coexistence, resentment of theft, a reverence for human life, and identification of people with one another. However, these principles that kept society safe and secure have been gradually lost, making room for the new value concept of "modernity and civilization," which are exclusively Western principles.

vi. **Porous Borders:**

A major factor that has increased insecurity in Nigeria, in which actions are largely unreported, in his opinion as security experts, is the porousness of our borders. Due to this and Nigeria's lax security measures, weapons from other nations can easily enter the country. Militant organizations and criminal gangs now have easy access to weapons thanks to weaponry and the accessibility of ammunition. According to

estimates, Nigeria is home to more than 70% of the 8 million illegal weapons present in West Africa (Auoh, 2018). Nigeria's porous borders have also allowed for an unjustified the inflow of migrants from nearby nations like the Republic of Niger, Chad, and Benin. These migrants, who are mostly young are more of the perpetrators of crimes and insurgency in the country.

vii. **Unemployment/Poverty:**

Poverty and unemployment have been identified as major factors contributing to insecurity in Nigeria. According to Aigbakhon (2008), poverty is a state of permanent lack of wellbeing that is thought to be insufficient for a decent standard of living. Unemployment and poverty are identical twins. They help one another out. The rate of unemployment represents one of the nation's most pervasive social issues in Nigeria. The high rate of poverty and joblessness among Nigerians, particularly the youth, has a negative effect on their attraction to crime. Consistent government failure to address issues like poverty, unemployment, and unequal wealth distribution among nationalities has led to significant sources of insecurity in the nation.

viii. **Rural-Urban Drift:**

The migration of jobless youths from rural to urban area is also one of the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Nigeria is one of the countries in the world with a very high rural-urban drift (Idris 2019). Consequently, most urban areas in the country have become congested beyond their ecological capacities and existing infrastructures. The effect of such is increased poor quality in the living conditions in urban areas

which can lead to frustration therefore result to crime

- ix. **Terrorism:** In Nigeria today, terrorism, in whatever form, is the most significant source of unrest, according to Idris (2019), and its main bases and sources of encouragement have typically been rooted in religious extremism and disruption. According to modern definitions, terrorism refers to a specific type of violent behavior that takes place during non-combative times rather than during conventional armed conflict (Hassan, 2014). Additionally, terrorism is defined as "the premeditated use of assault or threat of violence by a person or organization in order to cause fear, destruction, or death, especially toward unnamed targets, property, or infrastructure in a state, with the goal of compelling those in authority to react to the needs and demands of the individual or group beneath such violent act" (United Nations Convention Against Torture). As a result, Boko Haram's insurgency and, more recently, farmer/herder clashes and unknown gunmen's invasion of villages and towns have claimed thousands of lives in Nigeria.

In light of Idris' position on the aforementioned sources of insecurity, Adegoke (2014) makes the case that poverty is a phenomenon of courage supported by numerous facts. It is a dynamic socioeconomic process that affects people individually, as households, or as societies as a whole, and it frequently results in lack of availability of the most fundamental needs for human survival. High rates of poverty and joblessness among Nigerians, especially among young people, had a negative impact on violent

crime (Adegba, Ugwu, & Eme, 2012). Nwagboso (2012) in the same vein argued that failure of successive administration in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major cause's insecurity in Nigeria.

In the view of Adegoke (2014), poverty and unemployment are like Siamese twins. They give support to each other. According to Aigbalhon (2010), unemployment is one of Nigeria's most pervasive social issues. In Nigeria, the situation is the opposite because employment is defined as the total number of people who work for wages in cash or kind in public and private enterprises, including those who are gainfully employed or engaged. The government's failure to provide its citizens with the necessary training that will enable them to find employment as well as the creation of the necessary conditions for significant job possibilities can be seen as the main cause of the above-mentioned differences or classifications of unemployment that are prevalent in Nigeria. It is a fact that people that are daily recruited by the Boko Haram terrorist group to unleash mayhem on the nation are crop of youths who are not gainfully employed vis-à-vis other criminal activities that pose threat to natural security (Adegoke 2014).

