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SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ARMED BANDITRY IN NIGER STATE: A CASE STUDY OF KONTAGORA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NIGER STATE, NIGERIA

Owonibi Oladunni Elizabeth (Ph.D)
Department of Sociology, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.

Aminu Sani Kotagora
Department of Sociology, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.

Ismaila Aliyu Ibeto
Department of Sociology, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.

Yahaya Ummi Safiyanu
Department of Sociology, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Niger State, Nigeria.
ummayahayas@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The research focused on effects of armed banditry on socio-economic activities of Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State. The study adopted a descriptive survey method. Samples of 260 respondents were selected from the most affected communities where banditry activities were rampant. Routine activity theory was adopted to explain the issue under investigation. Findings from the study revealed that kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling, destruction and burning of stored food items, farms and properties amongst others were the major activities of bandits; while the loss of lives, farmlands, psychological depression amongst others were discovered to be the major effects of armed banditry in the study area. The study recommends that there is an argent need to strengthening security infrastructure, such as provision of more sophisticated detection equipment in the rural areas for early detection of arrival and settlement of bandits in the forestlands, provision of more sophisticated arms and ammunition to the security forces to eliminate banditry, collaboration with local vigilante and community members to tackle the menace of banditry in the study area.

Keywords: armed banditry, kidnapping, socio-economic activities, destruction of lives and properties

Introduction

Armed banditry has been a pandemic global human phenomenon; which has severe social, political and economic consequence that tends to be threatening the overall developmental efforts of the affected nations. Many countries around the world are presently facing security threats as such insecurity can be considered a global phenomenon. Nigeria is not an exception to this happening because for some years now many states in North-Western Nigeria such as Jigawa, Kastina, Kaduna, Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto and Niger State in the north central regions are plagued with constant attacks by armed bandits who have been killing and assaulting people, rustling cattle's and other animals, kidnapping for ransom, burning stored foods and even farm lands, damaging properties and the likes. Many writers have observed that insecurity in Nigeria has increased since the country returned to democratic governance in 1999. Such attacks are driven by many overlapping factors, including cattle rustling, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, illicit artisanal mining, youth unemployment, poverty, social inequality among others. This is further compounded by the weakened, stretched, and demoralized security personnel.

According, to Anka (2017), Bandits activities range from raids on villages, kidnapping to murder, highway robberies, rape, cattle-rustling, and the likes. Their mode of operation involves maiming and killing their victims when they least expect. Also, the bulk of the attacks occur in remote northwest and north-central communities near the forest reserves that normally off–limit to Nigerian securities personnel. Usually, they mobilize themselves through the forests into the neighborhood riding on fast motorcycles and shooting at random. This growing threat is claiming victims in hundreds, several children have become orphans and women became widows overnight, while the issues of food security as well as humanitarian tragedy further make life unbearable for many Nigerians.

According to a report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (1999) "There is growing concern in parts of Northern Nigeria over insecurity caused by bandits suspected to have come from neighboring countries. Scores of people have been killed and many robbed of valuables in the past years by the bandits, who were heavily armed gunmen, identified as remnants of rebel forces from years of civil war in Chad and also the militant herdsmen

known locally as 'Udawa', who came from Niger Republic. While Nigeria tries to cope with tensions generated by diversity of its population, struggle for economic independence, defense of its territorial integrity, boko-haram insurgency and against organized armed banditry, the country is faced with problems of various instabilities within neighbouring countries forcing their people and members of their armed forces to troop into Nigeria from various points across the porous borders. Most of these people have been alleged to be the brains behind the numerous armed banditry incidences in the Northeastern and northcentral regions of Nigeria.

It has been revealed that the relative ease with which foreign rebels move in and out of Nigerian territory as well as the thickly forested strip along the borders with neighbouring Franco-phone countries, Proximity to conflict zones as well as easy availability of weapons are among the major factors responsible for the scourge of banditry in Nigeria (Onah, 2010). Equally, the United Nation's Small Arms Survey (2004) reported that other factors could be raising poverty, high unemployment, the breakdown of traditional social control structures and the likes also provide fertile ground for banditry in Nigeria.

