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*CORRESPONDENCE

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Article Received

15/06/2025

Accepted

20/06/2025

Published

26/06/2025

Works Cited

Ijeoma Uchenna Camenus, Anasieze Ifeoma Joy & Ugwu Cynthia Chibugo3 (2025). Social Crime and Social Instability in Nigeria: A Threat to National Security and Job Opportunities. A Study of the Menace of Kidnapping in South-South Region. Journal of Current Research and Studies, 2(3), 1–11.

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Social Crime and Social Instability in Nigeria: A Threat to National Security and Job Opportunities. A Study of the Menace of Kidnapping in South-South Region

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Abstract

Evidently, South-South region of Nigeria is one of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria, consisting of the following six States: Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers states. The recent surge in kidnapping has seen prominent members of the society becoming victims of abductions, it appears that armed robbers, fraudsters and small-time crooks have since dumped their different trades and moved on to the more lucrative business of kidnapping. This development has adversely affected security and employments in this region.

Not only Nigerians, but also the international community, are concerned and perplexed by the major impact of kidnapping and other related crimes. This has increased the fear of outsiders, particularly multinational investors, putting the foundations of economic development in jeopardy. The total impact has exacerbated the labor market crisis, resulting in thousands of job losses and workforce displacement from the affected areas. This research examines the rising wave of crime and its effect to the Nigerian labor market. According to this research, the current wave of kidnappings has exacerbated widespread unemployment, aggravating an already deteriorating labor market and creating an unfavorable atmosphere for economic development. It is recommended, among other things, that the government should create jobs for unemployed youths while also providing skills development training, as idleness is the mother of evil thoughts, evil plans, and evil actions among Nigerian youths; and that the federal and state governments should properly recruit, equip and deploy forest guards into our forests, which are serving as safe havens for kidnappers, in order to combat the menace. This would provide suggestions on how to combat this wave of crime and extend the labor market to accommodate these restless adolescents who are the main perpetrators of this crime.

Keyword's

Kidnapping, hostage-taking, terror, crime, insecurity and instability.

Introduction

Kidnappings of various kinds have become increasingly common in Nigeria. A disease that was previously unknown to the general public has quickly become domesticated. The volatile oil-rich regions of the Niger Delta have seen this problem on a huge scale in the last 10 years, with the target being largely expats and Nigerians working in the oil industry. It has spread throughout the country, reaching as far north as Kano and Kaduna in Nigeria's far north. Nigeria's south-east and south-south regions have become the "kidnapper's playground." Kidnapping appears to be less difficult than other serious crimes. According to Davidson (2010), a gang of criminals equipped with firearms and cell phones seize unsuspecting victims and bring them into a remote location, where they begin making phone calls to anybody they want and demand a ransom. Police officers tasked with ensuring public safety are frequently unprepared for the task at hand. They believe their job is complete if they can locate the kidnapped, but nothing is ever heard from the kidnappers. As we all know, the cops are under-trained and under-equipped, but there are also disturbing signals that their loyalty is being questioned. Some whistleblowers have suffered as a result of their trust in them.

The basic function of government is to provide security for its citizens. This role has mostly gone unnoticed in Nigeria. Nigerians are no longer secure because of the Nigerian state. Nigerians have been forced to become religious, with entire families barricading themselves in prison-like walls at night, praying for God's protection. Kidnapping as a form of armed robbery, on the other hand, is far more frightening because it frequently occurs in broad daylight among people going about their daily lives.

The rising level of insecurity in Nigeria is concerning because it affects everyone. This threat can be found at churches, mosques, markets, schools, residences, and on the roadway. The ordeal of kidnapping has left the abductees and their families traumatized. Nigeria is being shunned by foreign investors. Nigerians are paying the price for bad governance and leadership failures. According to Davidson (2010), the general condition of instability in some sections of the country has undoubtedly reached a point where almost everyone is concerned about the region's trajectory. People are currently unable to sleep due to their dread of being robbed or kidnapped. Fearing being abducted or robbed, businessmen has fled with their companies.

