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Evaluation of Transborder Crimes in Nigeria

Kehinde Samuel Omoniyi^{1*}

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ABSTRACT

Transborder crimes are criminal activities that transverse borders of two or more countries. Notable crimes that flourish across Nigerian's borders are illicit drug trafficking, Terrorism, proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs), Human trafficking, internet fraud, oil theft, smuggling of goods among others. All these activities have precipitated security and economic complications across West Africa sub region. The 2022 Global peace Index ranked Nigeria 143 among 163 independent Nations and Territories according to the level of peacefulness while Cato Institute a Washington DC based public policy research organization rated Nigeria as the most unsafe place on earth after Iraq. This phenomenal rise of criminal ratings of Nigeria had attracted local and international attentions of scholars, policy makers and governments. Thus, this study investigates Transborder crimes in Nigeria using qualitative research methodology by reviewing the existing literature and conducting in-depth interviews of 85 informants selected randomly from government establishments and among stakeholders in Nigeria. The study relied on rational choice theory and behavioural theory as theoretical frameworks. The study revealed that Transborder crimes thrive across the West African nations because of many factors which include but not limited to the implementation of ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons and goods, porous borders, youth unemployment, poverty, poorly trained and ill-equipped security personnel, corruption, poor inter-agency coordination and collaboration. The study concluded that despite various measures by the Nigerian government and International organizations like ECOWAS, UNO, AU to checkmate the scourge, the desired results have not been achieved. The study therefore recommended effective border monitoring and management, job creation, community policing initiative, increased military actions and surveillance, among others as panacea to Transborder crimes detection, reduction and prevention.

INTRODUCTION

Transborder crimes in Nigeria due to the criminal activities of illegal immigrant, oil thieves, internet fraudsters, smugglers, drug and human traffickers and the recent jihadist movements activities have provoked concern across the nations in the sub-region. Akinsami (2007). Nigeria accommodates more than half of the total population of West Africa which harbours people of common history, tradition, and customs separated by national boundaries under the modern system. For example, Hausa and Fulani are in significant presence in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal and Mali and Yoruba is widely spoken of in Benin and Togo. Nigeria shares a 1500 kilometers land border with Republic of Niger and Chad in the north, about 1000 kilometers with Benin Republic in the West, 1700 kilometers with Cameroon in the East and has 700 kilometers of Atlantic coastline. Muktar (2021). The porous borders of lack of appropriate mechanism to monitor movement and illegal activities across the border. African Union (2010) contended that developing countries especially in Africa present a peculiar security challenges as a result of poverty, unemployment, hunger and increased belligerency among component entities that make up the continent the activities of rebel groups, trans-border criminals, kidnappers, arm smugglers, cultist and other social misfits characterize the west Africa sub-region. Nigeria faces a lot of challenges to adequately and effectively respond

to criminal activities. These challenges include lapses in National Security apparatuses, and the security agencies and weak collaborative effort and legal frameworks. It was found that the weak border security in sub – region had attracted international criminal networks to Nigeria. Etannibi(2014).

The escalation of these problems and the attendant challenges in the face of several policy responses at national and regional levels had prompted this study.

Statement of the problem

The fact remains that Transborder crimes have grown in dimensions. The different national and regional conventions adopted and adapted towards fighting the alarming escalations have not necessarily achieved the desired results. Annan (2012). The failures of the extant measures to address the nefarious impacts of crime and violence call for more collaborative efforts of government agencies and stakeholders including ECOWAS, AU and UNO. According to the 2017 report of Inter-governmental actions against money laundering, In Nigeria, plethora of factors and conditions are responsible for the thriving criminal activities among its teeming population and have imparted negativity on the socio-economic development of the country amidst colossal loss of lives, destruction of properties, insecurity, threats, international shame and financial losses.

This paper determined to evaluate Transborder crimes in

¹ Department of Public Administration City Univesity Cambodia, Cambodia

* Corresponding author's e-mail: omoniyekehinde2019@gmail.com

Nigeria and proffer solutions that will frontally address some of these challenges.