According to Bagu & Smith (2017), organized research on banditry is still at its nascent stage. Though, Kunna & Jibrin (2016) and Centre for Democracy and Development (2015), revealed that there have been some scholarly works on the subject matter. They unanimously contended that armed bandit activities has in the recent times become most prevalent in some parts of the North- West and Central region, with states like Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger, Nasarawa, Plateau and Benue becoming more affected by the phenomenon.

Statement of the Problem

Some hundreds of years ago, around 1826, the Northern Nigeria was described by the Scottish explorer, Huge Clapperton, in his memoirs thus:" a woman can walk alone on foot from Kano to Sokoto without fear of molestation" (Abdulrasheed, 2023). This described the level of peace, tranquility and social justice established under the Sokoto Caliphate. Today, the same Northern region so insecure that even Army Generals are afraid to travel by road and instead opt for the rail services. The Rural Northern

communities were considered as the Nigeria's food basket, but unfortunately due to banditry it is facing eminent famine these days (UNICEF, 2019). Although the media often report in the news that government is doing its best to tackle the menace, however the situation is deteriorating on daily basis, hardly a day will pass without banditry attacks in one community or the other.

Researchers argue that the problem of Armed Banditry in Northern part of the country were worsened by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons affected by ethnic conflict especially in the African Sahel region due to lack of successfully implementation of disarmament programs. Equally, it has been revealed that people and even rebels move in and out of Nigerian territory due to availability of porous borders, Proximity to conflict zones as well as easy availability of weapons are among the major factors that enhances the presence of banditry in Nigeria (Onah, 2010). In addition, poor communication, lack of social amenities such as good roads, adequate power supply and health facilities, unemployment, poverty aggravate the situations transforming it into ideal space for cattle rustling, smuggling and small arms trade. These conditions also provide potential routes for other terrorist activities in the country. These challenges of human security are further compounded by poor democratic governance's failure to deliver livelihood development and protection of lives and properties of the Nigerians.

The situation is not different in Niger state and Kontagora Local Government Area, perhaps, the major violent crimes such as armed banditry have been manifestations of the deteriorating human security situation and the failure of government in State to sincerely address the problems. The frequency with which bandits attack the rural communities in Niger state, in the recent times has become a very worrisome development to people of Niger; especially those living in the most volatile areas. Certain social, economic, political as well as environmental factors have been opined to be sufficient reasons why armed banditry has successfully strived in Nigeria, North-West, North Central, Niger State and kontagora Local Government Area in particular. Some these factors have been identified to be both the internal and borderline ecological challenges.

The above views therefore, portrayed that the rugged open stretched forests provide

sufficient avenues for all manners of banditry activities. In the view of Ikoh (2021) as long as the benefits (income generation) associated with this armed banditry criminality outweigh the cost, rural banditry may soon extend to urban banditry; kidnapping and cattle rustling will continue. The criminal gangs armed with sophisticated rifles have found crime beneficial, and they are looking for available soft targets to victimize, whenever occasion demands (Ikoh, 2021).

Kontagora Local Government Area which is the target of this study. It has a large landmass with the significant number of wards. It shares boundaries with volatile States of Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna respectively. Therefore, bandits move in and out from the Birnin-Gwari, Zamfara and Katsina forests into the stretch of the neighbouring Local Governments Area into Kontagora community.

Against this background, this study investigates the effects of armed banditry on socio-economic activities of Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State

Research questions

This study examines effects of armed banditry on socio-economic activities of Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State. The study provided answers to the following questions raised:

(i) What are the socio-economic factors responsible for the menace of armed banditry in Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State?
(ii) How does armed banditry affect the socio-economic activity in Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State?
(iii) What are those control measures put in place by the communities and law enforcement agencies in fighting the menace of armed banditry in Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective this study is to examine the effects of armed banditry on the socio-economic activities of Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State.

The specific objectives are

(i) To identify the socio-economic factors responsible for the menace of armed banditry in Kontagora Local Government, Niger State
(ii) To evaluate how armed banditry affects the socio-economic activity in Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State
(iii) To assess the roles played by communities and government law Enforcement agencies in fighting the menace of armed banditry in Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Dambazau (1999) links the occurrence of deviant acts to poverty and unemployment which he argued created an environment which breed frustration and increased stress which resulted in feelings of hopelessness, especially in a country where there is no provision for social welfare in order to give temporary relief to the poor and unemployed. These problems become the catalysts for deviant acts like armed banditry and or kidnapping.

