Hobbesian Notion of Self-Preservation and Insecurity in Nigeria

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Abstract: This study examined the insecurity in Nigeria which is supposed to be resolved by the government, but the government inability to stop insecurity has made the citizens to protect themselves thereby going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation where man protected himself from other men. The objectives of the study include; investigate insecurity in Nigeria and analyse how the citizens are going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation to secure themselves. The Ex-Post Facto (After the fact) research design was used for the study. Data was gotten through secondary sources like, textbooks, newspapers, journal articles and internet materials. Qualitative analysis was used to analyse the data, although figure was presented where required. The study found out that in the North central the farmers/herders clash has prominent, while North West banditry and kidnapping has been the order of the day, North East has been ravaged with kidnapping and terrorism in a similar manner the South East insecurity has been carried out by unknown gunmen, in the South West kidnapping and banditry has formed the major insecurity threat and kidnapping and hostage taking has enveloped the South-South region. The finding further showed that as a result of the failure of the Nigerian government to protect its citizen, they have found other ways to protect themselves thereby going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation.

Keywords: kidnapping, security, government, right, region.

Introduction

The "condition of mere nature" for Thomas Hobbes is a state in which there is always the potential for, and likely in many instances, actual, disagreement among all rational agents, in which "every man is an enemy to every man," a "condition or war of every person against everyone," or "of every man against every man," which is later summed up in the word "anarchy" (Sadler, 2010). This situation or circumstance is further described by a number of specific statements. They are in a state of war as long as there is a "known disposition" to conflict, which is the willingness of one party to engage in conflict with another party who is assessing whether the first party has such a willingness, "during all time when there is no guarantee to the contrary" (Sadler, 2010). However, they are in a state of peace when this is not the case, or when one subject may be certain that another subject won't engage in war with them. Having such assurances, however, practically requires that the subjects have "a common power to keep them in awe," or as Thomas Hobbes will later say, "a common power set over them both, with right and force to compel performance" of covenants, "to constrain those who would otherwise violate their faith" (Sadler, 2010).

Human subjects have departed the state of nature once such a shared power, the sovereign authority, is established. They acknowledge and adhere to personal and specific agreements made with one another

as well as more impersonal, general, and fundamental agreements with one another encapsulated in the laws of nature, even when these are at odds with some of their desires, inclinations, and passions, out of fear of the sovereign as well as fear of reverting to the state of nature (Sadler, 2010). But it is undeniable that humans enter into a social contract that compels them to give up their right to self-defense. Thomas Hobbes believed that the creation of the state, which embodies security, was a result of the social compact. Thomas Hobbes proposed the state of nature as an abstract period prior to the creation of what we now know as the state in his theory of the social compact that gave rise to the state (Okonkwo., Olusoji & Afekuro, 2021). The precarious aspect of life at the time is the central figure in Hobbes' theory of nature. The Hobbesian state of nature made existence as brutish, unpleasant, and brief due to a lack of security. People made the decision to give up their liberty (self-preservation) in exchange for collective security in order to protect their lives and possessions. People who are part of a social structure are shielded from potential aggressors (Okonkwo, Olusoji, & Afekuro, 2021).

In exchange, people must renounce some liberties (such as the right to break the law without being penalised) and make contributions to the stability, prosperity, and happiness of society. Security is fundamentally about preserving tranquilly within a nation's borders (Okonkwo, Olusoji, & Afekuro, 2021). Traditionally, the government has been in charge of providing security. A nation is safe to the extent that its fundamental ideals—life, property, and liberty—are not in danger of being lost. Furthermore, it should be obvious that self-preservation is man's primary fixation and that survival is his top priority. They employ any means necessary to accomplish that goal because everyone has the right to self-preservation and is therefore free to act however they wish (Tuck, 1993). Man has a natural right to be free to do what he deems to be beneficial for him and what will keep him alive. According to Hobbes (1946), this privilege "is the liberty each man hath, to use his own power, as he will himself, for the preservation of his own nature," and as a result, he is in an unrestricted state of freedom to "do any [thing] which in his own judgement, and reason, he shall conceive to be the aptest means thereto." We have the natural right to utilise our own strength in the state of nature to further the causes we deem just (Pettit, 2008).

