

# Application of Modern Technology in Aggressive Crime Deterrence and Control: A Study of Kidnapping, Armed Banditry and Displacement of People in North West Nigeria

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## Abstract

The study looked at application of modern technology in aggressive crime deterrence and control a stud of kidnapping, armed banditry and displacement of people in north west Nigeria the specific objective of this study was to designed a framework that modern technology is one of the vital tools they could be apply to effectively succeeded in fighting any forms of social problem. Technology has for long assisted the developed nations in any forms of development and they used it in fighting war. The study examined the number of lives and properties destruction from the armed banditry; they used sophisticated weapons that the security personal in Nigeria could not have access to it. The study finds out that corruption and other political motivated factors have led into the destruction and inability of the government to fully succeed in application of modern technology in fighting insurgent. The study was purely conceptual and data were collected between 2020, - 2024 Journal Respectively.

**Keywords:** *Modern Technology, Armed Banditry & Kidnapping*

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### **Background of the Study**

Nigeria is a rich country, inhabited by the poor and accounts for the highest percentage of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Adebayo, 2017). The increasing spread of notorious activities of the Boko Haram sect in the North east, Militant in the Southern part of Nigeria oil theft and vandalization of oil pipelines and kidnapping of oil workers, in the North central tribal, land dispute and religious unrest and Armed Banditry in the North western Nigeria have destroyed thousands of lives and properties that could not be estimated. Armed banditry in the North West have forced thousand people Displaced or have made thousand in Internally Displaced persons camps. Those displaced people are mostly, victims of inhumanity of man against man, they are victims of various kinds of injustice, or violence, confrontations, perpetrated by either their own government or by others, such as communal clashes, terrorism, riots, religious, armed Banditry, conflicts, natural disaster and so on (UNHCR, 2018).

However, the argument of the study revealed that, the increase attacks of armed banditry and the rise of displacement of people have hinders socio-economic and political activities of the region.

According to (UNICEF 2017), people were forced to flee out to neighboring states, while some have been uprooted to Niger Republic, resulted to endemic poverty, it is understood that abject poverty among people in the northwest Nigeria and inadequate provision of basic social needs have ultimately contributed in the degree of armed banditry in the states. According to Multinational Poverty Index noted that, the most states recorded with high rate of object poverty in Nigeria are from North West Nigeria with over (45.0%).

Study argued that the rate of unemployment, lack of education and poor standard of living among people in North West is one of the factors that contributed in the rise of Armed Banditry. Additionally, ungoverned spaces, fragile security and weak border management are another triggering problem that have manufactures increasing armed banditry in the north west Nigeria. About 35 to 92 local governments in the region were affected due to poor border control among the government. Ogbannage, 2020, noted that about 47 different borders in the forest have been a hiding place for armed banditry. Increasingly, climate change and resources competition particularly among the pastoralists have significantly played a role in spread of armed banditry in the northwest Nigeria, several confrontations of scarce resources such as land, food, water and postures between the nomadic and the farmers have triggered armed banditry.

(Defense post 2021). However, informal security and the degree of jungle justice. (International Crisis Group, 2020) argued that, the involvement of community vigilante group called (Yan-Sa-Kai) meaning, volunteer guards that are considered as informal security guards have been carrying uncivilized attacks on Fulani's destroying their properties, this lead many of the Fulani's flee to the forest to joint armed banditry as self-defense. Ethnos communal and religious dimension, (Osaghae, 2005) noted that, ethno-communal unrest in Nasarawa, Kaduna, Jos, and Benue have a driving force that developed enaminas among those

communities and among those religious believers which in turn transformed to armed banditry in the north west Nigeria. (Ojewale 2021) noted that the resource curse dimension in the north west and the discovery of Gold and illegal mining activities, he argued that, 80% of the activities of mining are illegal, through the involvement of high politician and foragers, which they transport the gold to Mali, Niger Republic and Togo taken to China and Dubai.

(Weeraratne, 2017), argued that, Terror Crime Nexus, it argued that those armed bandits are connected with Boko Haram in the north eastern Nigeria. (This Day, 2021)) claimed that state complicity, before 2015 general election that brought Muhammadu Buhari and other political offices into power left many people handcart without hope, the study argued that, armed bandits are politically motivated groups seeking for power. (Vanguard 2021). Reasoned that, foreign connection or power, it was observed that former minister of information and culture Lai Muhammed has maintained that, illegal miners sponsored armed bandits, kidnapping for ransom and cattle's rustling. (The Guardian, says FG, April 10, 2019). Traditional Rulers, weapons suppliers' informants and bandit's illegal drug. High placed traditional rulers and the informants who help and provide intelligent information to the armed banditry have fueling the rate of kidnapping, killing, extortion, forced displacement and other forms of violence among people

The main aim of this study is to examine Armed Banditry and forced displacement in Zanfara and Kebbi States. However, the specific objectives are as follows.