The report by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) in 2015 highlights a rise in rural banditry in Nigeria. This banditry has transformed from simple highway robbery and cattle rustling to encompass looting, attacks on local markets, kidnappings, and killings of innocent civilians. The report cites additional sources that confirm the brutality of these bandits, including kidnappings of foreign miners and violence against women. The motivations behind this banditry are also explored, with some sources suggesting economic gain as a driver, while others point to potential political or ideological factors.

Studies have shown that most attacks are becoming successful because of their closeness to the forest regions with little or no security presence. In that same vein, Adeniyi (2018) argues that banditry strive because of the material incentive of the poorly regulated miming trans-human and illicit aims and artisanal activities taking place in the forest, as bandits occasionally attacked miming sites in order to steal solid and cash. The financial proceeds of these illicit sold mining have been figured as one of the reasons for proliferation of arms used for kidnappings, miming and outright elimination of non-cooperating villages. He

concludes that, unfortunately, government position on this heinous crime of banditry has left citizens wondering whether government exists for the purpose of protection of lives and properties.

Studies have shown that the individuals reacting to frustration from failure are likely to blame society rather than blaming themselves and Part of this rationalization includes justifying successful illegal activity such as banditry and kidnapping activities. For them, Success model for lower class youth are not the bankers and lawyers that middle-class youth seek to emulate but rather thieves and drug dealers and gang leaders whom they observe daily. This in turn banditry operations had an impact on psychological trauma among the state's citizens (Bello, 2023).

Audu (2020) argues that armed bandit and or kidnapping group are product of economic downturn and street socialization. More so studies show that children of families which are unstable, chaotic and with multiple problems are likely to end up as deviant by perpetrating criminal behaviour. Parental neglect mostly affects children born out of wedlock. According to them children living in a single parent or step parent family are more at risk of offending than those who live with both biological parents. Also studies revealed that adolescents have a tendency to respond to strain with deviant behaviour like joining armed bandit and or kidnapping gang which may provide them with a means to avoid or alleviate strain directly, or to avoid or alleviate the negative emotional conferences generated by strain.

Conceptual Clarifications

Banditry

Banditry simply refers to criminal acts such as armed robbery or allied violent crimes, namely kidnapping, cattle rustling, and village or community raids. The act involves the use of force, threat to life, to intimidate persons in order to rob, rape or kill (Okoli & Okpaleke, 2014). Banditry can be motivated by economic or political interests. Banditry according to studies is the taking away of property by force or the threat of force, often by a group, usually of men. Thus, banditry is seen as any act of armed robbery, rape, and raid; holding someone hostage against his or her will for ransom either for economic or political reasons. Therefore, armed banditry for the purpose of this study refers to the practice of raiding and attacking victims by members of an armed group, whether or not

premeditated, using weapons of offence or defense especially in semi-organized groups for the purpose of overpowering the victim and obtaining loot or achieving some political goals. Such bandits are usually regarded as outlaws and desperate lawless marauders who do not have a definite residence or destination, and they roam around the forest and mountains to avoid being detected or arrested.

Kidnapping

The concept of kidnapping refers to the act of abducting someone and holding them for captive either for ransom or for any other motive which could be political or ideological. It is a criminal offense consisting of the unlawful taking and carrying away of a person by force or fraud or the unlawful seizure and detention of a person against his will. The principal motives for kidnapping are to subject the victim to some form of involuntary servitude, to expose him to commission of some further criminal act against his person, or to obtain ransom for his release.

Socio-Economic Activities

Socio-economic activities focus on how economic activities affects and is shaped by social processes. It analyzes how societies progress, stagnate or regress because of their local or regional or global happenings. It deals with factors such as income, education, employment, community, safety or human and food security and social supports which significantly affect the wellbeing of people.

Theoretical Framework

There are various theories that explain the Aetiology of crime and deviance behaviours in human society. However, for the purpose of this study Merton's Structural-Strain and Routine Activity Theories were adopted as the theoretical framework

Structural Strain Theory

Structural-Strain theory was developed by Robert K. Merton (1947) to explain why deviant behaviour occurs in society. The theory argues that social environment influences people's behaviours. The theory further argues that Person's behavior shapes his attitudes towards culturally defined goals and the institutionalized means of achieving those goals.

