

Crime, Insecurity and Violence in Nigeria

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Abstract

Crime, insecurity and violence have manifested themselves as agents of retardation to the country's socio-economic development and pose a threat to its unity. The study underscores systemic corruption and poor security infrastructures as perpetrators of insecurity. This arises even as scheduled government-led interventions take place, such as military deployment and community policing. The aim of this article is to investigate crime, violence and insecurity in Nigeria while one of the specific objectives was to identify the primary factors contributing to crime and insecurity in Nigeria. The article adopted the qualitative method of data collection and analysis. The study discovered that combating crime and insecurity in Nigeria demands that immediate security measures be complemented by long-term socio-economic reforms. It requires efforts to strengthen the judiciary and law enforcement, promote an inclusive governance model, and curb unemployment and poverty. It was recommended that there should be a paradigm shift from ego-centric governance to people-centered governance through implementing effective policies to rebuild trust and address the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria.

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Background to the Study

Crime, violence, and insecurity are pressing global issues, with Nigeria being one of the nations significantly affected. Studies by Grote and Neubacher (2016), Ladan (2019), and Arisukwu et al. (2020) reveal that crime rates are disproportionately high in such regions. In Nigeria, insecurity manifests in various forms across the north and south. The northern region faces Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, and herder-farmer conflicts, while the south contends with armed robbery, cultism, kidnapping and vandalism (Chukwu, 2019). These issues exacerbate fear and instability, compounded by poverty, unemployment, and inadequate infrastructure. Crime, often defined as actions violating natural and divine laws, has reached unprecedented levels, becoming a full-time occupation for some. Heinous acts such as murder, rape, cultism, corruption, and political violence are rampant, highlighting Nigeria's crisis. Rural communities have also become increasingly vulnerable, undermining social cohesion, productivity, and sustainable development (Chukwu, 2019) (Omoyibo, & E. Akpomera, 2020).

Since gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria has struggled with various forms of crime, violence, and insecurity as well as experiencing an escalation in violent activities, with groups like Boko Haram and Fulani herdsman posing significant threats to both national and international security (Arisukwu et al., 2020). These groups have expanded their operations beyond Nigeria, targeting neighboring countries and carrying out attacks on security forces, civilians, religious institutions, and international organizations. The northeastern region has been particularly affected, compounding existing socio-economic challenges. Factors such as high unemployment and poverty rates contribute to the prevalence of crime and insecurity. Despite numerous strategies to tackle these problems, they persist as severe threats to the nation's development. Historically, peaceful environments are essential for progress, suggesting that crime and violence impede a nation's growth. Omoyibo and Akpomera (2020) argue that security is a fundamental principle for the existence of a state, which exists to uphold this concept. In line with Thomas Hobbes' philosophy, life in its natural state is harsh, cruel, and survival-driven.

The state emerged to ensure peaceful coexistence, granting individuals the freedom to acquire property and live securely, while the state maintains order and safeguards national integrity (Thomas Hobbes 'n.d). Reflecting this, the 1999 Nigerian Constitution prioritizes the security and welfare of the people as the government's foremost responsibility. However, the Nigerian government appears to have fallen short in creating a secure environment conducive to economic activities and the protection of lives and property. Since independence, crime rates have surged, and threats to security have intensified. The country faces numerous security challenges, including political and electoral conflicts, socio-economic unrest, ethno-religious crises, boundary disputes, cultism, and organized crime. These issues collectively undermine peace, security, and national development (Grote & Neubacher, 2016).

The primary purpose of state formation is to ensure security, as Hobbes emphasized the brutal nature of life without governance. The state's responsibility is to maintain order and protect its citizens, as enshrined in Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. Yet, the rise in violence and crime since the nation's return to democracy highlights the state's inability to fulfill this obligation. Crimes such as armed robbery, banditry, terrorism, and attacks by herdsmen have escalated, resulting in significant casualties and hindering economic growth. Osawe (2015) noted that these issues have had devastating consequences for Nigerians and the nation's development.