Although it "is never described as obligatory," acting in one's own best interests is human nature (Barry in Lively & Reeve, 1989). According to Hobbes (1946), men prefer to be free from any "external impediments," and if given the opportunity to make their own decisions as "independent judges" about how to live their lives, they will not pass up the chance and will use it to their advantage to strengthen their position and ensure their survival (Tuck, 1993). Men are therefore entirely free because there are no laws that may restrict their behaviour and no higher authority that could condemn and adjudicate them. Certain natural rules must be followed, according to Hobbes in The Leviathan, but they "cannot be relied on in the state of nature" (Gough, 1957). Every man "ought to endeavour peace, so far as he hopes of obtaining it," according to the "fundamental law of nature. However, for this law to be upheld, there must be agreements or "covenants," and men must "perform their covenants made," otherwise "we are still in a condition of war" (Hobbes, 1946). However, it has been demonstrated that if one makes a covenant with others, defecting is always the optimal course of action in a scenario where the state of nature is equated to a prisoner's dilemma (Pettit, 2008; Hampton, 1986). Men will therefore never honour their commitments in nature because it is more beneficial not to. The primary goal of the sovereign is to ensure the security of his subjects and to foster an atmosphere where "people may live in peace and indeed prosperity" (Pettit, 2008). Human nature compels mankind to act in accordance with their requirements, the most essential of which is self-preservation.

Nigeria is on the verge of making insecurity its national heritage since no day goes by without an act of insecurity. Although Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari promised after winning the 2015 election that his administration would end the security challenges, it is more concerning that for unknown reasons, the Nigerian government appears unable to or unwilling to stop this threat. Nigeria is still dealing with security issues right now, and these issues affect all six of the country's regions, including Abuja, which serves as the capital. The administration that has been tasked with protecting life and property looks to be lost and unable to end the security crisis in the nation, leaving the

residents of these regions to sleep with one eye open (Obarisiagbon & Akintoye, 2019). The Nigerian government has dedicated significant resources to security as a result of the threat that insecurity poses to national security (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpan-Robaro, 2013). Nevertheless, according to the law governing Nigeria, "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government" (The Constitution of Nigeria, 1999, as amended).

Unfortunately, while being aware of this fundamental obligation, the government has not succeeded in creating a secure and safe environment for people and their property, allowing them to go about their everyday lives. The citizenry are now turning to various forms of self-defense, returning to what Thomas Hobbes called the "right of self-preservation" in the state of nature, where man has the right to defend himself against other men. However, man has lost confident in the government which he (man) handed over his right of self-preservation to protect himself. It is against this background that the study seeks to investigate insecurity in Nigeria and analyse how the citizens are going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation to secure themselves.

Conceptual Review

Concept of Insecurity

According to the numerous ways that it impacts people, social groups, and society as a whole, the concept of insecurity has typically been given various meanings. According to Ali (2013), is "the state of fear or anxiety, stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection." Lack or insufficient freedom from risk is what it alludes to. Physical insecurity is the most obvious form of insecurity, and this definition captures that. It also feeds into a lot of other types of insecurity, like economic and social security. Lack of safety, risk, danger, unpredictability, and protection are all implied by the word "insecurity." Beland (2005) confirmed that it is a condition of fear or anxiety brought on by a lack of protection. Two definitions of insecurity are provided by Adeola and Oluyemi (2012). First, as the state of being exposed to danger or the threat of danger, where danger is the state of being vulnerable to harm or injury, and second, as the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a generalised unpleasant emotion felt in anticipation of unfavourable events. These descriptions of insecurity highlight the crucial idea that persons who experience it are not only unsure or uninformed of what would happen, but also exposed to threats and hazards when they do. According to Omede (2012), a state's ability to defend against threats to its fundamental interests and values is a key component of security as a dynamic situation. According to Nwolise (2006), security is an all-encompassing condition that implies that a territory must be safeguarded by an army and that a democratic, patriotic government must ensure the state's sovereignty, which is then preserved by law enforcement.

