

CRIMINALITY AND THE MEDIA: PERCEPTION AND LEGALITY OF THE AMOTEKUN SECURITY AGENCY IN NIGERIA*

Abstract

This study theorises and investigates how law students of Edo University Iyamho perceive the newly established Amotekun security (para-military) agency by the six south-west states of Nigerian to assist the police to fight criminality. Using a sample size of 64 law students of the University, the study is anchored on Penal Technique theory the study found out the police is perceived as ineffective in the performance of their functions and that Amotekun will significantly improve security by collaborating with the police and creating job opportunities was the most effective weapon to fight crimes. It also found the police efforts need to be complimented in curbing crime and media are not considered a very important tool in fighting crimes in Nigeria. The study recommends that the more security agency such as Amotekun should be created to assist the police in curbing criminality in Nigeria.

Keywords: Criminality, Media, Amotekun, Law, Nigeria.

1. Introduction

The essence of criminal law and the establishment of a security agent (such as the police) is to prevent crime, and ensure peace, stability, a fair and just workability of an effective system in a society¹In this regard, the commission of a crime which threatens the peace of the society is a violation of the criminal law, which is subsequently followed by legal punishment. In criminal law, a crime is an act or omissions, which affect sanctions, such as fine, imprisonment or even death². Criminal justice as established by Nigeria legal system deals with the analysis of the nature of crime in a society, as well as the process put in place to ensure crime control³. It involves an interrelated system of agencies, a process that involves the arrest of the offender to the disposition of the offended⁴.The criminal justice system is an instrument responsible for the regulation and control of criminal behavior⁵. However, in recent time, amidst the rate of criminality in Nigeria, the country can at best be described according to the novel ‘Things fall apart’⁶. Terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, murder, rape and cybercrime etc. had become a common phenomenon in Nigeria⁷. The Internal security agent controls by the federal government are deficient and ineffective in responding to the commissioning of a crime. Desperate time calls for desperate measure to be adopted. In a bid of adopting a drastic measure to curbing criminality within the south-west of Nigeria, the Governors of these regions created and form an internal security such as the ‘AMOTEKUN’ in curbing criminality within their jurisdiction. However, the Attorney General of Nigeria had cast a veil on the creation of state internal security as illegal. It is in this view that this study tends to adopt a theoretical and quantitative research methodology in examining the rate of crime in Nigeria, the need for the various states in Nigeria, to create an effective and efficient internal security (such as *Amotekun*) agent, to complement the deficiency of the already existing internal security agent.

2. Methodology

The theoretical and quantitative survey research approach has been adopted for this study. The theoretical session is aimed at theorising the rate of crime in Nigeria, the lapses of the Nigeria Police in curbing crime and the Constitutional recognition of the power of the various state of the Federation of Nigeria to ensure an effective protection of their territory. Furthermore, the quantitative research method allows the authors to gather data that

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¹E. A. Oji ‘Compensation for Victims of Crime in the Nigeria Criminal Justice System: The Need to Follow International Trends’ [2015] (18) *Nigeria Law Journal*, Pp. 122

²G.B.O Aluyor, ‘Performance evaluation of the Nigerian police in crime prevention in urban centre’s’ [2005] (1) No.1 *journal of land use and development studies* <www.Journalanduse.org/assets/vol.1%252op>, accessed 22 /4/2013

³T. T. Olanisakin, A. J. Ogunleye and S. O. Adebayo ‘The Nigeria Criminal Justice System and its Effectiveness in Criminal Behaviour Control: A Social-Psychological Analysis’ [2017] 22(2) *Journal of Humanities and Social Science* pp. 33-48, pp. 28

⁴H. Rush, *Dictionary of criminal justice* (Boston: Holbrook press Inc. 1977), 38

⁵B. O. Ajah ‘Criminal Justice Administration and Panic of Prison Correction in Nigeria’ [2018] 1(2), *Journal of Law and Judicial System*, pp. 1-8

⁶C. Achebe *Things Fall Apart* (Anchor Books Edition, New York, 1994)

⁷H. A. Salihu & H. Gholami ‘Mob Justice, Corruption and Unproductive Justice System in Nigeria: An Empirical Analysis’ [2018] 55, pp. 40-51

are objective, statistical, mathematical and numerical for analysis. These data are usually obtained through polls, questionnaire, and surveys and analysed through designated software tools such as the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The quantitative method makes generalization based on the results from the data collected and analysed. The descriptive quantitative method is considered appropriate for this study because it is carried out from a fairly large number of respondents in which case statistical analysis would be most suited.

3. Research Questions:

The following are the three research questions formulated for this study.

1. To what extent the various types of crimes such as Terrorism, kidnapping, murder, rape, robbery, cyber-crime, ritual killing, burglary, and bribery, bedevilling developing countries exist in Nigeria?
2. Are the Nigeria Police Force and Civil Defence Corpse effective enough in curbing crimes in Nigeria?
3. To what extent are there alternative to *Amotekun* in tackling criminality in Nigeria?

