



The Untold Story Of Ezu River Police SARS Killings

Inside Anambra's Theatre Of Butchery Where SARS Send The Good And The Bad To Early Graves Outside The Law

-Intersociety's Special Investigation Report And Recommended Solutions.

(Intersociety Nigeria: 20th July 2017)-The greatest challenge facing the criminal justice administration in Nigeria especially in the areas of criminal investigation and prosecution management is the use or application of wrong methods, or processes and procedures of the Stone Age. Despite the fact that processes and procedures for criminal investigation and prosecution have gone scientific and been digitalized and mentally and forensically upgraded across the globe, the managers of Nigerian criminal justice administration including processors or investigators of criminal suspects have remained gravely backward, crude, stagnant, unmoved and unchanged. It must be stated clearly that *the entry gate into Nigeria's criminal justice including investigation and prosecution* is the Nigeria Police Force.

Today, Nigeria is one of the leading countries in the world that still uses the crudest forms of criminal interrogation and investigation in the procession and prosecution of its criminal suspects. Nigeria's criminal investigation and prosecution managers also recklessly resort to or make reckless use of *criminal labelling or trumped up charges, and stigmatization* as well as *prosecutorial vindictiveness*; whereby citizens are criminally labelled or slammed with bogus charges that are in no way near suspected offenses they were caught committing or about to commit leading to their arrest, detention, torture and grossly belated court arraignment; if survived from custodial torture.

Corruption, racial profiling (i.e. discrimination against an ethnic or racial group based on the presumption that all members of the group share criminal traits or tendencies), selective enforcement (i.e. arbitrary punishment of certain individuals or groups for legal violations or crimes, rather than the equal punishment of all known offenders); and commercialization of criminal justice and investigations also fuel policing intelligence and investigation incompetence and incapacitation in Nigeria; likewise crudity and stagnancy of the entire criminal justice system and administration in the country. Bail bribery and "mobilization" of criminal field investigators by "complainants" (whether their complaints are genuine or ill-conceived/ill-motivated) are also on rampage in Nigeria. When complained, he or she who "mobilizes" matter whether he or she is the suspect or the complainant automatically influences the criminal investigation outcome or report.

The clear case in point is where citizens are unlawfully arrested on their way home from work or journey or in connection with civil debts or lawfully arrested for stealing or when they are about to steal or for involvement in common assault/affray; instead of charging them accordingly if in the eyes of the law, they have committed any of the said offenses; their captors turn around and charge them for "armed robbery" or "attempted murder" or "kidnapping", among other phantom offences that attract capital punishments on judicial conviction; on the ground of their refusal or inability to offer huge amounts of money as "bail fees"..

Because sufficient pieces of triable and convictable evidence that can sustain such bogus charges in court are nonexistent or very difficult to come by, such citizens find themselves detained and tortured for several months before being arraigned in magistrate courts (if survived from torture) lacking jurisdiction for those bogus capital offence charges and subsequently remanded in prison custody to swell the rank or number of awaiting trial inmates in Nigeria.

In some, if not in many cases, such citizens die in custody while being tortured by their captors especially Police SARS operatives. These also explain why police prosecutors and lawyers lose 65% or more of their criminal prosecutions due to watery and improper criminal investigations and their reports. Owing to rampancy of these losses in the prosecution of criminal suspects in court particularly those arrested for offenses carrying capital and multi-year imprisonments, such suspects when freed judicially become more menacing and *repeat offenders or returned violent crime offenders*.

There is also grave misuse, misapplication and mislabelling of the offenses of murder, attempted murder, kidnapping (abduction) and armed robbery in Nigeria. These categories of crime are commonly called or referred to as *traditional or non political capital offenses or street capital offence crimes*. There is also grave misuse, misapplication and mislabelling of *political capital offenses of treason, treasonable felony and terrorism and terrorism financing*; and non capital offenses of corruption particularly by the present central Government in Nigeria now headed in acting capacity by Professor Yemi Osinbajo; a professor of law and Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Through the said State actor grave misuse and misapplication (criminal labelling) of the named “first class” offenses, thousands of citizens are recklessly or indiscriminately accused, arrested, detained and tortured on daily basis; leading to either their death in custody or several months in detention without trial or administrative bail. It is credibly estimated that at least 250 Nigerians die in police custody every month and that since June 2015; a period of two years today, at least 5000 arrested and detained citizens have died in police custody across the country. Their death largely originates from criminal executions/killings and torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment while in custody.

Atrociously too, through the *four traditional capital offenses especially those of armed robbery and kidnapping*; combatively and investigatively managed by the Nigeria Police Force particularly its Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) and Federal/State Criminal Investigations Departments (F/SCIDs), thousands of Nigerians are annually sent to their untimely graves outside the law or through torture, extra judicial, summary and arbitrary executions. That is to say that citizens circumstantially and prejudicially comprised of *the bad, the ugly and the good* who are all constitutionally and prejudicially presumed innocent are routinely arrested, detained incommunicado, tortured to death or shot and killed in custody after being criminally labelled, without court trial and conviction, of being “armed robbers” or “kidnappers”.

