



Research Paper

Transnational Organised Crime as a Threat to National Security in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The incidence of crimes of different dimensions ravaging the global village with no end in sight has continued to dominate academic discourse particularly, in the recent times. In Nigeria, for instance, there is an increased incidence of insurgency and terrorism, kidnapping and abduction, ethnic and electoral violence, farmer-pastoralist crisis, and more recently, transnational organised crimes, among others. The study discusses transnational organised crime as a threat to National Security in Nigeria. It x-rayed its causes and impact, evaluated the state response and as well suggested the way forward. The paper adopted a content-analysis to review the extant but relevant literature as contained textbooks, journal articles, newspapers and archival materials and consequently, discovered that the incidence of organised crime is being fueled by several factors as; the inability of the security institutions to contain crimes, globalization, economic and social inequalities and the attendant poverty, differences in the workings of democratic institutions as executive, legislative and judicial branches, porous borders, among others. The paper however, further observed that the Nigerian governments (past and present) have put in place several measures to check and contain the incidence of organised crimes. These include; enactment of laws, institutionalizing agents of the state such as NAPTIP, NAFDAC, NDLEA, EFCC, among others. It concluded that organised crime has continued to constitute a clog in the wheel of development and as such portends great danger not only in Nigeria but across national boundaries of all independent nations of the world. Therefore and as the way forward, the paper maintains that there is need to strengthen security architecture, ensure synergy between and among various institutions created to fight crime, fortify regional and international cooperation, among others.

KEYWORDS: Crime, Transnational Organised Crime, and Security.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is geographically located in the West African sub-region and coincidentally too, a member state of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union, among many other international Organizations. Apart from the well-established fact that, Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa with a population of about of 200 million people, she is still the largest oil producing nation in the continental Africa as oil constitutes about 75% of her foreign exchange earnings (Adetula, 2015). A careful survey of the extant but relevant literature on this current work evinces the age long truism that crime and criminal activities have been occurring from time immemorial. For instance and looking in retrospect, it is observed that the regime of Roman Emperor Tiberius (14-37 AD) was characterized by such situation in which the rich and men in authority flagrantly disobeyed the laws and as well stole from the peasant and the general public consequently, criminal activities metamorphosed and as such, began to spread to other territories which not only constitute a threat to internal security but also affect the entire security architecture of international political system (Gyamfi, 2015).

In the contemporary world, organised crime has permeated if not infiltrated into many legitimate business activities through conspiracies such that those indulging in these crimes profit unimaginably. The huge proceeds often realized have tended to further promote the spread of these crimes. It must be emphasized that drug trafficking is the most profitable organised crime activity when compared with other known forms of

transnational crimes as there exists an overwhelming evidence of an increase in the use and abuse of drug substance across the globe (Yesilyurt, 2014; Gyamfi, 2015).

According to a professor of Criminal Justice, James Finckenauer, managing transnational crime has been so problematic and aggravated by such factors as cultural, economic, societal conditions and experiences prevalent in a country which tend to vary largely from those of other nations, different national orientation of laws and law enforcement systems, lack of the required synergy between and amongst countries of the world either bilaterally or multilaterally and the refusal on the part of some nations to accede to extradition request of some nations, inter alia hence, organised crime of worldwide dimension continues to pose very serious threat to the global peace and security.

It has been argued that organised crime is alien to Nigeria, most especially, prior to the third phase of the country's experimentation with democracy but the emergence of globalization that has reduced the universe into a global village has consequently worsened the incidence of organised crime in developing countries and Nigeria in particular (Odoma, 2019). The common forms of organised criminal activities in Nigeria according to him include; kidnapping, terrorism, politically motivated killings, armed robbery, militancy, official corruption, money laundering, etc.