Methodology

Given, the problem of this study, the paper adopted the Ex Post Facto (After the Fact) research design. Materials for this paper was sourced through secondary sources of data which included here are textbooks, journal articles, newspapers, magazines, official documents from the government, internet materials, among others. Qualitative analysis was used to analyse the data, although table and figure was presented where required. Content analysis was used to analyse data so generated. This is with a view to identify logical sequence of data as well as trends.

Results And Discussions

At this point, table and figure was presented that help to address the two objectives raised in the introductory section. In other words, this section is aimed at establishing an empirical link to the analysis of how man is going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation and insecurity in Nigeria.

Table 1: Insecurity in Nigeria by Region and the Causes

Geographical regions in Nigeria	States in the different geographical region	Causes of Insecurity
North-Central	Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau	Farmers and Herders Clash
North-West	Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara	Banditry and Kidnapping
North-East	Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe	Kidnapping and Terrorism
South-East	Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo	Unknown Gunmen
South-West	Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo	Kidnapping and Banditry
South-South	Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers	Kidnapping and Hostage Taking

Source: Computed by the author based on data from different sources

Table 1 showing geographical regions in Nigeria, states in the different geographical region and causes of insecurity. The North-Central states include Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau, while the causes of insecurity are farmers and herders' clash. North-West states are Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara, while banditry and kidnapping are the causes of insecurity. North-East states are Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe in the same vein kidnapping and terrorism have been known to cause insecurity. South-East states are Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo while the unknown gunmen are the cause of insecurity. South-West states are Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo, while kidnapping and banditry are the causes of insecurity. South-South states are Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers while the causes of insecurity are kidnapping and hostage taking.

Insecurity in Nigeria by Region and it causes

Farmer and Herdsmen clash in the North-Central region

In addition to the loss of livelihoods, population displacement, loss of life and property, and deterioration in rural productivity and agricultural output, the confrontations between farmers and herdsmen have had serious socioeconomic and humanitarian effects. The impacted population is thus exposed to worsened material deprivation, as shown by hunger, illness, and malnutrition. This is caused by the loss of livelihoods. Rural residents are abruptly uprooted from their native neighbourhoods and centres of productivity when this occurs. Marauding herders have sacked numerous homes in communities such as Agatu in Benue State, Wukari in Taraba State's southern region, Obi in Nasarawa State, and Barkin Ladi in Plateau State (Okoli & Ayokhai, 2020). The displaced populations are compelled to travel in a manner akin to that of refugees, which exposes them to much more difficult socioeconomic tribulations. In contrast, several people and pieces of property have perished as a direct or indirect result of herdsmen in various regions of the North Central. The Fulani assaults have resulted in massive killings in the hinterlands of the states of Plateau, Nasarawa, and Benue. In the Barkin Ladi incident in Plateau State in 2012, the Fulani herdsmen carried out a horrific overnight rampage that resulted in the deaths of over 500 civilians (Okoli & Orinya, 2013).

Numerous episodes of attacks by Fulani herdsmen have periodically resulted in the cold-blooded killing of scores of villagers in the Agatu district of Benue State. Many families' breadwinners are killed in the aftermath of the catastrophe, putting the affected households through severe financial difficulties. Fulani herders have a reputation for engaging in the worst types of material vandalism when it comes to property destruction. In regions like Nasarawa and Benue States, it has resulted in the burning of family homes, possessions, and farmlands, leaving rural villages desolate (Okoli & Ayokhai, 2020). The impact of these actions on rural productivity and agricultural production has been

severe. There has been a massive drop in agricultural output and production in regions where Fulani herdsmen assaults have occurred as a result of the huge migration of farmers from those areas. The relative scarcity of agricultural products in the rural and urban marketplaces of North Central Nigeria serves as evidence of this.