1. To critically, explain, the role of the states in the Protection and Monitoring Assistance on present situation of Internally, Displaced Persons in North Western Nigeria.
2. To Systematically, identify and provide critical analyses on the role of the state and other

### **Conceptualization of the Concepts**

Armed Banditry: is a type of organized crime committed by outlaws typically involving the threat or use of violence. A person who engages in banditry is known as a bandit and primarily commits crimes such as extortion, robbery, and murder, either as an individual or in groups. Banditry is a vague concept of criminality and in modern usage can be synonymous for gangsterism, brigandage, marauding, and thievery.

### **Corruption and How It's Impact on Application of Modern Technology in Fighting Armed Banditry and Kidnapping in North West and Nigeria**

Corruption, when applied as a technical term, is a general concept describing any organized, interdependent system in which part of the system is either not performing duties it was originally intended to, or performing them in an improper way, to the detriment of the system's original purpose. For a very long time, corruption has been acknowledged as an obstacle to economic progress and democracy. Corruption is the canonization of fraudulence the brazen celebration of exemption which pollutes the ethical hygiene of the society (Ogbunwezoh, 2005).

Corruption is a global social phenomenon, particularly in the developing and underdeveloped nations. (Johnston & Rose-Ackeman, 1997) reasoned that, the degree of exploitation of economic resource is an indication of a poorly functioning state and poorly functioning state which weaken the socio-economic growth, Nigeria, and its state of corruption has delayed series of development projects and has direct harmful effects on social institutions. (Osaba, 1996) corruption is an anti-social behavior.

Corruption has delayed several developments particularly in the fight against insurgency, armed banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria, several chiefs of staff and committee of securities have several times reviewed the modern methodology on how far Nigeria would succeed in fighting social problems. However, fundamental framework was designed by service chief from 2017 to date. Yet no improvement, number of promises from the federal government of Nigeria that they have purchased high quality weapons to fight insurgency and other forms of terrorism in the country, all have become stories. It was understood that, the money that could be used in the purchase of sophisticated weapons were diverted into the hands of few politicians and some security officers, and yet number of soldiers and securities personals lost their lives at the war front.

Corruption responsibly for kidnapping, banditry in the north western Nigeria According to Kahim Shattia, Vice president of Nigeria (Cute Naija, Jan, 20. 2024) highly represented by the special adviser on special duties Hakeem Baba Ahmed distinguished and identified corruption established by Nigerian leaders as the genesis of insecurity in the north Nigeria, similarly, Governor of Borno State Prof. Babagana Umar Zulum, blamed the corruption as the primary factors that the country was not objectively governed, he furthered argued that those in power should demonstrate and apply good governance. Increasingly, the guest speaker, and permanent representative at the United Nation. Prof. Tijjani Myhammed Bande called on the policy makers to effectively address abuse of power and insecurity facing the country. Finally, the chairman Northern governor's forum. Muhammed Inuwa Yahaiya, furthered it was only through good government that insecurity could be an history in their region and Nigerian at large.

The endemic corruption in the state has assembly abject poverty among member of the country and at the same time generate armed banditry in the north western Nigeria. Oyewole, 2022, noted that, the most ten states with endemic poverty are from the north Nigeria the frequency of poverty is (45.0%) follow by north eastern Nigeria (44.0%), north central of Nigeria (41.0%) southern part and southern west. (3.80%). South South (39 %). these figures cited by (Brenner, 2021) argued that, the proportion of unemployment, poor standard educational background poor standard of living, poor access to adequate health care services fundamentally, triggered armed banditry in the north western Nigeria.

The delicate security on our border side and the poor control has generate movement of armed banditry in the states, (Daily, 2021). Lack of adequate border operation and management has resulted the speedy the armed banditry withing Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi and Kaduna states.

### **Concepts of Armed Banditry**

The concepts of armed banditry have generated several academic deliberations regarding what is armed banditry and how armed banditry have negatively harm and transfused indigenous people to run away from their homes and forced them to another location. Eric, Hobsbawm's, (1985) discussed on social banditry focused more on defining banditry character and capacity to challenge the state and its institutions. Understanding and explanation of banditry within its conceptualized framework argued that, banditry have been given several names depending on the context variation (Hobsbawm,1981). Bandits were poor identified as members of a particular, social class working combatively with other opposition class especially the elite.