4. Theoretical Framework: Penal Techniques Theory

Law is the most formal and potent means of ensuring an adequate social order⁸. It suffices to opine that no meaningful development can be effectual in an atmosphere that's devoid of chaos, pandemonium, and orderliness. However, according to Prof. Summer in his article, 'the Technique element in law⁹,' stated that law in its duty of maintenance of societal peace, provision of a method for the redress of wrongs; preservation of fundamental freedoms; protection of property and privacy, it applies specific accepted modern techniques. By these techniques, we mean the various systems a legislator can adopt to achieve social ends or order. One of these methods is the theory of the penal technique. The Penal Technique theory involves rules prohibiting certain deviant behaviour. This technique is used under criminal law. It spells out prohibitive and minimum conducts, the penalty for their breach, the procedure for determining the guilt and innocence of alleged criminals, and the appropriate sanctions in the form of punishment for a breach of the law. Furthermore, the technique puts in place machinery for the detection, maintenance, and enforcement of the law. In this regard, we have the Nigeria Police, other law enforcement agencies like the Civil Defence Corps, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Judiciary, (i.e., the bar & the bench), and the Prisons.

The above constitutes part of the Nigerian criminal justice system for applying the penal technique. The penal technique theory brings about social control and order by ensuring that an individual or group does not result in self-help. In this regard, the following are penal techniques procedure to be observed where there is an incidence of crime, these are;

1. A report to the police on any criminal incidence or matters.
2. After that, an arrest (if necessary) is made by the police.
3. Then the police investigate.
4. Then the eventual prosecution or arraignment before Court based on the available evidence.
5. Where the accused guilty is proved beyond a reasonable doubt, such an accused may be sentenced to pay a fine or sentence to imprisonment or death.

In other words, the use of the penal technique theory, most notably the setting up of a competent security agency, will be beneficial to society because it serves as a check on people from committing a crime and rids the society of people with criminal behaviour. However, with the rate and tide of crimes in Nigeria, it is very evident that the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant internal security agencies such as the Civil Defence Corps have not been very efficient and effective in curbing crimes. Consequently, it suffices to state that the setting up of *Amotekun* by the western states region in Nigeria to complement the efforts of the internal securities agency in Nigeria in arresting or curbing crimes, maintenance, and enforcement of the law is supported by the theory of the penal technique that is applicable in Nigeria.

⁸C. Nwagbara 'The Efficacy of the Law as an Instrument of Social Control in Nigeria' [2015] Vol. 3(1), *International Journal of Business & Law Research*, Pp. 44-52

⁹R. S. Summer, 'the Technique element in law' <[https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/search?p=035:%5b\(bepress-path\)californialawreview/vol159/iss3/7%5d](https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/search?p=035:%5b(bepress-path)californialawreview/vol159/iss3/7%5d)> accessed 22nd of April, 2020

5. Structure, Power and Functions of the Nigeria Police as Internal Security Agency

The police institution is most often a department of government responsible for the preservation of law and order, detection of crime and enforcement of civil law¹⁰. The police are arguably the most visible agent of government and citizens often assess the character of a government through its police force¹¹. This is because the police are the 'guardians' of society¹². To a large extent, the growth, actions and effectiveness the police as an institution, not only reflect the political and economic character of a society but also mirror the extent a society can tolerate or condone crimes¹³. It may interest us to know that France developed the earliest police system, dating back to the middle ages¹⁴. The structure was adopted and modified by other nation in Europe notably Prussia, Italy and Russia¹⁵. However, the father of modern policing is Sir Robert peel, British Home secretary in 1827 who formulated twelve principles to guide and regulate the police¹⁶, which is as follow:

- (1) The police must be stable, efficient and organize along military lines
- (2) The police must be under government control
- (3) The absence of crime will best prove the efficiency of the police
- (4) The distribution of crime news is essential
- (5) The development of police strength by time and area is essential
- (6) No quality is more indispensable to a police officer than a perfect command of temper
- (7) Good appearance commands respect
- (8) The securing and training of proper person is at the root of efficiency
- (9) Public security demand that every police officer be given a number
- (10) Police headquarters should be centrally located and easily accessible.
- (11) Police should be hired on an approbatory basis
- (12) Police records are necessary for the correct distribution of police strength.

The above as stated by Sir Robert peel includes the principles and guideline which ought to regulate the police institution affair in any society. These, in essence, will enable the police to be more functional and execute their duties of curbing crimes effectively.