The impact of organised crime can be observed in terms of increased crime rates across major cities in the world. Since more than half of the world's population lives in cities whereas, crime in cities is becoming a serious challenge to both urban and global security. On realizing that saving lives would mean ending crime, the UN system and its member states have placed very strong emphasis on the protection of lives across the globe, ironically however and notwithstanding this giant stride, civilians are still being killed due to crime-related violence. More worrisome, is the debacle on the part of some countries particularly, the developing nations to institutionalize effective strategies to curb this menace, hence, organised crimes have continued unabated (Kemp & Show, 2014).

The focus of this paper therefore, was to understand transnational organised crime and its dimension, identify reasons adduced for it, examine its impact on the Nigerian state, assess the state response, and finally, render an intellect-driven panacea to the menace.

Conceptual Clarification

Understanding Transnational Organised Crime

The term organised crime is a victim of definitional pluralism hence several groups now use it with caution due to the changing character of association of people involved in the criminal activities (Alemika, 2013). He noted further that organised crime can be likened to a non-ideological enterprise involving a group of persons in close social interaction and relations for the sole purpose of gaining profit, recognition and power by indulging in illegal activities. He added there is willingness to deploy violence or bribery to achieve ends.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2010) noted that there are at least two competing definitions on organised crime with the first focusing on particular groups of people while the other focuses on particular types of crime. While both perspectives have some authenticity yet, none of them satisfies the aspiration and global reality of what the term betokens. However, it is a criminal activity in which the people engaged in it are consistent across time, although what they do may change. For instance, at a time, it may be extortion, and at another, it may be drug trafficking. Here, the emphasis is on the group and not the nature of the crime being committed.

Organised crime is any serious offense committed by a group of people with the aim of making money. The UN Convention (2010) on transnational organised crime defines organised crime group as a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material and pecuniary benefits. In the same vein, the U.K Home Office (2011) conceptualized organised crime as donating crimes sponsored by individuals, in company with others, having the capacity and capability to commit serious crime on a continuous basis, control and coordination in such a way that it benefits those involved. It added the driving force is often, but not always, financial gain. This is because some types of organised crime, such as organised child sexual exploitation may have other motivations.

The US National Security Council (2011) rightly qualifies transnational organised crime as those self-perpetuating associations of individuals who operate trans-nationally for the purpose of obtaining power, influence, monetary and/or commercial gains wholly or in part via illegal means, while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of transnational commerce or communication mechanisms.

In a study with a title, "Organised Crime Index-Africa (2019) conducted by the trio of the Institute for Security Studies, INTERPOL and Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime, transnational organised is aptly captured to mean such illegal activities as well as engagements conducted by groups or networks acting through the instrumentality of violence, corruption related activities in order to obtain directly

or otherwise, a financial or material benefit. Such illicit activities may be carried out both within a country and internationally. From the foregoing, it is evidently clear that, transnational organised crime is that form of crime whose preoccupation is usually exploiting different illegal activities in order to generate income and as well, secure undue power and influence in their respective countries. This is true of most developing nations where premium is placed on materialism and where respect is earned by possessing enormous wealth. It is a form of crime whose sphere of influence transcends the territorial borders of a particular nation.

Dimensions of Transnational Organised Crime

In its March 2017 report, the Global Financial Integrity identifies the following as the dimensions or the various forms of transnational organised crime;

Drug Trafficking – This refers to the cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sales of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. It is an important aspect of the phenomenon of transnational organised crime and as such, no country is exempted from it. The activities of drug traffickers affect all countries that indulge in it, either as a processing or market country. In fact, it portends danger for the health of the abusers. Examples of drugs often abused include but not limited to amphetamine, cannabis, cocaine and opiates. It has been observed that drug trafficking is the most lucrative of all types of transnational organised crime as it yields about US\$426 to \$652 billion per annum.

Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons – Given all forms of illegal trading activities, the Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) has more damning effect on the global and regional security as it is often estimated as one of the most profitable illegal businesses. Arm trafficking is often taken to mean the transfer or receipt of small and light weapons, their parts, accessories and ammunition across the transnational borders. Small arms are weapons procured for individual use which include; revolvers and self-loading pistols, rifles and carbines, short guns, sub-machine guns, light machine guns, among others. It is estimated that this form of illicit dealings yields between US\$1.7 to \$3.5 billion on a yearly basis.