Objectives

The general objective of this paper is to evaluate Transborder crimes in Nigeria. Specifically, this paper is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- (1) To determine the rates of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?
- (2) To identify and discuss the different category of trans border crimes in Nigeria
- (3) To examine the causes of trans border crimes in Nigeria
- (4) To review the efforts of Nigerian governments to checkmate Transborder crimes in Nigeria
- (5) To recommend effective solution to trans border crimes in Nigeria

Research Questions

This study sought answers to the following research questions.

- (1) What is the rate of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?
- (2) What are the different categories of Transborder in Nigeria?
- (3) What are the causes of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?
- (4) What are the efforts of Nigerian government to checkmate Transborder crimes?
- (5) What are the effective solutions to Transborder crimes in Nigeria?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Trans-border crimes in Nigeria have been in existence since the 1960's. They started in the form of smuggling of goods across the borders as well as the national criminal groups who engage in human/ drug trafficking, prostitutions, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among other things for economic reasons. UNODC(2016). Ortuno and Wiriyachi (2009) have maintained that the past few years have been characterized by a significant increase in global criminal activities which are time emerging such as banditry, terrorism, piracy and cyber crime and large scale financial fraud. Criminal individuals or groups are now better organized. They carry out their illicit operations using major communication tools, the financial system and other sophisticated means to expand their criminal market. Syndicated are willing to protect their business through violent and ruthless means linked with international terrorist groups and devising novel and notorious organizational strategies to deter capture (Adetula 2008). The Nigeria government possesses weak capacity to respond effectively to the threat of criminal activities that have become widespread and very complicated serving as an industry for (ex) combatant, and jobless youth, indoctrinated & religious faithful and others. Trans-border crimes in Nigeria and sub-region have undermined state security, economy, social development, core democratic values, and abuse of human rights.

Land borders in Nigeria

According to Nigeria finder, the webs No 1 information hub for Nigeria, Nigeria is a country located on the western coast of the African continent. With diverse ecological and climate features, the country shares both land and maritime boundaries with several countries. Land borders of judicially enforced demarcation lines between sovereign nations with Nigeria include the Republic of Niger and to the North, the Republic of Cameroon to the East and the Gulf of Guinea to the Atlantic on the South. The Republic of Benin is to the West of Nigeria.

Some of the land borders in Nigeria include:

- Zamfara - Republic of Niger land border
- Adamawa - Republic of Niger land border
- Lagos - Republic of Benin land border
- Borno – Republic of Niger land border
- Jigawa – Republic of Niger land border
- Enugu – Republic of Cameroon land border
- Cross River – Republic of Cameroon border
- Ogun – Republic of Benin land border
- Sokoto – Republic of Niger land border
- Kwara – Republic of Benin land border
- Borno – Republic of Cameroon land border
- Oyo – Republic of Benin land border
- Benue – Republic of Cameroon land border
- Yobe – Republic of Niger land border

Aside from these land borders that Nigeria shares with the Republic of Niger, the Chad Republic, the Republic of Cameroon, and the Benin Republic, the following sovereign states share maritime boundaries with Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Ghana, Benin republic and the Republic of Cameroon



Categories of Transborder Crimes

Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (salws)

Fire arms are trafficked across the sub region and eventually being used by criminal gangs and rebels or freedom fighters for fighting wars, as in the case of Liberia, sierra Leone and Cote d'ivoire among others or utilized for smuggling, committing highway robberies and kidnapping of passengers within and across the ECOWAS Region.

Mohammed Ibn Chambas, former Executive secretary of ECOWAS puts the estimated amount of small arms in circulation in West Africa at 8 million. The weapons are

recycled between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and among belligerent in other conflict Zones in Southern Senegal, Northern Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea Bissau.

The document which was released by the office of the national security advisor (ONSA) revealed that currently there are about 857 million small arms and light weapons in circulation globally of which 10million are in Africa. One million are suspected to have flowed into Nigeria. Importation of these arms continues unabated which while some are being manufactured locally.