Another significant issue that Mbachu (2019) identified as contributing to Nigeria's current state of insecurity is corruption. He stated that "corruption is the unlawful abuse of power to benefit a private interest" in his opinion. It involves the defrauding of public funds for individual use, is anti-social, and goes against moral and legal standards. In Nigeria, poor governance, greed, a lack of accountability, a strong desire for wealth, and unemployment are some of the causes of corruption. This has caused Nigeria's national prosperity and growth to be distributed unevenly.

### **Situational Analysis of Nigeria's Internal Security Framework**

Nigeria's internal security framework has been broken into three main sections structurally due to the significance of security to the nation. The federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 constitution (as amended) established the Armed Forces of the Federation, which are made up of military establishments (Ogbornana, 2019). The Nigerian Army (NA), Nigerian Navy (NN), and Nigerian Air Force (NAF) make up the Armed Forces and are strategically under the Ministry of Defense. The military's regular operations entail the following duties:

- i. Defending Nigeria from external aggression,
- ii. Maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land, sea or air.
- iii. Suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the president; and
- iv. Performance of such other functions as may be prescribed by an act of the National Assembly.

Source: section 217 (1) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as Amended). The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the agency of choice in internal security and the subject of our discussion, is included in the second segment, which focuses more on the internal security framework. Other paramilitary organizations include the Federal Fire Service (FPS), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Security as well as Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the Nigeria Prison Service (NCS), now known as the Nigeria Correctional Service, and others that fall under the Interior Ministry (Dokubo, 2011). As the leading agency in internal security, the Nigeria Police in focus, established by section 214 of the

1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and the Police Act CAP19, The LFN, 2004 (as amended) is in charge of "preventing and detecting crime, apprehending offenders, maintaining law and order, protecting life and property, and properly enforcing all regulations and laws with which they are directly billed, and shall carry out such military responsibilities within or outside of Nigeria as may be necessary of them pursuant to or under the power of this or any other Act."

The third segment is the intelligence community, made up of the Department of State security (DSS), the Defence intelligence Agency (DIA) and the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). The Nigeria intelligence community established by the National Security Agencies ACT, CAP 273, LFN, 2004 (as amended) are specialized security agencies established for the purposes of collection of intelligences from within and outside the country (Ogbonnaya, 2019). According to the law, the DIA gathers defense and security intelligences both inside and outside Nigeria, the NIA gathers external internal intelligence, and the DSS gathers regional intelligence to guarantee internal security. The Armed Forces, the Police, the Paramilitary Agencies, and the Intelligence Community, as mentioned above, constitute the traditional or formal security agencies due to the formality of their development and the legitimacy, their statutes of operations.

As a result of growing advancements and interactions in security governance across the globe, Nigeria's internal security framework recently expanded beyond the conventional and formal law enforcement agencies to include the legal system and the human rights and civil liberties institutions. It is therefore understandable why Ogbonnaya and Uban (2017) note that the realization that the justice system plays significant roles in ensuring that the services are provided with the dictates of the laws and in upholding human rights, in addition to

security provision by the traditional and formal institutions, has also occasioned the expression beyond the customary and formal security institutions to include the justice system.

Beside the justice system, the increasing participation of non-state security actors, otherwise referred to as the informal security actors, such as community vigilante, neighborhood watch groups and private guard companies (PGCs)/private security organizations (POSS), in security provisioning especially since the beginning of the twenty first century, has resulted in further expansion of the sector (DCAF and ECOWAS parliament, (2011). Community vigilantes and neighborhood surveillance organizations have existed in Nigeria, particularly in the southern region, since before the arrival of the British. As they have proliferated and become more active in the security arena, they have come to represent one of the distinctive aspects of Nigeria's a security framework in the twenty-first century (Okeke, 2013). The rise in crime and violence, the participation of local groups in political disputes, and a more general framework suggesting a potential decline in state law enforcement agencies, particularly in rural communities, have all been linked to this development. As a result, fundamental security-related tasks that were once only performed by formal security institutions (such as the detention of suspected criminals and the prevention of crime and violence) now fall under the purview of informal security institutions (Kwaka, 2014).