Kidnapping and hostage taking have extended from the Niger Delta waterways to the mainland in the last three years. The monster has expanded throughout the Southeast, where thousands of able-bodied but jobless teenagers abound.

The country's current security crisis is better understood in light of evidence that even government leaders and traditional rulers are not immune. Kidnappings are aimed at the government's executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

As a result, some of these officials have moved their families outside of the geographical zone or the country, exposing civilians to marauding gangs. Despite the extensive protection at their disposal, they and their family members are being targeted in Abuja and Lagos, according to anecdotal evidence.

As a result, some of these officials have relocated their family outside of the geopolitical zone or the country, leaving the civilian population vulnerable to marauding gangs. Anecdotal evidence shows that Abuja and Lagos, long considered insecure states, are now popular tourist destinations for many, as well as Ghana for those who can afford it.

Problem Statement /Justification

Kidnapping is an extremely serious crime, but in comparison to robbery, burglary, and other forms of societal crime, it is relatively unheard of in contemporary academia. Yang et al. (2007) ascribe the event's relative obscurity to three factors: the event's rarity, access to known kidnappers, and data issues. Because kidnapping is such a rare occurrence, experts prefer to dismiss it as a minor crime, which explains why it receives so little scholarly attention. In the second case, gaining access to known kidnappers is typically tough. The third concern is data validity and reliability. Turner (1998, citing Schiller 1985; Gallagher 1985; Warren 1985:229) sought to document the origins of kidnapping. According to him, the term "kidnapping" arose in 17th century England, when children were "kidnapped" and sold to colonial

farmers as slaves or agricultural workers. Centuries previously, in ancient Rome, emperor Constantine (AD 315) was so concerned about the prevalence of kidnapping that he authorized the death sentence as a punishment. During the Middle Ages in Europe, robber-barons kidnapped merchants and held them for ransom. In the 12th century, the Archduke of Austria held King Richard I of England hostage for years. In the year 1800, in the now-Philippine archipelago of Sulu, A set range of ransom fees already existed, ranging from 2000 pesos for a European friar to 30-50 pesos for a male Filipino. Kidnappings by organized criminal gangs increased in the United States, prompting the introduction of federal legislation on the subject in both the Senate and the House of Representatives in 1931.

Kidnapping has grown over the years as an industry involving every level of the society and motivated by many reasons. However, studies on it have been relatively a recent phenomenon, with much of the literature coming from Asian, American and European continents. Throughout the review, few literatures come from the African contexts, yet there are series of media reports of daily incidence of kidnapping in most African countries. One country where kidnapping has become a daily event of recent is Nigeria and particularly the Niger Delta, known as the south-south region of Nigeria. The region is rich in petroleum oil and has been explored by multinational corporations and the Federal Government of Nigeria amid high incidence of poverty, absence of infrastructures and deprivations of the locals and oil communities. Various forms of crime, including kidnapping have emerged as a consequence.

Kidnapping is one of the country's current main social challenges, obstructing people's free movement and hindering the country's socio-economic progress.

Due to several dimensions of armed conflicts such as ethno-religious conflicts, farmers-herders conflict, Banditry and the Boko Haram insurgency, among others, kidnapping, which is typically frequent in the southern parts of the country, has become highly popular in the southern sections of the country. Most of the conflicts in Nigeria that have led in the spread of the evil known as kidnapping are largely provoked by conflict entrepreneurs who profit either directly or indirectly from the crises. As a result of the fear of the unknown, the threat of kidnapping has brought with it issues of insecurity of lives and property, as well as a general drop in the number of economic operations. According to Okoli and Orinya (2013), abduction is considered organized crime. According to Walsh and Adrian (1983), abduction differs from country to country, hence the phrase is ambiguous and devoid of a clear definition. That is, it is contingent on who defines it, from what perspective, and for what purpose. Kidnapping, according to them, is the illegal seizure and detention of a person against his or her will. Kidnapping, according to Robertson (1968), is the crime of grabbing, confirming abducting, or transporting away of someone by force or trickery, typically subjecting them to forced servitude in order to extract a ransom or to promote another crime.