Money laundering

Money laundering is the illegal process of concealing the origins of money obtained illicitly by passing it through a complex sequence of banking transfers and commercial transaction. it is money laundering in Nigeria is usually undertaken by wealthy business tycoons or government officials who have acquired their monies through corrupt practices. UNODC (2016).

Ering (2011) Posited that Financial proceeds from drug related crime and other illegal business activities are laundered into various banks accounts under different identities.

These criminal activities involve many individuals, specifically members of the political class in Nigeria who are privileged to occupy government position to siphon public funds to foreign account at the retirement of the Nigerian citizens.

Nigeria loses US\$ 600 million annually to money laundering (Elumelu,2007). between the mid- 1980 and 1999, the country lost us410billion to money laundering (see vanguard, October 25, 2005), such illegal inflows and outflows of huge amount of money that had contributed to impoverishment of the Nigerian economy cannot be easily perpetrated, without the cooperation, collaboration or at the very least, connivance of the professional particularly financial institutions.

Worse still, money laundering fuels corruption and organized crimes in Nigeria (ortuno and wiriyarchai 2009). Some terrorist groups also use money laundering channels to support their terror activities. The economic and financial crimes commission records in early 2012 showed that the Agency had filed high - profile corruption cases in various high courts across the federation.

Terrorism and jihadists activities

In recent years, Nigeria just like other west Africa nations has played host to terrorists groups such as Jamlat Nusrat al- Islamwalmuslimeen(JNIM) , Islamic state greater sahara (ISGS) Al queda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) AL Murabitam, Ansaru and Boko haram. Adetula (2014a). These groups are capable of carrying out attacks and kidnapping for ransoms.

Boko haram and the Islamic state in West Africa province have been active in the Lake Chad Basin region. Jama'sa Nusrat UL- Islamwa al- muslimin, the islamic state in the Sahara and Ansaruislam in the Sahel the activities of these groups have implications on the peace and security

of the sub - region.Muktar (2021). The activities of the groups have led to the death of thousands and displaced many others across parts of West Africa. This has resulted to humanitarian crises in the Northern Eastern part of Nigeria.

According to United Nation office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2013, methods of attacks have included coordinated armed assaults, rockets attacks, assassinations, kidnappings, (including child and female bombers), car bombing, and arsons. Military uniforms and vehicles have been used as tactics to get close to the intended targets.

Some of the recent attacks in Nigeria by the terrorist groups

1. On July 5, 2022, the kuje prison in the Federal capital territory was bombed and attacked by gunmen and an unknown number of prisoners escaped. The Islamic state West Africa (ISWA) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

2. The Islamic state West Africa (ISWA) has claimed responsibility for killings of policemen in Suleja, Niger state on 12 May and 4 July 2022. Suleja is less than 20 kilometers away from the federal capital territory, Abuja.

3. On March 28, 2022, there was an attack on Abuja - Kaduna passengers train. Many killed while more than 60 passengers were abducted.

4. On 28 November, 2020, at least 70 civilians were killed and others wounded and abducted in Jere local government Area, Borno state by insurgents and

5. On 14 April, 2014, 276 were kidnapped from government girls school at the town of Chibok, Maduguri in Borno State.

Oil Theft

According to Etannibe (2014), Oil theft lubricates corruption in Africa. Illegal oil bunkering has grown to a proportion that has generated a coercive government response to protect a vital asset of Nigeria. Nigeria was Africa biggest oil producer until very recently. In September 2022, Nigeria dropped to the fourth place on the continent due to oil theft. According to the Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation (NNPC) Limited.

It is estimated that ten percent (around 55 million barrels) of Nigeria's oil is stolen and trafficked every year. In fact it is estimated that oil production in Nigeria run at only two thirds of capacity because of theft, vandalism and violence in the Niger delta. Oil theft is putting the country's economy in a precarious situation. An average of 437,000 barrels of Oil is stolen on daily basis by criminals in Nigeria where they illicitly tap pipelines onshore and offshore in the Niger Delta region. Recently, NNPC Limited uncovered an illegal oil connection from Forcados Terminal that was operated for nine years. The company chief Executive Office, Mele Kyari disclosed this at the Senate's joint committees on Gas and petroleum (upstream and downstream) few weeks ago.