However, the attainment of independence in 1960, establish the Nigeria police as Federal force under the 1960 constitution¹⁷. The constitution, also establishes two bodies, the police council and the police commission. The police councils were saddled with the responsibility of dealing with the general problems of the force, while the police service commission was saddled with the responsibility of appointment and promotion of personnel into the senior ranks. In 1963, when Nigerian became a Republic, the constitution also retained the structure and status of the police as Federal Force¹⁸. The 1979 constitution provides for a national police force under the command of the Inspector General of police¹⁹. Furthermore, the 1999 constitution (as amended 2010) provides for a single police force. Section 214(1) of the Constitution provide as follows: 'There shall be a police force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigeria police force, and subject to the provisions of this section no other police force shall be established for the Federation of any part thereof' The Nigeria police force is not only a creation of the constitution but also a creation of an Act of parliament. Section 3 of the Nigeria Police Act²⁰ provide that, there shall be established for Nigeria a police force. However as regards the power and function of the Nigeria police

¹⁰E. A. Ubong and J. D. Inyang 'Policing Nigeria: A Case for Partnership Between Formal and Informal Police Institutions' [2013] 1(4) *Merit Research Journal of Art, Social Science and Humanities*, pp 53-58

¹¹D. Ojo and M. Olufemi 'The Nigeria Police and the Search for Integrity in the Midst of Diverse Challenges: An Effective Police Management Approach' [2014] 16(2) *International Journal of Police Science and Management*, pp 87-100

¹²C. L. Nmerole *Police interrogation in criminal investigation*" (edition, Minnal, 2008), 17

¹³JusticeE. Ayoola, 'Combating Corruption; In the Nigeria Police'. {A presentation by the independent corrupt practices and other related offences Commission at the police service retreat August 2008}. <www.psc.gov.ng/files/combating%2520>, I accessed 22/1/2020

¹⁴J. Maillard and S. P. Savage 'Comparing Performance: The Development of Police Performance Management in France and Britain' [2012] 22(4) *Policing and Society: An International Journal of Research and Policy*, 363-383

¹⁵ N. Neyroud, 'History of Police'. <<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195396607/obo-9780195396607-0145.xmi>> I accessed 26/4/2013

¹⁶ Sage publication 'The History of the police' <www.sagepub.com/./50819_ch_1> I accessed 26/1/2020

¹⁷ The Nigeria Constitution 1960

¹⁸ The Nigeria Republican Constitution, 1963

¹⁹ W. A. Adeboye, 'Nigeria police: Structure, powers and functions' in Abeyunde E. *Essay on Administrative law in Nigeria* (Ekiti: petoa Educational publishers, 2006) at pg 251-252

²⁰ The Nigeria Police Act, Cap.359 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990, CAP. PA. Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004

force, section 214(1) (2) (b) of the Nigeria Constitution²¹ provides that ‘the members of the Nigeria police force shall have such powers and duties as may be conferred upon them by law’. In this regard, section 4 of the Nigeria police Act²² provide thus;

The police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulation with which they are directly charged and shall perform such military duties with or outside Nigeria as will be required by them by, or under the authority of this or any other Act.

Furthermore, section 4,5,6,50,51 and 52 of the Nigeria Administration of Criminal Justice Act²³ empowers the police to proactive measure to ensure that anyone who intends or commits an offence is arrested. The power and function are not limited to the above provisions²⁴ However, the duties and functions of the police are purely the prevention of crime, and also to investigate and detect crime. They have no business in interfering with civil relation because their duty is essentially crime-related. In this regard, the focal point of operation of the Nigeria police is crime regulation and prevention, in the case of *Fawehimi V. Inspector General of Police*²⁵ the court stated that;

Police power is the exercise of the sovereign right of the government to promote order safety, health, morals and general warfare within constitutional limits and it is an essential attribution of government, indeed, the police are the outward civil authority of the power and might of a civilized country. The generality of the public is potentially affected one way or the other in their action or inaction.

As a result of the above, it is evident that the Nigeria constitution provides for a single police force (to be regulated by the Federal Government) and with an enormous function. Although there is agitation from various pressure groups to have a state police force, as there are complains that the Nigeria police force are not effective in responding to a crime or curbing crime²⁶. The reason for public outcry and agitation for the Nigeria police force to be decentralized is as a result of the fact that the Nigeria police force is not stable, efficient and organised in curbing crime²⁷. There is no synergy between the Nigeria police force and the society they ought to secure²⁸. As a matter of fact, before an individual who intends to involve or report to the Nigeria police for an assault, battery, threat to life or robbery or whatever the crime may be, the Nigeria police most often demand that they must be mobilised financially by that individual before the police can respond. Furthermore, in Nigeria, the police force is always mounting roadblock extorting and collecting bribery from the owner or motorist in disguise that they are on a road check in search of criminals. As a result of the inefficient and effective system of policing in Nigeria, the society is bedevilled with crimes and there is a high rate of insecurity²⁹. These had necessitated public outcry for various state government within the federation of Nigeria to create an internal security Agency that will be more effective and responsive³⁰.