### **The Nigeria Police Force**

The Nigeria Police had a history because every institution has one. The Industrial Revolution that occurred in Europe during the 19th century gave rise to the need for raw materials in Africa, which led to the creation of the Nigerian Police (Alemika, 2008; Ojomo, 2011). Its history specifically in Nigeria can be traced back

to the colonial era of 1861, when the Lagos colony's consul established a consular safeguard of thirty people to protect the colonial properties. As the size of this guard increased, it was referred to as the Hausa constabulary. This was due to the Northerners' dominance. The Niger Coast Constabulary, a forerunner of the Lagos police, was established in Calabar in 1894. The Lagos police was founded in Lagos in 1896.

In the north, the Royal Niger Company set up Royal Niger Company constabulary in 1888. When the northern and southern protectorates merged at the turn of the 20th century, a portion of the Royal Niger Company constabulary became the northern Nigeria police and a portion of the Nigeria Coast constabulary evolved into the southern Nigeria police. Contrary to the 1914 amalgamation, the two police forces did not amalgamate until 1930, with Lagos serving as the new headquarters. During the colonial era, municipal governments (Native authorities) played an essential part in the emergence of the police force; however, by 1960, which is during the First Republic, these factors had been regionalized and then nationalized. The Inspector General of Police now controls the overall administration and operation of the Nigerian police force as a result of this nationalization (Akuul, 2011). The Nigeria police, as it is today, was established by section 214 (1) of the Nigeria constitution 1999 (as amended). This section states that:

“There shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as Nigeria Police Force and subject to the provisions of this section; no other police force shall be established for the



federation or any part thereof”.

The National Assembly must pass a law outlining the Police's responsibilities, according to the constitution. The Nigeria Police are able to arrest criminals thanks to Section 4 of the Police Act. To be more precise, the main goals of the police's job are to safeguard the lives and possessions of citizens, to uphold social order, avoid crimes from being committed and to catch offenders when they do, and to avert a breakdown in order and security (Raji & Hamzat, 2016). According to the provisions of section 215 (3) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), the Nigeria's Police (NP) is also charged with the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order, as may be directed by the President or such minister of the government of the Federation as the President may authorize in a situation.

According to a constitutional regulation, the police are responsible for preventing any further general lawlessness and disorder. In addition to its domestic duties, the Nigerian police are charged with promoting international peace and security by supporting international peacekeeping operations, as may be necessary within the parameters of the Police Act, Presidential order, or any other statute of control (. According to its constitutional mandate, the Nigeria police have been involved in internal and external policing operations since its formal creation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 1930 to combat diverse security challenges, include political unrest, social deviance, religious insurgency, ethnic violence, economic Savages, and financial crime (Idris, 2019).

### **Strategies Employed by the Nigeria Police in Crime Combat**

The Nigeria police as an institution saddled with the duty of providing Security of lives and properties, has various methods in achieving this Constitutional responsibilities. Idris (2019) has identified the following as strategies employed by the NP in combating and securing lives and property.

#### **a. Proactive policing (crime prevention) strategies.**

- i. Intelligence-led policing to ensure criminal activities are nipped in the bud before they occur.
- ii. Efficient guard and beat patrol systems which would ensure that key and vulnerable persons, and places are properly guarded and patrolled. Major highways and waterways are secured by police visibility patrols, using safer highway patrol teams and the police marine.
- iii. Constant raids of criminal hideouts and mounting of surveillance on known criminal elements.
- iv. Social research, crime mapping hotspot patrols and criminal data basing which involves collation of criminal statistics on crime trend, identification and study of modus operandi of identified criminals, causes and dynamics of crime with a view of nipping in the bud all activities of criminal
- v. Reactive (crime control) strategies. This is the investigation reported cases of crime and criminality, arresting suspected persons and alleged criminal elements and prosecuting those found culpable of the offences committed with consequent committal to prison or payment of fines.

- vi. Inter-agency collaboration: This involves collaboration of the NP with other security forces/agencies and government ministries such as the Military Department of state services, the Nigeria security and civil Defence Crops, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria immigration Service, Nigeria Prison Service (now Nigeria Correctional Service), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Ministries of Youth and Social Welfare and Health, to Curtail Crime.
- vii. Conflict resolution/dispute settlement: This is done by the police through the following ways
  - i. Peace advocacy
  - ii. Peace parley and
  - iii. Mediation and conciliation
  - iv. Community policing strategy: This involves the participation and partnership with the communities in determining their policing priorities and how they are policed.