It must be clearly stated that the authorities and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force are not alone in these *unlicensed butcheries*. As a matter of fact, the unlicensed butcheries are structurally and politically aided, condoned and abetted by Nigeria’s criminal justice administrators and political office holders or serving political class.

Till date, these core stakeholders in the country's criminal justice system including States' Attorneys General, the Attorney General of the Federation, the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force under the IGP, the Governors and the State Assemblies and the Presidency and the National Assemblies have failed woefully to upgrade and digitalize processes and procedures of criminal investigation and prosecution as well as putting in place or institutionalizing proactive, preventive and intelligence policing in Nigeria and its component units or States.

Apart from merely passing laws making offenses of kidnapping, armed robbery and terrorism a capital offense, no efforts or concrete steps have been taken till date towards revolutionizing or making *criminal investigation and prosecution* as well as *proactive, preventive and intelligence policing* in Nigeria and its components units or States scientifically revolutionized or mentally rationalized and ICT driven.

In all the criminal and unconstitutional processes and procedures raised above leading to *Police SARS unlicensed butcheries* in Nigeria, Anambra State through the atrocious conducts of its Police SARS appears to be the worst hit. As we write, citizens arrested and detained by SARS and accused of "armed robbery" and "kidnapping" are all being gravely tortured with some, if not many dying in Police SARS custodies at Awkuzu (main custody) and its Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi (Central Police Stations) as well as Nneni, Okpoko, Ekwulobia, Ihiala, Umuchukwu and Ogidi annexes of the murderous police unit. These deaths result from varying torture methods including newly introduced "dry starvation" or total denial of water and food for weeks and *perfect torture* (*ensuring* no visible marks of torture in the bodies of its detained citizens but internally inflicted injuries including internal bleedings and blood seizure leading to death).

- *Reasons for this Special Investigation Report:*

The issuance of the special report of ours by revisiting the Ezu River Police SARS killings of 19th January 2013 which we thoroughly investigated; follows increasing, shocking, saddening and alarming rate of torturing and killing of some, if not many of the arrested and detained citizens by the Anambra Police SARS operatives in the course of their so called "combating of violent crimes of armed robbery and kidnapping in the State".

Instead of drastic reduction in the number of deaths and torture, Anambra Police SARS operatives have become deadlier and more menacing; consolidating and concretizing their atrocious practices of custodial torture and killing through their theatre of butchery. The amount of torture and killing going on at Anambra Police SARS headquarters at Awkuzu and its annexes or unit locations in the State has risen to an apogee.

It is recalled that between 25 and 40 dead bodies or more were shockingly found floating on Ezu River located at Amansea part of Awka, the capital city of Anambra State in the early morning of 19th January 2013. The villagers who first saw the corpses raised a public alarm which instantly caught the attention of the world including the then Federal Government of Nigeria and the Government of Anambra State as well as concerned non State actors such as our organization (**Int'l Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law**), Amnesty International, UK and US based Human Rights Watch.

It is still on record, till date, that we are the only human rights organization that did a comprehensive *open-source* or non forensic science investigation into the Ezu River saga. We had in our report, titled: **the Return of Anambra Killing Fields (1, 2 and 3)**, issued in January and February 2013 strongly indicted the Anambra Police SARS operatives of sole responsibility for the torture, killing and dumping of the slain corpses inside the Ezu River.

Therefore, our *first* reason for issuing this special report is to draw the attention and alert the entire world particularly the United Nations and its Human Rights Council, Amnesty Int'l, Human Rights Watch, World Organization Against Torture, and other rights groups and research bodies and institutions as well as the generality of Nigerians over the raging and untamed unlicensed butcheries and cruel and degrading treatments perpetrated by Anambra Police SARS operatives against detained citizens in their custodies; practices now being perpetrated with impunity or reckless abandon.

This special report of ours is also issued for the purpose of launching local, regional and international campaigns and mounting of extensive pressures on Nigeria's governing and criminal justice authorities to put an end to the Stone Age practices and bring the country's criminal justice especially criminal investigation and prosecution management into conformity with international best practices including ICT compliance and local and international human rights standards.

Our *second* reason for issuing this special report is to put the records straight as it concerns what actually transpired at Ezu River in the late night/early morning of 18th/19th January 2013. This is with respect to: *who killed and dumped over 40 slain bodies inside the River, what killed them and what are the identities and native/social backgrounds of those killed.*

This is to caution some groups and persons including some serving political office holders in Anambra State and their socio-political antagonist and protagonist camps who with little or no investigative insight into the Ezu River butchery go about with reckless abandon playing politics with the dead and surviving (tortured) victims of the unlicensed butchery by way of proxy or direct politicization, propaganda and campaign of calumny; instead of stepping up efforts to end such unlicensed butchery by Anambra Police SARS and ensure that those responsible for them are brought to justice and their dead and surviving victims adequately appeased and compensated.