6. Current Trend of Crimes in Nigeria

Crime in Nigeria is gradually becoming part of the fabric of society. Kidnapping, banditry, murder, rape, burglary, cyber theft, ritual killing, and community, Fulani herders and farmers clash have become the way of life of some of Nigeria citizen and those who migrated into Nigeria. The Boko haram tag as a terrorist group is not spared out with their terrorist attack in Nigeria. Reports had shown that several persons have been killed from the Boko haram insurgencies attack. The activities of Boko haram have greatly wreaked havoc to the Nigeria society.³¹ The bombing of churches, mosque and market by Boko haram indoctrinated loyalist, now seem like kids shooting

²¹ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended 2011)

²²Police Act CAP. 359 L.F.N. 1990; ACT CAP. P19 L.F.N. 2004

²³Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015

²⁴ Section 24 of the Nigeria Police Act

²⁵ (2002)7 NWLR (pt. 767) 606 at 673

²⁶ F. A. Orole, K. B. Gadar and H. Murray, ‘Leadership Style, Policing and Perception of Corruption: A Comparative Preliminary Study Within the Nigeria Police Force’ [2014] 2(2), *Psycho sociological Issues in Human Resource Management*, pp. 79-93

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹G. Dunn, ‘The impact of the Boko Haram insurgency in Northeast Nigeria on childhood wasting: a double-difference study’ [2018] (12) *Conflict and Health*, 6

Christmas knock out. Attack on traditional rulers and religious leaders have also be perpetrated by the Boko haram insurgency in destabilizing the society. In January 2020, the chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria was captured by Boko haram group and was killed. Furthermore, most of Nigeria youth who are unable to earn a living, considered ritual killing, banditry, cyber theft and kidnapping as a lucrative means of earning a living.

In recent time, there had been series of serious conflicts between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers, as a result of the fact that there had been counter-accusation³². The farmers are of the view that Fulani herdsmen are encroaching on the farmland land, while the Fulani herdsmen are accusing host community of cattle theft³³. However, the conflicts between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers had generated into violent attack³⁴ (Involving the use of firearms and dangerous weapon) that had led to the killing of people, displacement of people from their abode, destruction and loss of property³⁵. According to Egbas, he stated that as at 1996-2006 over 121 people have been killed in the herdsmen and farmers clashes in Bauchi and Gombe states³⁶ and no measures were put in place to prevent future occurrence of such clashes. Currently, there have been incessant Fulani herdsmen and farmers violent attacks, which had led to the loss of lives, displacement of people from their homes from fear of being attacked, loss and destruction of properties. In 2014 and 2015 it was reported that suspected Fulani Herdsmen attack and killed Tamgbo Ogueji a chief of Eke Community in Udi Local Government Area and a woman in a town of Nkpologu Community in Uzo Uwani Local Government Area both in Enugu State³⁷. The worse violent hit of the Fulani herdsmen on the farmers was in 2016, it was reported in April 2016 that over 100 Fulani herdsmen with weapons such as; guns, machetes, sword and bows and arrows invaded Ukpabi Nimbo Community in Uzo Uwani Local Government of Enugu State, killing several people and dead destroying their homes and property. 10 Agatu communities in Benue State, Abia State, Ibadan, Oyo and several states in the Federation had also had a fair share of this incessant attacked by the Fulani Herdsmen. Given the incessant Fulani herdsmen violent attacked Aniche and Ngwu stated thus;

According to the Global Terrorism Index Report (2018), herdsmen killed nearly 1,700 people between January and September 2018..... The majority of Farmers and Herdsmen Conflicts have occurred between Muslim and Fulani Herdsmen Peasants, exacerbating ethno-religious hostilities. Most deaths occurred in the Nigerian Middle Belt, in particular in the states of Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, and Taraba with recorded 847 deaths. The state of Zamfara in the Northern Belt recorded 229 deaths. In June 2018, over 200 people have died and 50 houses were burnt in clashes between farmers and herdsmen in Plateau State. In October 2018, herdsmen killed at least 19 people in Bassa. By 2018, over 2000 people were killed in those conflicts³⁸.

In 2018 there was a series of attack by the Fulani Herdsmen in several communities in Plateau State³⁹. On the 23rd -24th June, 2018 there was series of deadly attacked emanating from the Fulani herdsmen against the people (who were mainly farmers) living in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area in Plateau State, Nigeria, which killed over 200 people⁴⁰. Currently, in 2019, the clashes between the herdsmen and farmers had known no bound. In

³²C. M. A. Kwaja, and I. A. A. Bukola, 'Responses to Conflict Between Farmers and Herders in the Middle Belt of Nigeria: Mapping Past Efforts and Opportunity for Violence Prevention' [2018] *The Forum on Farmer and Herder Relations in Nigeria (FFARN), Search for Common Ground*, P 5 and 6

³³New Telegraph 'Kwara South leaders reject cattle colony', *New Telegraph*, 5th of February 2018, Independent Newspaper 'Igala Nation, others, tackle Gov Bello on proposed cattle colony', *Independent Newspaper*, 21st of January 2018, Olalekan A., Okechukwu N., Olaleye A., John Charles and Olorok F. 'Cattle colonies: Southern states shun FG's request for land', *The Punch*, 23 January 2018

³⁴O. E. Okeke, 'Conflicts between Fulani herders and farmers in central and southern Nigeria: Discourse on the proposed establishment of grazing routes and reserves'. (2014) 3(1) *International Journal of Arts and Humanities* 66–84.