Numerous studies have examined Nigeria's security challenges. Achumba (2013) analyzed their impact on business activities and sustainable development, while Effiong (2019) highlighted the need to prioritize human life in addressing insecurity. Similarly, Eme (2017) explored the thematic dimensions of Nigeria's security threats. These studies underscore the complexity of the country's security landscape and the need for comprehensive solutions. To combat these challenges, the Nigerian government has implemented various measures, including the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011 and increased funding for the Ministry of Defense in the 2017 and 2018 budgets. Notably, the National Assembly approved a \$1 billion loan for counter-terrorism efforts. These funds were allocated for purchasing equipment and training security forces (Arisukwu et al. (2020). Additionally, the National Security Adviser has organized numerous training programs. Despite these efforts, the country remains plagued by high levels of violence, as reflected in Nigeria's low ranking on the Global Peace Index and its designation as a terrorist-prone nation by international bodies.

Efforts to address these issues have included counter-insurgency strategies and policy measures. Adagba et al. (2012) noted that the Nigerian government has employed sanctions and deterrence policies to combat banditry and other crimes. However, these measures have yielded limited success, with Nigeria consistently ranking poorly in global security indices. Researchers like Edeko (2011) and Titilope (2018) argue that government initiatives are often undermined by religious extremism and external influences. Addressing Nigeria's crime, insecurity, and violence requires a multifaceted approach, tackling root causes such as poverty, unemployment, and poor governance. Collaborative efforts involving government, civil society, and international partners are essential to create a safer and more prosperous nation.

This research differs from the earlier studies in that it is holistic, incorporating socio-economic, political, and cultural perspectives to give an in-depth understanding of the drivers of insecurity. It stresses the centrality of local communities in security efforts and recognizes that lasting solutions depend on grassroots participation. The study further provides policy-relevant recommendations that are targeted at shaping pragmatic, actionable strategies in a manner to be consistent with existing frameworks to ensure real-world applicability of the findings. This research offers timely insight into the current security challenges facing Nigeria within an evolving landscape and forms a relevant basis for effective interventions.

Statement of the Problem

Nigeria has been experiencing high waves of crime and insecurity, which manifests in the form of terrorism, armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, and communal violence. This does not only affect the life and livelihood of citizens but also hinder economic growth, social cohesion, and trust in governance and public institutions. Many government policies security reforms and military interventions have not succeeded because the very threats continue to evolve and persist. It is often a combination of poor judicial systems, poverty, unemployment, corruption, and socio-political marginalization that fuel criminal activities and violence in this country. Coupled with the issues of arms proliferation and Nigeria's highly porous borders, these are security challenges. A proper understanding of these complex issues, including their patterns and impacts, is very much needed. Such insights are essential for formulating comprehensive and sustainable strategies to combat crime and restore peace and stability in the country.

Research Aim and Objectives

The aim of this article is to investigate crime, violence and insecurity in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

1. Identify the primary factors contributing to crime and insecurity in Nigeria.
2. Assess the impact of socio-economic variables such as poverty, unemployment, and education on crime rates.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of current crime prevention and control measures implemented by Nigerian authorities.
4. Propose evidence-based recommendations to enhance security and reduce crime in Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What are the main factors contributing to the prevalence of crime and insecurity in Nigeria?
2. How do socio-economic factors like poverty and unemployment influence crime rates in Nigeria?
3. What is the effectiveness of existing crime prevention and control strategies in Nigeria?
4. What strategies can be recommended to improve security and reduce crime in Nigeria?

Research Methodology

This paper combines doctrinal and qualitative methodologies to examine the principles, concepts, and theoretical frameworks, as well as the rationale for the crimes, insecurity, and violence that take place in Nigeria. This serves the purpose of providing a key fact which explains why there is insecurity, crime, and violence in Nigeria. The qualitative methodology, however, will look into the socio-economic, political, and cultural dynamics that are responsible for the perpetuation of crime and violence. The study has gone further in contextualizing causes of insecurity and violence through reviewing journal articles, research reports, textbooks, and case studies. The work also drew on

expert opinions, historical analysis, and the content analysis of materials for practical solutions.

Conceptual Framework

Crime

Crime can be seen as an: illegal act (an action prohibited by Law or failure to act as required by law); illegal activity that involves breaking the Law; immoral activity that is considered unacceptable act that is shameful, unwise or regrettable (Osawe, 2015). Crime by the Law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is defined as “An act or omission which renders the person doing the act or making the omission liable to punishment under the criminal code, or any Act or Law” (Constitution, 1999). Crime is brought about by the violation of the law as established by the government at all levels. Crime is an infraction of both the basic principles of law and order and the norms of civilized behavior. Crime is an offence against the values system of a society.