Human Trafficking – The body further notes that human trafficking is one of the fastest growing transnational crime markets and as, such, has the greatest direct consequences in individuals and the entire global village. It is principally motivated by profit making. It has increased the spread of sexually transmitted terminal diseases. ILO estimates that human trafficking, being an extremely profitable business, generates US\$50.2 billion in profits every year.

Illegal organ trade- This is another worrisome form of organised crime that involves the movement either by oneself or aided by some individuals with the intention to extract certain organs of the body in exchange for money. Desperation and greed are the driving force for this illegal organ trade. For instance, the recipient and the seller are desperate in that, the former is usually in between life and death and hence he/she needs a replacement while the latter might be eager to settle a debt or wants to break the vicious circle of poverty. It is worth noting that this dimension of crime generates approximately US\$840 million to \$1.7 billion annually.

The illicit trade in cultural property - This seems to be more impactful than it appears as stakeholders have not given it the required attention. In fact, it covers a wide range of activities ranging from the theft of artwork from museums and the illicit excavation and looting of archaeological sites to the trafficking of cultural property during armed conflicts and the use of forged documentation in order to enable their import and export as well as transfers in ownership. It is instructive and worth noting that the greater demand for this crime comes from the developed countries. The global annual revenue generated from the illicit trade is estimated at approximately US\$1 billion & 1.6 billion.

Counterfeit and Pirated Goods - This involves the theft of intellectual property counterfeit and pirated products as well as packaging and tangible goods that violate a trademark design rights and / or patent (counterfeit) or a copyright (piracy), where digital piracy involves intangible goods. This theft is found almost in every country. The counterfeit and pirated goods market is largely responsive to the same dynamics of the trade in legal goods. The global trade in pirated goods is estimated to generate between US\$1.13 trillion on a yearly basis.

Illegal Wildlife Trade- This means crime committed in relation to wildlife products or their derivatives both flora and fauna. The illegal wildlife trade is more complex involving a multitude of species and variety of markets and drivers. Wildlife illegal trade has had a disastrous impact on species conservation. However, high prices coupled with low enforcement risk have lured many people into this form of organised crime in order to satisfy and profit from a growing demand. Global estimates place the annual value of the illegal wildlife trade between US\$5 billion and \$23 billion.

Other forms include; illegal unreported and unregulated fishing that generates between US\$15.5 billion to \$36.4 billion annually, illegal logging whose annual value is estimated at US\$52 to \$157 billion, illegal mining which is estimated to generate between US\$12 to \$48 billion annually and oil theft that is estimated to generate between at least US\$5.2 to 11.9 billion per year, among others.

National Security

Security is an integral aspect of human life. Despite the age long fact that, we all have a sense of responsibility to be security-conscious, and security, being a household concept yet, the term has tended not to be amenable to any precise definition thus, this informed the submission of Barry Buzan who declared that security is an “underdeveloped concept” that is in dire need of scholarly rehabilitation and this, he noted, has never been in a proper working order. Buzan further sees security as an ambiguous and multidimensional concept in which the military factor has attracted disproportionate attention (Imobighe, 2010). John Garnett once observed that peace and security are terms with no precise definition. According to him, peace, in the words of some people, is the absence of warring situation. It is marked by the absence of organised military violence between states, while to others; it implies the absence of all conflicting situations, a panacea by means of which, all human antagonisms are resolved

Security is a situation in which people are secure from any danger. It means protection against any form of danger or harmful activities and events (Otto & Ukpere, 2012). It signifies absence of threatening circumstances that can put the peaceful living of a people into question or perpetual danger.