Banditry and Kidnapping in the North-West region

Armed groups known as "bandits" have encircled the northwest region in six states: Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, Kaduna, Niger, and Kebbi. In addition to shooting and killing, cattle rustling, kidnapping, rape, torching entire villages, and stealing of goods were some of the attacks that have beset the states; the number of casualties and internally displaced persons has been rising (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021). While there were over 1,100 fatalities in the six states in 2018, there were over 2,200 in 2019, and there were over 1,600 fatalities between January and June of 2020 (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020). More than 160,000 people had been internally displaced by such attacks by September 2019 and more than 41,000 people had become refugees (World Food Programme, 2019; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2019). Over 247,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and about 60,000 refugees are currently displaced (Selim, 2020). Farming and livestock husbandry are the main economic activities in the northwest, with trading serving as a secondary source of revenue (Rosenje & Adeniyi, 2021). The majority of farmers in Niger state grow yams, while those in Zamfara, Katsina, and Sokoto grow rice, tomatoes, beans, millet, and other crops (Council on Foreign Relations, 2020).

The year-round targeting of farmers has rendered cultivation and harvesting impossible. About 26 farmers in Katsina state's Batsari LGA were slaughtered after bandits ordered them to keep away from their land (Orjinmo, 2020). Bandits in Shiroro LGA have demanded payments of up to $1,100 before allowing farmers access to their farmlands, and farmers have been kidnapped for ransom (Muhammed, 2020). Animal husbandry in these areas has also been affected by cattle rustling. The risk of food insecurity for both displaced and non-displaced populations had increased as a result of violence and forced relocation, which had rendered impacted communities unable to rely on self-produced grains for subsistence and commercial farming (Anka, 2017). According to the World Food Programme (2019), acute malnutrition rates among children are reported to be as high as 18% and 31% in Sokoto and Zamfara states, respectively, and over 70% of the 309,000 IDPs in the northwest do not have enough food.

Terrorism (Boko Haram) in the North-East region

Boko Haram first attacked the Nigerian state in 2002, and since then, many of its inhabitants have been slain and others have been forced to flee (Big-Alabo & Big-Alabo, 2020). Walker (2012) contends that since August 2011, terrorist organisations have nearly consistently carried out bombings in churches or public places in Nigeria's northeast. On December 2, 2013, roughly 200 rebels wearing military garb and carrying assault rifles loaded with explosives and rocket launchers stormed Maiduguri and launched coordinated attacks on the military barracks and base of the Nigerian Air Force. According to reports, five aircrafts in addition to the majority of the structures were destroyed (Agence France-Press, 2 December 2013). Additionally, on December 20, 2013, a large group of fighters carried out a dawn raid on military barracks outside Bama town near the Cameroonian border, torching the facility and killing numerous soldiers, their wives, and children (Daily Trust, December 21, 2013). Aside from these significant attacks, there have been numerous more weekly attacks in Northern Nigeria that have claimed lives and destroyed property. Attacks by Boko Haram have increased in 2014, leaving a high death toll and capturing women and young children. On Monday, April 14, a bomb went off in Abuja's Nyanya neighbourhood, killing over 75 people and injuring at least 215 more. Over 250 schoolgirls were taken hostage by the Boko Haram organisation from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Bornu State, on the same day, notably on the night of April 14–15, 2015 (Gilbert, 2014).

Additionally, on May 1, 2014, following the celebration of Workers Day, a second bomb attack rocked Abuja's Nyanya neighbourhood, killing roughly 71 people and injured many more (Sahara Reporters, 16 and 1 May 2014). However, the attack occurred on July 6, 2022, while the convoy—which was carrying a team of security guards alongside protocol and media officers—was travelling to Buhari's

hometown of Daura to get ready for his visit (Shehu, 2022). The military, police, and DSS officials accompanying the convoy successfully repelled the attackers who opened fire on the convoy from concealed positions (Shehu, 2022). Two members of the convoy are being treated for minor wounds they sustained. All other personnel, employees, and vehicles arrived at Daura without incident. The shooting event near Dutsinma, Katsina State, has been characterised as tragic and undesirable by the Presidency (Shehu, 2022). The Kuje prisons, which contain criminal elements including Boko Haram militants and are located in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, were attacked, resulting in the release of a large number of prisoners—more than 800—the majority of them were Boko Haram members.