The office of the auditor general for the federation in a statement released on the 2022 said that the defund

Nigeria national petroleum corporation (NNPC) now NNPC limited failed to account for about 107,239,436,00 barrels of crude oil lifted for domestic consumption in 2019. The report also identified discrepancies between the amounts reported by the NNPC as transfer to the federation accounts and what was reported by the AUGF. It is said that while the NNPC records showed that N 1,272,600,864,00.00 was transferred by the corporation the amount recorded by the accountant general of the federation was N 608,710,292,773,44, showing a discrepancy of N 663,896,567,227.28.

Bunkering is the practice of stealing and trafficking of oil by criminal groups with links to militant groups in the Niger-delta. The stolen oil is loaded to barges or tankers and sold in Nigeria and the surrounding counties like Ghana, Cameroon and Cote d'ivoire, even south Africa Proceeds from the oil bunkering go directly to militants and corrupt officials. Oil bunkering is a crime that enriches a few criminals, insurgents and corrupt officials while impoverishing many, undermining, the rule of law, deepening corruption, polluting the environment, violating human right and depleting natural resources.

The response of Nigeria government to this threat is Nigerian oil industry involve deployment of military, acquisitions of marine vessels, and even cooperation between the state and private security companies. UNODC (2009).

In August 2022, in a bid to curb crude Oil theft, the Nigerian government launched an application to monitor incidence. The NNPC awarded a multibillion naira pipeline surveillance procurement contract to the former Leader of the movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Government Tompolo. This is to initiate the involvement of non-state actors for protection of oil pipelines and other infrastructure as done in Cambodia and Mexico which produced desired results

Illicit Drug Trafficking

Drug trafficking by Nigerian citizens in different countries across the globe has remained a major concern from the government and the citizens .This crime has produced a negative image of the country in the international community over the past decades .As a result, Nigerians has subjected to intensive searches at airport and extensive surveillance all over the world . Akinsami (2007)

Because of efforts by the governments to curb drug trafficking ,drug dealers and carriers continuously adjust their modes of operation and route .With respect to regional trafficking of drugs. The National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) noted that current trends in illicit traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances indicates the existence of a thriving drug trafficking route within the West Africa sub - region. Drugs are smuggled through illegal routes along the vast land borders (NDLEA 2008).

Data from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA) shows that air transportation remains the most common mode of transportation by traffickers and large

consignment are also transported by seas.

The West Africa Joint Operation initiative, a regional enforcement project set up by the America and Nigeria, led to the seizures totally 1,390 kilos of cocaine in Benin, Ghana, Togo, Cape Verde and Nigeria.

Nigerians ports are used largely as transit. Cocaine and heroine are neither produced nor wisely consumed in the country . Cannabis is produced and more wisely used but not often trafficked beyond West Africa Nations largely due to bulk , weight value and demand. Nigeria development is jeopardized because available evidences show that the country is used as a transit route for drug smuggling, particularly for West Africa routes. Addo (2006)

On September 18, 2022, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) a major warehouse in a secluded estate in the Ikorodu area of Lagos State where over N 194 Billon worth of crack were seized. This is considered as the largest singular seizure in the history of NDLEA operations in Nigeria.

Human Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is defined by the United Nations on Drug and Crime (UNODC) to mean:

“ The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use force or other form of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or a position of vulnerability or of the group or receiving of the payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

The scope of human trafficking is wide spread in West Africa. Child trafficking in particular spreads across many countries in West Africa including: Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cote Divoire, Guinea, Serria Leone, Gambia and Mali.

Available statistics indicated that the enormity of the problem is significant with am estimation of over 200,000 children are being trafficked in West Africa and Central Africa.

> 4,000 children were trafficked from Cross Rivers to various part within and outside the countries. Benin registered over 3,000 trafficked children between 1995 and 1999.

The victims end up as slaves, prostitutes in their destination or some have their important organs like kidneys being harvested illegally.

Since the beginning of the year 2022 National Agency for prohibition of trafficking in persons [NAPTIP], kaduna state has rescued no fewer than 615 victims from human traffickers, while 103 victims of human trafficking had down rescued from Osun State.