In an attempt to achieve these goals, people use different ways either by conforming to or by deviating from such cultural expectations. People who aspire for the culturally

prescribed goals but are denied the opportunities to realize those goals will experience what he termed "social strains". It is because of these strains in finding access to legitimate means that some members of society turn to deviant acts. Those occupying disadvantage position create other techniques of becoming materially successfully. In his view, as long as individuals accept the socially approved means for obtaining those goals all behaviours are conforming, but on the contrary when the goals or means are rejected, non-conforming behaviours results. ***Armed banditry*** in this context can be regarded as innovation because members of groups seem to accept the cultural goals of the society but reject the institutional means of achieving them and as such engaged in activities such as kidnapping for ransom, cattle and other animal rustling, forceful dispossession of money and other valuable items and the likes.

Routine Activity Theory

The main exponents of the theory are Cohen & Felson (1979). The Routine Activity Theory as a recent approach to the explanation of crime falls within the social-structural perspective. The theory attempts to explain predatory criminal activities. The theory has three main postulations: (i) where there is a motivated potential offender(s), (ii) suitable or attractive target(s) and (iii) the absence of capable guard(s) crime is likely to take place.

Therefore, adopting this theory(s) is suitable for explaining the problem under study which is the effects of armed banditry on socio-economic activities of Kontagoara Local Government of Niger State is relevant considering the presence of motivated potential offender(s) in an agriculturally and herding-based communities which are under-policed are likely targets for bandit activities.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Kontagora local Government, Niger State. Kontagora was founded in 1846 as a result of the war waged by Ummaru Nagwamatse. Kontagora town is the Headquarters of the Emirate with Wushishi, Danrangi, Rijau, Bobi, Kumbashi, Robu, Auna, Zugurma, Kaboji, Gulbin Boka, Dukku, Salka, Genu, Ibeto, Mashegu, Kontagora Gabas and Kontagora Yamma districts, respectively (Haruna, 2002).

Kontagora became the Headquarters of the then Mariga local government since the creation of Niger State in the year 1976 and

later became a Local Government with its Headquarters in Kontagora Town in the year 1996. The Local Government covers an area of approximately 1,390.4 square kilometers. According to the 2006 population census, Kontagora has a population of 151,968 people. The major ethnic groups in the area are Hausa, Fulani, Kambari, Dukkawa and Dakarkari. Other minority ethnic groups are Nupe, Gbagyi, Yoruba, Ibgo, and Edo who are residents of the town for commercial activities, farming, government work, marriage and educational pursuit. There are Muslims, Christians and African traditional believers in the town, but Muslims constitute the majority (NPC Gazette, 2007).

The target population for this study is the victims of armed banditry who migrated to the metropolitan city of Kontagora from the affected communities. A total of two hundred and sixty (260) respondents were sampled using purposive and snowballing sampling technique. The sample were selected from the available IDP Camps within Kontagora town which are Kontagora Township Hall, Maidubu Primary School, Federal low-cost, Dadin Kowa and Unguwan Rahama respectively.

Questionnaire and interview instruments were used for data collection; the questionnaire was constructed in English and administered to the respondent by the researcher with the help of some research assistants. The questionnaires were administered as interview because a large number of the respondents were not literate. Equally, In-depth interview was conducted with security personnel, vigilante group leaders and community leaders which was recorded and later, transcribed and translated into English before the analysis. The quantitative data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. While qualitative data were analyzed using thematic analysis with verbatim quotations.

Findings

Table 1: Causes of Armed Banditry

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Displacement due to civil wars in neighboring countries	21	8

Illegal mining activities	22	8.4
Growing unemployment and poverty among the youths	23	9
Farmers/Fulani herdsmen Clashes	19	7,3
Perceived injustice by pastoral communities & struggles for social justice	18	7
Lack of access to education, veterinary services & animal feed grazing routes which were shared by politicians and traditional rulers	19	7.3
Proliferation of small and light weapons	21	8
Unguarded large forests mountains and hills	18	7
Porous borders and Poor control of immigrants From neighbouring countries	19	7.3
Lack of political will to address the problem	22	8.4
Activities of informants	23	8.8
All of the above	35	13.5
Total	260	100

The Table 1 above reveals that banditry has many causes in the study area. Among the Prominent ones are unemployment and poverty, activities of informants which

constitutes account for 9% of the respondents. Equally, illegal mining activities, lack of political will to sincerely address the problem from the part of government constituting 16.8% make banditry activities to persist. Furthermore, 13.5% of responses indicate that all the aforementioned factors contribute significantly to the persistence of armed banditry activities in the study area.