³⁵T. Keggku, K. Alom, and J. D. Fanafa, 'Herders and Farmers Conflict and Its Implication For The 2019 General Elections In Nigeria: What Can Public Relations Do?' [2019] (8) No. 1 *American International Journal of Social Science*

³⁶J. Egbas, '5 Ways to stop killings by cattle grazers' Retrieved from <<https://www.pulse.ng>> 7th December, 2019

³⁷A. N. Aniche, and U. L. Ngwu, 'Herdsmen and Farmers Conflicts in Nigeria: The Implications for Social Work Practice' <http://eprints.gouni.edu.ng/2154/1/Conflict_between_farmer_and_herdsmen-4%5B1%5D.pdf> retrieved 7th December, 2019

³⁸Ibid

³⁹P. Musa, 'Herdsmen kill 25, raze houses in Plateau' *New Telegraph*, 14 March 2018

<<https://www.newtelegraphng.com/herdsmen-kill-25-raze-houses-plateau/>> accessed, 4th June, 2020;

Isa A '11 confirmed killed in fresh Plateau attack', *The Guardian*(Lagos), 10 March 2018 <<https://guardian.ng/news/11-confirmed-killed-in-fresh-plateau-attack/>> accessed, 4th June, 2020

⁴⁰The Punch 'Plateau attacks: IDP figure hits 11,515, death toll 233 – report', *The Punch*, 9 July 2018;

F. Olorok, 'Plateau imposes curfew as Fulani herdsmen attack 11 villages', *Punch*, 24 June 2018;

February 2019, there was a suspected Fulani herdsman attacked on an Agra community of Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, which led to the killing of 11 people. However, there was reprisal attacked by the community of Adara on Fulani settlement and 141 people were killed. Furthermore, in November 2019, it was reported that there was also a farmers and herdsman clash at Hong Local Government Area in Adamawa State and about 4,392 individuals (623 households) were severely affected, several persons were displaced and missing⁴¹. The above criminal activities are still the current trend that is bedeviling and wreaking havoc in the Nigeria society⁴². Suffice it to say that the reason why banditry, kidnapping, rape, murder, ritual killing, burglary, cyber theft, and community, Fulani herders and farmers clash is still trending in Nigeria, is as a result of the fact that, there is a poor response from security agent in curbing criminality⁴³. There have been outrages and public outcry from the citizen of Nigeria for a prompt response to the criminalities that is eating and wreaking havoc in Nigeria.

7. Constitutional Framework for establishing *Amotekun* in South-West Region in Nigeria and its Controversy

Nigeria is a federation that consists of the Federal, State and Local Government and they all derive their power from the Nigeria Constitution⁴⁴. Given the above, the power to legislate on the military or armed force in Nigeria is exclusively reserved for the Federal Governmental. Item 17 of the exclusive legislative list to the Nigeria Constitution provide for the word 'Defence'. Also, Item 38 of the exclusive legislative list of the Nigeria Constitution⁴⁵ provide for armed forces which include; Air force, Army and Navy. Furthermore, item 45 of the exclusive legislative list⁴⁶ was more precise and emphatic in providing thus; 'Police and other government security services established by law'. The purport of item 17, 38 and 45 of the exclusive legislative list, is to the effect that it is only the Federal Government of Nigeria that has the power to make laws or legislate on any matter that relates to defence, military and the Nigeria police forces. This was further strengthening by section 4(2) of the Nigeria Constitution which provides that the National Assembly shall have the power to make laws on matters contained in the exclusive legislative list. Furthermore, section 217 and 214 of the Nigeria Constitution also stipulate that there shall be an armed force which also includes the Nigeria police, which shall be established by an Act of the National Assembly.

