
Internal Security, Rule of Law and Violations of Human Rights in Nigeria (2013 – 2020): A Contemporary World Perspective

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Abstract:

LUCAS N. OLUKA, ELIJAH O. IGWE, PRINCEWILL O. OKEREKA: *Internal Security, Rule of Law and Violations of Human Rights in Nigeria (2013 – 2020): A Contemporary World Perspective*. Much as internal security is paramount to a volatile nation-state such as Nigeria, so is respect for human rights which are rights human beings have by virtue of their being human, especially the right to life, dignity of human person, personal liberty, fair hearing, as well as freedom of speech, consciousness and religion. This study, thus, argued that internal security and respect for the rule of law in its entire ramification should run *pari passu* in order to maintain a stable society irrespective of the circumstances the country finds itself. It is on this premise the study examined the need for highly placed government officials to respect the rule of law. The study, essentially, argued that the law enforcement agencies and the armed forces that are empowered by the law of the land to maintain law and order as well as enforce the laws of the state and fight insurgency and other forms of anti-vices orchestrated by terrorist groups and other criminal elements, are the ones responsible for violations of the laws of the state. To achieve the objectives of this study, historical design which is qualitative and explorative in nature was adopted to examine the variables of internal security and the implications for respect and sustenance of rule of law and human rights which include respect of the rights of the individual citizens by the police and the military while carrying out their constitutional responsibilities to the state. This means that data for the study were collected from secondary source via textbooks, reports from dailies and periodicals, official documents, journal publication and internet materials. The study made some useful recommendations which among others include: the need for the government to always provoke the section of the Fundamental Rights Enforcement Procedure Rule 2008 for the enforcement of rights under the Constitution of the federal republic; there is the need for government to restructure and reorient officers of the law to change their perceptions of asserting excessive power over the citizens; there is also the need to promote harmonious police-public or community relations, and increase public trust and confidence towards the police in particular.

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Key words:

Rule of Law, Human Rights Violation, Abuse, Internal security Approach, National Security, Nigeria.

Introduction

Indisputably, internal security (IS) is paramount to the Nigerian state but the manners at which it is pursued by government and the law enforcement agencies, especially the police and State Security Service (SSS), and the rate at which it is prioritised by the central government in recent years while fighting crimes and preventing civil protesters, has left a lot of worrisome questions in the minds of Nigerian citizens and international observers alike; as to whether human rights, *often violated*, should be compromised for national security? Most worrisome are several instances in which the rights of civilians were violated by security personnel including the Department of State Security (DSS), the Police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and the military while fighting insurgency, criminal gangs, terrorist groups and crackdown on protesters. Some Nigerian citizens were arbitrary arrested, brutally wounded, tortured, and unlawfully incarcerated for flimsy excuses without fair hearing in the court of law, as evident in the case of Sheik Ibrahim El-Zalzaky, his wife, Ibraheemat and some members of his Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN); former National Security Adviser (NSA), Sambo Dasuki; and the leader of Nigeria *RevolutionNow*, Mr. Omoyele Sowore, among others. There were also some cases of unlawful arrests of protesters, as evident in the August 17, 2019 arrests and prosecutions of 112 women in Owerri, Imo State for protesting the continued disappearance of IPOB leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.^{1:2}

The United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted in 1948; a foundation of international human rights law, and that which has inspired several legally binding international human rights treaties between/among the nation-states of the world over the years, has been a source of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (HPR) of 1986 and municipal or domestic laws of nation-states of Africa including Nigeria under the fundamental human rights provisions in the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria (CFRN). This has continued to inspire nation-states in Africa, including Nigeria in addressing injustices in time of conflict, ranges from civil or social unrest, fight against insurgencies, and domestic counterterrorism mechanism. Although, the UDHR in its idea position represents the universal recognition of basic rights and fundamental freedoms inherent to all human beings irrespective of nationality, colour, race, sex, age, tribe and religion. This is why

1 Human Rights Watch. Nigeria Events 2018.

2 OLUKA, N. L., ATIVIE, C. A., & EFEOSA-TEMPLE, G. C. Government and the Politics of Ruga Settlement: Implications for the Unity of Nigeria. In *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (IJTSRD)*. 2019, 3(6), 1267-1273.

Dada³ describes the UN-UDHR as the foundation of the historical and globalisation of human rights in our contemporary global community.

On the contrary, the provisions of the UDHR have been abused in several international and domestic relations in recent years. In Nigeria, incessant abuses of human rights by the law enforcement agencies, the military and some top government officials including the presidency is now a *pastime and a worrisome challenge* to Nigerians. Irrespective of the fact that human rights protection is specifically enshrined in Chapter IV, Sections 33- 46 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (CFRN) (as amended)^{4, 5}, human rights abuse in the country is indisputably a *national pastime* to the law enforcement agencies, the military personnel and the presidency. Onwua-zombe⁶ had to define right as that which by contemporary consensus understood as “moral political claims every human being has or is deemed to have upon his society or government”, and claims which are also recognised “as of right” and by love or grace or charity”. Unfortunately, the Nigerian case runs contrary to the provisions of both the municipal and international law on human rights.

However, it remains our collective endeavour to ensure that the laws of the Nigerian state are respected irrespective of social class and circumstances to which the respect is demanded, though no one is immune from mistakes but when it is observed, it should be corrected to avoid reoccurrence. National or internal security is an important concern of all including the military, the police force, social groups and private individuals as it is meant for our survival, as well as the peace and progress of the country as a whole.⁷ Unfortunately, rather than confronting security threats to internal peace and security with internationally accepted best practices in our societies, the government and the security agencies are constantly engaged in aggressive pursuit of internal peace and security, and at the same time abusing the rights of innocent civilian population consciously and unconsciously as the case may be. Akhaine and Chizea⁸ cited in Adenrele & Olugbenga⁹ have had to argue that the problem with Nigeria is that: *Despite decade of her democracy, and endorsement of the UN-UDHR charter, as well as African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the nation is yet to contain human rights abuses which is attributed to contrary views to democratic ethos on the one hand, and*

3 DADA, J. A. Human Rights under the Nigerian Constitution: Issues and Problems. In *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 2012, 2(2), 33-43

4 UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948). Retrieved from: www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/ (December 10, 1948)

5 Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) - The Nigeria Constitution 1999, (As Amended)

6 ONWUAZOMBE, F. I. Human Rights Abuse and Violations in Niger Delta Region. In *Annual Survey of International and Comparative Law*. 2017, Article 8, 22(1), 1-45

7 OBI, C. & NWACHUKWU, U. Intelligence Failure and Insecurity in Nigeria: A Challenge to Development. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Development*, University of Abuja, Nigeria. 2012, 8, No. 6, (February 6-9, 2012)

8 AKHAINE, S. O. & CHIZEA, B. U. *State of human rights in Nigeria- CENCOD annual reports*. Abuja: Centre for Constitutionalism and Demilitarization. 2011.