The Nigeria Police still faces the challenge of delivering security of persons and assets with an effective performance when taking into account the strategies used by the NP in crime warfare and the security of lives and property as noted by Idris above. According to Adegoke (2014), one is forced to believe that the Nigeria law enforcement agency's performance is significantly below the expectations many people hold for them, even with the degree of confidence, encouragement, and constitutional protection it enjoys from the populace and the legal backing. The selection of IGP Alkali Usman brought about several epoch-making advancements and kept some that were essential. This clearly exemplifies his special quality and excellent leadership

style. His motivation has consistently been to get the Police Force ready for the difficulties of a contemporary Nigeria. The Police also depend on our help, comprehension, and collaboration to effectively combat crime. IGP Alkali has brought the Force's officers and members to a state of readiness, responsibility, and dedication. No longer in question is the Nigeria Police's readiness to pursue criminals to the point of no return. Unfortunately, because of the actions of a few bad apples and an old stereotype that continue to obscure the enormous changes the Force is undergoing, Nigerians have continued to criticize it (Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2023). Fortunately, the Inspector-General of Police, Alkali Baba Usman is turning the tide and a new Police Force is already emerging:

**Training, Retraining and Capacity Building:**

A number of training exercises for officers have been approved by IGP Alkali Usman in order to improve their abilities to carry out their duties and hone their skills so they can work as competent police officers. Matchmakers Consult International began hosting the Conference and Retreat for Senior Police Officers in 2019, and it has since developed into an annual capacity-building event for all senior officers starting at the position of Commissioners of Police (Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2023).

**Effective Policing at Elections:**

Since taking over as Inspector General of Police, IGP Alkali has organized the Force to oversee the security of three off-cycle elections: those in Anambra, Ekiti, and Osun. Due to a change in policing tactics, all three elections have, characteristically, been largely peaceful. The IGP surprised everyone by seemingly accomplishing this with ease, giving Nigerians hope for tranquil general elections in 2023 (Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2023).

**Rebuilding Police Infrastructure and Welfare:** When he took office, the IGP identified the well-being of officers and the enhancement of education within the Force as two of his top priorities. In view of this, IGP Alkali Usman has proven tenacious in his pursuit of efforts to rebuild police structures, including barracks, refurbish and recondition police vehicles and equipment, and enhance the condition and caliber of instruction in the police classrooms and training facilities. Police officers and their families have found motivation in the renovation of the police barracks (Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2023).

**Responsive to Public Complaints:** In an effort to increase public trust in the Force, the Inspector General of Police continues to persevere in enforcing discipline. In his role as IGP, he has brought an end to the days when officers could act carelessly, indisciplinedly, and with impunity, especially when confronting the public. Every single reported incident of officer indiscipline has been thoroughly investigated, and any guilty officers have received the proper punishment and humiliation (Africa Center for Strategic Studies, 2023).

### **Challenges of the Nigeria Police**

There are several cumulative problems that have contributed to the abysmal performance of the Nigeria police in discharging their constitutional role of protection of lives and properties. This ranges from materials to human and external challenges;

i. **Corruption:** Among Nigerian police officers, extortion and corruption are pervasive. The reputation of the police has been severely tarnished by this act. According to Alemeka (1999), who holds this perspective, police corruption, is an acute

issue because they are supposed to be moral law enforcement officers. The safety of the society is hardly guaranteed if the police who are hired to stop, identify, and prosecute criminal activity are also corrupt. There is no denying the problem of police corruption, and there is ample proof of their involvement. These Adegoke identified as, police connivance with some individuals to help offenders out of police custody after obtaining money from suspects, closure of case files, escorting vehicles loaded with contraband goods and stolen items, stealing from suspects and or accident victims, stealing from crime scenes, supply of police arms and ammunition with police uniforms to criminals for monetary gain. More specifically, Alemeka (1999) notes that police brutality frequently serves as a means of pressuring people to give in to requests for corruption and occasionally serves as a form of punishment for refusing to cooperate with the police in exchange for satisfaction. The issue of corruption affects the police hierarchy as well as the relationship between the public and the police. As a result of a lack of "settlement" in the performance of their duties, senior police officers had occasionally denied junior ones the right to raises, promotions when due, or transfers of officers (Adegoke, 2014).