The cost and effects of crime vary among the various segments of the population and touch almost everyone by some degree and in general as the economic growth and development of countries increase, it would be expected that crime level reduces. This may not necessarily be (Abdulsalami, 2005). The various cost of crime to victims and the society or the economy include; loss of income, property losses, loss in community productivity etc. Some other cost of crime, which are less tangible; include psychological trauma on victims and their family and friends, pain and suffering and a lower quality of life. In all of these and other associated losses, the ultimate cost is loss of life (Douglasson, 2009).

Violence

Violence is the physical force destructive in nature capable of causing fear in the mind of people. Therefore, violent crimes are those criminal activities that employs the use of violence to intimidate or cause terror (fear) in the mind of people with intend to coerce an individual, group of people or the government in order to affect the conduct of the individual, group of people or influence the policy of the government. No society is immune from this knotty social problem but what differs is the frequency and magnitude of the situation and the response mechanisms to address it. But the most alarming and terrifying is the present escalation of violent crimes and the barbarity, lethality and trauma the perpetrators unleash on the hapless citizenry across the length and breadth of the country (Effiong, 2019).

Notable in this regard are the rising incidents of armed robbery, assassination, ransom-driven kidnapping and terrorism which are now ravaging the Nigeria polity like a tsunami and spreading a climate of fears and anxieties about public safety with kidnappings for ransom and terrorism at the centre stage leading to bloodshed and economic set-backs. The high rate of violent crime has created an atmosphere of fear, anxiety and tension – a state of insecurity. Okechukwu (2012) argued that: violent crimes such as murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and terrorism are the most inhumane crimes

that continue to plague Nigeria.... Lately, kidnappings for ransom and terrorism have taken the centre stage leading to bloodshed and economic set-backs.... The causes are not farfetched as studies have associated rising youth unemployment to the increase in violent crime.

For the purpose of this paper, we define security as a state of reduced or contained threats and tension in which the stability of a state is not in an imminent danger of disruption from within and without (Chukwu & Anachunam, 2019). Stability is here viewed as the order, regularity and pattern, which characterized the state's condition over an extended period.

Insecurity

Security has traditionally been conceived as mainly a protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state from external military threats, which is the rationale behind national security with emphasis on the capability of the military. It should be noted that there are divergent approaches to conceptualizing security which is the antithesis of insecurity (Chukwu and Udem, 2024). This paper therefore seeks to examine the concept of security to facilitate a good understanding of the concept of insecurity. Security need was the basis of the social contract between the people and the state, in which people willingly surrendered their rights to an organ (government) who oversees the survival of all. In this light security embodies the mechanism put in place to avoid, prevent, reduce, or resolve violent conflicts, and threats that originate from other states, non-state actors, or structural socio-political and economic conditions (Stan, 2004). For decades, issues relating to security were on the front burner in the development discourse.

According to Chukwu and Udem (2024), what constitutes security in modern times is a question that has never been answered satisfactorily by scholars. Several attempts have been made since the cold war ended to redefine the concept of security from a state-centric perspective to a broader view that places premium on individuals in which human security that embodies elements of national security, human rights and national development remain major barometer for explaining the concept (Krahman, 2003). At the heart of this debate there have been attempts to deepen and widen the concept of security from the level of the states to societies and individuals, and from military to non-military issues.

According to Nwanegbo and Odigbo (2013) the divergent approaches to the conceptualization of human security in the theoretical literature can be categorized into two major strands. One is a neo-realist theoretical strand that conceptualizes security as primary responsibilities of the state. The second strand, a postmodernist or plural view, conceptualizes security as the responsibilities of non-state actors and displaces the state as a major provider of security. Proponents of this approach argue that the concept of security goes beyond a military determination of threats. They are of the view that government should be more concern with the economic security of individual than the security of the state because the root causes of insecurity are economic in nature.

Igbuzor (2011) in conceptualizing security placed emphasis on the absence of threats to peace, stability, national cohesion, political and socio-economic objectives of a country. Thus, there is a general consensus in the contemporary literature that security is vital for national cohesion, peace and sustainable development. It is therefore apparent that national security is a desideratum, sine qua non for economic growth and development of any country (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2007). In the intelligence community there is a consensus that security is not the absence of threats or security issues, but the existence of a robust mechanism to respond proactively to the challenges posed by these threats with expediency, expertise, and in real time.