Finally, lack of improvement of the country's security apparatus in terms of motivation, discipline, materials as well as commitment of the government to address the core causes of insecurity, has in fact constituted a clog on the wheel of progress of the nation's national development and by extension the survival of democracy and achievement of desired economic growth.

This is the problem the work seeks to address and need to find lasting solution to the grievance of these groups is very paramount. This Thesis hopes to throw more light on why social crime and instability arose as well as its threats to national security and job opportunities. It is hoped that this will contribute to the future work on resolving the regional conflict by putting forth a new perspective based on using a functional perspective.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the research is to examine Social Crime and Social Instability in Nigeria and its threat to national security and job opportunities: The Menace of Kidnapping in South-South Region.

While the specific objective is to:

1. Ascertain the courses of kidnapping in the south-south region of Nigeria.
2. Ascertain the effect of kidnapping to job opportunities in the region
3. Determine the effect of kidnapping to the economic and political development of the region and Nigeria at large.

4. Find out how massive employment of the youth could minimize kidnapping urge among the youth.
5. Find out how true federalism and fair share in resource allocation to the region could tame hydra headed monster.

Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is that it would act as a guide to the government in their quest to quell the problem of social crimes and instability ranging from terrorism, kidnapping, insurgency, banditry, as it affects the country's relations with the outside world. Also judging from the fact that social crime like kidnapping is currently a prevailing destructive force and it's very spontaneous and topical, this study would help to proffer solutions. More so, this work theoretically would be useful to writers, scholars, journalists etc. in order to add to their existing knowledge of what they already know about social crime and social instability in Nigeria and how this menace influence national security and job opportunities.

Literature Review

Kidnapping can be considered false incarceration in the sense that it entails the illegal confinement of individuals against their will by another individual in a manner that violates the confined individual's right to freedom of movement. This entails the removal of a person against their will, usually for the purpose of holding them in false imprisonment or confinement without legal authority. This is frequently done for ransom or to aid in the commission of another crime. No one is immune to kidnapping. Kidnappers are everywhere in Nigeria, targeting both foreigners and non-foreigners, with little or no pushback from our law enforcement officers.

In the face of this confrontation, the Nigerian security system has weakened, and nothing has been done to identify the socio-economic and underlying issues that have led to this crime.

In the Nigerian setting, several ideas have been proposed to explain kidnapping. Accordingly, Nseabasi (2009), citing (Tzanelli 2006, Gerth and Mills 1948: 56-7), has proposed the argument that abduction is regulated by the laws of demand and supply and is a sort of social activity that entails the calculation on the most efficient means to the desired aims.

Kidnapping is a social enterprise, and "kidnappers are businessmen, they just happen to be on the illegal side of it," according to The Nation (May 10, 2002).... If you take away their demand, they won't be able to produce anything. This is why the perpetrators of this crime select their victims depending on their ability to pay large sums of money (Tzanelli 2006).

The economic incentive was occasionally utilized as a tool to support and prolong the fight in the Niger Delta, where abduction was first employed as a weapon to fight for economic and environmental justice. At the start of 2007, a slew of new deviant organisations with a variety of names emerged, all hiding behind the liberation movement to conduct economic crimes.

Kidnapping is motivated by a desire to suppress, outsmart, frighten, and subjugate political opponents, according to the "political theory" of the crime. Like the example in Anambara state, where the father of the previous Central Bank governor, and currently the Governor of Anambra state, Prof Charlse Chukwuma Soludo who was then a PDP gubernatorial candidate, was kidnapped by enraged PDP opponents who felt marginalized by the party's electoral process. Where there are political incentives for kidnapping and ransoms are also required, a relationship between "money and politics" has been established. Such ransoms are frequently utilized to further the kidnapper organization's political goals or simply to ensure the organization's survival. According to Nseabasi (2009), the majority of top kidnapping operations are orchestrated by government officials, opposition parties, and criminal gangs, unrewarded or uncompensated members of election rigging militant groups, among others. The kidnapping is then viewed as a tool for political revenge and settling political scores. They confirmed that the operation is organized and aimed primarily at key serving politicians, foreign workers, and contractors working directly for the government. Once the victim has

been kidnapped, a high-level negotiation is expected, leading to a very large ransom. A ransom like this is paid to promote political goals, to settle grievances with disgruntled parties, or to financially cripple a sitting leader.