National security as captured by Orwa (1984) is taken to mean securing and protecting a nation’s national interests, national values, national assets, political and economic ways of life such that it is free from both threat of any dimension whether internally or externally. Similarly, Tyomlia (2018) noted that national security is closely related to the maintenance and preservation of the borders of a state including the power to maintain a government’s sovereignty within its territory as well as the avoidance of conflicts and the preservation of the lives of people in a society.

National security is the protection and preservation of minimum core values of any independent country. It is defending the integrity of a country’s national territory as well as its institutions such that human lives and their property are fully protected (Johnson, 2015).

Theoretical Extrapolation

This paper considers Leakage Theory. This theory, according to Johnson (2015), was pioneered by Rosenau (1969) and was revisited in 1973. The author maintains that the relative instability or stability in a country is a function of not only the socio-economic and political conditions prevalent in such a country, but closely associated with such occurrences at the international level. He noted further that, since technology brings the world closer together into a global village in such a way that the nation-states have become so interdependent and interconnected than ever before, it follows logically that leakage theory then becomes an influential theoretical framework for ensuring a better understanding of the rationale behind the spread of crime from one nation to those of others. In fact, it is such that no country is spared of the stress and strain of violent conflicts (Johnson, 2015).

The relevance of this theory further lies in the fact that, it has offered and continues to offer an essential insight into the obvious interconnectedness of events occurring in both domestic and international environments. This means that events in one nation usually have consequences in another or at best determine the outcome and direction of events in other countries. Indeed, transnational organised crime has become global and continues to be of universal concern due to the fact that, various forms of illicit crimes such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, oil theft, illegal mining, among others, are prevalent in some countries and with little or no stiff penalty on the one hand, while those engaging in these crimes are becoming fabulously rich on the other hand hence, the rapid spread of these illegitimate activities.

Reasons Adduced For Transnational Organised Crime in Nigeria

A number of factors have been identified as reasons or factors encouraging the spread of transnational organised crime. However, the following according to Stoica (2016) are some of such factors promoting transnational organised crime:

The economic and social inequalities that have characterized the last two decades have encouraged the phenomenon called transnational organised crime in Nigeria. It is instructive to note that while social inequality is more pervasive particularly, in the developing countries, however some advanced countries are also not exempted of this social imbalance as the menace of organised crime transcends the national borders. Due to the horrendous economic conditions, many Nigerian suffer from decayed infrastructure, equal access to medical care, qualitative education, portable water and sanitation. Suffice to say therefore, is that, drug trafficking, politically motivated killings, hostage taking, kidnapping and other socially motivated vices which have become the underlining characteristics of many African countries Nigeria inclusive can be likened to poverty occasioned by bad governance (Odoma, 2019).

Uncontrolled demographic boom that characterizes many developing nations is another important factor promoting the phenomenon. In many underdeveloped nations, a small group of the entire population controls the means to create and recreate wealth in the society while majority are often economically and socially alienated. This economic alienation of certain categories of people makes them easily susceptible to and consequently, engage in crimes of not only local but also global dimension (Stoica, 2016).

Differences in the workings of democratic institutions such as the executive, legislative and judicial branches coupled with weak correctional institutions put in place to fight crimes also promote transnational organised crime. In fact, a lot of these crimes are caused by the existence of some difference between the national legislations regarding the fiscal regime for some goods. Equally, the commercial barrier unilaterally imposed by developed states facilitates illicit smuggling activities. However, harmonization of states' legislations regarding trading activities can help reduce the level of these crimes (Stoica, 2016).

Globalisation is another factor promoting transnational organised crime. The liberation of markets coupled with free flow of capital and persons have created and indeed increased the inclination for criminals to perpetrate their evil acts in order to raise or generate profit. It is pertinent to add that, globalization has increased the criminal activities across globe as increase in drug peddling, human trafficking, insurgency and terrorism, among others, have been alluded to globalization. Fernando and Carlos (n.d.) have observed that the globalization of information through mass media, which allows the immediate presentation to the whole world of well-being enjoyed in developed countries, the parallel appearance of a multiplicity of regional conflicts, and the progress made in transportation, have led to an important increase in immigration flows and the gradual creation of ethnic networks throughout the globe.