The concept of insecurity connotes different meanings such as: absence of safety; danger; hazard; uncertainty; lack of protection, and lack of safety. Beland (2005) is of the view that insecurity is a state of fear or anxiety due to absence or lack of protection. Achumba et al (2013) defines insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune (Achumba et al., 2013). These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur. In the context of this paper insecurity is defined as a breach of peace and security, whether historical, religious, ethno-regional, civil, social, economic, and political that contributes to recurring conflicts, and leads to wanton destruction of lives and property.

Theoretical Framework

Relative Deprivation Theory

Stouffer (1960) developed the Relative Deprivation Theory to explain why individuals feel relatively deprived when they perceive an unreal gap between their expected socio-economic conditions and present reality. Such feelings of disenfranchisement, inequality, and injustice are often leading to frustration which can manifest into crime, violence, and other forms of social unrest (Runciman, 1966). In a similar manner, this theory will assist the current study in understanding how unmet expectations, economic disparity, and social inequality in Nigeria are escalating security challenges to the country. Focusing on the socio-economic grievances, this study, within this framework, seeks to understand how poverty, unemployment, and the unequal distribution of resources can provoke criminal behavior and insurgency if not attended to among certain marginalized groups. This finding is consistent with prior research that notes relative deprivation as a crucial factor in the emergence of violent conduct and civil disturbance in many parts of the world (Gurr, 1970).

The justification and relevance of this theory to the study will aid the expansion of knowledge regarding the psychological and socio-economic factors that underlie insecurity in Nigeria; thus, providing information on how reducing inequality would probably result in a decrease of crime and violence.

Factors Contributing to Crime and Insecurity in Nigeria

Economic Factors

- a. **Poverty and Unemployment;** Poverty remains one of the current pervasive drivers of crime or insecurity in Nigeria because its great population lives below par. Accessibility to core needs of livelihood, like food housing, healthcare, and means to other needs, is considered to be highly limited (Adebayo, 2013). Again, economic needs will bring back a sense of hopefulness among mostly young people joining criminal activities to include armored robbery, kidnappings alongside cybercrime (Arisukwu et al., 2020; Adebayo, 2013). The high rate of unemployment among Nigeria's youth has left many of these able people in a state of idleness. They often resort to illicit means of survival due to a lack of formal employment and opportunities for entrepreneurship, thus fueling rising crime rates.
- b. **Economic Inequality:** Economic disparity between the elite and the poor fuels resentment and social unrest. Whereas a few Nigerians amass an immense fortune, the majority barely manage to meet their basic needs (Edeko, 2011). This disparity makes for a fertile ground for criminal activities and mistrust in government institutions. Perceived injustice in the distribution of wealth often results in violent agitations and organized resistance against the state.

Political Factors

1. **Corruption and Poor Governance:** Corruption has been so deeply situated in Nigeria's political and administrative life that it even made efforts toward insecurity hard. Corruption and embezzlement of public resources weaken the capacity of the government to provide important services, including security. The after-effect of this is that the law enforcement agencies are very underfunded, poorly trained, and ill-equipped against crime (Achumba & Akpan-Robaro, 2013). Inadequate policies, inconsistent implementation, and lack of accountability create an environment where criminal activities thrive.
2. **Electoral Violence:** Nigerian elections are commonly associated with violence, as politicians hire armed groups to intimidate opponents and rig outcomes. These groups then engage in criminal activities, such as banditry and kidnapping, after the elections, thus perpetuating cycles of violence and insecurity. Electoral violence also deepens political instability by weakening the legitimacy of democratic institutions.

Social Factors

1. **Ethnic and Religious Tensions:** The fact that Nigeria is the most ethnically and religiously diverse country in the world makes it strong, yet divisive in nature. Most politicians, as well as other major actors, have tended to exploit such divisions for their personal or group ends, often resulting in conflict situations and insecurity (Adagba et al., 2012). Examples of this are the Boko Haram insurgency because of religious extremism and the communal clashes based on ethnic rivalries. These things weaken the national unity and create an environment

- prone to violence.
2. **Breakdown of Family and Community Structures:** The erosion of traditional family and community systems has also contributed to insecurity. Families, the always-upheld primary units of moral and social guidance, have increasingly turned dysfunctional due to economic pressures and social change (Titilope, 2018). This has resulted in increased juvenile delinquency and the recruitment of the youth into criminal gangs and extremist groups.