Another argument looks at kidnapping through the lens of widespread unemployment in the country's labor sector. This is attributed to the government's inability to provide appropriate work for the youth. Kidnapping's political ramifications have had a spillover effect on unemployed adolescents and criminals, who see it as a new substitute or supplement to robbery and pickpocketing. A group of kidnappers like these targets not just prominent and wealthy people, but also ordinary persons with limited resources. Every regarded person with a high and lucrative ransom demand, including teenagers, children, and adults, is a common target.

History of Kidnapping in Nigeria

Because of its frequency in the country, kidnapping has become a general term in both public and private discourse. Literally, the phrase is derived from "kid," which means "child," and "nab," which means "to grab." Kidnapping looks to be a rising worry in Nigeria, according to Adewale (2009), despite the fact that it is not a new phenomenon. It predates the word itself. However, the motivation may differ from country to country. Children have been stolen for use as servants or laborers in the American colonies since 1673, according to the unfriendly world. So it has come to mean any illegal capture or detention of a person or people against their will, regardless of age.

Kidnappers have been reported to participate in criminal activity for a variety of complicated objectives, including unemployment, idleness, vengeance, rituals, monetary gain, and political reasons.

The first kidnapping in Nigeria occurred in 2006, when terrorists from the Niger Delta took entire control of the country to protest regional inequity. Nigeria, according to the insurgents, is being constructed at the expense of the region, which acts as the country's cash cow.

The kidnapping of government expatriates was followed by the kidnapping of men of God and their children, Nigerian politicians and their children, and religious leaders.

Virtually, all of the kidnappings occurred in the south-east and Niger Delta regions, which harbour the Africa's biggest oil and gas industry. Most of the hostages are released unharmed after payment of ransom. South-South region Rivers and Bayelsa in particular had most incidents with all of them have been released while police have arrested 70 suspects in connection with the kidnapping.

Gangs have taken advantage of the breakdown in law and order to target any high profile expatriate or Nigerian that could provide them with a large ransom.

Nnamani, (2020) posited that over 1.3trillion naira has being lost to kidnappers as ransom, while destruction of life and properties are increasing day by day, thereby multiplying the shenanigans of insecurity and job loss. But beyond statistics being available, it is a known fact the most kidnap cases are never reported to the police authority for the fear of murder of the victims hence most families prefer to pay ransom to losing one of its own.

The Associated Press in its report of August 27, 2008 stated that "more than 200 foreigners have been kidnapped in two years of heightened violence across Nigeria" restive South, the victims are normally released unharmed after a ransom is paid, although several have been killed during botched seizures or rescue attempts "Victims are maimed, raped and manhandled in such a manner that the stigma remains almost perpetually. The families and associates are knocked down by intractable trauma," Kupoluyi (2009).

On Sunday, July 11, 2010 four journalists and a driver travelling in a convoy of buses from a conference in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State, were kidnapped in Abia State on their way back to Lagos. From their hideout, the abductors demanded a ransom of N250 million, and later reduced it to N30 million. A torrent of protests, condemnations and threats, greeted the action of the kidnappers and they were forced to let go of their victims. However, the police did not make a clear statement whether ransom was paid or not.

In Idah, Kogi State, the mother of the former President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), was also abducted. In Asaba of Delta State, a businessman was forcibly abducted in the presence of his family. The criminals were apparently looking for dollars; not finding it, they shot and injured his three children and still made off with him. In Akwa-Ibom State where as many as ten medical doctors were kidnapped, staff at the University Teaching Hospital went on an indefinite strike following the failure of kidnappers to release their latest victim, a consultant pediatric surgeon. As a consequence, medical services at the specialist hospital were paralysed and patients were stranded. Also 26 UK nationals were kidnapped in Nigeria in between 2006 and 2007.