Similarly, transnational organised crime is a direct consequence of attitudes and practices of some people who find it difficult to comport themselves within the ambit or purview of the extant social codes meant to govern social relationships in society. In essence, the existence of counter-cultural activities being perpetrated by some individuals without reprimand from the society promotes this phenomenon.

Corruption is another factor blamed for the increasing rate of transnational organised crime in Nigeria. The rate at which the menace permeates into the various departments of government remains a source of worry to all stakeholders. The various transnational criminal groups according to Ahmed (2017) usually bribe the state officials such as police and the judicial officials. Worse still, these criminal elements often donate handsomely to the political class especially during the electioneering period and on getting to the leadership position, the latter are usually unwilling to punish the former. Hence, the crime continues unabated.

Unemployment also fuels the increasing rate of transnational organised crime. To say the least, many people are unemployed while a host of others are underemployed and eventually live in abject poverty. This consequently makes them vulnerable to crime particularly organised crime and the proceeds there from could be used to settle their debt and other basic necessities (Ahmed, 2017).

Appraising the Impact of Transnational Organised Crime in Nigeria

Transnational organised crime has had very mindboggling effect not only on the nations indulging in its various forms but also affects the entire global system. At the twilight of cold war and the attendant globalization, organised crime has moved from the margins to the mainstream growing in size and reaching macroeconomic proportions. It has indeed widened in geographic scope and as such, it has spread and perhaps continues to spread across the globe (Kemp & Show, 2014).

Criminal groups are penetrating new markets, diversifying their product range, innovating to take advantage of new technologies and opportunities, and quickly adapting to reduce risks and increase profits. Unlike in the distant past where criminal groups concealed their criminal activities, but today, they directly confront states (Kemp & Show, 2014). Corroborating the foregoing, Mao Tsetung once noted that, modern criminals "move amongst the people just as fish swims in the sea." Organised crime is no longer a mere menace to a few neighborhoods; it has indeed become a strategic threat to states and the international system as a whole.

Organised crime undermines the sovereignty of Nigerian state. States, as observed by Fernando and Carlos, are separated by frontiers, which not only divide up territories but also mark out different legal systems, levels of economic development and political cultures. In fact, as they go about their illegal businesses, the criminal organizations often ignore the sovereignty of states and more often than not disrespect border rules and regulations. Since their plans for expansion are not concerned with the idea of national jurisdiction but on the flow of trustworthy people and goods which earn them incomes. Corroborating the above, Stoica (2016) averred that transnational organised crime affects the ways in which institutions and democratic processes function. Explaining further, he added the states with fragile governance institutions are worse hit while it creates avenue for the vulnerability for the states with powerful institutions.

Available data reveal that transnational social networks have serious negative impacts especially on the very national security of Nigeria. Nigerian political leaders and government officials as well as the country's law enforcers have often blamed the migrants from other nations for encouraging various crimes particularly,

transnational organised crime. For instance, it has been reported that criminal activities have, at different times, been attributed to the uncontrolled movement of labour from the neighbouring countries such as Niger, Cameroon, Somalia, Benin Republic, among others. Similarly, it is reported that in parts of Oyo and Osun States, migrants have been involved in illegal mining of solid minerals just as migrants from Guinea, Mali and Senegal are reportedly engaged in illicit businesses in some parts of North Central Region of Nigeria notably, Plateau, Nassarawa and Taraba states (Adetula, 2015).

Money laundering, an offshoot of transnational organised crime, has continued to weaken the financial and industrial strength of countries indulging in it. It has indeed undermined the fiscal systems and ultimately, the economies of the affected nations (Wakama, n.d.). It is the habit of some Nigerian political class, having enriched themselves corruptively cart away their ill-gotten wealth and launder same overseas. The implication of this act therefore is that, the money that was supposed to be deployed for the execution of developmental projects in their country is now being used to further develop advanced nations where this wealth is often kept, hence the experience of infrastructural deficit in states whose wealth is laundered.