9 ADENRELE, A. R. & OLUGBENGA, O. M. Challenges of Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria Democratic Governance- Which way forward? In *Journal of Social Economics Research*. 2014, 1(5), 87-96.

on the other hand the prolong regimes of totalitarian government both in the military era, and now that we are in civil rule.

In this same manner, Naankiel and Ayokhai¹⁰ have had to argue that the seeming trend of violations of human rights, including extortion and harassment of motorists and motorcycle riders (*often known as Okada riders*) and most recently the *searching of mobile phones* of innocent users in Nigerian streets with the pretence of looking for criminal fraudsters (*the Yahoo boys*) by police officers and other security agencies, and the rate at which political assassination including extra-judicial killings, illegal detention are perpetrated in the country is quite alarming. Those who are responsible for the maintenance of internal security and protection of lives and properties within the Nigerian state are the ones complicating the problems of the citizens who are already frightened by the activities of criminal gangs, such as armed robbers, kidnappers, bandits, criminal herdsmen and terrorist groups. This no doubt has ushered in escalating challenges more often than those of the insurgent groups, bandits and other criminal gangs, etc. In a nut shell, the Nigerian case is now described as a case of *culture impunity*¹¹.

1. The Nature of the Problem

For over a decade now, human rights violations in Nigeria is basically on the high side, complicating the already heightened tension of human rights violations by criminal gangs such as the self-styled Fulani herdsmen, bandits, armed robbery gangs, kidnappers, and drugs and human trafficking syndicates. Also bedevilling our internal security are police brutality and the activities of insurgent groups in the North-East: the militant Islamic terrorist organisations- Boko Haram and ISWA on the one hand; and on the other hand the unlawful and arbitrary killings by both government and non-state actors; forced disappearance by both government and non-state actors; torture by both government and non-state actors and prolonged arbitrary detention in life threatening conditions particularly in government detention facilities, and life threatening prison condition including civilian detentions in military facilities, often located in flimsy areas¹².

As a consequence, Nigerian citizens are uncontrollably asking for protection from the heavens, who knows where it will come from, now that the government, political office holders and security agencies including the DSS, the police, and army are culpable offenders. This trend in the country also follows the most worrisome and the continued cases of infringement on the fundamental rights of the citizens' privacy right; criminal libel; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, etc., all of which are now the *pastime* of the *impudent government* agents

10 NAANKIEL, P. W. & AYOKHAI, F. E. F. National Security, Human Rights Violations and Police Reforms in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. In *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Humanities*. 2016, 1(1), 1-17.

11 McCULLEY, T. P. Nigeria's Commitment to human rights. The Punch, 25. April 2013. Retrieved from: www.punch.com

12 Amnesty International. Nigeria: Still no accountability for human rights violation. UN Universal Periodic Review, 31st Session of the UPR Working Group, November, 2018.

and violators. Akhaine and Chizea¹³ cited in Adenrele and Olugbenga¹⁴, identified other perturbing trend of human rights abuse in Nigeria to include motorists' harassment and extortion by security personnel, political assassinations, undemocratic imposition of candidates in leadership, intimidation of political opponents, rape, child abuse, education denial, and domestic violence.

Notably also in the trend was the sympathetic formally separate involvement of child soldiers associated with the Civilian Joint Task Force (commonly known as Civilian - JTF), a non-governmental vigilante group established to combat Boko Haram and ISWA attacks in the North-eastern part of Nigeria; lack of accountability concerning violence against women, including genital mutilation or cutting, in part due to government inaction and negligence to act; trafficking of persons, including sexual exploitation and abuse by security officials, and crimes involving violence targeting of defenceless persons, etc., all of which are constantly bedevilling peaceful or harmonious relations between the government and the citizens in recent times.¹⁵

However, the Nigeria problem lies in central government inability to put an end to all these security challenges and problems that are almost consuming the unity of the nation. In short, the country's internal security in its entirety, as well as human rights seemed to be in comatose. Even when the government is seen to have taken steps to ameliorate these security challenges and problems, and to investigate alleged abuses or violations of human rights, fewer evidences show that government officials and highly recognised citizens, who committed these offences or crimes or violated human rights, whether as a member of any of the security forces or elsewhere in government or from the general public, are neither arrested, charged or prosecuted in the court of competent jurisdiction creating rooms for suspicion that human rights have been compromised for national security.

Rather than massive campaign against all strands of violations of the human rights or disrespects for the rule of law in the country, *impunity* remained a widespread phenomenon. The worse scenario is the inability of the present administration headed by Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (Rtd) like his predecessors alike, to aggressively tackle and arrest these challenges by adequately investigate and prosecute offenders or those who have been involved in violations of the provisions of the constitution of the federal republic. The problem here is that most of the outstanding, as well as obvious cases of human rights abuse by government officials and security personnel, includes the police, DSS and the armed forces, and the worst case, *the rule of law* by judges of the apex and federal high courts who are supposed to uphold the laws of the land, are yet to be adequately investigated, and culprits arrested and charged to competent courts of law. It is against these scenarios that this study is posed to examine the best approaches

13 AKHAINE, S. O. & CHIZEA, B. U. *State of human rights in Nigeria- CENCOD annual reports*. Abuja: Centre for Constitutionalism and Demilitarization. 2011.

14 ADENRELE, A. R. & OLUGBENGA, O. M. Challenges of Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria Democratic Governance- Which way forward? In *Journal of Social Economics Research*. 2014, 1(5), 87-96.

15 United States Department of State. Country Reports on Human Rights Practice in Nigeria. 2016. Retrieved from: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/58ec89ed6.html>

to curb insecurity problems in the country without compromising the rule of law or violating human rights by those that are supposed to enforce compliance to the laws of the state and protect human dignities.

2. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the extent to which the rule of law has been compromised in Nigeria and its implications for security and human rights observance. While the specific objectives are to:

- i. Determine the nature and extent to which human rights have been violated in Nigeria, and
- ii. Determine the best approaches to internal security without compromising the rule of law by violating human rights.

To this end, the following questions are raised to guide this study:

- i. What is the nature and extent of human rights violations in Nigeria?
- ii. What are best approaches to maintenance of internal security without compromising the rule of law or violating human rights?

3. Method of the Study

The study adopted historical design which is qualitative and explorative in nature, to examine the rule of law, human-rights and internal-security approach in Nigeria. This design was adopted because of its reliability and consistency. It is relevant because it helps researchers in gathering important data from already existing literature in the areas of interest. In other words, secondary source of data was reliably adopted via: textbooks, journal publications, and official government documents, reports from dailies and periodicals, and internet materials.

II. Theoretical Discourse

The study adopted Public Choice theory which is an economics theory developed in the fifties (50s) and popularised in 1986 by James Buchanan and his colleague, Gordon Tullock while in the Centre for Study of Public Choice at George Mason University. The theory was used by economists to analyse people's actions in marketplaces. Others who contributed to the development of the theory include: Kennet Arrow (1963), Duncan Black (1987), Anthony Downs (1957), William Niskanen (1971), Mancur Olson (1965) and William Rikey (1962). It was also applied to determine people's actions in collective decision making. The theory argued that some private individuals in marketplaces are motivated by self-interest and some base their actions on others' interests. In some instances, the dominant motive in people's action whether employers, employees or consumers in marketplaces, is self- interest and not that of others¹⁶.

16 SHUGHART, W. F. II & RAZZOLINI, L. eds. *The Elgar Companion to Public Choice*. Northampton, Mass: Edward Elgar. 2001.

Public choice theorists also argued that people acting in political marketplace often have other interests, but their main motive either as voters, politicians, lobbyists, or bureaucrats, is self-interest. Public choice also concerns itself with the modelling of individuals' behaviours as driven by the goal of utility maximisation. Like economic model of rational behaviour on which it rests, the theory assumes that people are guided majorly by their selfish interests. Public choice theorists also pointed out the fact that government failure has impacts to play, that is, there are some occasions government interventions do not produce desired results or effects.^{17; 18; 19}

While throwing more light on public choice theory, Jane Shaw noted that, in addition to providing insight into how public decision making, one must analyse the rules that guide the collective decision-making process itself, as well as follow the constitutional rules that are made before political activity gets underway. She therefore argued that considering of these rules was “the Calculus of Consent” of James Buchanan and Gordon Tullock²⁰ proposition. Citing the position of Buchanan and Gordon, she argued that “a collective decision that is truly just or a decision based on public interest would be the one that all the citizens, including voters would support unanimously”. Although, unanimity is often difficult to achieve or largely unworkable in real practice, but public decision makers should strive to balance public decisions and interest of the public or the citizens while making decisions that are likely to affect them.

Relating this theory to the link between internal security, the rule of law and violations of human rights in Nigeria, it becomes imperative to state that internal security which is often the general interest of the public and which should be guided or provided by the government through its security agencies such as the police, the military and other law enforcement agencies, and respect for the rule of law and protection of human rights as enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria should run *pari-passu*. This implies that maintenance of internal peace and security in the state should not compromise the rule of law or abuse or violate people's rights. In essence, Nigerian citizens desire the security of their lives, properties and right to life deemed-fit for every citizen whom the government at all levels have failed to accomplish in recent times. The governed therefore must first of all allow the government to govern them and the government on the other hand should oblige itself. The law demands the government to respect the rights of all citizens irrespective of their social status in the community.

17 BUTLER, E. *Public Choice – A Primer*. The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Westminster : London. 2012. Retrieved from: <https://iea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/IEA%20Public%20Choice%20web%20complete%2029.1.12.pdf>

18 SHAW, J. S. *Public Choice Theory*. Library of Economics and Liberty. 2002. Retrieved from: <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc1/PublicChoiceTheory.html>

19 SHUGHART, W. F. *Public Choice*. The Library of Economic and Liberty. 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/PublicChoice.html>

20 BUCHANAN, J. M. & GORDON, T. *The Calculus of Consent: Logical Foundations of Constitutional Democracy*. Ann Arbor : University of Michigan Press. 1962. Retrieved from: <https://www.econlib.org/library/Buchanan/buchCv3.html>

III. Review of Related Literature

The essence of this is to review scholars' perceptions as well as to shed more light on the discourse, and to clarify the variables in the study as they are validly used. Notable also is to provide readers better understanding of the context of their usage in this discourse.

1. Security:

Buzan²¹ cited in Naankiel & Ayokhai²², has had to argue that "security, first and foremost, must be holistic in order to achieve the needed peace and security a nation desires". It must therefore involve all spheres of human activities that can promote internal security in a society. This means that all the indices that can guarantee absolute peace and security must be tackled to avoid insecurity in the society or a state that wants to maintain absolute peace and security. A state, for instance, that wants to maintain peace and security of lives and properties must not neglect the need for equal distribution of resources among its citizens, and have respect for the rule of law, as well as respect for human rights. It is only when these are achieved that a society can possibly prevent striving ground for negative vices such as armed robbery, kidnappings, hired killings, amongst others; he argued.

Idowu²³ sees security as that which encompasses phenomenon that is paramount to the individual citizens of a community, and the community itself or the nation. In a nut shell, he sees it to mean freedom from risk or danger or fear; safety, confidence and the ability of a nation to protect and defend itself; promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its citizens. Pogoson²⁴ cited in Idowu²⁵, argued that security, first, has to do with self-preservation which is the first law of existence. It has to do with self-preservation, stable and relatively predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends or objectives without disruption, harm, danger and without fear of disturbance or injury. Furthermore, Pogoson identified with the positions of two schools of thought on security; first, the realist school that identifies security with possession of strong armed forces, built on high concentration of manpower and weapons. The other school (i.e. neo-realist) he said maintained a continued emphasis on the primacy of the state within a broadened conceptualisation of security.