Instead of transforming the Anambra Police SARS and its operatives into a state-of-art modern violent crimes control or processing outfit and human rights, mental and ICT driven; using their enormous political contacts, available public funds and constitutionally provided title of "chief security officers of their State", etc; these serving political office holders and their public relations handlers have resorted to playing to the gallery by mocking the dead and facilitating, aiding and abetting more torture and killings by the murderous Anambra Police SARS outfit.

Our *third* reason for issuing this special report is to technically or expertly expose and educate Nigeria's core stakeholders in criminal justice system and administration especially those manning criminal investigation and prosecution in the country including Anambra State. This special report apart from strongly calling for an end to and prohibition of the unlicensed butcheries and torture under complaint; also importantly provide technical or expert tips or modern ways of criminal investigation and prosecution all clothed with modern science of crime and ICT powered crime investigation and interrogation.

These methods are majorly composed of effective and efficient modern techniques for investigative interrogation and criminalistics and ICT powered toolkits for criminal investigation. The technical aids so availed are geared towards avoiding *critique without solution or way-out approaches or attitudes in nowadays Nigeria's social and rights advocacy campaigns.* Provided at the end of this special investigation report are ***fourteen expert recommendations***; which if judiciously implemented by Nigeria's criminal justice administrators and public office holders will put an end to the unlicensed policing torture and custodial butcheries in Nigeria or any part thereof particularly Anambra State.

- *Turning Anambra State into Theatre of Butchery:*

Anambra State of Nigeria has continued to earn local and international notoriety as a leading State in Nigeria with the highest number of deaths and *wounding/assault occasioning grievous bodily harms*, or torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; all perpetrated by its Police SARS against citizens that are non-violently arrested and taken into its custody on crooked or genuine accusation of involvement in violent crimes particularly those of kidnapping and armed robbery. A journey to Anambra Police SARS is a journey into tunnel of death or path of no return. Scores, if not hundreds of citizens have also fallen victim to Anambra Police SARS enforced disappearance (i.e. arresting citizens and taking them away without giving official accounts of their whereabouts or possible death in custody till date).

Anambra Police SARS operatives have been severally reported locally, regionally and internationally in the media and research documents and reports of *arresting members of the public at will and killing them in custody at will*. Shockingly, in spite of these well researched and documented reports, the authorities of the Nigeria Police Force at the Force Headquarters in Abuja and their subordinates at Umuahia Zonal and Awka State Commands have all turned blind eyes and continuously aided and abetted same.

As a matter of fact, these unlicensed butcheries have been escalated, exported and adopted as *acceptable modus operandi* by other Police SARS formations across Nigeria. In Anambra State, these atrocious and crude methods have been christened “Nwafor Formula” or “Nwafor modus operandi”; just as human rights groups and activists are commonly referred among Anambra SARS operatives as “petition writers for armed robbers, kidnappers and terrorists”.

The Anambra Police SARS unlicensed butcheries date back to “operation Mkpochapu” or operation sweep of late 1990s during Nigeria’s military’s inglorious epoch. The unlicensed butcheries and torture continued and escalated in 2000s after the return of civil rule in Nigeria. The unlicensed butcheries continued to be used as *modus operandi and shrouded in secrecy* until November 2004 when the identities of 20 of the detainees who were brought out of their cells and shot dead at the then SARS headquarters located at Awka Central Police Station (CPS) were exposed courtesy of Comrade Ifeanyi Onuchukwu of the Humane Justice Int’l, Nnewi.

Since then till date, the killing and torturing of custodial detainees by Anambra Police SARS operatives have continued and reached maddening, untamed and alarming proportions. Even after the Ezu River saga of 19th January 2013, Anambra Police SARS killings and torture have intensified and remained untamed till date.

The acts of torture and custodial, arbitrary, summary and extra judicial killings especially by Anambra Police SARS operatives have been so entrenched and intensified to the extent that the perpetrator police personnel especially SARS operatives know nothing in policing duties except killing at will or with reckless abandon; with those citizens who can afford huge amount of money as bribe being the lucky ones or survivors. Among various police formations in Nigeria including Anambra State, torture has become so official that there exists “OC/Torture” or “Officers in charge of torture” in most of the country’s 6651 Police formations.