Again, arms smuggling equally has serious security implication for Nigeria. It is pertinent to note that ungoverned arms smuggling is already rearing its ugly head in the country. In fact, various groups as found in Nigeria are now heavily armed. This is made possible due to the debacle of the government and its law enforcement agents to contain and effectively control arms struggle (Wakama, n.d.). It is also a possibility that one out of ten Nigerians has access to arms which he can use to cause serious bodily harm if not killing, at any slightest provocation. Unless and until this is curbed, all efforts at ensuring peaceful living and a crime-free Nigerian state might be a utopia. To this end, there is need for political will to deal decisively with the menace of arms smuggle.

Transnational Organised Crime and Nigeria's Response: An Appraisal

Countries of the world have continued to employ several measures to mitigate organised crime. This ranges from employment of legal frameworks at both regional and continental levels in order to enhance their capacity to control organised crime within their borders. In fact, laws have been enacted to ensure destruction of intercepted drugs and to effect arrest. Also, punishment of offenders has been employed in the fight against transnational organised crime. The above is emphasized by foreign governments and international organizations and has consequently been adopted by all peace loving nations of the world including, Nigeria (Alemika, 2013).

Such legal instruments being used to fight organised crime according to Alemika (2013) include; The United Nations (UN) Convention against Organised Crime, UN Convention against Corruption, The African Union (AU) Convention against Corruption, the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight against Corruption, the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, The ECOWAS Protocol on Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security, The Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, The West African Police Chiefs Committee (WAPCCO), West African Coastal Initiative (WACI), West Africa Commission on Drugs (WACD), The West African Bureau of the International Criminal Matters, The ECOWAS Convention on Extradition, African Peace and Security Infrastructure (APSI) among other stringent measures.

The Nigerian governments have created different agencies to deal with different aspects of crime. These include; National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) dealing with human trafficking, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) dealing with finance-related crimes including money laundering and cyber criminal activities, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) dealing with drug production and trafficking, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) dealing with counterfeit drugs, among others (Omitola & Fakoya, 2016).

Transnational Organised Crime and Nigerian National Security Architecture: Examining the Challenge

The governments of Nigeria (past and present) have responded and still continue to respond to the disturbing incidence of crimes in the country. Regrettably, crime of different dimensions still wrecks its havoc on the nation. The security architecture of Nigeria, involving both the institutions and the enacted laws combined have been unable to stamp out the multidimensional crimes ravaging the country due to some challenges. One of these challenges according to Alemika (2013) is the endemic corruption. Apart from the confirmed report of corruption on some political office holders, it has been reported that some high profiled military officers divert money meant for training and retraining of men of the Nigerian Army on the one hand, and money earned as allowances of the officers sent on special duty, on the other hand. This situation not only lowers the morale of these officers but indeed affects the nation's overall performance at containing crimes.

Poor funding of Nigeria's security institutions is another identified challenge that frustrates the country's effort aimed at containing the transnational organised crime. Nigeria's armed forces are poorly funded compared to their counterparts in the advanced. Most of their military artilleries are not only old-fashioned but grossly inadequate. It is very sad to note that the fight against Boko Haram terrorists has been launched since the

2009 with little or no success. This is born out of the lack of modern military hardware and software (Alemika, 2013).

It has been observed that there exists lack of coordination and synergy with respect to the activities of the various institutions of state as NAPTIP, NAFDAC, EFCC, e.t.c. set up to fight organised crimes as each of these institutions always prefer taking the glory or success recorded in the discharge of their activities. Lack of adequate security for judicial officers is another challenge. It has also been reported that absence of adequate security for judges affects the performance of the judicial officers and the quality of justice being delivered.

The use and involvement of military in internal security is another challenge. The Nigeria Armed Forces namely; the Army, Navy and Air Force, have, in the recent times, been deployed to help in the maintenance of internal security and rather than improving the worsening security in the country, they have indeed aggravated it through unprofessional conduct. They have, on many occasions, targeted the civilian populace which ordinarily speaking, are supposed to be protected (Joshua, Gberevbie & Onor, 2020).