(Khong, 1985). Hobsbawm, was originally to use the concept social banditry to demonstrated the activities of banditry. His mission was to conceptualized banditry that could be accepted and reduced the challenging that could serve as problem solving which would provide standard framework in understanding the basic analysis and the determinations. (Hobsbawm, 1959) Bandits were considered primitive, (Seal 2014) this was done by Robin Hood's acts of Banditry, meaning collecting from the rich handover to the poor. From the above literature, it was understood that, Hobsbawm, conceptualized bandits as groups of people who collected from the rich people and handover the money to the poor or the masses, the study position renowned that, those bandits could not applied harmful substances to the society, the study position further maintained that, previously, those social bandits could not kill, rape, forced displaced of innocent people, could not engages into catling rustling and other form of organized criminal act . Regarding the present armed banditry, they use harmful tools, they kill, rape, kidnapped, engaged into cattle's rustling, destroyed properties and other forms of organized criminal act. which lead to forced displacement.

Similarly, the views of modern bandits in Africa varies especially, in South Africa and Nigeria (Malherbe, 1982) and Horn of Africa (Mburu, 1999) reacted differently, unlike social bandits, they argued that, bandits are group of people whose fundamentally, have come to acquired power and to have economic resources. Banditry in the North West were basically. Due to, materialistic according to (Abdullahi, 2019), while (Okaneme & Uahie, 2020, it was a very serious criminal act (Osasona,2023), it was harassment and mission for resources and power increasingly, Banditry means occurrence or prevalence of armed robbery or violent crime. It involves the use of force, or threat to that effect, to intimidate a person with the intent to rob rape or kill. Banditry is a crime against persons. It has been a common genre of crime, as well as cause violence in contemporary societies (Nigeria Watch, 2011). The concept of banditry has been changing over time, space and circumstances. A bandit in the 19th century Europe and Americas was a freedom fighter whose aim was partly to ensure the emancipation of the downtrodden from the upper class or colonized over the colonizer (Warto,1994:128). Furthermore, bandits like Chucho el Roto, Herachio Bernel and Santanon were often celebrated as heroes of Mexican independence. Therefore, Mexicans have warm regards and respect for those "social workers" termed bandits, while on the contrary, the State often considered them as nuisance and outlaws that need to be eradicated (Michael Watts,1987:8). According to Rotberg (2007:33), "crime against persons, including murder, rape, and

robbery has grown in scale and viciousness in Nigeria since 1999". This has been demonstrated by the pervasive trend of armed robbery in the country, which in effect mirrors the Africa-wide experience. In this regard, Rufa'I, 2017, discussed the nature and pattern of Headsmen as people who could go to any level to protect their animal particularly, cows from internal and external thefts, those people possess light weapons such as knife. Cutlass, stick sometimes guns. were people who engaged in cattle.

### **Role of Modern Technology in Fighting Armed Bandits**

Modern technology is one of the fundamental weapon modern societies employed in fighting insurgency and any form of social problems that could affect human and society at large. For instance, the United States always believed that, the application of modern devices and other technological advancement could aid in achieving effective war with other terrorists' groups. It was recalled that, between 2002, at epic center of kidnapping and armed banditti's number of Europeans were kidnapped, unfortunately, the European nations utilize technological mean derive solution to rescored all their members from Nigeria, without the notification of Nigerian securities. There are several complains from the securities that, the weapons used from the armed bandits are more powerful and sophisticated than the one we are using, this indicates that, there is need for the government to adopt new phase of technology in fighting insurgency.

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **Frustration-Aggression Theory**

This theory as propounded by Fererabend & Feirauben, (1972) stipulates that aggression is as a result of frustration which results from an individual's inability to attain their goals. Accordingly, insurgency, aimed banditry and forced displacement are the product of aggressive behavior which results from issues such as poverty and unemployment, lack of adequate provision of social welfare among Displaced Persons, such as provision of food, good water, free medical services and many others. Applying this to the study on Armed Banditry in the country which has resulted abject poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, injustice, absence of infrastructure, ethnic conflicts, and militancy climate change and many more. However, the theory started that, when our drive to reach a goal is blocked by external factors, we experience frustration which in turn produce an aggressive drive and with this can lead to aggressive behavior. The position and the correlation between aggressive, frustration model and armed banditry have direct connection due to the fact that, society has labeled some certain fundamental goal to achieved which at the process of achieving the is very difficult. Therefore, frustration from the inability to the individual in achieving the goal will manufacture frustration among them. Such as rural Fulani lack access to good education, clean water supply, good medical services, good roads, stigmatization from the larger society, endemic poverty, unemployment, poor shelter, poor hygienic environment and many more. All of these have triggered number of frustrations which in turn transformed to armed banditry and kidnapping. The model could also acknowledge those displaced persons who were neglect from access to basic social welfare, such as access to food, cloths, shelter, good water, etc. many of those displaced lost their properties. Those victims have been on aggressive act, and could lead to frustration which frustration also might produce another form of criminal act,