Internet Fraud

Information and communication technology (ICT) is one of the most remarkable innovations in the 21st century. According to ILEA West Africa, in spite of the numerous benefit of ICT, the increasing trend of cyber fraud has

now becomes a global challenge. It has estimated that cyber crime costs the global economy more than \$400 Billion each year. This situation poses a lot of threat to most nations. In 2013, for example, the activities of internet crime including cyber espionage more than 800 million people worldwide

According to statistics, Nigeria is ranked first in Africa in terms of online-related crimes. Cyber fraud popularly known as “yahoo” or sometimes tagged “419”, is a newly spread practice which combines internet based fraud with charms and other supernatural means to commit crimes. The term “419” was derived from a section of Nigeria law that talks about fraud. According to security intelligence, most cyber fraudsters are young unemployed people who usually get themselves involved in activities such as online dating scam, business scam, lottery scam, impersonation, hacking of credit cards and bank accounts, ATM theft and many more. The prevalence of cyber crime in the West Africa sub-region can affect the solid economic development of the nation in several ways especially in terms of direct foreign investment, business transaction or trade, tourism and security. According to the 2017 report of Intercontinental Action Group Against money laundering in West Africa. According to one of Nigeria’s leading financial regulator at an international criminal police organization [INTERPOL] meeting in 2003, 122 out of 138 countries represented complained about Nigeria involvement in financial fraud in their countries. In Nigeria, the recent upsurges in the reported cases of ritual killings have been linked with activities of internet fraudsters who are in their early 20’s and 30’s.

Smuggling of Goods

Though smuggling is a global menace but it is more prevalent in Africa while Nigeria appears to be the worst hit in the continent according to the 2013 Illicit Trade Report of World Customs Organization.

Smuggling is an illegal method of conducting business. Deflem and Kelly (2001) described it as a clandestine activity involving the importation and/or exportation of goods by wrong or unlawful means with the objectives of evading taxes and any other measures prohibiting or restricting the importation or exportation of such goods. People engage in smuggling for selfish purposes, including extra profit by boycotting the appropriate agency in charge of ascertaining the nature of the goods before they are allowed into the country. Adetula (2014). The fight against smuggling have been tough for Nigeria because the country has long unmanned stretches of borders and the ineffective operations of inter-government agencies do not help with proper monitoring at borders.

According to Adetula (2003), the effects of smuggling are usually significant in an economy. The major impacts on the country are: Loss of revenue by the Government through tax evasion, distortion of market prices collapse of local industries and destruction of market for local product and in some cases violent clashes between the customers’ officials and desperate smugglers often result

to casualties on both sides.

With these constant Seizures, the smugglers are undaunted in their nefarious to cripple the economy of this country.

Piracy and Maritime Crimes

Closely related to the problem of oil theft, maritime piracy and insecurity in the gulf of guinea centre mostly on theft of crude oil, which is produced in the Niger delta. Also, there have been instances of attacks which took place within Nigerian waters, with Benin and Togo affected throughout the region (ibid, 50). International Maritime Bureau (IMB) piracy reporting centre listed 30 reported incidents during 2013 that were related to Nigeria (up until 22 October) and has also said all Nigeria’s waters are risky with several attacks unreported. Out of 68 occurrences of international Maritime piracy reported between January to June 2021, Nigeria had four issues of vessel attack across its waters in the first half of the years.

Factors responsible for transborder crimes in Nigeria

The growth of Transborder criminal activities over the past three decades in West Africa can be attributed to several factors.