Unknown gunmen in the South-East

Currently, the violence that has plagued the nation takes on a particular facet in the Southeast. In the nation, the region has experienced its fair share of security difficulties. These difficulties include robbery, ritual killing, and kidnapping, which at one point assumed a prominent role. Ebonyi, Abia, and Imo states in Nigeria have the highest rates of kidnapping, according to statistics from the 2010 edition of the Annual National Crime and Safety Survey (NCSS) carried out by CLEEN Foundation, according to Ukiwo (2012) who was reporting statistical evidence of this pervasive insecurity in the southeast. Similar to how Abia state came out on top in the 2006 survey's armed robbery category. In the years 2009 and 2010, rarely a day went by without reports of violent robberies and kidnappings in the region. The level of violence, robbery, and kidnapping in the south-east region reached a point where its residents living abroad or in other countries were unable to easily carry out their custom of returning to their hometowns at least occasionally throughout the year. Due to the fact that robberies, kidnappings, and even assassinations were practically daily occurrences in the Southeast at the time, people started to fear returning to their hometowns.

Kidnapping and Hostage Taking in the South-South

Kidnapping in Nigeria is a problem that can be connected to "natural resources nationalism," which refers to a nationality's propensity to want larger percentages of the profits from natural resources in their area (Townsend, 2008). That is, the demand for a better deal and a larger part of the wealth created from the resources derived from their land by the indigenous people of the South-South oil producing zone (Essien & Ema, 2013). The accumulation of politics, which is the ruling class' propensity to engage in endless accumulation of the natural resources and rents emanating from the area in the face of intentional acts of marginalisation and deprivation of the population, makes this situation worse (Akpan, 2010). Concerns about the South-South region's development have existed for a very long time. For decades, the communities in the area have peacefully protested the injustices; but, more lately, these rallies have become violent (Essien & Ema, 2013). The federal government is simply one of the parties involved in the battle; there are also oil multinationals (Chidi & Uche, 2015). According to Turner (2008), terrorists in the Niger Delta region started the phenomenon of abduction and hostage taking as a freedom struggle against the destruction of their environment caused by oil industry activities. Demola (2011) suggested that it quickly evolved into a means of obtaining money through the kidnapping of foreign oil workers in exchange for hefty ransoms.

Since then, kidnapping has extended to the South-South states of Edo, Bayelsa, Rivers, Cross Rivers, Akwa Ibom, and the South-East States of Abia, Imo, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Anambra, where it has become a regular occurrence. Kidnapping has become a popular career choice for many young people, with some godfathers operating behind the scenes. Nowadays, few people sleep with their eyes closed. But according to Akpan (2010), kidnapping came about as a result of transnational firms' complete disregard for the Niger Delta and the fourth republic's dysfunctional governance. The fourth republic saw an increase in militancy due to the state's continued failure to secure equal distribution, as well as the Niger Delta people's neglect and isolation. Both local and foreign investors have shied away from Nigeria because to the practise of kidnapping and hostage-taking, which has negatively impacted both the socioeconomic growth of the country's southern region and Nigeria more broadly. It has also inexorably escalated social vices in Nigeria. Oyemwinmina and Osazuwa (2016) is of the view that both locals and foreign investors are hesitant to open firms in Nigeria since no investment flourishes in

an environment of insecurity, which also contributes to unemployment, which causes an economic collapse. The behaviour that is most appropriately characterised as notorious began with the kidnapping of white oil company expatriates, then spread to men of God and their families, politicians and their businessmen, and finally any prospective target. The South-East and Niger-Delta regions, which are home to Africa's largest oil and gas industry, are where the majority of kidnappings take place. After the ransom is paid, the majority of the hostages are freed unhurt, although some are killed either before or after the ransom is paid.

Going back to Hobbesian notion of self-preservation as a result of insecurity in Nigeria