Other Contributing Factors

1. **Proliferation of Small Arms** Proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria has led to increased violence and crime. Smuggling across porous borders arms criminal groups and increases the lethality of conflicts ((Ali, 2013). The ready availability of firearms abets armed robbery, kidnapping, and banditry.
2. **Impact of Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking:** There are several contributions to the insecurity in Nigeria: organized crime networks and drug trafficking. Such networks are sophisticated in nature, fuel corruption, undermine law enforcement, and perpetuate violence. The trade in drugs, especially, finances other forms of crime and also exacerbates instability in affected regions.

Impacts of Crime, Insecurity, and Violence in Nigeria

The consequences of crime, insecurity, and violence are widely felt, reverberating even in the economic stability, social fabric, and political landscape of Nigeria. Such impact not only arrests development but also threatens the sovereignty and long-term survival of the nation. Below is an examination of these multidimensional impacts:

1. **Deterrence to Foreign Investment:** Crime and insecurity discourage foreign investors who consider Nigeria as a high-risk environment for business. Businesses are unwilling to invest in areas characterized by armed conflict, kidnapping, and terrorism because of the loss of property and personnel that might be incurred therein (Achumba & Akpan-Robaro, 2013). For instance, the insurgency of Boko Haram in the northeast and the wide banditry in the northwest has alienated investments from these states.
2. **Rise in Operation Costs:** Insecurity has translated into the rising cost of doing business. Companies have to spend a lot on private security, insurance, and strategies for mitigating risks in order to protect their workers and assets. In addition, infrastructure destruction-such as roads, telecommunications, and power lines-further raises the level of logistical challenges and operational expenses due to violent activities (Ali, 2013)
3. **Loss of Life and Displacement:** The humanity cost from crime and violence in Nigeria is devastating. Hundreds of lives are lost each year due to terrorism, communal clashes, and all forms of violence. Sometimes survivors have to be relocated, with millions displaced out of their homes into Internally Displaced Persons IDP camps (Chukwu and Udem 2024). This crisis of displacement causes separation of families and worsens the poverty conditions, thus elongating the socio-economic challenges for long.

4. **Erosion of Social Cohesion:** Insecurity undermines trust and solidarity within communities. Ethnic and religious conflicts, propelled by violent conflict, lead to divisions that tear societies apart. A lack of coexistence disrupts daily life, impeding the coming together of people in mutual activities that can help the communities develop (Achumba et al., 2013). Kidnappings and armed robbery produce widespread fear and mistrust in society, leading people not to like interacting with others.
5. **Weakening of State Authority:** Prolonging the crime and violence places in question the state's capability to maintain law and order, hence undermining that state's legitimacy. Whichever is the case, in cases of lack or weakness of government presence or authority, non-state actors—who could be insurgents, criminal organizations, or militias—are seen to seek out such power vacuums and fill them (Abdulsalami, 2005). It does not just weaken state authorities but also threatens sovereignty as well. In instances where armed groups, like Boko Haram or bandit gangs, take control, that region effectively exists outside the circle of government influence (Chukwu, 2019).
6. **Threat to Democracy and National Unity:** Insecurity does have a grave effect on democratic processes in Nigeria. Electoral violence, perpetuated by armed groups and political thugs, demolishes the legitimacy of any election and suppresses participation by the people. If no free and fair election is possible, then at a minimum, the lack of such an election weakening democratization's foundation instills political instability (Chandler, 2007). Insecurity also threatens the state's unity through rising ethnic and regional divisions. This has been compounded by the perceived inequities and the inability of the government to address the security challenges; the call for secession by groups in the southeast and the agitation for resource control in the Niger Delta.

Efforts to Address Crime and Insecurity in Nigeria

The fight against crime and insecurity in Nigeria has been a multi-dimensional one, with the complexity of the issues involved. The government, over these years, has formulated policies, built capacity for security agencies, engaged in partnerships, and encouraged community-based initiatives as a way of bringing back peace to ensure sustainable development. Some of the key strategies include addressing the root causes of insecurity and increasing security agencies' capacity. For instance, the National Security Strategy has expounded on the general framework through which challenges of terrorism and organized crime are tackled, while the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011 criminalizes terrorist activities (Igbuzor, 2011). Some programs entail rehabilitating insurgents by giving them skills to help them reintegrate into society and deter recidivism, such as Operation Safe Corridor. Other programs, considering the relationship between poverty and crime, seek to reduce unemployment through economic opportunities, including N-Power.