*That emerged during the 1970s (Clarke & Cornish, 1983). The theory was that emerged during the 1970s (Clarke & Cornish, 1983). The theory was developed by Clarke and Cornish in 1983 to explain that criminal beha that emerged during the 1970s (Clarke & Cornish, 1983).*

### **Human Security Model**

The second theory adopted for this study is Human Security Theory: As indicated in General Assembly resolution 66/290, “human security is a strategy to assist Member States in detecting and addressing prevalent and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people.” Particularly, the forced displaced one who are directly harmed and could not access the basic fundamental social welfare from their state, individual and other significant bodies. Therefore, human security entails a broadened understanding of threats and includes causes of insecurity relating for instance to economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security (UNTFHS, NY: Tanaka, 2015: Baysoy, 2018) Human security is required in response to the interconnectedness and complexity of both old and new security threats, ranging from chronic and persistent poverty to ethnic violence, human trafficking, climate change, health pandemics, international terrorism, and sudden economic.

### **Rational Choice Theory**

The emergent of rational choice theory was developed by (Clark & Cornish 1983). The basic assumption was to explain the criminal behavior (conforming behavior). Meaning it is and outcome of rational free will analysis or perceive cost against potential reward. Clark and Cornish 2017. Confirmed that, rational choice theory belief that, there is no compelling motivation for individual to commit crime rather crime occur when an individual rationally think that a crime course when beneficial and less costly than a noncriminal alternative course of action (Paternoster, 2009). Renowned that, potential criminal does not constantly exploit opportunities rather make a calculative decision of the cost and benefits before exploiting criminal activities (Anastasia, 2015). Potential criminal makes rational decision on whether to commit an offense based on a selection of efforts.

The position of the study deliberated on this theory propounded by (Clark & Cornish 1983). regarding armed banditry in north west Nigeria. Those armed bandits are calculative and organized criminal that have rational choice on the basis of the criminal activities. Number of amnesty and negotiation between the government and those armed bandits and the promises from the side of the government has giving them the rational choice to continue the criminal act, thinking that one day government will definitely invite them for negotiation. Example in north eastern Nigeria the Boko Haram after series of negotiation ion from the government and promises of million and free education to abroad another example, in the Niger Delta regions, all of these have rationally viewed by armed banditry. The involvement of number of security agencies, traditional rulers, community leaders and individual as supportive tools in the smooth running of their criminal activities in the north western Nigeria. Has given them free and motivation that, significant number of people where involved.

### **Gaps in knowledge from the literature**

Several literatures were consulted both internally and locally, includes journals, books, newspapers and magazines, several discussions were established in regards to armed banditry and forced displacement in various areas. In the world and with the specification to Nigeria and north west. Notables among them are, Abubakar, 2021, Akingetum, 2022, A debayo, 2017 many of them have demonstrated fundamentally on armed Banditry and forced displacement, yet number of issues were not captured regards to who are armed banditry as the controller of the forest. The study recalled that, Fulani's where been exploited by several factors such as denied them grazing land, Fulani's are politically, socially and economically weak in the society, even from their so-called association called Miyatti Allah called (Town Fulani). Has been exploiting rural Fulani's thinking that they are supporting them. The scholars could not be able to explain some of the policy of the government which always served the interest of Town Fulani not Nomadic Fulani. In regards to dividend of democracy which the rural Fulani have the rights to enjoy such as provision of basic social welfare were not adequately address for the rural Fulani man/ woman. Fulani's are been treated s second hand citizens just because they were not opportune to archived the logical goals in the society. The writers could not be able to ultimately discussed those Fulani's nature and pattern of interaction, which were dominated in the forest and could not adequately interact with human beings in society. Typical Fulani's man value is cow more than human life and could not have any human sympathy. Sociologists have argued that interactions with the fellow human always produce social unity, social solidarity and brotherhood. Yet those rural Fulani's are missing The conclusion that in move with their cattle's and sheep's searching for food, water and gestures for their animals. The position of the study noted that, those people presently called armed bandits their level of education is too poor and their level of human civilization in the cities and towns are limited, the degree of their interactions or relationships with people is limited, those pastoralists are dedicated in feeding their animals in the forest which make them very familiar with the forest, this is one of the ultimate reasons that, they are in control of the forest.

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