

disposal of the violent criminals, when compared to the security operatives make more powerful (Aborisade, 2016).

2. **Security agents' homicide association with terrorist and bandits attack:** Security agents have allegedly by becoming the main target by terrorist, bandits and militants (Chinwokwu & Michael, 2016). The Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, Niger-Delta militants have been acknowledged as groups with various appetite for the killing of security agents in Nigeria. The Niger-Delta militant has killed many security operatives in the region (Akasike, 2013, Chinwokwu & Michael, 2017). The situation is more worrisome as a chunk of security operatives has been killed by Boko Haram in the North-East. The huge number of military and police personnel killed by insurgents and terrorists in Nigeria is a clear demonstration that it has political, economic and social undercurrent. Michael & Chinwokwu (2020) maintained that, the activities of terrorists especially herdsmen has become worrisome especially when it appears that government security agencies lack the wherewithal to contain the menace. This is clearly seen in the number of security agents that have also been victimized by the herdsmen that have in their possession sophisticated weapon (Michael, Chinwokwu, Michael & Inyang, 2017, Michael, 2010 Michael, Inyang & Ukpong 2017).
3. **Security agents' homicide associated with Mob action:** The unpalatable socio-economic conditions in Nigeria, has created a culture of anger and frustration. The high level of injustice, impurity and gross abuse of authority by security agents is a catalyst for some Nigerians taking up arms against the Security agents (WOSU, 2013). Mob action was witnessed recently in Delta State, after the Police engaged in unprofessional conduct that resulted in death of a youth. Similar, trends occur in many cities of Nigeria where Security operatives would be attacked and the resultant effect is often the death of security operatives. Yohana (2019) reported that extra-judicial killings by security agents often trigger mob action that has consistently led to the demise of security agents. The recent protest by

Nigerian youths which resulted in the demise of some security persons is a clear indication of the negative activities orchestrated by security agents in Nigeria.

4. **Security agents' homicide due to inter-agency clashes:** Many countries operate a multi-agency or multi-track security system for the purpose of effective national security coverage (Abolurin, 2011). In the multi-agency or multi-track security system, security agencies operating in a country are symbiotically linked in such a way that effective security service delivery is guaranteed. This is often achieved when all the security agencies and agent see themselves as partners in progress, working for the common goal of maintenance of national security. However, it has become worrisome that in the multi-track system, clashes, tension and rivalry has been witnessed. Odoma (2014) presented a gloomy picture of the clashes between the military and Police that has claimed the lives of many personnel. According to him, between 1977 and 2013, Nigeria has recorded about 10 clashes between the Military and Police, which has also claimed the lives of many personnels from both sides. Commenting on the causes of clashes among security personnels, Odoma (2014) identified, superiority perception, diversity in interest, training, incompatible goals, opposing interest. Inter-agency clashes has inevitably resulted in the death of security persons with a devastating consequences on the entire society.
5. **Security agents' homicide associated with the role of colleagues:** In Nigeria, security persons are sometimes responsible for the demise of their colleagues. Usman (2020) pointed out how a Policeman went berserk in Ikoyi area of Lagos State, open fire on his colleagues. One of the cop was killed while others sustained bullet wounds. Similarly, a scenerio was reported in Lagos where a Police officer Okema Asuquo attacked and killed his colleague Adekunle Illessanmi Francis attached to the Special Protective Unit (SPU) (Onyebbula, 2020) from the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). It was reported that Mr. Innocent Oshemi shot and killed his colleague (Odita, 2019). In all, the security agencies

operating in Nigeria cases of disagreement over issues often occur, when not properly managed, it often degenerate to the extent of colleagues taking up arms and murder their fellow officer. (Akintomide, 2013).

6. Security agents' homicide associated with recklessness and carelessness: Homicide among security agents could be as a result of their carelessness and recklessness. There could be cases of accidental discharge from any of the operatives killing another. The recklessness and carelessness of some of the security agents is manifested in their actions on the road. Smith (2016) reported that NSCDC officer was crushed to death due to reckless act of chasing and attempting to stop a moving truck. The extortion of money from motorists has been acknowledged as one of the causes of some security agents' recklessness that has resulted in the death of some. The quest to make money from commuters often make some of the security agents to become reckless on the road which often times trigger their death by moving vehicles.

Analyzing the determinants of security agents' homicide in Nigeria.