Although it has been established that the power to legislate on armed force and policing in Nigeria is left exclusively for the Federal Government, however, with the recent rate of insecurity and criminality bedeviling Nigeria, six (6) states in the western region of Nigeria formed a security outfit called Operation *Amotekun* (which is translated in English to mean 'Leopard') on the 9th of January 2020⁴⁷. The essence of the creation of *Amotekun* is aimed at preventing jungle justice and self-help by aggrieved citizens who are already not satisfied with the poor rate of response by the Nigeria security agency. In this regard, operation *Amotekun* is a security outfit that was established to assist the Nigeria Police Force in curbing banditry, farmers and herders clash, kidnapping, ritual killing, rape, fraudsters and armed robbery ravaging the west region and other parts of Nigeria. However, the Federal Government through the Attorney General of Nigeria had condemned the creation of operation *Amotekun* as illegal and against the intendment of the Nigeria constitution. He further stated that the six (6) governors from the south-west do not have the power to create a security outfit. However, it will be very apt to state that the Attorney General contention is against the intendment of the Nigeria Constitution. Given the fact that, the issue of protection of life and property which is a key factor of security challenges in Nigeria is not left exclusively to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Section 4(7)(c) empowers the state house of assembly to make laws for the good government, peace and order concerning any other matters which the state is empowered to make law on as provided by the constitution. Furthermore, section 14(2) (b) of the Nigeria Constitution places the responsibility on the Nigeria government in ensuring that the welfare and security of the Nigeria citizens is given

The Nation 'Police: 86 persons killed in Plateau', *The Nation*, 24 June 2018.

⁴¹Nigeria — Herdsmen and Farmers Clash in Adamawa Flash Report (25 November 2019) <<https://displacement.iom.int/reports/nigeria-%E2%80%94-herdsmen-and-farmers-clash-adamawa-flash-report-25-november-2019>> retrieved 7/12/2019

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴ Second Schedule, part I of the Exclusive Legislative List and part II of the Concurrent Legislative List to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) 2011

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ O. Olaniyan 'Operation Amotekun, History and Nigeria Federalism'

<<https://www.google.com/amp/s/punch.com/operation-amotekun-and-Nigerian-Federalism/amp/>> accessed 3rd March, 2020. These five states include; Ibadan, Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Ekiti State.

utmost and primary attention. The said section provides thus; ‘The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government’. Also, section 318 of the Nigeria Constitution which is the interpretation section further defined the word ‘government’ (as contained in section 14(2)(b)) to include, the Federal Government, or any State Government, or a local Government or any person exercising the power of authority on behalf of a government. Given, the above, section 4(7) (c), 318 and 14(2)(b) of the Nigeria constitution, empowers the state government to form a security outfit to curb security challenges and it is in this regard that the South-West Governor of Nigeria established their internal security outfit called *Amotekun*.

8. Media and Criminality

Media refers to the plural form of medium which means communication. Media are those means of by which information is produced and distributed to a great number of audiences. This is also understood as mass media which as the name suggests is the media which reach a large number of people spread over a vast area simultaneously. Any media that multiplies messages and takes it to a large number of people simultaneously is called ‘Mass Media’⁴⁸. Media can be classified into three categories: The first category is the print Media which includes Newspapers, Magazines, Booklets and Brochures, House Magazines, Periodicals or Newsletters, Direct Mailers, Handbills or Flyers, Billboards, Press Releases, Books. Print media are consumed mainly by politicians and policymakers who often turn to print media for their news and when they intended to reach the general public. The second type is the broadcast media which includes Television, Radio, and Films. Television is the preferred medium for serious news, entertainment and talk shows and it is most effective because of its audio-visual effect. Radio is usually consumed by a broad audience for those who seek local information. It has plenty of entertainment as well as an avenue for serious discussions. It is the most patronised for interaction that involves call-ins. The third types of media are New Age Media includes Mobile Phones, Computers, and the Internet. Internet is particularly patronised because of its low rate of accessibility and speed and accessing and disseminating information. It is popular for its variety of content such as online media, blogs and social media⁴⁹. Crime and crime reporting constitute a central part of media coverage. Indeed journalists and the media have been concerned about the behaviour of persons who stray from the normal, not only criminal acts but also straying from organisational procedures and violations of common-sense knowledge in a society⁵⁰. Reporting crimes and criminality are so central that Ericson et al, 1991 (cited in Reiner, 2002) found that a high proportion of news (between 45.3% and 71.5%) report on criminal-related themes of ‘deviance and control’ and concluded that broadcast news gives more prominence to stories of crimes and violence than print⁵¹. Lazarsfeld has argued that the media is a mirror of society and cannot be assessed as a system separate from the rest of society. The activities of the media are closely related to the activities or happenings of the society⁵². Drawing from Lazarsfeldian principle, Klapper posited that the media are more likely to reinforce than change people’s behaviour and attitude and that consumption of media messages is dependent to a large extent on a wide range of mediating factors which include individual pre-dispositions and group membership such as peer group and family⁵³. The whole discussion on *Amotekun* and people’s impression on the group’s birth and the possible role it was going to play to curb criminality could, therefore, be argued were those projected by the media. Many citizens heard of *Amotekun* from the media and how those messages were presented could have played a part in how *Amotekun* is perceived by the Nigerians.

