

THE RISING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA: INTERROGATING THE LINKAGE BETWEEN POVERTY AND KIDNAPPING

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Abstract

The increasing number of kidnappings and associated security threats in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. This has precipitated the death of many innocent citizens in rural and urban centers maiming and extortion of money or other valuables. The act of kidnapping entails the utilisation of physical coercion or the expression of menacing behaviour to accomplish a certain objective. Existing literature on kidnapping tends to focus more on weak security architecture and lack of peacebuilding mechanisms as the major cause of kidnapping in Nigeria and neglects the socio-economic factors. However, the study tends to shift away from what dominates the literature to focus on the high rate of poverty level in the country and interrogates kidnapping in Nigeria. The paper employs the use of secondary data in its discussion. The paper notes that the level of pauperism is very high in Nigeria, as this promotes crimes and other social vices in the country. Thus, the struggle for survival is the rationale for increasing kidnapping in Nigeria. It argues further that poverty is the major cause of incessant kidnapping, leading to Nigeria's insecurity of lives and property. The paper, therefore, concludes that not until poverty, unemployment, and impunity are reduced to the barest minimum, insecurity as generally represented by kidnapping in the state will still be on the rise. Therefore, there is no place to be safe in Nigeria. The study employed primary and secondary sources to elicit information on the complexity of the nexus between poverty and kidnapping as a concept. The primary sources will involve in-depth interviews and structured questionnaires. Secondary data was sourced through texts and journal articles to complement data from primary sources. Data collected was analysed through quantitative methods to articulate issues and intrigues that involved structured questionnaires, alongside the in-depth interviews were carefully evaluated to read between the lines to provide an accurate account of enquiry.

Keywords: Insecurity, kidnapping, poverty, crimes, unemployment