21 BUZAN, B. *People, State and Fear: An Agenda for International Security in the Post-Cold War Era*. Boulder : Lynne Renner Co. 1991.

22 NAANKIEL, P. W. & AYOKHAI, F. E. F. National Security, Human Rights Violations and Police Reforms in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. In *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Humanities*. 2016, 1(1), pp. 3.

23 IDOWU, J. Internal Security Operations and Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges. In *Ibadan Journal of the Social Sciences*. 2014, 12(1), 65-76.

24 POGOSON, A. I. *Nigeria's National Security in an Age of Terrorism*. Departmental Lecture, Department of Political Science, University of Ibadan. 2013.

25 IDOWU, J. Internal Security Operations and Human Rights Abuses in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges. In *Ibadan Journal of the Social Sciences*. 2014, 12(1), pp. 66.

However, the importance of internal security (IS), and preservations and respect for the provisions of the rule of law in its entirety, including total reservations and respects for human rights and human dignity, have been severally emphasised by scholars over the years. Osahor²⁶ cited in Naankiel & Ayokhai²⁷ sees security in its entirety as the development of confidence amongst citizens of a nation and to the extent that their territorial integrity, sovereignty, national core values and interests would not be compromised and attacked by any hostile force, external or internal. He also sees it as a freedom from fear and the belief that one's liberty would not in any way put to jeopardy by an extraneous force. He, thus, argued that security, must, as a matter of fact, design to protect the country from internal threats and divisive forces. Nwanegbo & Odigbo²⁸ cited in Ekpo²⁹ argued that the concept "security" is an alien; it has been a central phenomenon even in the primitive societies. In this respect, Ekpo conceived the term as "*liberation from uneasiness*" or a "*peaceful situation without any risk or threat*".

From the explanations above, it is clear that national security connotes not the security of the state or country alone, but also that of the citizens. It goes beyond physical security to also include social security of the individual citizens or group of individuals within the territory of the state and beyond. For example: Nigerian citizens within Nigeria and those outside the shore of the country are to be protected by the government without compromising their fundamental human rights with flimsy excuses.³⁰ Simply stated, internal security is the process of keeping peace and maintaining safety within a state or nation. On a general perspective, it is the act of keeping peace within the territorial borders of a sovereign nation-state by upholding the laws of the nation-state, as well as defending against any form of internal security threat, and which is the responsibility of the police and other security agencies, and in exceptional situations, the armed forces of the federation. In other words, internal security departments, especially the police force owe the citizens the responsibility of confronting security issues and latent threats through intelligence collection and executive functions.³¹

26 OSAHOR, M. C. '*Resolving Nigeria's Security Dilemma: Towards a Strategy Agenda*' (a Lecture Delivered at NIPP, Kuru). 2004.

27 NAANKIEL, P. W. & AYOKHAI, F. E. F. National Security, Human Rights Violations and Police Reforms in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. In *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Humanities*. 2016, 1(1), pp. 3.

28 NWANEGBO, C. J. & ODIGBO, J. Security and National Development in Nigeria: The Threat of the Boko Haram. In *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. 2013, 3(4), 285-291.

29 EKPO, C. E. Between Counterterrorism, Human Rights and National Security: The Nigeria's Government Dilemma. NAHISS, Conference held at the Faculty of Arts Auditorium, University of Calabar – Nigeria, September 2016.

30 NAANKIEL, P. W. & AYOKHAI, F. E. F. National Security, Human Rights Violations and Police Reforms in Nigeria's Fourth Republic. In *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Humanities*. 2016, 1(1), 1-17.

31 Singapore International Security Department. Mission Statement. 2019, Retrieved from: <https://www.mha.gov.sg/isd/about-isd>

2. Human Rights:

Human rights also known as *fundamental rights*, and by all standard refers to as *natural rights*, are rights that relates to certain freedom or privilege one enjoy as human and held to be innate part of the human person, and which cannot be denied by the society.³² Human rights, thus, are natural, rational, inviolable, and unalterable, deprivation of which would constitute violation of one's sense of justice.³³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) under the proclamation of the General Assembly Resolution 217, Paris in 1948 specifically declared and requires state parties to: assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, protect and fulfil human rights; refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights; protect individuals and groups against human right abuses; and take positive actions to facilitate the enjoyment basic of human rights. States or governments are thus comparably required to ratify these international human right treaties. Articles 1 to 30 of the Charter specifically spent out these requirements.³⁴

Following the provisions of the UN-UDHR, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) adopted by the 18th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (O.A.U) now African Union (A.U) on 27 June, 1981 in Nairobi, Kenya was inaugurated to promote human rights as basic freedoms in African continent. Entered into force on 21 October 1986 after due consideration and ratification of the Charter by 25 States of Africa with its headquarters in Banjul, Gambia, the Charter specifically recognises the following civil and political rights: freedom from discrimination [Article 2 & 18]; equality (Article 3); life and personal integrity (Article 4); dignity and freedom from slavery (Article 5); freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 5); rights to due process concerning arrest and detention (Article 6); the right to fair trial (Article 7 & 25); freedom of religion (Article 8); freedom of information and expression (Article 9); freedom of association (Article 10); freedom of assembly (Article 11); freedom of movement (Article 12); freedom of political participation (Article 13); and the right to properties (Article 14). The Charter also recognises certain economic, and social and cultural rights, such as right to work (Article 15); right to health (Article 16); and right to education (Article 17).³⁵

Nigerian post-independence constitutions from 1960, 1963 and 1979 that preceded the 1999 constitution have always given priorities on issues of human rights. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Chapter IV; Sections 33 – 46 specifically spelt out the fundamental rights to be enjoyed by Nigerian citizens irrespective of their social status, tribe, religion, sex or age. Section 33 (1) & (2) specially

32 TUNDE, B. Human Rights Factors in Terrorism and Counter-terrorism. In T. A. Imobighe & A. N. T. Eguaveon (ed.) *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism: An African Perspective*. Nigeria : Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria) Plc. 2006. pp. 49-57

33 UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights. 1948. Retrieved from: www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/ (December 10, 1948)

34 UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights. 1948. Retrieved from: www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/ (December 10, 1948)

35 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Banju Charter. 1986, Retrieved from: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Charter_on_Human_and_Peoples'_Rights

state that “every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been guilty in Nigeria”; and a person shall not be regarded as having been deprived of his life in contravention of this section, if he dies as a result of the use, to such extent and in such circumstances as are permitted by law, of such force as is reasonably necessary- (a) for a defence of any person from unlawful violence or for the defence of property; (b) in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained; or (c) for the purpose of suppressing a riot, insurrection or mutiny, respectively. In this respect, scholars and experts have provided several definitions of human rights in the context of the law of the land.