Different literature has identified facilitative conditions that encourage these crimes to flourish in Nigerian borders (Finckenauer 2000 literacy of congress 2003). They include the following factors and conditions:

1. Widespread poverty and youth unemployment
2. The free movement from one country to another in the West African sub-region, with minimum documentation and surveillance by the ECOWAS protocol and regional economic integration. This facilitates emergence of region wide organized criminal syndicate.
3. Its political environment is vulnerable due to weak institutions and systems.
4. Poor and poorly demarcated borders inhabited by people of homogeneous cultures and language
5. Corruption of political party office holders or representatives, judicial, legislative and law enforcement officers
6. Ineffective inter-agency collaboration and coordination
7. Improved communication technology which facilitates both legitimate and illegitimate business transactions.
8. Advancement in the utilization of air transportation at numerous national borders.
9. Inadequate Training and remuneration of boarder police and regulatory for the movement of goods services leading to connivance with Transborder criminals
10. Inadequate funding of security agencies.
11. High degree of corruption among the ruling elite
12. Weak economic regulatory framework, inconsistent import, export and tariff policies ineffective customs management
13. Poor scanning and intelligence gathering.
14. Political conflicts and instability.
15. Civil wars, armed rebellion and banditry in Nigeria and neighboring countries which bred crimes like arms trafficking, smuggling of goods and minerals.

These factors represent challenges that need to be addressed through comprehensive legal, political and economic policies and strategies at natural regional, bilateral and multilateral levels.

16. Lucrative nature of the ventures.

17. Religious de-radicalization of the youths especially in the northern part of Nigeria.

Nigeria's Response to Transborder Crimes

In order to protect National Values against existing and potential adversaries, Nigeria complies with some conditions and implements some of the transborder crimes, there is also response at regional continental and global levels to address Nigerian's security interest. This interest covers all the strategic factors that affect the country's development including law and order. Developmental efforts political and social stability, trade and economic development and relations with other countries. Addo (2006).

Theoretical Framework

The following theoretical perspective is used to commonly address the criminal decision-making processes.

Rational Choice Theory

In contrast to Biological, Psychological and Sociological explanations of crime, the decision to commit is influenced by people's preference and their attitude toward risk and time. Discounting and their estimates of an illegal opportunity's availability, costs and benefits Versus a legitimate opportunities availability, costs and potential for realizing the same or comparable returns or as more commonly expressed by economists, people commit crime when the subjectively expected return to crime (i.e the benefits-costs ratio) exceeds what they believe they will obtain by spending the same time and resources to pursue legal activities (Mehlhop and Graeff, 2010).

The classical criminology theory believes that the choice to commit a crime arises out of logical judgment of cost versus reward. Within Nigeria, criminal activities engagement can be deliberate and conscious and subject to external influence.

METHODOLOGY

Phase one of this qualitative research was conducted by review of literature and other secondary information while phase two involved field visits where interviews were conducted and supporting documents collected. The data analyzed in the study originated from primary and secondary sources.

During the field works the researcher visited relevant government establishments and stakeholders dealing with criminal activities that occur across and within Nigeria borders: Airports, Seaports, Immigration Services, Nigeria Custom Services, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps (NSCDCs), Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC),

Financial Institutions, Military Commands, National Assembly and ECOWAS Headquarters in Abuja.

The study involved face-to-face interviews, group discussions and direct observations to gather relevant data from indigenes and non-indigenes residing in one border town in each of Nigeria's six (6) geopolitical zones. They were mainly traders, artisans, traditional rulers and shop owners. Purposive sampling technique was used. Both data from phase 1 and phase 2 were analysed as presentation for this report. From eighty five (85) Interviewees, 68 were male, 17 were female and they fall within the age bracket of 25-60 years, contributing their quotas to national development. They all have education, experience and understanding of the phenomenon under investigation.

Research Question 1

What is the rate of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?

From the analysis of the opinions of 85 interviewees, all of them agreed that the rate of different categories of Transborder crime is on the high side.

Research Question 2

What are the categories of Transborder crimes in Nigeria? The information gathered from the interviewees showed that terrorism, smuggling, money laundering, oil bunkering, human trafficking and drugs trafficking, internet fraud, piracy and maritime crimes, proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) are perpetrated cross Nigerian border by criminal elements.

Research Question 3

What are the causes of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?

