

THE MENACE OF KIDNAPPING AND IT'S IMPACT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA: A REVIEW

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Abstract

The menace of kidnappings has recently become rampant in Nigeria to the extent that it poses a great challenge to Nigeria's development. Kidnapping has greatly undermined Nigeria's growth in the area of economic, political, social as well as her educational realms. The main objective of this paper is to examine the factors or causes of kidnapping in Nigeria and its impact on socio-economic development. To achieve this objective, the study adopted qualitative content analysis through the use of secondary sources of data obtained from internet sources, official documents, text books, Newspapers, journals, articles etc. The paper adopts the failed state theory as the framework of its analysis. Using this framework the paper argues that kidnapping breeds insecurity and constitutes an obstacle to development. Unfortunately, government and its agencies appear feeble in proving an effective antidote to this problem. The study reveals that many factors account for the kidnapping. These include poverty and unemployment, bad governance, corruption and fraud, political instability among other political and socio-economic challenges. The paper argues further that the kidnapping for ransom has assumed an industrial enterprise in Nigeria which makes it difficult for the security agencies to handle or tackle it. The paper concludes that the continuous kidnapping of persons including school children and the demand for ransom is an indication of government failure to address the menace of kidnappings in the country. The paper recommends among others that all stakeholders, government and the private sector, politicians and policy makers, military, police and other security agencies, vigilante and community watch groups must effectively and creatively come together to help reverse the current trend of kidnappings.

Keywords: Development, Kidnapping, Socio-economic development