The oil-rich Niger Delta region of Nigeria has seen an explosion in the number of foreigners kidnapped for financial or political gain. Seven foreigners were reported kidnapped in Nigeria in 2005. That figure increased to 72 in 2006 and 223 in 2007. This exponential increase has been largely the result of activity by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and other armed militant groups. 26 of the hostages were UK nationals. Of the 295 foreigners kidnapped in 2006 and 2007, five died as a result of injuries sustained during their abduction - including a Briton killed when the kidnappers' boat was attacked by the Nigerian Navy. One Syrian hostage died of illness very shortly after his release.

If you analyse the political, economic and security issues present in the Niger Delta and then look at the terrain, which favours the militants, the conclusion must be that kidnapping will continue. Nigeria may be a special case but expatriate staff is at risk of kidnapping where judicial and police systems are weak or corrupt, there is a huge disparity between rich and poor coupled with political and economic breakdown.

The table above shows the overall rating of kidnapping incidents. Although it has become highly widespread in Nigeria, it is a global issue that has suddenly manifested itself in this region of the world. Nigeria is listed sixth among the top ten countries where abduction is common, with Mexico first and South Africa last. Despite the fact that Iraq is not among the top 10 countries, it remains at the extreme end of the danger scale.

The bodies of four American contractors kidnapped in Iraq more than a year earlier were discovered in March 2008, demonstrating the enormous dangers that personnel and employers are willing to endure in the pursuit of a higher wage. Some will argue that Iraq is at the extreme end of the risk spectrum and that the deceased were fully aware of the risks.

Meanwhile, somewhere in the UK the families of five Britons kidnapped in Iraq on May 27, 2007 are still awaiting further news of their loved ones.

These trends do not appear to be conducive to human and economic existence. Since the beginning of the kidnapping crisis in Iraq in April 2004, more than 3000 foreigners have been kidnapped. 1350 have been released, but 1050 are believed to have been murdered by their captors, and 600 are still missing and thought dead.

According to Adewale (2019), out of 13,973 reported cases of kidnapping, the United Kingdom had 3,261; South Africa had 3,071; and Iceland had two cases among the countries listed.

Amnesty International's Representative Researcher in Nigeria, Aster Van Kregfen, emphasizes the need for Nigerian police to be better prepared to deal with kidnappings.

"The best way to deal with violent crimes like kidnapping is to improve police officers' abilities to recognize and prevent possible crimes before they happen," Kregfen said. To improve police investigation capability and effectiveness, the federal government must improve police training resources. facilitate

Socio-Economic Factors Aiding Kidnapping in South-South.

The current state of anomalous in our political history can be attributed to a bad leadership elite that is inattentive to the current condition of insecurity because they are too focused on how to get political power. They value and place little or no significance on issues such as higher national aspiration and the dignity of people's lives. The rising rate of kidnapping and other illegal activity is a direct result of leadership failure.

Our political leadership is overly preoccupied with the subject of power acquisition because of the personal benefits they derive from it, ignoring the responsibilities that are expected of them. Our political leadership, at all levels, has a character that runs counter to the logic and philosophy of governance, which is primarily about promoting human dignity and safeguarding society's core values.

Poor security system

While these acts of criminality must be condemned, the security agencies must also be condemned for their incompetence and collaboration.

Anything short of ending the current tension, regime of fear, and general insecurity is unacceptable to Nigerians who have waited in vain for the realization of democratic governance promises since 1999.

The negative impact of the worrying trend on the economic well-being of the country was also lost on government. Wogu (2010) described the incident as a violent assault on the dignity and right of Nigeria workers.

Political Economy of the Niger Delta

The Niger Delta's Political Economy, The modern political economy of Nigeria continues to be dominated by crisis. Due to a lack of true federalism in Nigeria, the people of the Niger Delta have been denied a fair share of national resources to finance community development projects. Thus, inequity in resource distribution and structural injustice have resulted in economic hardship and misery for the people, prompting agitation for resource control and young militancy in the region force appears to be the only alternative to redress social injustice in Nigeria. If the core causes of the unrest are not resolved amicably, this might escalate into a larger political and national security issue, as well as destroy the economy. As the crisis worsens and important economic indicators deteriorate, foreign and domestic investors will shift their investments elsewhere.