Strengthening National Security Architecture in Nigeria: Pathway to Mitigating the Challenge of Transnational Organised Crime

In the words of Wakama (n.d.), there is no nation that is completely exonerated from the activities of organised criminals or justice system that can effectively guarantee control transnational organised crime, not even the developed nations. The only difference is that its impact varies from one country to the other. Instructive to note therefore, is that, the experimentation with democracy in Nigeria has empowered and conferred on the legislature law making functions while the civil society groups act as watchdog to the legislative body and governmental activities generally. The Nigerian legislative arm is a two-chambered institution known as the National Assembly (NASS), i.e. Senate and House of Representatives. The Nigerian legislature exercises control with respect to the national security right from decision making to the actual implementation. This is because the Constitution of Nigeria confers, on the National Assembly, oversight functions. National security policymakers work with key officers and appropriate committees of both chambers, especially in cases where secrecy is necessary (Wakama, n.d.).

The oversight functions which the constitution grants the National Assembly to monitor the activities the ministries, departments and agencies of government that are concerned with the security architecture of Nigeria, namely; ministries of defense, interior, finance, commissions, office of National Security Adviser, among others, is highly commendable. Various standing committees are being set up separately, individually and jointly by the nation's National Assembly to work with the Executive on matters bordering on security challenges, however, these challenges still ravage the Nigerian state, thus, this paper suggests the need to strengthen the nation's security architecture for effective performance.

Furthermore, there is need to ensure synergy and unity of command between and among the various institutions and agency of government that have been set up to mitigate the incidence of crime in the country while all existing laws be harmonized with a view to achieving common goal which in this instance, is the containment of crimes.

While the paper further notes that, security challenges are not peculiar to Nigeria however, the tardy nature of the country's law worsens the security situation in the country. Indeed, the justice system of Nigeria encourages delay in judgment delivery. Therefore, there is need for the law to be applied without due consideration for whose ox is gored.

II. RECOMMENDATION

The paper suggested the following as way forward;

*There is need to ensure cooperation and harmonization of the activities of various institutions put in place to fight crimes as this will help achieve better result.

*There is need for the establishment of a special court to hasten the trial of persons accused of aiding and abetting transnational organised crimes. A special court will not only ensure quick trial and judgment delivery but will also forestall continuity in transnational organised crimes.

*That, particular attention should be geared toward understanding the dimensions, actors and factors that encourage transnational organised crimes in Nigeria. This should be achieved by encouraging further research fully funded by the governments and that the findings of which be made available to all nations of the world.

*That, the current regional and global cooperation is highly commendable, and that such be sustained and should be done with the sincerity of purpose such that all hands are deck to check and possibly contain the menace of organised crime.

*That, the Nigerian government should declare emergency on unemployment which this study pinpoints as an important factor promoting organised crime. That, employment opportunities be provided for the teeming but underemployed or at best, unemployed citizens.

III. CONCLUSION

Transnational organised crime is a threat that is increasingly threatening the national security of Nigeria. Whereas, every effort at achieving a crime free Nigeria has been thwarted by several factors. However, the incidence of organised crimes is yet to be contained in any part of the world as organised crime remains a threat and perhaps continues to constitute a great danger to the economic prosperity, political development and stability of any country that indulges in it. This is because organised crimes have transcended national borders in the sense that it has constituted the cynosure of all stakeholders most especially scholars with keen interest in crimes and how lasting solutions would be proffered to the menace. The paper observed that incidence of organised is stimulated by such factors as; differences in the workings of democratic institutions, lack of the requisite synergy and cooperation between various institutions of the state, globalization, unemployment, greed, lack of or inadequate punitive measures for the accused, among others. Therefore, organised crime can be likened to a virulent cancer that requires all hands on deck for its containment.

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