Agwunobi and Oyedolapo³⁶ citing Eso³⁷ opined that “human right is the right which stands above the ordinary law of the land and antecedent to the political society and a primacy condition to a civilised existence”. For Saqib,³⁸ human rights are those rights which a person possesses by his simple characteristics of being a human, and must be available to him, and must protect his personal interest, freedom, dignity and other fundamental rights, and against unnecessary interference by the agents of the government. For Nwachukwu et al.³⁹ human rights are rights that nature bestowed on man, as well as norms and moral principles that describe certain behavioural standard expected of man as social being and that which falls under the protection of legal frameworks found in the constitution of a state and international law provisions.⁴⁰ According to the Icelandic Human Right Centre,⁴¹ human rights are rights inherent in all human beings by virtue of their humanity alone (i.e. not to be purchased or be granted); inalienable (i.e. within qualified legal boundaries); and applicable to all.⁴²

Human right⁴³ is defined as “phenomenon that everyone in a civilise society irrespective of their levels of development or status are expected to achieve so as to

36 AGWUNOBI, C. J. & OYEDOLAPO, B. D. *Human Rights and Diplomacy: A Study Guide for PCR*. 819, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). 2012. ISBN: 978-058-299-1

37 ESO, K. S. Ransom – Kuti v. A.G of Federation. 1985. 2 NWLR Pt 6, p. 211

38 SAQIB, J. *Terrorism and Human Rights*. International Islamic University, Pakistan Civil Judge/Judicial Magistrate: Sociology and Anthropology. 2015, 3(2), 104-115. Retrieved from: <https://www.hrpub-org>

39 NWACHUKWU, S. N., AGHAMELO, A., & STANLEY, N. An Account of Human Right Violation in Nigeria (Pre-British, British and Post Independence). In *European Scientific Journal*. 2014, 10(10)

40 ONIMISI, T. Trend of Human Right Abuse in Nigeria: 1996–2013. In *International Journal of Advanced Studies in Social Science and Innovation (IJASSI)*. 2018, 2(2), 70-79.

41 Icelandic Human Right Centre. Definitions and Classifications. 2016. Retrieved from: <https://www.humanrights.is/en/human-rights-definitions-and-classification>

42 EKPO, C. E. *Between Counterterrorism, Human Rights and National Security: The Nigeria's Government Dilemma*. NAHISS, Conference held at the Faculty of Arts Auditorium, University of Calabar – Nigeria, September 2016.

43 NAANKIEL, P.W. The Nigeria Police Force and Violations of Human Rights 1999 – 2007. NASHER, In *Journal of the National Association for Science, Humanities and Education Research*. 2013, 11(1), 66-73.

guarantee the rights of all.⁴⁴ In the same manner, Eze⁴⁵ posits that human rights are those rights protected by law of the state, in order to guarantee the dignity of man as human beings and in a socio-political environment, and which constitute a body of unique virtue which are highly chosen and valued and are fundamental to the existence of man to us by God Almighty. Essentially, abusing or violating these rights contravenes the provisions of UDHR, ACHPR and the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).⁴⁶ In this paper, we see human rights as those rights recognised in municipal and international laws, or rights that are described under the fundamental human rights provisions and also universally accepted as such. It can also be defined as the basic rights and freedoms to which everyone is entitled on the basis of their common humanity.

3. Human Right Abuse/Violation:

Human right abuse means any conscious or unconscious act or action taking by an individual or group of individuals against another or group of people to cause hindrance to right to life, socio-economic or political wellbeing.⁴⁷ Human right violation simply occurs when an individual or individuals are denied their fundamental or moral rights. To treat an individual or group of individuals as if they are not human and undeserving respect and dignity means violation of their rights as human beings.⁴⁸ Yet, it is no longer strange to state that Nigerians are consistently facing all forms of human rights abuse by security personnel who are supposed to protect them.

IV. Empirical Review:

1. Nature and Extent of Human Rights Violations in Nigeria

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of Security Services (DSS), the Armed Forces, and the individuals alike, are found culpable of violating human rights of the most vulnerable citizens, thereby disregarding the provisions of the rule of law which are supposed to reign supreme to the retention of the nation's sovereignty. In recent years, the pursuit of internal security, and the selfish interests of the individuals in positions of authority seems to compromise the rule of law, leading to outright violation of human rights in the country. On a broader perspective, human rights' violations or abuses in Nigeria are so numerous and have taken various dehumanising forms including

44 OROMAREGHAKA, P., OLUKA, N. L., & ADISHI, E. The Nigerian Police and Legitimacy Crises: A Focus on Human Rights Abuses and Protection in Contemporary Nigeria. In *Journal of Public Administration and Social Welfare Research*. 2018, 3(2), pp. 27.

45 EZE, O. The Police, Rule of Law and Human Rights. Public perspective In J. N. Tamuno (eds.), Lagos. 2004, pp. 5.

46 Human Rights Watch. What are Human Rights? 2014. (15 September, 2014). Retrieved from: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/09/15/what-are-human-rights>

47 Breslin, G., Gilmour, L., & Weber, P. (Eds.) *Collins Dictionary and Thesaurus English Language*. Harper Collins Publishers. 2011.