ii. **Poor funding and Remuneration:** Poor funding and remuneration for both officers and men of Nigeria's police is another notable factor that has characterized the abysmal performance of the Nigeria Police in performing their

- constitutional duties. Discouraging salaries, according to Odekunle (2004), are one of the Nigeria Police's issues affecting people that not only worsen its lack of resources but also have a significant negative impact on daily operations. Due to their low take-home pay, inadequate offices, and subpar housing, the majority of police officers engage in the practice of accepting bribes. This has in some way impacted how well they perform in protecting both individuals and assets.
- iii. Lack of proper resource management: The difficulty of improper resource management has had a significant negative impact on police effectiveness. These deficiencies are serious in terms of both the quantity and quality of the available manpower. Some police officers struggle with writing and speaking. The efficiency and effectiveness of the police force is impacted by proper record keeping, operational management of information, including reliable documentation and collation of information. This is according to Alemeka (1999).
- iv. Inadequate Arms and Ammunition: It has been pointed out that the Nigerian police lack sufficient tools and ammunition to support them in thwarting social crimes (Adegoke 2014). In agreement with Adedoke, Abdulkahir (2004) contends that the Nigerian police lack the necessary computers, vehicles, and patrol boats. In order to combat criminals who frequently carry advanced weapons during their operations, the police must be provided with sophisticated weapons. However, the utilization of these weapons by the police needs to be limited to a last resort. Lamenting on the inadequacy of arms as a critical factor for police failure, Dandu (2008) said "Nigeria police are helpless, when confronted with armed robbers, the boys have sophisticated machines that the police cannot dare withstand.
- v. The complexities of loyalty: In order to fulfill its constitutional obligation to protect people and property, the Nigeria Police must choose between allegiance and loyalty. The importance of applying loyalty in the process of performing their duties cannot be overstated given the framework of the Nigerian Police. Loyalty is a crucial component of every moral life and, as a result, must be cultivated with significant virtues. Loyalty to principles can, on occasion, clash with loyalty to people, and vice versa. Loyalty to some others is another example (Peterson and Uhnro, 2012). Therefore, in the context of present state of affairs in Nigeria, especially with respect to the level of poverty recorded among the citizens and most importantly the deplorable living conditions of an average Nigeria police officer, the complexities of loyalty of the police is more understandable (Adiv-Moses & Adeparusi, 2009). From the above analysis, it is obvious that, the Nigeria police has aggressive competitors to contend with, believed to be competing for the loyalty of the officers. These include the followings:
1. The general public which the force was established to protect

2. The police organizational authority which serves as his serves as his primary authority
3. The code of conduct and police ethics to which the officer is to uphold
4. The politician also use the police as tools for election malpractice, manipulation and harassment
5. The fellow officers colleagues who often help to cover-up corruption, human rights abuse, brutality, extrajudicial killing and lastly
6. The officer's immediate family

As a result of the demands for loyalty from the above listed groups, the Nigeria's police officer is faced with the problem of performance in providing security to the Nigeria citizens

- iv. The challenge of integrity: One of the fundamental tenets of public officials is the concept of integrity. This serves as a code of conduct when performing official duties. The lack of integrity in the Nigerian police has lowered their morale when performing their duties. The officers frequently display their lack of professionalism and unreliability by taking part in criminal activity or collaborating with offenders (Akual, 2011). They frequently use their status to mistreat their fellow citizens through bribery, blackmail, and intimidation as part of their daily work, protecting the wealthy. Dauda (2008) also captured this thus "the police as I am concerned is a disgrace to Nigerians, they commit terrible things...imagine police will kill innocent person and claim the following day that he was found stealing: As a result of lack of integrity and lots of

moral for the job, a Lacuna has being created for insecurity in the country.

- v. Police brutality and Harassment of innocent citizens: Another issue that has added to the nation's security concerns and contributed to the recent ENDSARS protest in the nation is this one. In most instances, the police are the laws themselves, killing unassuming people and detaining people unjustly and with impunity with the support of repressive laws and autocratic leaders (Dauda, 2008).