The current insecurity in Nigeria and the inability of the security operatives to put an end to the issues of insecurity has made the citizens to lost hope in the government of the day to protect their lives and property which is the first duty of the Nigerian government. However, the citizens who before handing over their "rights of self-preservation" (in the Hobbesian state of nature) to the government were protecting themselves. In the case of Nigeria where the citizens have handed over their "rights of self-preservation" to the Nigerian government in other for the Nigerian government to protect them, the Nigerian government has not protected them, following the loss of lives and properties in all the regions of the country. Moreover, the resultant effect is that the citizens have now found new ways of protecting themselves which has led to the establishment of various security organizations or outfits, that is what I refer to as going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation in state of nature where it was the sole responsibility of the citizens to protect themselves. Nevertheless, it should be clear that in the case of Nigeria, even after the citizens handed over their right of self-preservation, that is the right to protect themselves to the government, the citizens are still not protected. In this section I will use a figure to illustrate and also discuss some of the ways the citizens of Nigeria adopted to return back to where they will preserve themselves.
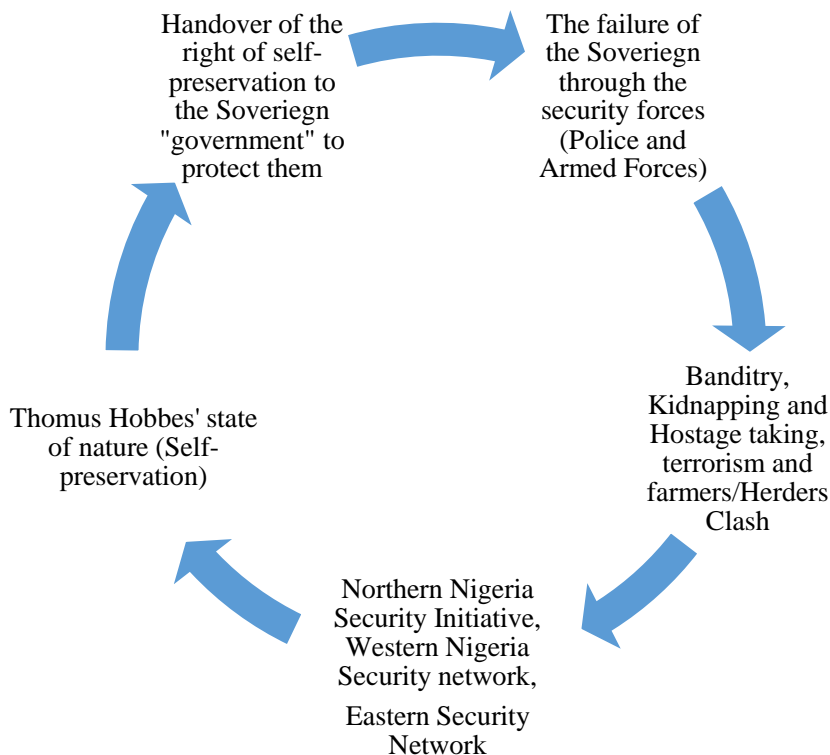

Figure 1: Going back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation and insecurity in Nigeria

Source: Computed by the author

Figure 1 showing how the citizens in the state of nature preserved themselves after which they handed over the right of self-preservation to the Sovereign which is seen today as the government to protect them but the security forces such as the police and armed forces have failed in their duties which has led to banditry, kidnapping and hostage taking, terrorism and farmers/herders clash. The citizens have

resorted to self-preservation such as Northern Nigeria Security Initiative, Western Nigeria Security network, Eastern Security Network.

Northern Nigeria Security Initiative (Shege-ka-fasa)

The Northern Regional Security Initiative, code-named "SHEGE KA FASA," has been introduced by the Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) for approval by the northern governors as part of steps to address security issues within the region. "The group, code-named "SHEGE KA FASA," aspires to lead the entire North, representing all ethnicities and religions, and is fiercely nationalistic in how it conducts itself. It also decided to formally make this request by writing to the leaders of regional traditional, religious, and cultural institutions as well as the governors via the Northern Governors Forum. According to Suleiman (2020), the security issues first surfaced in 2008 as a lethal insurgency that originated in the Northeast and quickly extended to other sections of the region, effectively turning the entire area into a battlefield. "For over 12 years, the North has been grappling with debilitating issues like a faltering economy, rising poverty, and, more concerningly, a deteriorating security situation that has severely damaged lives, property, and the region's general cohesion. The committee observed that, as the insurgency raged, there were further commotions in the area brought about by cattle rustling, which pitted northern villages against one another. The farmers/herders conflict took on a new dimension, which widened the artificial breach between the populations in the area and slowly grew out of control (Suleiman, 2020). "This pattern abruptly changed into dangerous armed banditry and kidnapping for ransom, which is used to buy weapons and drugs. The forced trafficking of northern children to other regions of the country for usually shady reasons is another aggravating trend that goes along with this. At present, towns and villages are attacked and pillaged by bandits who have spread a palpable sense of panic throughout the region, and innocent travellers are waylaid, kidnapped, and abducted on most northern highways (Suleiman, 2020).