Loss of societal value

In today's Nigeria, we have traded our culture of respect, love for human life, hard labor, friendliness, and receptivity to strangers for Western culture and pompous orientation. These have given rise to modern crime and social evil, which are undermining our society's essential values.

Onovo (2009) ascribed increased criminality in several locations to authorities' praise of fraudsters. He objected to the appointment of people who had been charged with corruption as heads of parastatals and various government ministries.

This explains the lack of clear guidance from people in positions of authority who are more concerned with self-promotion rather than adopting policies that will benefit the society. He also denounced the country's practice of religious and traditional rulers honoring persons who embezzled or misused state funds. Celebrating persons with shady backgrounds reflects poorly on the societal and moral values that such rulers should represent. One of the apparent reasons why abduction thrives, he pointed out, is that those who glorify such criminals end up pushing them to do more.

According to Onovo (2009), the country's high crime rate, particularly in the South-East and South-South, is primarily due to consumerism and the lack of societal values, with people willing to do everything to get rich and be acknowledged in society. While blaming unemployment for the uptick in kidnapping and armed robbery in these places, he also pointed out that most Nigerian university graduates are half-baked and unable to defend their diplomas.

He emphasized the importance of reviving dormant companies such as the Nkalagu Cement Company, which could employ 50,000 people if completely active, and the Nigerian Railway Corporation, which could employ 78,000 people if fully operational. The religious leaders should join in fighting this war by stopping celebration of people who embezzle public funds and are of questionable character. "Traditional rulers should also stop conferring titles on them because they encourage them to continue by doing so," Onovo affirmed.

Unemployment

Every year, millions of Nigerian students graduate from higher education institutions. How many federal civil service jobs has this administration/government produced since its inception? So, the issue boils down to the country's rampant unemployment. Most of these crimes will be minimized if people are empowered, if people are given tasks to do, if one million jobs are created in this country. There is no government motivation to empower you even when you wish to be creative. The Nigerian government lacks vision, which is why the country has devolved to the point that no one cares about the population's well-being.

According to Okoro (2010), it is no longer news that Nigeria's unemployment problem, with its frighteningly high rate, is one of the country's top five problems. It's also no surprise that this wicked monster, unemployment, has succeeded in instilling in the minds of its victims a flood of bright but bad thoughts and ideas on how to get quick money by rejecting all warnings. Today, 'kidnapping' appears to be the most popular concept.

The kidnapping business did not become popular as a method to consider until the late 1990s, especially among armed organizations in the oil-rich Niger Delta. It was seen as a powerful weapon in the fight against oil companies' refusal to install development projects in host communities for constantly sucking their resources - oil. Victims were usually foreigners who worked for an oil company as employees or expatriates. They'd be apprehended and held captive until a large sum of money was paid in exchange for their release. For a long period, this movement was successful. According to sources, there were 353 kidnappings reported in 2008. In Nigeria, an estimated 512 people have been kidnapped as of July this year. It must have occurred to a group of unemployed pals at some point to consider kidnapping their own black brothers and sisters, who are either oil workers, prominent figures, or simply wealthy. For as many unemployed grads who perceived the experiment as such, it clearly turned out to be a massive employment offer.

So far, the list of victims has grown so tall. It becomes less difficult to predict the future from here. In an interview after his release, a victim of kidnapping identified his kidnappers as "young graduates who did not have employment and were looking for how to survive."

If the activities of kidnapping are not checked, everybody will become a potential target, even the so called 'common man.' If the Government, in their usual check-back approach, fails to address the unemployment situation in the country, soon the entire country may have to go for a ransom at one time or another.

The kidnappers believe they should take their destinies into their hands and grab whatever they could, using the barrel of gun in the face of systematic looting of funds by government officials, to have a fair share of national resources. Politicians have reported to have stolen about 220 Billion pounds in the face of four decades of independence from Britain - an amount roughly equivalent to the Western's aids ever given to Africa.