48 Michelle, M. What it means to Violate Human Rights, Beyond Intractability Project/Conflict, Information Consortium. 2003. Retrieved from: https://www.beyonintractability.org/essay/human_rights_violations%20

extortion and harassment of motorists and motor cycle riders by security personnel, especially the police; as well as political assassination, undemocratic imposition of candidates and intimidation of political opponents, rape, child abuse, denial of education, and domestic violence.⁴⁹

On a general perspective, human rights abuse or violation in the country are found to include:

- (i) Arbitrary deprivation of life, unlawful or politically motivated killings,
- (ii) Torture and other forms of cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,
- (iii) Unlawful detention of persons in unidentified centres,
- (iv) Arbitrary or unlawful arrest or detention; wrongful treatment of detainees and denial of fair public trial or in courts of competent jurisdictions,
- (v) Arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy of citizens or family or homes or correspondence of citizens,
- (vi) Abuse during detention of offenders or criminals awaiting trial,
- (vii) Abuse during internal conflict,
- (viii) Disrespects for civil liberties including denial of freedom of expression or press, and violent harassment of citizens by security personnel,
- (ix) Trafficking in persons-women or children,
- (x) Female genital mutilation or cutting through traditional practices
- (xi) Sexual exploitation of children or force labour or child abuse,
- (xii) Poor condition of work, especially in the private sectors, etc.^{50; 51}

From the plethora of human rights abuses or violations noted above, and significant others, it is imperative to note that abuses or violations perpetrated or committed by the security operatives including the police, and the armed forces, and incessant abuse of the rule of law by the officials of federal government are the most common trend in Nigeria, particularly disobedience to the orders or rulings of the courts of competent jurisdiction. In fact, these incidents are numerous to mention, hence the following table provides comprehensively list of incidents of human rights abuses and violations that occurred in the country between year 2013 till 2020; as compiled from various scholarly sources.

49 AKHAINE, S. O. & CHIZEA, B. U. *State of human rights in Nigeria - CENCOD annual reports*. Abuja: Centre for Constitutionalism and Demilitarization. 2011.

50 United States Department of State. Country Reports on Human Rights Practice in Nigeria. 2016. Retrieved from: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/58ec89ed6.html>

51 Amnesty International. (2018). Nigeria: Still no accountability for human rights violation. UN Universal Periodic Review, 31st Session of the UPR Working Group, November 2018.

Table 1: Incidences of human rights violations indicating forms, culprits and victims

S/N	Date/Year of Incidents	Form of Abuse/ Violation	Culprits	Victims
1.	February 12, 2013	Unlawful arrest against freedom of speech provoking killings.	Security agency under government directives.	Arrest of Muhammed Suleiman Gama & Yakubu Musa Faggae of Wazobia FM, Kano State for comments on air about polio vaccination campaign provoking killing of 10 immunization workers.
2.	March 8, 2013	Violation of right to life and killing without any provocation (extra-judicial killing).	Police officers attached to Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).	Shooting of Mr. Okoro Eze, in company of his wife and friend, Mr. Chinedu Nwaonu near his residence at No. 1 Oguntolu Str., Alagbado – Lagos State.
3.	April 8, 2013	Unlawful arrest amounting to violation of freedom of speech	Security operatives	Publication and alleged disruption of political opponent of former President Jonathan by Tony Amokeode & Chibuzor Ukaibe of Leadership Newspaper
4.	April 16, 2013	Unlawful killing and violation of right to life.	Military personnel attached to the Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF).	Soldiers killed individuals and animals, destroyed homes and properties in retaliation of the killing of a military personnel leading to the death of an officer by Boko Haram terrorists in Baga town of Borno State.

5.	September 20, 2013	Unlawful killing and alleged mistaken identity.	Personnel of the Counterterrorist unit of the Nigerian Police Force.	Unlawful killing of nine (9) persons in an alleged mistaken identity as Boko Haram members in Apo District – Abuja, FCT.
6.	November 2, 2013	Unlawful killing and violation of right to life for stopping-bye to plead over the arrest of a friend	A police officer, Corporal Gabriel attached to Shogunle Div. Hq.	Azeez Omotosho at No. 28 Ama Street, Ladipo – Oshodi in Lagos State
7.	December 6, 2013	Unlawful killing and violation of right to life.	Police officers attached to Habo Police Post, along Atani Road Onitsha, Anambra State.	Eye witnesses observed that Anayo Opara was lifted up and his head smashed on the ground for demanding the bail of his elder brother Chizoba who was arrested and detained for not having his motorbike registered.
8.	February 9, 2015	The Use of live ammunition to forcibly disperse protesters.	Military personnel and Police.	9 IPOB protesters killed at a school in Abia State.
9.	May 29 & 30, 2015	Joint killing, attack and violation of rights to peaceful assembly	Military personnel and Police	17 IPOB members killed in Anambra State
10.	July 2015	Violation of right to life, child abuse and rape.	A police inspector	An alleged rape of a 15 year-old girl in Mkpato Enin, Akwa-Ibom State without reports of any investigations into the incident
11.	August-December, 2015	Arbitrary arrest & killing.	Security forces (including the police).	150 IPOB members killed and 100 arrested.

12.	December 12 & 13, 2015	Arbitrary arrest & detention (Disrespect for the rule of law).	Security forces	Over 300 Muslim worshippers, Sheik Ibrahim El-Zakzaky and his followers arrested and detained in prison despite court order granting him bail.
13.	Late 2015 and early 2016 reports by the US Country Report.	Extortion, gender abuse and violation of human right.	Soldiers and members of the Civilian-JTF (Joint Task Force).	Using force and coercion to take advantage of women in desperate living circumstances at Satellite IDP camp in Bama, Borno State.
14.	In 2016	Embezzlement of public fund (corruption) and violation of human right.	A former Director of Police Pension Fund, Esai Dangabar alongside Atiku Kigo, Ahmed Wada, Veronica Onyegbula, Sani Zira, Uzoma Attang and Christian Madubuke.	Stealing of over ₦24 billion from the Nigeria Police Pension Fund.
15.	In April 2017	Negligence and violation of rights to life.	Lagos State Comptroller of Prisons.	Violation of right to life resulting to the death of 32 inmates in 2016 due to negligence and lack of access to medical care in a single prison.
16.	In May 2017	Unlawful killing and violation of rights to life.	A senior police officer attached to Ijeshatedo Divisional Police Headquarters, Lagos.	A 25 year-old fashion designer Jamiu Ayoade killed and two others injured for an unknown offence in a birthday party at No. 49 Wosilat Daudu Str., Ijeshatedo – Lagos.