"As the situation worsens day by day, northerners are the most concerned and alienated, and the North is the most permeable and susceptible. According to CNG, it is utterly unrealistic to assume that communities will remain passive while criminals raid their homes, kill, kidnap, and evict residents. However, the government's security officers who are supposed to protect people in these places don't do so, which is why the populace has decided it's time to return to self-preservation, where they must defend themselves. CNG noted that there appears to be a connection between the current security situation and the unchecked spread of hard drugs and other dangerous substances, and that the current security challenges in the region are thus caused by the deliberate introduction of hard drugs and firearms into the area. Additionally, it was noted that the drug and arms trades are fueled by illicit funds that are channelled into the nation by international financial criminals like the "Yahoo boys," who are desperate to launder money. This trend has already completely undermined the social and economic fabric of the North and is to blame for the widespread social issues like banditry, armed robbery, kidnapping, and other types of insecurity seen there.

The Western Nigeria Security Network (Amotekun)

With the official inauguration of the security organisation "Western Nigeria Security Network" in Ibadan, with its codename Operation Amotekun, the western region of Nigeria has turned to self-help in order to provide an additional security shield for its citizens (Fayemi, 2020). The security organisation, which has its main office in Gbongan, Osun State, began patrolling the six states of Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo, and Ogun with 120 patrol cars. Hunters, OPC members, and others will be employed (Fayemi, 2020). The governor of Ekiti state, however, dismissed reports that the security network is regional police during the Western Nigeria Security Network's debut. "It's more like a community police," he continued, "which will supplement the efforts of the mainstream security outfits." The Yoruba people were being given a "confidence building strategy" by the South West governors to combat crime and criminality in the area, he claimed, not to threaten Nigeria's integrity and sovereignty (Fayemi, 2020).

Amotekun is said to have stopped ongoing conflicts between farmers and herders in Ondo State by arresting armed robbers and other criminals, foiling kidnapping attempts, and preventing other crimes.

Chief Adetunji Adeleye, the state commander, claimed in a speech about the effectiveness of the group that Amotekun had been successful in reducing crime and fostering a tranquil atmosphere (Adeyemo, Olukoya, Gbadamosi, Akinselure & Ayeleso, 2021). The commander continued by saying that the state reserves were closed to unauthorised occupants, herders were required to register with the government, and it was now against the law for cows to damage farmland in the state. These actions were the first steps taken to reduce the frequent conflict between farmers and herders in the state. It was revealed, however, that the Amotekun Corps had taken numerous cows, and that the Corps no longer allows for negotiations on compensation for agricultural crops damaged by cows as as a consequence of unauthorised grazing (Adeyemo, Olukoya, Gbadamosi, Akinselure & Ayeleso, 2021).

Speaking about getting rid of criminal elements and operations in the state, particularly kidnapping and robbery, the commander said men from the corps were stationed on the highways and in the state's 18 local government areas' key cities and villages. Since its founding, the Amotekun corps in Ekiti State has successfully combated kidnappings, murders, armed robberies, and other crimes in the region. The agents frequently prevented kidnappings on busy streets and freed captives from captors as far as the Kwara and Kogi jungles (Komolafe, 2021). Comrade Shittu Amitolu, the field commander of the corps in Osun State, claims that "the organisation has helped to lower crime in the state. He said that from the organization's founding, it has been at war with kidnappers, robbers, and other undesirable members of society. At a celebration for the corps' first anniversary, Colonel Olayinka Olayanju (rtd.), the commandant of Amotekun in Oyo State, said: "The corps in the state had recorded modest successes, attributing its achievements to the strides of its personnel, with some of them paying the ultimate price and others nursing multiple injuries from gunshot wounds and fractured bones."