Globally, security operatives are surrounded with many challenges. These challenges are partly institutional and non-institutional. Irrespective of the nature of the challenges, it has resulted in the increase of security operatives' homicide. One of the major factors that has been responsible for homicide among security agents is poor intelligence- gathering capacity. Jenkins (2011) pointed out that intelligence from the security prism is fore knowledge which confers an advantage on the security agents, who have it, and when judiciously used, this fore knowledge permits those who have it to anticipate the action of others and when necessary take pre-emptive action or act pro-actively. Every security architecture requires a whole lot of intelligence-gathering to succeed. Jenkins (2011) further maintained that intelligence-gathering by security agents make them take pro-active action against diverse forms of crime and criminals. In

Nigeria, poor and incoherent intelligence-gathering is witnessed in our security institutions. Ojedekun (2014) asserted that in the 21st century, security agencies still lack logical, rational and coherent intelligence-gathering techniques via which important information on crime and criminals can be gathered and adequately utilized. Scholars (Ikuomola, 2011, Jenkins, 2011, Oyomi 2010) have repeatedly questioned the way and manner at which security agents' operate when their intelligence-gathering, mechanism is defective. Oyomi (2010) observed that no security organization succeeds in its bids to contend with crime in the 21st century without gathering adequate intelligence information. Although the problem of poor intelligence gathering is not restricted to Nigeria, countries like India, Pakistan, Afganistan, South Africa, Senegal Kenya and other developing countries in Asia and Africa have witnessed upsurge in criminal activities due to weak intelligence-gathering (Oyomi, 2010). The situation in Nigeria is quite pathetic, as series of terrorist activities and other forms of crime including attack on security base is due to lack of intelligence-gathering mechanism. The recurrent killing of security agents in Nigeria by armed robbers kidnappers, terrorists and bandits is partly blamed on the weakness of security institutions investing in intelligence-gathering. Oyomi (2010) further pointed out that until the issue intelligence-gathering is taken seriously, the killings of security agents and other citizens by criminals would continue.

In alliance to the above factor is the issue of not sharing intelligence information relating to crime and criminals among security organizations. Over the years, the rivalry, antagonistic relationship and tussle for supremacy has affected the sharing of intelligence information when available (Jenkins, 2011). Jenkins (2011) revealed that after the infamous event of 9/11 in the United State of America, the need for a National criminal intelligence sharing plan was acknowledged as crucial. This event initiated a concerted effort by American law enforcement agencies to correct the inadequacies and barriers that hinder information and intelligence sharing so that future tragedies could be prevented. Thus, there is need for security agents in Nigeria to

collaborate and share intelligence information relating to crime and criminals. The lack of it, has led to the increased rate of homicides among security agents. Commenting on factors that affects intelligence information sharing, Oyomi (2010) identified lack of trust among security persons or organizations, lack of clear distinction in their responsibilities, superiority tussle among agencies and misunderstanding of legislation that governs each agency. All these work to escalate security agents' homicide in Nigeria.

Plan betrayal within the security agencies has remained one of the factors promoting the upsurge in security agents' homicide in Nigeria. Ojedukun (2014) called this the problem of saboteurs within the organizations in all the security organizations. There are betrayals, who are capable of collaborating with criminals for the killing of their colleagues. In developing countries, instance exist where security agents are either directly or indirectly involved in orchestrating the killing of their colleagues for social and economic benefits. Uzodinma (2013) captured the situation in Nigeria, where security agents involved in armed robbery, kidnapping, providing weapons for criminals, providing information, logistics, training as well as having an alliance to terrorist and bandits' organizations, resulting in the death of their colleagues. Chinwokwu and Michael (2016) reported that the case of Police Officer George Iyamu who was arrested for his role in the criminal activities of Lawrence Anini and his robbery gang has not been forgotten in a hurry. A similar case of betrayal among the security agents resulting in the killing of colleagues played out in Alakyo, Nasarawa State in 2013. Adogi (2013) reported that alleged betrayal of trust was seen in the revelation by a security agent of Eggon extraction to his people that security operatives were coming to raid the community. This leaked information considered as sabotage aid the Alakyo Ombalze Cult group (AOCG) and their deity to ambushed and killed over 50 Police and 10 State Security Service personnel. These are few instances of sabotage among security organizations that has led to the killing of their colleagues. This act of sabotage are orchestrated for social, cultural and economic gains (Chinwokwu & Michael, 2016).

The recruitment process of security agents in Nigeria is engulfed with enormous challenges. The recruitment process of some security personnel is faulty and engulfed with cultural, social, religious and economic consideration at the expense of merit and integrity. Although faulty recruitment process of security agents is a global problem, the situation in Nigeria is more worrisome. Anthony (2003), Martin and Romano (1992) and Oyomi (2010) had shown that in South Africa and Hungary faulty recruitment process of security personnels are witnessed and those personnel end up being fired. Michael et al (2018) reported that observation from Nigeria recruitment practices of security operatives, revealed that within the military and Police, members of the book haram are often recruited into the force.