17.	July 9, 2017	Bribery, extortion from the public and violation of human right.	Four police officers of the Ogun State Police Command.	The Inspector General of Police sacked Insp. Mufutau Olaosun, Sgt. Adebayo Temitope, Cpl. Bakare Taiwo and Cpl. Adesoye Ayokunlehin.
18.	July 24, 2017	Extortion from the public and corruption.	Three police officers of Lagos State Police Command.	The Command sacked Okelue Nkemeonye, Braimoh Sunday and Yusuf Olukoga.
19.	In January 2018	Amnesty International report on personnel excessive force in response to communal violence.	Nigerian Air Force	Response to inter-communal violence using excessive force in December 2017 in Numan Local Government, Adamawa State following the fight between herders and eight villages in the aforementioned.
20.	August 31, 2018	Government's disobedience of the rule of law	President Buhari and Federal Government (FGN)	Incessant disobedience of the rule of law by the Federal Government towards national interest and matters arising, specifically. The FGN refusal to comply with repeated court orders for the release of former National Security Adviser (NSA) Mr. Dasuki due to the allegations against him relates to "issues of public interest"

21.	October 11, 2019	Violation of right to life, sexual abuse, rape and extortion.	Military personnel	Dayo a regular social-media user being abducted and raped by two officers of the Nigerian Army alleged to be a lesbian.
22.	November 25, 2019	Government's disobedience of the rule of law	President Buhari and Federal Government (FGN)	Amnesty International legal adviser Dr. Kolawole Olaniyan noted President Buhari's stunning disobedience to court orders and human rights over 40 occasions since assumption of office also the lawyer accused the presidency of treating judges with disdain questioning his sincerity of an anti-corruption fight
23.	March 30 – April 13, 2020 <i>(COVID-19 Initial lockdown)</i>	COVID-19 Pandemic. Reports on violation of human rights.	Police and Military personnel.	Extra-judicial killings of 18 citizens, and issues of violation of freedom of movement, unlawful arrest and detention, seizure/confiscation of properties, sexual and gender base violence, discrimination, torture, inhumane and degrading treatment of extortion in 24 states out of the 36 states of the federation including FCT from 105 complaints.

Sources: 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58 & 59

It is significant therefore to note that despite government efforts to curb unabated menace of human rights abuses or violations in the country through the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria (NHRC) established by the National Human Rights Commission (Amended) Act, 1995, by the NHRC Act, 2010 (as amended) with a mandate to serve as an extra-judicial mechanism to safeguard human rights of Nigerian citizens; the rights of the common man in the streets, villages, cities and states of Nigeria are still in perpetual danger not only from criminal gangs but also from the security agencies. This increasing trend also contributed to the commissioning of the Oputa Panel of 1999 purposely to examine instances of human rights abuses over a period of time in the country. In attempt to provide an avenue for reconciliation with the aggrieved persons the commission made some recommendations which till date were not made public or implemented by the government. Although, the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo tried to ameliorate issues concerning human rights violations yet the country was consumed by these issues before he left office on 29 May, 2007.^{60; 61}

In August 2017 the current Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) while acting as the acting president

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- 52 Amnesty International. Nigeria: Still no accountability for human rights violation. UN Universal Periodic Review, 31st Session of the UPR Working Group, November 2018
- 53 DANFULANI, J. Negative Implications of Human Rights Violations in Democratic System, Sahara Reporters, 20. January 2017. Retrieved from: <https://www.saharareporters.com/2017/10/20/negative-implications-human-rights-violations-nigerias-democratic-system-john-danfulani>
- 54 ADEBAYO, I. President Buhari, the Rule of Law & National Interest: Matters Arising! 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.shineyoureye.org/blog/president-buhari-the-rule-of-law-national-interest-matters-arising-ishola-adebayo>
- 55 ADISHI, E. & OLUKA, N. L. Domestic Counter-Terrorism Mechanism and Human Rights Abuse in Nigeria: The North-East Experience. In *Journal of Political Science and Leadership Research*. 2013, 4(2), 11-22.
- 56 OROMAREGHAKI, P., OLUKA, N. L., & ADISHI, E. The Nigerian Police and Legitimacy Crises: A Focus on Human Rights Abuses and Protection in Contemporary Nigeria. In *Journal of Public Administration and Social Welfare Research*. 2018, 3(2), 25-37.
- 57 Africa Portal, Human Rights Violations Report, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.africaportal.org/documents/19739/2019-Human-Rights-Violations-Reports-Based-on-SOGI.pdf>
- 58 RAMON, O. Buhari has disobeyed court 40 times – AI lawyer. In *The Punch*, 25. November 2019. Retrieved from: <https://punchng.com/buhari-has-disobeyed-court-40-times-ai-lawyer/>
- 59 National Human Rights Commission, A Report on COVID-19 Enforcement So Far and Incidents of Violation of Human Rights. 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.nigeriarights.gov.ng/nhrc-media/press-release/100-national-human-rights-commission-press-release-on-covid-19-enforcement-so-far-report-on-incidents-of-violation-of-human-rights.html>
- 60 OKOGBULE, N. S. Access to justice and human rights protection in Nigeria: problems and prospects. Sur. In *Revista Internaciona de Direitos Humanos*. 2005, 2(3), 100-119.
- 61 ONIMISI, T. Trend of Human Rights Abuse in Nigeria: 1996–2013. In *International Journal of Advanced Studies in Social Science and Innovation (IJASSI)*. 2018, 2(2), 70-79.

convened a civilian-led presidential investigative panel to review compliance of the armed forces with human rights obligations and rules of engagement, and the panel subsequently submitted its findings in February, unfortunately as at November same year and to date no section of the report was made public.⁶² This shows insincerity on the part of the administration that has been severally accused as the most lawless civilian administration in the history of Nigeria democratic rule.

V. Summary and Conclusion

This study which examined internal security approach and the problems of human right abuse and violation has vehemently juxtaposed the extent to which officials of the government of the federation and in some instances, those of the state government, though, on a lesser percentage; and security agents, particularly the police and the military personnel, have abused or violated the fundamental rights of Nigerian citizens of all classes in recent years. The rule of law is purposely design to allow for enforcement or actualisation of human right protection as provided not only in our municipal law document⁶³ but also universally recognised under the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, as well as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1986.