Security agencies have been strengthened with increased training, tools, and reforms, including community policing. Military action has also been crucial against the operations of Boko Haram and other threats (Chukwu & Anachunam, 2019). The country

engages in various initiatives at the international level in cooperation with organizations like the UN and partners such as the U.S. and the U.K., while on a regional level, cross-border insurgencies are fought with the Multinational Joint Task Force (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013; Igbuzor, 2011). Community-based programs and NGOs have also contributed tremendously to the cause, with significant grassroots safety and empowerment efforts for youth.

Challenges in Combating Crime and Insecurity

Addressing incidences of crime and insecurity is replete with a number of prickly issues that seriously undermine governmental and communal efforts at their overcoming. A weak functionality of law enforcement stands among the critical issues facing addressing crime within the context of Nigeria's legal frameworks for combating these crimes are put in place, enforcement capacities are always limited; then there's political interference (Ewetan & Urhie, 2014). This means that usually, criminals get away with it amidst a culture of impunity. The inability to address offenders makes criminal activities more viable but also denies the justice system adequate public trust.

Another critical barrier is corruption in the security and judicial systems. The bribery, favoritism, and abuse of power on the part of law enforcement and judicial officials have weakened efforts to fight crime. These corrupt practices culminate in the release of offenders, delayed justice, and selective law enforcement, further weakening the rule of law and enabling criminal networks to flourish (Briscoe & Ginkel, 2013). Inadequate funding and training for security agencies also heighten these problems. While the budgets for defense and security are huge in most cases, mismanagement and corruption usually act as a barrier to such funds reaching appropriate targets. As such, security personnel lack equipment, technology, and training in dealing with modern threats posed by terrorism and organized crime.

Socio-economic conditions also create insecurity. Widespread poverty, unemployment, and inequality are pushing people, especially youth, to criminal activities as a survival strategy. These issues also contribute to insurgencies and violent behavior as the grievances of the disinherited people is expressed through illicit means (Ali, 2013; Ewetan & Urhie, 2014).

Conclusion

The aim of this study was to interrogate the dynamics of crime, violence and insecurity especially with a focus on how it undermines the developmental efforts of the Nigerian state. The roots of crime, insecurity, and violence in Nigeria are complex and multivariate: economic hardship, weak governance, corruption, and social inequalities. Indeed, such multidimensional problems do require a multidimensional approach: integrating economic reforms, effective policing, active community involvement, and judicial strengthening. In this respect, building trust and cooperation among the government, security agencies, community stakeholders, and international partners is very important to achieve an environment that is secure and stable, which will spur national growth and development.

Sustainable progress in grappling with insecurity also requires unshakeable political will and participation by an active citizenship. Meaningful partnership from the perspective of both the government and the public is called for, which addresses root causes, including prevention and accountability. To persevere on these fronts with determination and resolve is basic to realizing lasting peace, concord, and security—a foundation so essential on which only Nigeria can begin building a truly resilient prosperous future. This integrated approach will transform the whole nation into a more flourishing and resilient one.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Security Agencies:** In this regard, governments must allocate more funds to all security agencies, thereby equipping them with modern tools, gadgets, and equipment such as surveillance systems, communications facilities, and weapons so as to make them at par with other developed jurisdictions in their mode of operations. Equally important is streamlining coordination among agencies to ensure that there is a clear division of labor or merit devoid of redundancies.
2. **Community Involvement:** Community involvement in crime prevention instills confidence and also aids in intelligence gathering. Establishing a legal framework for vigilante groups ensures accountability to prevent abuse of power.
3. **Addressing Root Causes:** In addressing the root causes, there is a need to reduce the incentives for crime by addressing socioeconomic factors such as poverty and unemployment. Empowerment through expanding opportunities for quality education among youth will help in mitigating the tendency toward criminal activities.
4. **Judicial Efficiency:** Speedy trials and severe sentences for violent crimes deter criminals. Dialogue platforms and traditional leaders can resolve disputes and decrease tensions in flashpoints.
5. **Border and International Cooperation:** Enhancement in border surveillance, international cooperation, and awareness among the general public would go a long way to fight crimes across the border and extremism with the help of education and de-radicalization.
6. **Anti-Corruption Measures:** Fighting corruption, ensuring transparency, and promoting equitable resource allocation foster trust in governance and reduce systemic vulnerabilities that criminals exploit.

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