9. Data Analysis

Population of Study

The population of the study is law students of Edo University Iyamho, Edo State Nigeria. There are three levels of Law students in the University as follows

100 Level =	22
200 Level =	33
300 Level =	21
Total	76

⁴⁸Concept of Media <https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/203650/10/10_chapter4.pdf> accessed 31th May, 2020

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰R. Reiner, ‘Media made criminality the representation of crime in the mass media’ Retrieved from <[https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Media-made-criminality%3A-The-representation-of-crime-Reiner/19ec7ac4e8037c836ce225eeba72bfa499e2be97.\(2002\)>](https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Media-made-criminality%3A-The-representation-of-crime-Reiner/19ec7ac4e8037c836ce225eeba72bfa499e2be97.(2002)>) accessed 30th of May, 2020

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Z. Boda, & G. Szabó, ‘The Media and attitudes towards crime and the justice system: A qualitative approach’, [2011] 8(4) *European Journal of Criminology*, 329–342.

⁵³ Ibid.

Sample Size and Technique

Based on the population of this study, a questionnaire was sent to all 76 students of the Faculty of Law but only 70 responded to the questionnaire. Thus, the sample size is 70. This also agrees with the Krejcie and Morgan's table for sample size which calculates that the research sample size for the population between 75 and 100 is size between 63 and 80. The sample size of 64 used in the study is, therefore, representative of the population of study of 76. The questionnaire was shared to students between the period of 15 and 28 February 2020 in the campus during school hours. Data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Respondents answered eight semi-structured questions.

Data Presentation/Analysis

The following research questions have been formulated for this study.

Research Question One

To what extent the various types of crimes such as Terrorism, kidnapping, murder, rape, robbery, cyber-crime, ritual killing, burglary, and bribery, bedeviling developing countries exist in Nigeria?

\$Q10 Frequencies

		Responses		Percent of Cases
		N	Percent	
Types of Crimes in Nigeria	Terrorism	64	11,6%	100,0%
	Kidnapping	62	11,2%	96,9%
	Murder	59	10,7%	92,2%
	Rape	59	10,7%	92,2%
	Robbery	62	11,2%	96,9%
	Burglary	61	11,1%	95,3%
	Cyber Crime	61	11,1%	95,3%
	Bribery	62	11,2%	96,9%
	Ritual Killing	62	11,2%	96,9%
Total	552	100,0%	862,5%	

Table 1: Students' perception of crimes in Nigeria.

Table 1 above shows that students believe terrorism is the most common crime committed in Nigeria which may not be unconnected with the on-going conflict with Boko Haram terrorists mainly in the North-East of Nigeria. Significant in the data is that all respondents found the various crimes are very present in Nigerian with all crimes receiving at least 92.2% of agreement that such a crime exist in the society.

Research Question Two

Are the Nigeria Police Force and Civil Defence Corpse effective enough in curbing crimes in Nigeria?

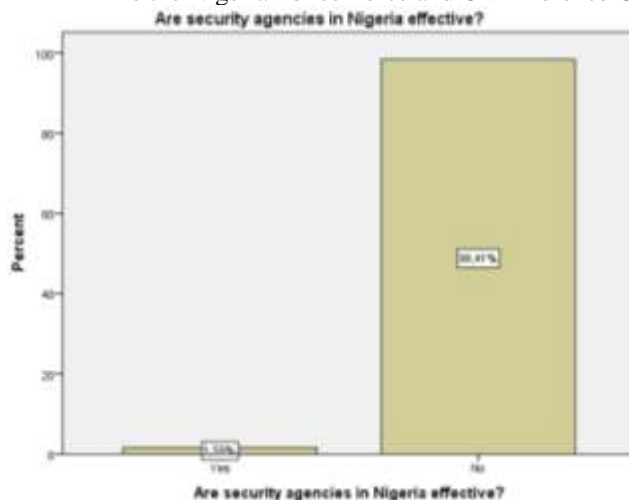


Figure 1: Perception of Edo University law students on whether Nigerian security agencies were effective.

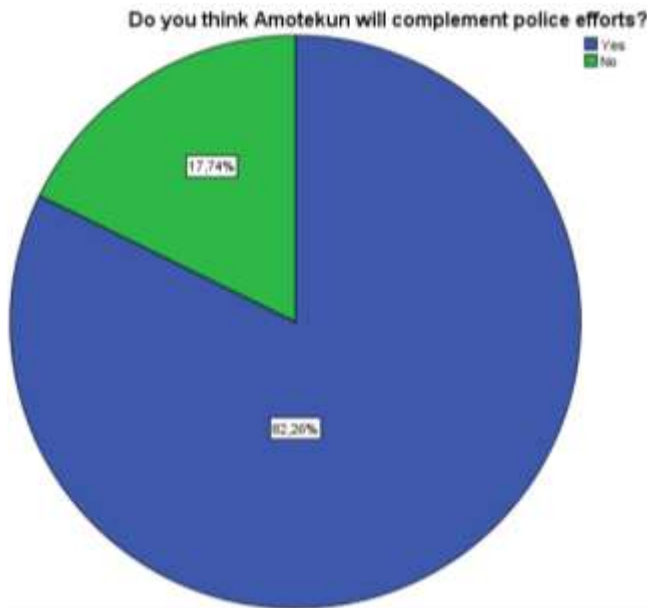


Figure 2: Perception of Edo University law students on whether the *Amotekun* paramilitary outfit will complement police efforts effectively.