Eastern Security Network

The south-eastern state governors founded their own security organisation called "Ebube Agu" in response to the south-west governors' creation of Amotekun. The security team's goal was to stop the Fulani herdsmen's criminal operations in the southeast of Nigeria. the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), a banned separatist organisation by Nigerian state authorities, to establish another informal zonal security network known as the Eastern Security Network (ESN) on December 12, 2020, to, among other things, defend the South-East geopolitical region. In fact, it was said that the south eastern governors' slowness and incapacity to take the same measures for the safety of their people as their counterparts in the southwest was the result of selfish political behaviour that inclined to satisfy the caliphate at the expense of their people. The establishment of the Eastern security network was prompted by the south-eastern governors' perception of sabotage (Nwaiwu, Vanguard Newspaper, 16 December 2020, p. 13). It is undeniable that ESN is headed in the right direction in light of the recent attack on Ebonyi state, in particular Amaezu, Nkalaha, Obegu, and Umuhuai communities in the Ishielu local government area of Ebonyi state on March 29, 2021 and the rapid response made by (ESN) to repeal the attackers. As stated by Okuku (Daily Sun, 5th April 2021, p. 12), "the perpetrators were equipped with cutlasses and AK47 riffles, and since they were herdsmen on an assignment to murder all of the residents of the communities, by the time the dust settled the next day more than 15 corpses were picked up." It was following the attack that the governor of Ebonyi state Umahi, having witnessed the gruesome massacre of people under his protection. As seen by the Igbo social cultural organisation Ohaneze Ndigbo's response, which described the killings as needless and terrible while also saying that the youths' response was a natural reflex, the Igbo people have united to embrace self-defense (Ndujihe, 2021).

Findings and Discussions

The results indicated that there is insecurity in various parts of Nigeria, including the farmer and herdsmen clash in the North-Central region, which has affected the population and resulted in the loss of livelihoods, as well as displacement, which involves displacing rural residents from their original homes and reducing productivity. Furthermore, the study revealed that kidnapping and banditry were common in the North-West region, with banditry attacks including shooting and killing, cattle rustling,

kidnapping, rape, torching of entire villages, and looting of valuables, leading to an ongoing rise in the number of fatalities and displaced people.

The study's findings also showed that terrorism in the region of the North-East has gained attention due to the frequent attacks by terrorist organisations that put bombs in both churches and public places. Terrorists, however, attacked the Nigerian Air Force base and military barracks in Maiduguri in a coordinated fashion while wearing military garb and armed with rocket launchers and explosives. The study's findings also showed that kidnapping, ritual killing, and robbery, which at one point took centre stage, had all been made more common in the South-East by unidentified gunmen. The study's findings showed that kidnapping and hostage-taking have severely affected the socioeconomic development of the southern region. Many youths have turned to the business of kidnapping and hostage-taking, and some godfathers are operating behind the scenes. This has made people unable to sleep with their eyes closed and scared away both domestic and foreign investors.

The study also discovered that after handing over the rights of self-preservation to the Sovereign which is seen today as the Nigerian government to protect them, the security situation has gotten worst as a result of the security forces such as the police and armed forces failing in their duties to protect the citizens have led to banditry, kidnapping and hostage taking, terrorism and farmers/herders' clash. Continuing the study, revealed that the citizens have resorted to self-preservation, there by setting up different security outfit or organizations to protect themselves such as Northern Nigeria Security Initiative, Western Nigeria Security Network and Eastern Security Network.

Conclusion

The study came to the conclusion that the problems of insecurity in Nigeria are specific to the various parts of the nation. Farmers/herders conflicts are prevalent in the North Central region, banditry and kidnapping are common in the North West, kidnapping and terrorism have devastated the North East, and kidnapping and hostage-taking have spread throughout the South South region. In the South East, insecurity has been caused by unidentified gunmen. In the South West, kidnapping and banditry are the main security threats. Continuing, it was also concluded that the as a result of the government inability to protect it citizens in Nigeria the citizens have resorted to go back to the Hobbesian notion of self-preservation thereby forming different security outfits which includes; Northern Nigeria Security Initiative, Western Nigeria Security network and Eastern Security Network to protect themselves.

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