- vi. Personnel inadequacy: Insufficient staffing is a problem for the police. Because of this, uncertainty has always been the norm. Nigeria's police force has a total staff size of 302,000, which is needed to keep an eye on the country's 200,000,000 or so residents (Siro and Moorthy, 2017). Given that the Nigerian police force is below the UN's recommendation of 1-300 or 400 citizens engaged in policing, it is clear that our labor force is below ideal.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In police studies, theoretical formulations are inter-connected and inter-related. At best, they are attempted by different intellectuals to make sense out of the extant multifaceted police crime administration. Hence, irrespective of perspicacity of any theory espoused, none can completely explain all the remote and immediate reasons for crime incidents and the best-fit approach of the police to deal with them. In keeping with the aforementioned, the broken window theory was chosen as the theoretical foundation for this study. James Quinn Wilson and George Lee Kelling proposed the theory. It addresses a broad range of topics that are relevant

to this paper. One of the theory's main tenets is that minor visible signs of crime, civil unrest, and other insignificant subversives or anti-social behaviors directly contribute to serious crime when left unchecked. Additionally, it saw the broken window that wasn't fixed as evidence that people aren't paying close attention to safety-related issues. As a result, the impact of one unrepaired a cracked window on building invites vandals to break additional windows on the same structure. It is also an invitation for the vandals to make the vandalized building their hideout (Wilson & Kelling, 1982).

Before its popularization as a theory, Scott Fraser and Phillip George Zimbardo conducted experiment to ascertain the broken window effects on police security administration. They brought two cars and removed their identification plate numbers. One of the cars was parked in Bronx along campus road of New York University. The second car was abandoned at Palo Alto in California, along the road to Stanford University campus (Zimbardo, 1969). As Zimbardo (1969:287) reported it: "What happened in New York was unbelievable. Within ten minutes, the 1959 Oldsmobile received its auto strippers from a father, mother, and eight year old son. The mother appeared to be a lookout. The father's search of the vehicle, glove box, and engine was assisted by the son. The equipment required removing the radiator and battery was given to his father by the son. According to this theory, the first relatively minor infractions of public order such as vandalizing abandoned buildings, using illegal drugs, loitering, street fighting, etc. become the community's new normal. To combat this threat, which may ultimately stop more serious crimes like burglary as well as assault, robbery, assassination, etc., factually aware and deliberate efforts are required. The theory points out that the burden of ensuring the security of citizens' lives and property is

too great for the police and the justice system in general to handle. Thus, community involvement is necessary (Skolnick & Bayley, 1988).

Using the analogy of a broken window in a building that if left unrepaired projects to other members of the society that no one cares and so breaking more windows will not result in official sanction; so also is minor crimes that if not properly handled cumulates into a menace. Broken window theory contends that there is a direct correlation between higher rates of rebellion and the increased complexity of urban life as well as that disorder and crime are related in a developmental sequence. It was developed within the larger context of the cultural structural theory of community policing, particularly the theory of social disorganization. Wilson and Kelling first proposed the theory in 1982, and Olusegun (2016) notes that it emphasizes the necessity of involving the community because police as well as the criminal justice system in general cannot handle the weighty burden of security on their own.

Scholars like Rosenbaum (2003) argue that if crimes are the result of social disorganization then the police departments should work to improve social control by strengthening community ties and encourage behaviors that will provide the basis for regulating individual conducts within the society; this method of community policing calls for residents to take on the duty of crime prevention by cooperating as witnesses to crimes and promptly reporting any unacceptable conduct to the police. According to Lombardo and Lough (2007), this approach to crime prevention will enable community policing initiatives to strengthen the informal social control mechanisms already present in communities but which had previously been destroyed by crimes and other problems. One of the main formal strategies used to regulate and manage behavior in a community is policing. Police are expected to act as the

primary line of defense against lawbreakers and deviants in the event that social disapproval as well as additional informal social processes falls short of controlling crime, abuse, and sociopathic behavior.