Labour Market Implications and Outcome of Kidnapping in Nigeria.

Despite increased attention to the problem of young people on the part of the state, a number of problems remained unsolved. The most urgent problem is providing jobs for graduates from the institutions of higher learning under the conditions of world crisis and rising unemployment; it is especially hard for young specialists to find their place in the labour market.

Joblessness creates a number of material and psychological problems which could lead to social vices. Young people are trying to find a way to achieve self-realisation, and when they encounter difficulties, they find alternative ways to make a living. Accordingly, Ivonova (2011) points out that many of them are aware of the need to take personal initiatives and they intend to find a way out of their difficult situation. At the same time the worsening of the problem of youths' employment requires that a state policy be worked out and a programme be designed to tackle these challenges. The labour market represents aggregate supply and demand for manpower, through the interaction of the two that the economically active portion of the population deployed in various sphere of economic activity. It is in the labour market that the relationship is established between employer and hired workers, relationship that helps to bring

the workforce together with the means of production. This serves to meet the needs of the former for labour and the needs of the latter for income.

No doubt, the menace and impact of kidnapping have created a faulty labour market in Nigeria. So, the impact of the menace began to emerge and businesses in the country began a journey down the abyss of economic decline. Hence, while the kidnapper ravaged the entire Nigeria, business and investors' confidence becomes casualties, and the people suffered. Other connotations associated with these youth, crime, unemployment and labour market development in Nigeria current trend are as follows;

Work Place Insecurity

Indeed while workers move about their daily chores constantly watching their back, it is regarded as a sour grape in the mouth for any employer to post employee to where kidnapping is rampant.

Wogu (2010), the current Minister of Labour, cited in Umejei (2010) appeared to read the mind of workers, when he gave assurances that workers should go about their duties without fear, but labour movement differs as it expressed fears that except government takes pro-active steps, the effect on productivity could be enormous.

Such actions negatively affect the productivity of diligent workers as it raises fear concerning the working place. Whether at work or in leisure all Nigerians are entitled to their fundamental human right including the right to movement, which the kidnappers have now curtailed. There is every reason to condemn kidnapping as an evil business and call on these abductors to channel their energies into productive ventures that will benefit them, their families and society as a whole. Nigerians should be worried about the potential of kidnapping business to impact negatively on the Nigerian society as a whole.

Threat to Industrial Harmony and Unemployment

The threat of kidnapping to the workforce in Nigeria no doubt constitutes threat to industrial harmony which has a ripple effect worsening the current unemployment problem in the country. It is estimated that 874 companies have left Nigeria since last year (Punch Nov. 2010 pg 1, 2). Okolo (2010) notes that the ugly development is scaring away both local and foreign investors and portends grave danger for South East and South South survival as a people, stressing that "if industries are closing shops and investors are not forthcoming because of insecurity and other attendant problems faced by businesses, then the future particularly that of the children should agitate the minds of everybody."

Destabilisation of Labour Market

The exit of firms and organisations in these areas dominated by kidnapping tantamount to sending thousands of workers back to the labour market thereby worsening unemployment situation.

Apart from this, with the threatening situation many workers are willing to resign their jobs and relocate to other areas for the fear that they might become victims of the kidnappers. This has gross implication on the labour market. Fajana (2000) posited that people may migrate based on socio-economic and socio-cultural reasons of which kidnapping constitute a push-out factor in some particular areas. Non-economic factors act as a pull-in factor and cause population mobility creating a different opportunity structure in two geographical areas which is based on social and psychological crime factors.

This again results to more unemployment. However, statistics released by the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that about 10 million Nigerians were unemployed in Nigeria as at March, 2009. The Bureau defines the unemployment rate as the percentage of Nigeria's labour force that is qualified to work but did not work for at least 39 hours in the week preceding the survey.