This was made possible due to poor, or absence of background check and the intentional role of the military/police in collaboration with the sponsors of book haram sects. Beyond recruiting members of boko haram sect into the security organizations, the organizations have also been accused of intentionally or unintentionally recruiting drug Mafias, bandits, gun runners, big time criminals, armed manufacturers and traffickers in human, kidnappers, armed robbers, pirates into the security organization (Ikoh, 2011, Martin & Romanus, 1992). These criminals will inevitably orchestrate the killing of security persons and other citizens.

Arms proliferation is among factors that determine the increase in homicide among security operatives in Nigeria. Ikoh (2011) provided a statistical analysis of the proliferation of small arms and light weapon in Nigeria. According to him, in 2001, 1,103 firearms were intercepted. The figure increased to 3,100 in 2003, and 5,405 firearms and 420,281 round of ammunition in 2004. Similarly, in the year 2005, the Police intercepted and totally destroyed 6,348 firearms acquired illegally and recovered 225 illegal firearms in 2006. More so, in 2009, 852 guns, 1,353 rounds of ammunition, 2 grenade and 11 pieces of explosives were recovered in 2008. It was revealed that a Nigerian army major and five other military persons sold 7,000 army guns for

100 million Niger-Delta militants. In 2010, Nigerian security operatives sized 13 containers at Apapa wharf in Lagos containing diverse arms (Ikoh, 2011). It was estimated that over 70% of about 8 to 10 million weapons illegally acquired in West Africa sub-region are in Nigeria (Bello, 2010). Statistics of this nature point to the porous borders especially in Nigeria and Benin Republic which facilitates illegal trade in arms. If illegal arms of these nature are in circulation in Nigeria, it is a clear indication that both security agents and civilians are not safe. Due to arm proliferation, armed robbers, kidnappers, terrorist, ethnic militias and bandits and inevitably having access to diverse weapons that can be utilized not only against civilians but security agents. The availability and accessibility of arms has led to recurrent attack by headsmen, bandits, kidnappers and armed robbers killing some Nigerian security agents.

Unfavourable working conditions has aided the killing of security agents in Nigeria. Working condition is the diverse and complex environment where people undertake their daily socio-economic activities such that the environment affect their activities and the activities are also affected by the environment (Smith, 2017). It involves the working environment and all existing circumstances that inevitably affect labour in the place of work. The working environment of almost all security operatives in Nigeria is quite unfavourable. Iwarimie-Jaja (2012) uncovered that beyond the Police other security agencies are characterized by gross lack of essential equipment, poor logistics and transportation facilities, poor funding, inadequate and qualified personnel for effective crime management. This unpalatable working condition exposes the security agents to attack from diverse criminals who are fully aware that these security organization are ill-equipped. Abolurin (2011) reported that the military, police and other security agencies has at diverse for complained of lack of crime fighting equipment. The war against book-haram and bandits has been prolonged because many of the officers at the war front complain of inadequate weapons and welfare, whereas, the terrorists are always in possession of modern and sophisticated weapons. This has led to gruesome killing of military personnel and

Police officers with impurity. Michael et al (2018) lament the extent at which members of the boko haram sect has repeatedly overpower and capture military persons and slaughter them. This is partly blamed on the gross weapons at the disposal of the military and police to execute the war against the terrorists. With particular reference to the Police, Adegbamigbe (2008) painted a gloomy picture of the force that revealed its incapability to prevail over criminals. According to punch (2007) cited in Ojedekun (2014), the global minimum weapon requirement for the Police are 140,000 arms, 150 million rounds of ammunitions, 600 million pieces of riot control equipment, 35,000 vehicles, 500 marine boats, 2000 horses, 600 dogs and 30 helicopters to enable them contend crime effectively. However, the Nigeria situation is pathetic as there are gross insufficient supply of these facilities. This has worked not just against Police personnel, but other security agents.

The high level of corruption among security operatives has been known to have overriding effect on security agents' homicide. Corruption is the violation of institutional norms for personal gains. Adams (2003) has earlier warn that corruption was endemic. He see corruption as a behaviour of public officers which deviates from acceptable norms in order to serve private ends. The Anti-corruption law (2000) defines corruption beyond the giving and receiving of bribes to include use of ones office for pecuniary advantage, gratification, insincerity in advice with the aim of gaining advantage, less than a full day's work for a full day's pay, tardiness and slovenliness.