It is undeniably right to argue that violating human rights of the most vulnerable citizens or civilian population is now unabated national issue confronting the Nigerian state in recent years. Most worrisome is the involvement of the security agencies that are constitutionally empowered to maintain peace and order, as well as protect the citizens irrespective of their social status. Also provocative is the government's seeming hesitation to completely address issues of human right abuse and disrespect for the rule of law. The citizens who are struggling to sustain their major means of livelihood in the face of terrible threats from criminal gangs and insurgent groups, such as bandits, armed robbers, the self-styled Fulani herders, and terrorist groups of the Boko Haram and ISWA, as well as the hardship unfortunately imposed by the global economic depression and Covid-19 or Corona virus pandemic lockdown, are often abused by the security agents.

A plausible explanation to the attitudes of the security agents and government officials is conscious prioritisation of internal security against respect for the rule of law on the one hand, and on the other hand, the inability of the government to arrest and charge culprits to court and punish them accordingly to serve as detriment to others. Instances have shown that one of the major problems associated with the Nigerian issues is celebration of corrupt officials of the state, and abuse of immunity clause attached to executive arm of the government, that is, the state governors and the presidency, who are the major culprits as regards to violations of the provisions of the laws of the Nigerian state. Unless there is a change of attitude towards the laws of the land and

62 EKPO, C. E. *Between Counterterrorism, Human Rights and National Security: The Nigeria's Government Dilemma*. NAHISS, Conference held at the Faculty of Arts Auditorium, University of Calabar – Nigeria, September 2016.

63 Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) - The Nigeria Constitution 1999, (As Amended).

prioritisation of human rights, abuse or violation will remain preeminent over the rule of law in the Nigerian system.

VI. Recommendations

Considering the extent to which internal security is prioritised over respect for human right and the incessant abuse or violation of the fundamental rights of the Nigerian citizens irrespective of class or status, the following approaches or recommendations becomes necessary:

1. There is no doubt that prioritising national security when it becomes necessary is not an offence but a situation in which this provision of the law is abuse with the slightest opportunity, is now worrisome. To avoid this unpalatable situation, the government should ensure that the security personnel, particularly the police force and the military must rise up to the public expectations. They must respect the rights of the individual citizens while carrying out their constitutional responsibilities to the state since the protection of lives and properties of the larger society is part of their responsibilities. Rather than seen as culprits while performing their duties they should be treated with confidence by the society.
2. There is also the need for government to restructure and reorient officers of the law to change their perceptions of asserting excessive power over the citizens. This is likely to promote harmonious police-public or community relations, and increase public trust and confidence towards the police in particular.
3. The government at all levels should as a matter of fact prioritise respects for the rule of law and avoidance of circumstances that are likely to hinder public trust. Total disregard for the rule of law can possibly infuriate the public, thereby breeding mixed feelings and disregard to government policies and programmes. The consequence of this is resistance (protest, demonstration, riot or strike) from some sections of the public against the government. In essence, if government at all levels perform their duties judiciously and eliminate anti-vices such as nepotism/injustice, corruption and favouritism in the distribution of the nation's resources, excessive deployment of security operatives may not be needed. The abuse of citizens' rights while maintaining peace and order would be automatically avoided.
4. If political office holders and the security personnel alike violate or abuse human rights the government should immediately setup an investigation committee or deploy her agency constitutionally responsible for cases related to human rights violation, i.e. the NHRC to investigate and make recommendations to the relevant authority to punish or caution offenders. In a nutshell if an individual or group of individuals or law enforcement agent or agents are found to be culpable for abuse of human right, irrespective of his status, the government should prosecute and punish the culprit according if found guilty as charged. This no doubt will reduce impunity among the security personnel or the political office holders who are the major violators of the laws of the federation. This can only be effective if the government provokes

the section of the law, i.e. the Fundamental Rights Enforcement Procedure Rule 2008 which specifically provide the guidelines for the enforcement of rights under the *Constitution of the Federal Republic*, and remedies for human rights violation. We therefore recommend total restructuring and mobilisation of the commission to enable her perform her duties effectively.

5. The government should as a matter of urgency organise an efficient and effective programme to educate state security agents to prevent further violations of the rights of the citizens, and most importantly prosecute those that have committed extra-judicial killings or murder of citizens to serve as deterrent to others.
6. In all, the government should also restructure the nation's judiciary to ensure that, judicial officers exercise their constitutional duties without unnecessary delays or compromising the law for financial gratification by powerful individuals. Dispensing justice is not for sale therefore must be conducted with utmost respect for the provisions of the law of the land to avoid a feeling of disdain or contempt from the public.
7. Recruitment and training of efficient personnel without ethno-religious sentiments is also necessary. We therefore recommend the adoption of the belief of Americans that "at least a maximum of four policemen should be attached per citizen (4:1). This simply means that the Nigerian government should ensure that there is enough manpower from the security department to guarantee the safety of lives and properties in the country. This is what is obtainable in other developed nations like the United Kingdom (UK), United Arab Emirates (UAE), etc.

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Summary: Internal Security, Rule of Law and Violations of Human Rights in Nigeria (2013 – 2020): A Contemporary World Perspective

Internal Security, Rule of Law and Violations of Human Rights in Nigeria (2013 – 2020): A Contemporary World Perspective The aim of the study is to present a national security issue from a contemporary world perspective as it hinges on absence of rule of law and violations of fundamental human rights in Nigeria. Articles 1 to 30 of the UN-UDHR being ratified as international human right treaties provides the basis of internal security, rule of law and violations of human rights for states or governments and in like manner priorities on human rights is formulated and itemized in The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Chapter IV; Sections 33 - 46. Unfortunately, the violations or abuse of human rights are so numerous and have taken various forms of dehumanising; such as extortion and harassment of motorists and motorcycle riders, unlawful arrests and prosecution, political assassination, undemocratic imposition of candidates, rape, child abuse, denial of education, crackdown on unarmed protesters, torture, unlawful incarceration without fair hearing, domestic violence, and continued disappearance and unlawful extradition of civilians. These have become undeniably a daily phenomenon as can be seen by the various activities and abuses of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of Security Services (DSS), the Armed Forces and other law enforcement individuals alike. The disheartening side of this is that perpetrators of these human rights violations are not being sentenced for their crimes. However, the

increasing numbers are worrisome; while the perpetrators were supposed to be held responsible for their vulnerable acts to victims who are lawful and unarmed. Violations of human rights and its abuses by these individuals can not be marginalized as they present a national security threat that is indeed significant

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