Table 2: Effects of Armed Banditry on Socio-Economic Activities

Responses	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Loss of lives and injuries	38	14.6
Disruption of farming activities, lootings, animal and cattle rustlings	35	13.5
Psychological trauma suffered by residents, victims and relatives of the victims	28	10.8
Negative impact on supply/delivery of basic amenities	31	11.9
Closure of schools, health care facilities etc	33	12.7
Disruption of commercial/business activities	32	12.3
Disruption of social activities eg festivals, ceremonies, displacement of communities.	33	12.7
All of the above	30	11.5
Total	**260**	**100**

Table 2 above responses revealed that armed banditry is associated with a number of negative effects in the study area. Loss of lives and injuries accounted for the 14.6% of the effects of armed banditry, this in addition to disruption of farming activities, lootings, cattle and other animals rustling which constitutes 13.5% of the responses. Others are disruptions of social activities (such as festivals, ceremonies), closure of schools and health facilities which constitutes 12.7% respectively. Equally, 11.9% responses indicate that armed banditry activities have negatively affected the supply/delivery of

basic amenities to the study areas. Furthermore, 11.5% responses showed that armed banditry activities affect almost every aspect of socio-economic activities in the study area.

Table 3: Control Measures

Responses	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Joint operation by security personnel	42	16.1
Collaboration between security personnel and community members	47	18.1
Setting Vigilante groups by communities	58	22.3
Investigation and establishing Intelligence gathering apparatus	40	15.4
Carrying out of joint patrols of the highways	38	14.6
Setting up of check points, and routing patrol	35	13.5
Total	**260**	**100**

Table 3 above reveals various control measures to reduce activities of armed banditry. 22.3% responses indicate setting up vigilante groups by communities contribute significantly to tackle banditry operations in the study area. Equally, 18.1% of responses reveal that collaboration between security personnel and community members assist in reducing armed banditry operations in the study area, this in addition to joint operation by security operatives as well as Investigation and establishing Intelligence gathering apparatus which account for 15.4% of the respondents.

Analysis of Key Informants Interview

In order to elicit more information on banditry from the respondents, key informant interviews were also conducted with some respondents. Below were some of the responses received and transcribed.

Responses on the general causes of armed banditry activities in the study area, an interviewee revealed that:

> *"There are a lot of reasons why armed banditry persist despites measures put in place to address it for instance many people benefit from it, they have informants who feed them with the information*

about their targets and even about measures to deal with them'

Another interviewee pointed out that:

"activities of armed banditry persist due to the many lazy and unemployed youths who have now found new businesses they see as lucrative, collaborating with bandits, they know the spies of the bandits in the community and often go there to give information about who is keeping money at home, the bandits will just ride on bikes in number in broad day light and come straight to your house to demand for the money and even direct you kept the money to bring it out or they kill you. They will collect the money and yet kidnap women and young girls and still demand for ransom. This is uncalled for; we are not secure anymore in our ancestral communities as many have migrated to towns for safety of their lives".

On the effects of banditry on the socio-economic activities, an interviewee revealed that:

"The truth of matter is that, honestly, we are suffering attacks by bandits, many lives were lost, animals were rustled, food items stolen and, in some cases, burnt. We can't harvest what we produced in our farms because of fear".

Equally, another respondent adds that:

"Because of frequent attacks by bandits our children cannot go to school because schools in our localities are closed down, hospitals are close down, commercial and business activities are affected, social activities are also affected detrimentally"

Another interviewee confirmed that:

"We are always in fear of uncertainties, there is a lot of psychological trauma especially those who their relatives are attack, kidnaped, injured or killed.