Going by the definition above, it is clear that individuals at various institutions of government are engaged in corrupt practices. Among the Military, Police, State Security Service (SSS), NSCDC and other security agencies, settlement syndrome has become a norm, tricks and extortion has been equated with wisdom and smartness, embezzlement, gratification, receiving bribe, buying of fake and substandard equipment, falsification of records, giving of insincere

advice, revealing of security information to criminals giving of weapons to criminals, concealing the identity of criminals and the violation of the professional ethics has become every day affairs within the security organizations and these behaviours are given perfunctory attention (Ekpenyong, 1999). The endemic corruption among security persons, especially the senior offices has led to the mortgaging of the generality of low ranking officers. The upsurge in the number of military and Police homicide has a close affiliation with corruption among the personnel. The military and other senior security persons give unprofessional advice to the junior personnel on how to carry out severely task. Some of causing disaster. It has been reported that in the theatre of war against boko haram, several senior military persons had given unprofessional command to junior officers, that prevented them from prevailing against the boko haram attacked the military, killing a significant number.

Substance abuse among the security agents could have led to homicide among security persons. The proliferation of drug and other related substances and their accessibility to agents has implications not only on them, but the generality of Nigerians. The perpetual dependence on drugs and other substance not for health benefits, but pleasure airing security agents has become source of worry to many social analyst. Beyond drugs, many security agents have notoriously become drinker whose dependence on alcohol has attained such a degree that they show noticeable mental disturbance, or an interference with their mental and bodily health, their interpersonal relations and their smooth social and economic functioning or who show the prodomal signs of such developments (World Health Organization, 1980 cited in Charlse, Ikoh, Iyamba & Charlse, 2005). Alcoholism is a chronic behavioural disorder manifested by undue preoccupation with alcohol to the detriment of physical, mental health and social condition.

The abuse of drug and developing alcoholic behaviour has been observed among security agents in Nigeria. The influence and alcohol could alter officer's behavioral pattern. Charles et al (2006)

pointed out that many times, security person under the influence of drugs or alcohol are in possession of weapons. In such a situation, any little provocation or disagreement from civilians or other security person could create a dangerous scenario that could claim lives. The danger of being in possession of weapon under the influence of drug by a security person are in two folds. First, the officer could killed any civilian at little provocation thereby creating mob action that could also led to his death. Second the officer could kill other security agents by fellow agents (Michael, et al, 2017).

Extra-judicial killings and other forms of victimization are associated with security agents' homicide. Every security organization has professional code of conduct. It is expected that every security agents exercise high level of professionalism, but behaviour of some of the security person is devoid of professionalism. In the discharge of duties, some security person exhibit unprofessional conduct, which often results in extra-judicial killing or bodily harm to citizens (Ojedokun, 2014). Chinwokwu and Michael (2018) acknowledged the upsurge in extra-judicial killings by security persons. Often the extra-judicial killings leads to violent confrontations between civilian and security agents.

Evidently, Nigeria is country with increase in unjustifiable killings by security agents. Security agents have been accused of victimization of innocent and law abiding citizens (Michael, et al, 2018). It is on the note that, Aremu (2009) maintained that security agents, especially the Police have been repeatedly accused of displaying high level of unprofessionalism, inhuman treatment of citizens, morally bankrupt and people who cannot be trusted. Although these negatives attributes of security agents is not only peculiar to Nigeria security organization as patches of these are seen in other countries like India (Subramanian, 2011), but the situation in Nigeria is quite revealing. The extra-judicial killings by security agents has inevitably results in violent

confrontation with the public which has culminated in the demise of some security agents in the hands of civilians in Nigeria.

Finally, the quest for position within the security organizations has led to the death of some security persons. Resources and other positions are scarce commodities in our society (Abolurin, 2011). The quest to assume position of authority has promoted conflict within some security organizations, thereby resulting in the killing of some security person. Some position command respect and bring economic fortune to the occupants. These are factors considered by some greedy security agents that compel them to mastermind the killing of colleagues. The quest to assume the available position could result in the killing of security agents by another.

Implication on crime management

The upsurge in security agents' homicide has enormous implications not only on crime management but the entire society. Crime management involve the use of different persons, equipment, facilities and techniques to ensure that crime is prevented and controlled. Crime management focused on crime prevention and control. Michael (2019) pointed out that crime prevention bothers on using persons, facilities and techniques to stop the crime from taking place. Crime control on the other hand involved employing personnel, facilities and mechanisms to ensure that the volume of crime is not allowed to increase geometrically. From crime management perspective, security homicide inevitably reduced the number of security person that would have contended with crime. As earlier observed by Aborisade (2016) and Iwarieame-Jaja (2016), Nigeria Security Organization does not have adequate man power and the reduction in the number of personnel via natural cause will hamper effective crime prevention and control.