From the analysis of the opinions of 85 interviewers, 31 agreed that youth unemployment contributed greatly to the prevalence of Transborder crimes in Nigeria. 15 agreed that porous border, 12 agreed that inadequate funding of security agencies, 10 agreed that corrupt security officials at the borders, 8 agreed that poor training of security and border officials. 7 agreed on poor coordination and cooperation of inter-governmental agencies and 2 supported religious radicalizations of youths contributed to Transborder crimes in Nigeria. This shows that youth unemployment is the major cause of Transborder crimes in Nigeria.

Research Question 4

Have the various measures of Nigerian government effectively checkmated Transborder crimes?

From the analysis of the opinions of the interviewers, all of them agreed that the present measures undertaken by the Nigerian government have not effectively checkmated different categories of Transborder crimes in Nigeria. This shows that government efforts to combat Transborder crimes in Nigeria have not yielded the desired results.

Research Question 5

What are the effective solutions to Transborder crimes

in Nigeria?

From the analysis of the opinions of 85 interviewees, 30 supported job creation as a panacea to criminal activities reduction in Nigeria. Others disagreed. 15 supported proper border monitoring, 13 supported community policing initiative, 9 supported proper funding of security agencies, 7 supported increased military operations and surveillance⁴ supported strengthening of judicial and legislative system.

3 supported enhance coordination and collaboration of Border officials within and across border of ECOWAS members. 2 supported creations of constitutional roles for traditional rulers and religious leaders. 2 supported de-radicalisation of youths

This shows that job creation by the government and private investors will reduce poverty in Nigeria and in turn contribute significantly to the reduction of Transborder crimes in Nigeria.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the Transborder crimes in Nigeria from the analysis of data collected and the finding from this qualitative study showed that the rate of different categories of Transborder crimes is phenomenally high in Nigeria which is significantly attributed to be direct consequence of unemployment of its active young population.

The study also revealed that the government has taken various measures both at national, bilateral and at multinational levels to respond to the challenges of the criminal activities of some undesirable elements in the society but all the efforts of the government have not yielded the desired results. The study also revealed that provision of jobs for youths will account for a considerable reduction of Transborder crimes ahead of other proactive and coherent actions, policies and programmes of National and sub-regional bodies.

However, the submission above provides more understanding of the study as it encompasses; the causes of Transborder crimes, the factors and conditions that encourage the prevalence of those crimes, Nigeria's response to the criminal challenges and solutions that will de-escalate the growing trend of the menace in Nigeria within the ECOWAS sub-region.

The findings of this study are similar to the studies conducted by Victor A.O. Adeluta, Phd (2015) on Nigeria's response to transnational organized crime and Jihadist activities in West Africa.(ii) Proper Addo (2006) on cross border criminal activities in West Africa options for effective responses.(iii) Etannibi E.O Alemika(2014) on organized and transnational crime in West Africa. After juxtaposing this study with the position of the previous studies which concluded that Transborder crimes are high in West African nations particularly in Nigeria, the following recommendations were proffered.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that criminal activities across

Nigerian borders are high and have been identified but the responses towards addressing them both at national and sub-regional levels have simply fallen short of creating a secure, stable and peaceful environment for Nigeria economic development and socio-political advancement. The crimes are becoming more sophisticated and complex modus operandi adopted by syndicates or actors that cut across political, economic and social divides, evading detection and making enforcement difficult. Realizing the dangers posed by these Transborder criminal challenges, the study hereby recommends proactive measures that must be taken to address some of these criminal issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on this study, the researcher proffered the following recommendations which will prevent and control Transborder crimes in Nigeria

1. Promotion of good governance that will guarantee job creation and rule of law.
2. Effective borders monitoring and management that will control illegal immigrants.
3. Community policing initiative
4. Effective inter-agencies coordination and collaborations
5. Increased military actions and surveillance
6. Proper funding of military and paramilitary agencies
7. Constitutional roles for religious leaders and traditional rulers
8. De-radicalization of youths
9. War against corruption among government officials and security agencies in order to avoid complicity
10. Upgrade of remuneration of the law enforcement agents.
11. Engagement of tech sector to broaden government knowledge on terrorists organization tactics and internet fraudsters activities
12. Prosecution of the offenders under more stringent laws and stiffer punishments and
13. Amnesty for the repentant offenders.

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