In Figure 1 an overwhelming percentage of respondents said that Nigeria’s security agencies were not effective. An almost 100 per cent of respondents (98.41%) shows the gravity to which Nigerians have lost confidence in their security agencies. In Figure 2, a similarly overwhelming number of respondents (82.26%) believe that the new established *Amotekun* para-military outfit will greatly complement and enhance the effectiveness of the Nigerian police in particular.

Research Question Three

To what extent are there alternative to *Amotekun* in tackling criminality in Nigeria?

S/n	Cluster of response	Number of responses	Percentage (%)
1.	Creating employment opportunities for youths	33	22
2.	Engaging in awareness campaigns against criminality	24	16
3.	Establishment of regional government	21	13
4.	Speedy justice delivery	21	13
5.	Equipping the Police with latest policing gadget	19	12
6.	Ensuring adequate police personnel/training of Police personnel	12	8
7.	Media should be used to create awareness	10	7
8.	Creating an inclusive Govt	8	5
9.	Ensuring separation of powers in the arms of Government	6	4
	Total	154	100

Table 2: Cluster of respondents’ suggestions for solutions to criminality in Nigeria, Source: Authors.

Table 2 above shows the nine clusters of responses to which the respondents believe were alternative ways of tackling criminality in Nigeria. Data shows that most respondents believe creating job opportunities for youths (22%) was the most effective alternative to curbing criminality in Nigeria. With Nigerian unemployment rate reaching 23.1% unemployment rate and 20.1% underemployment rate in Nigeria as of the third quarter of 2018 (NBS, 2020), many youths are unable to secure a job.

Discussion of Findings

Finding from the study above shows that an overwhelming number of students believe terrorism is the most common crime committed in Nigeria. Also rated at common crimes are Kidnapping, Murder, Rape, Robbery, Burglary, Cyber Crime, Bribery and Ritual Killing. Significant in all respondents consider these crimes as so frequent that they all got more than 90% tagging as major crimes in Nigeria. This view agrees with Gillian Dunn

finding that Boko haram has become the deadliest group in Nigeria.⁵⁴ Also, findings reveal an overwhelming, as high as 98% percent of respondents believe that Nigeria's security agencies are not effective. This gives the impression that many Nigerians have lost confidence in Nigeria's security agencies. Consequently, a similarly large percentage of 82% believe that the new established *Amotekun* security outfit will greatly complement and enhance the effectiveness of the Nigerian police in particular. This idea of complementing the security agents was one of the reasons that prompted the six south-west governments to establish the agency⁵⁵. This aligns with the Penal Technique theory which attests to the fact that laws must be made for the peace and order of society prescribing the procedures for collaborating with the police which is exactly what the establishment of *Amotekun* aims to achieve in the Southwest⁵⁶. Besides, respondents were asked to suggest alternatives to *Amotekun* that will help tackle criminality in Nigeria. The responses were formed nine clusters of responses show that most respondents believe that creating job opportunities or empowering the youths was the most effective alternative to curbing criminality in Nigeria. This confirms the high joblessness in Nigeria which is cumulatively 43.2% for unemployment and underemployment rates in Nigeria as of the third quarter of 2018. Many Nigerian youths are unable to secure a job. Surprisingly, the media which play a central and important role in reporting crimes in Nigeria were only a distant seventh position of the nine clusters of responses⁵⁷.

10. Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the foregoing, law students of Edo University believe that terrorism is the most common crime committed in Nigeria. It can be concluded that Nigeria's security agencies are poorly rated by law students at Edo University Iyamho in terms of their effectiveness to curb crimes. Many respondents believe that with *Amotekun* security situation will improve as it will complement police efforts. Respondents believe that the creation of job opportunities for youths is the most effective way of curbing criminality in Nigeria. Law students of Edo University Iyamho do not see the media as playing a significant role in curbing crime even though they get all almost their information from the media. Consequently, it is recommended thus: The police need to be more effective in the discharge of its duty. *Amotekun* must carry out its duty to retain the high trust people have in it. Nigerian government should create job opportunities for its teeming youths as this is the most effective to fight criminality in Nigeria. The Media should be seen as an important partner in fighting crimes in Nigeria.

⁵⁴G. Dunn, *ibid*

⁵⁵O. Olaniyan, *ibid*

⁵⁶R. S. Summer, *ibid*

⁵⁷R. Reiner, *ibid*.