On the control measures in addressing the menace of banditry activities in the study area, an interviewee revealed that:

> *"There a lot of things the communities do protect themselves because government alone cannot do it for us; we have vigilante group who assist security officials, we reveal information whenever we have to aid them in chasing the bandit"*

Another interviewee pointed out that:

> *"We collaborate with members of the security officials to carryout patrol, carryout surveillance of our communities and also on our own we carryout patrol to safeguard our communities"*

Some respondents however were more concerned with government's intervention. For instance, a respondent appealed that:

> *"When you go back kindly inform those in position of authority to provide more security personnel, give them more equipment, motivate them to enable them do more"*

Equally, another respondent reveals that:

> *"Government should do all that is necessary to bring an end to this banditry so that we have security to continue our farming, harden and businesses, we want our children to go back to school, health facilities open so that personnel can come back to their work to reduce our suffering of going to towns whenever there is case of sickness"*

From the above responses, it can be deduced that, the phenomenon of armed banditry has reached an alarming point that if nothing urgent is done by government and all stakeholders through protection of lives and properties, the situation of anarchy may take place as citizens and indeed residents of Niger state and Kontagora local government in particular are likely to resort to self-help of any form in defense of their lives and properties.

Discussion on Findings

The findings of the study argue that the phenomenon of armed bandit operations has created devastating effects on the socio-economic activities of the study area, these effects include among others: loss of lives with the highest percentage, to hospitalization and psychological trauma due to shocks. The findings have also revealed

that banditry has devastating effects on food security, loss of cattle and other animals, food items as well as closure of markets which have multiplier effects on animal husbandry which has often been the source of livelihood for the people has been seriously affected. Others include the loss of farm lands and financial resources, displacement of communities. This confirmed Audu (2020) who reported that displacement disrupts social networks, socio-economic activities of the people whereby increase significantly the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

This therefore suggest that, if people are killed on daily basis and those alive cannot freely go to the markets, how do they sell their farm produce? If they cannot go to their farms, how do they produce and harvest, consume or even process the products for export or guaranteeing market value for cash crops and those meant for domestic consumption? It is also important to note that, when people are living in perpetual fear of attacks to outright killings by bandits, this may have the tendency of affecting human security generally.

The above findings support the works of Okoli & Abubakar (2021) when he pointed out that; "sometimes the lethality of the attacks are reprisals designed to show down communities which have hitherto challenged or resisted the bandits' onslaught through vigilantism.

Findings of this study corroborate the views of Okoli & Ochim (2016) who pointed out that the near non-action of states functionaries in relation to security and territorial governance has grossly demonstrated a pathological ground for its incapacity to govern its citizens. This can be said to be true as social control agencies at all levels have demonstrated failure in dealing with national security challenges. Thus, they maintain that these agencies have persistently failed to muster requisite professional political will and commitment to tackle the situation.

Conclusion

The findings from this study have established that the effects of criminal armed bandit activities on human and food security are so severe. Equally, findings revealed that it results to loss of lives, injuries leading to shock and living in horrific fears. Others are: destruction of farm lands, loss of animals, amongst other experiences. These therefore, have severe consequences on not only food

and human security but have negative effects on social, economic, political as well as general set back on the development of the country. This is because development cannot be achieved where there is absence of peace and general insecurity. As such there is the need for very urgent action to be taken in order to curb the excesses of banditry in the Rafi local government area and the entire Niger State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, below are some of the recommendations:

(i) Government at all levels must take immediate steps to stop the wanton killings of innocent citizens by providing sophisticated detection equipment in the forestlands to detect incursion into the communities by bandits.

(ii) All the security agencies should be provided with modern adequate sophisticated arms and ammunition to be able to confront the bandits in order to enable people go to their farms without intimidation, this will enhance the production of food supply and hence, the challenge of food security can be better addressed.

(iii) Furthermore, proactive measures are required by our security personnel in arresting and prosecuting criminal bandits in order to reaffirm its position as principal provider of security to the people. This will solve the problem of human security and thus, create more confidence by the people.

(iv) Community members should see the task of criminal acts such as armed banditry as not only the responsibilities of the law enforcement agencies, but for all. They should give security personnel the necessary support thereby providing them with relevant information that will lead to the proactive measures taken by the appropriate agencies in addressing these ills for safety and peaceful society.

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