Similarly, homicide among security agents, affects expertise skills and experience. The gruesome killing of an experienced and skillful officer with expertise has a significant implication on crime prevention and control. Once an experienced security officer is killed, the crime prevention and

control are effected in a short and long run. In resource deficient countries, the death of too many security persons, put pressure on the organization to recruit, and train other personnel on crime management modalities. In Nigeria, several billions have been allegedly deployed to train security persons to enable them fight against terrorists and bandits in the North-East of the country (Michael & Chinwokwu, 2020). Apart from the death of personnel, vital weapons are carried away by terrorists, bandits and other violent criminals. This will require substantial resources to acquire similar carted away weapons. In Nigeria, several weapons have been carted away by boko haram after killing the security persons (Chinwokwu & Michael, 2017).

Moreso, the killing of security persons results, in further killings. The situation of Odi in Bayelsa and Zaki Ibiam in Benue States respectively surface here. The gruesome killing of Police officers in Odi Bayelsa and Soldiers in Zaki Ibiam led to further fatality. This is because a reprisal attack was orchestrated and excercuted by the military, thereby killing many innocent Nigerians. The acts of the security personnel received international condemnation. This inevitably increased the volume of crime at that point in time. Finally, security agents' homicide instill fear on other security persons. Igwe (2016) asserted that the demise of Police and State Security Service personnel in Alayko village in Nasarawa State created panic, demoralized other security persons in the discharge of their duties.

Conclusion

The persistent and consistent increase in security agents' homicide has a serious implication on socio-economic, political and cultural development of our democracy. Apart from the fact that it depopulate the security organization, it reveal the unprofessionalism of security agents and the perception of the public about security agents. Similarly, it reveals a serious weakness on social control mechanism. More so, security homicide is capable demoralizing the security personnel thereby negatively affecting crime prevention and control. Again, the upsurge in security agents

homicide is capable of increasing the volume of violent crime, especially when security agents decides to carry out a reprisal attack on the public or the public decides to attack security agents. This inevitably cause psychological and social distress. Finally, security agents' homicide, especially if spearheaded by civilians could further batter the relation between the security agents and the public. This would go a long way in affecting the level at which the public provides important crime information to security agents. Thus it will affect intelligence-gathering and crime management.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are offered based on the findings of this paper.

- i. There is need for security organizations to ensure that officers are properly train on intelligence-gathering and the use of technological tools and other facilities required for intelligence-gathering should be provided for the personnel.
- ii. There should be a strong legislation mandating all security agencies to share intelligence information with others. This will go along to stem the side of security agents' homicide.
- iii. The government must not relent in its effort to provide essential facilities such as arms and ammunitions and other modern crime fighting equipment for security persons. This will inevitably improve security agents' efficiency and effectiveness in crime prevention and control and by implication reduce the casualties associated with security persons during crises.
- iv. The government should make funds available to security organizations, but beyond that, ensure the funds are judiciously utilized to achieve the objective of releasing the funds.

- v. The government through the security organization should ensure that the working conditions of security persons are improved. This can be achieved by introducing motivational incentives. This will encourage security agents to be more effective and efficient.
- vi. The porous borders linking Nigeria to other countries where small arms and light weapons are smuggled into Nigeria must be given adequate attention. There is need to embark on intensive border check of foreigners and Nigerians coming into the country.
- vii. The recruitment process should be more rigorous. While attempting to recruit, the background of those intending to join security organization must be properly checked and verified. This will reduce the possibility of recruiting criminals into any of the forces.
- viii. Over-zealous and security persons with attitudinal and behavioural problems should be properly re-socialized. This will prevent them from acting unprofessionally.
- ix. The endemic corruption within the security agencies must be properly addressed via adequate sanction of those engaged in corrupt acts.
- x. The “bad eggs” within the security agencies should not only be shown the way out but should be prosecuted accordingly to serve as deterrent to others
- xi. Security persons who exhibit high level of professionalism should be properly and adequately rewarded not only by the security agencies, but other spirited individuals as this will serve as motivation to other personnel and encourage others to become more professional in the discharge of their constitutional responsibilities.
- xii. There is need to encourage security agencies-community relations. This will foster mutual co-operation and reduce the level of distrust, hatred, suspicion and resentment that has been witnessed among them.

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