The destabilisation of the Nigerian labour market via kidnapping has created untold hardship for the workers and members of their families and dependants. The exit of companies in these areas also has its own serious effect on the

economy apart from the impact on labour force. There is gross loss of revenue to our great nation which is already rated as one of the most poverty-stricken nations with low gross domestic product (GDP).

Oil companies in the region suffered years of attacks which at their peak were costing the OPEC members \$1 billion in lost oil revenues until an amnesty programme began last August, buying more than a year of relative peace.

Economic Implication of Kidnapping

Not only does kidnapping affect the psychology of the direct victims and their families, it spread a fear that hinders direct economic investment in the area where such evils are perpetuated. This in the short and long term leads to declined economic productivity and unemployment and a threat to the federal government's recent successes in wooing investors into the country"

Omar (2010), the President of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) cited in Umejei (2010), lamented that the ungodly venture was threatening the very foundation of the Nigerian economy. Not only does it have negative implication on the economy, this crime constitutes a serious threat to the Nigerian labour market which had already been fractured. To Omar, the seizure of workers was the final nail that the Nigerian economy might be waiting for to go into complete recession. He explained: "it will be dangerous times in view of the general state of insecurity in our country. Kidnapping in particular has become the norm such that even poor workers are not spared."

Recommendation

1. Job Creation and Employment - A nation with a great number of unemployed youths is a home full of hungry-mad leopards. Osumah and Aghedo (2011) stated "a massive job creation policy is imperative in order to engage Nigeria's army of unemployed youths productively" (p. 284). Sometimes, it is easy to create policies without focusing on implementations. Implementing policies help solve knotty problems such as criminal activities. Crime prevention cuts across the framework of ideology and rudiments of social-economy that is capable of advancing life in the society. Policy creation should focus on attracting industries and investors. If we fail to loosen stringent measures for the establishment of factories and industries, the job opportunities for the nation's youths would remain strangulated. If adequate measures are not adopted and implemented by the national government for dealing with youths' unemployment, the youth violent crime of kidnapping behaviors may scare off foreign traders, expatriates, and further tarnish the nation's image in the international market.
2. Dearth Alleviation - Dearth is the state of being 'poor' and 'needy' due to scarcity of the basic necessities of life. Most of the demands of the Niger Delta Militias that attacked and kidnapped the expatriates and other oil workers are the issues of the basic necessities to humanity. The youths' contentions are materialistic in nature. The demands for equity in revenue sharing, provisions of good roads, modern schools, restructured commercial market centers, good hospitals and maternity homes are within the reach of the Federal Government and oil companies. The obvious problem is that the culture of 'corruptions and dishonesty' in the management of the revenue generated from the crude oil have resulted to unresponsiveness, prolonged noncompliance, and abuse of power by the national government and oil companies. The revenue from the natural resources is sufficient to meet the demands of the youths, thereby quell some of the negative effects. In order to control this criminal behavior, attention should be given to the demands of the disgruntled youths.
3. Vocational Training Center- The new criminal culture of 'get rich-quick syndrome' with less hard-workis presenting a new challenge for the criminal justice system, especially in the rural communities where the high school dropouts are in abundance. It is incumbent for the national government to establish alternative vocational training centers as another opportunity measures where youths would be admitted to learn trades. The admission into such trade school should be simplified to favor the disadvantaged youths.

Conclusion

In our discussions of kidnapping, we have established that it is a crime of unlawful seizure, taking a person away by force, or detaining a person against their will with the intention of carrying them away later. Kidnapping is not only a crime, but it also violates the victim's human right to freedom and has a social and psychological impact on the victim and their family. However, the crime has not been controlled because of certain obstacles that the federal government and the general public have not given up for solutions, and these obstacles are concentrated in the areas of extreme unemployment, deteriorating political instability, internal grievances, and get rich quick syndrome.

We have put forth our recommendations that new jobs be created, new policies that are youth-friendly be implemented, and opportunities for vocational training be provided. The government's failure to address these issues has led to an increase in criminal activity among the miscreants and outcasts of society. The provision of basic amenities like good roads, hospitals, schools, modern commercial trading centers, and a good drinking water system are essential in the governance of the society.

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