A declining community or neighborhood attends to attract more crimes, and if nothing is done to stop it and demonstrate that people care about their surroundings, it will eventually turn into a capital offense. The Broken Window Theory applies to areas where there are a lot of young, unemployed youths who act in an unruly manner. These youths might start out playing football, cards, drinking, and smoking hard drugs during work hours, but if these activities aren't stopped, they might progress to gambling, street fighting, rape, and other serious crimes. To prevent a worst-case scenario in a region where this is happening, community policing efforts are essential. The existence of slums in a number of locations throughout south-western Nigeria serves to support the idea that these areas are home to a large number of people who appear to be in need but who actually reside there due to the affordable housing and suitable living conditions. Slums are notorious for housing rough (hooligan) people as well as prostitution, drug use, gambling, street fighting, and other social ills. Therefore, the Broken Window Theory is very applicable in places where maintaining constant peace and order calls for a joint effort from the police and the community.

Unnecessary mob gathering in the street, campus and major metropolitan areas may kindle social unrest, if not checked, reported by other occupants in that area. This justifies why some localities or institutions frown at unnecessary gathering of students which may at first be an avenue for bad students to influence the seemingly good ones and try to either lure them (the good ones) into bad group/cultist. Therefore, the usefulness of the Broken

Window Theory must be reexamined to explain why social unrest and upheaval on campus and in the host community(s) are sparked, as well as the necessity of taking swift action. Broken Window Theory is also relevant in every home. If a child, perhaps at the young adult stage, thinks he is an adult and needs freedom, he may show traits like arrogance, independence, waywardness, and a need for attention. If these traits are not checked and the parent or guardian dithers, these traits may cause the child to become wild, in disciplined, and eventually constitute a social problem. Therefore, the parent or guardian must make desperate efforts to stop such a child while they are still young.

Existing literature in Nigeria demonstrated that armed robberies, boko haram terrorist attacks, attacks by Fulani herdsmen, kidnapping for ransom, and other banditry cases were all caused by unchecked minor crimes like political thugs, cultural soppiness, and small-time theft. For instance, Toromade (2018) contended that the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram originated as political thugs. Additionally, according to the historical accounts of the first and second celebrated and infamous Nigerian executed robbers, Ishola Oyelusi (also known as Dr. Rob and Kill) and Lawrence Nomanyangbon Anini (also known as The Law-Ovigbo), their crimes allegedly began with pick pocketing and the theft of pencils and birds (Adeola, 1987). Broken windows were used in this study to emphasize the importance of police-community collaborative work in policing as it was practiced in Palo Alto, California. It is believed that opportunity for Boko Haram terrorist group to come from Maiduguri in Borno State to effectively bomb Gboko or massacre people in Makurdi in Benue State will be very difficult. Besides, it will be uncomfortable for Fulani herdsmen from Yobe State to invade Ijebu-Ode in Ogun State and kill hundreds of people and escape without challenge. In addition,

there will be a narrowed opportunity for criminals to invade schools and successfully kidnap hundreds of students in Chibok or elsewhere in Nigeria. In other words, crimes are not tolerated in neighbourhood where the police and people work in team spirit.

## CONCLUSION

A number of security issues, such as violence and terrorist insurgency, militancy and equipped ethnic militia, the existence of secessionist groups and agitations, irresolvable farmer/herder conflicts, cattle rustling, unidentified gunmen, illegal mining, and rural banditry, pose a threat to Nigeria's internal security framework. Others include the pervasive crimes of sea piracy, armed theft, kidnapping, and cultism. In light of the aforementioned, Boko Haram, with the assistance of international terrorist groups, has wreaked economic, infrastructure, security, and livelihood havoc of enormous magnitude on individuals and neighborhoods in the North East Zone of Nigeria since 1999. In conclusion, Peace, security and safety are necessary and indispensable requirement for development and attainment of quality livelihood in society. Nigeria has recently experienced uncommon crises and feeling unsafe, each of which has resulted in the loss of lives and the destruction of property. Violence such as terrorist attacks, abductions, armed robberies and criminal activity, suicide bombing, religious killings, ethnic disputes, politically motivated killings, and other forms of criminalities are becoming more commonplace and have come to characterize life in the nation. Worry is warranted due to the alarming security issues that plague the entire nation. The previously mentioned scenario has made threats to national security a major concern for the government and resulted in significant national budgetary allocations for security. Therefore, State governments should be allowed by law to

establish local police authority and recruits from within their communities, as opposed to posting officers and men from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds across the country. This will go a long way toward addressing the state's unique security challenges.

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