- *Technical Section (1)*

By *extra judicial executions*, they are defined as unlawful and deliberate killings carried out by policing agents by order of a government or with its complicity or acquiescence. By *unlawful killings*, they involve killings resulting from excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, which violate right to life guaranteed by Nigeria's 1999 Constitution (S.33), the Int'l Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (Article 6.1) and the African Charter on Human & People's Rights (Article 4) ratified and domesticated by Nigeria on 17th March 1983.

By *enforced disappearance(s)*, it is a situation where a person or persons are arrested, detained, abducted or otherwise deprived of liberty by the authorities or their agents, or people acting with their authorization, support or acquiescence, but the authorities do not acknowledge this or conceal the abducted persons' fate or whereabouts, placing them outside the protection of the law. These are provided in the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed and ratified by Nigeria on 27th July 2009.

By *summary or arbitrary executions*, they are executions in which persons are accused of a crime or crimes and immediately killed without benefit of a full and fair trial. By *torture*, it is any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

By global criminal and human rights law standards including Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and criminal laws, a *criminal* is anybody that has attained 18yrs of age who violates the criminal laws of a country or a defined political territory such as Nigeria, whether accused of breaching *mala prohibita* (crimes specifically defined so by specific country's legislation such as cyber crime or pick pocket, tipping or extortion or bribery) or *mala in se* (crimes with universal uniformity and application such as armed robbery, asportation (abduction/hostage) or murder); and adjudges by a competent criminal court after going through due processes of arrest, investigation, prosecution, fair trial, conviction and sentencing. A child usually under 12 years, who is in conflict with the criminal law, is regarded by same as a *delinquent* and treated so under juvenile delinquency law.

In other words, any citizen arrested non-violently and taken into Police SARS custody and get killed by torture or starvation or any prejudicial or extra judicial means clearly amounts to a victim of extra judicial, arbitrary or summary execution/killing and torture; while unarmed and nonviolent citizens killed at the point of their arrest amount to victims of unlawful killings. Those arrested or abducted and taken to undisclosed locations with their whereabouts unknown to their families and lawyers are victims of enforced disappearances.

Under Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, any person arrested and taken into police or policing custody on accusation of crime of whatever gravity is presumed innocent until found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction. This is contained in Section 36 (5) of the Constitution. Citizens arrested and detained in police SARS custody are also exempted from torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. This is contained in Section 34 (1) (a) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution.

Therefore, all forms of killings and maiming contrary to or in gross breaches of the above local and international due processes and laws are expressly referred as *extra jus* (beyond the law), *extra legal* (beyond what the written criminal law provides) and *extra judicial* (beyond court or judicial pronouncement or verdict). That is to say that any killing of human being by a State actor or official security operative, official or officer without the completeness of subjecting the slain citizen to the processes of *arrest, investigation, prosecution, fair trial, conviction and sentencing* by a criminal court of competent jurisdiction inexcusably amounts to *extra jus, extra legal and extra judicial killing*.

Any such killing by a private individual amounts to *murder or manslaughter* depending on the gravity of guilty mind or mens rea and other prevailing circumstances. *Corporate bodies or bodies corporate* through their incorporated trustees or principal officers; that facilitate the murder of individual citizens are criminally held to account for offense of *manslaughter*. In the area of torture, which can be physical or mental, torturers whether State-actors or non-State actors are legally culpable and if convicted, they face same punishment according to jurisdictions.

By Section 36 (8) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, nobody shall be held to be guilty of a criminal offence if such act or omission did not constitute a criminal offence as at the time of his or her arrest and detention and no penalty heavier than that in force as at the time the alleged offence was committed shall be imposed on him or her. By Section 36 (12) of the Constitution, nobody shall be convicted of a criminal offence if the act or omission is not defined and the penalty therefore is prescribed in a written law.

By Section 35 (4) (a) of the same Constitution, nobody shall be arrested and detained for more than 60 days without trial or court bail in the case of anybody accused of committing capital offence such as armed robbery or abduction or murder or terrorism or terrorism financing or treason or treasonable felony. By Nigeria's criminal law and Constitution, too, omission to act when the law so requires him or her to do so is also a criminal offence; likewise aiding and abetting.

- *Technical Section (2):*

In the course of administration of criminal justice especially procession and prosecution of the arrested and detained citizens in Nigeria; accused of offenses of *mala in se and mala prohibita*, the countries regional and international human rights obligations must at all times and inexcusably be applied or conformed to. Among these regional and international rights treaties or conventions which Nigeria is a full State-Party or has signed and ratified are the African Charter on Human & Peoples Rights of 1981 (ratified and domesticated by Nigeria in 1983), the UN Convention against Torture (CAT), the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights and its protocols and the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, etc.

Other regional and international basic principles and rules of criminal justice management including criminal arrest, investigation and custodial treatments binding on Nigeria and its Police Force and other policing agencies are the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers, the UN Basic Principles for the Use of Force by Law Enforcement Officials, the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crimes & Abuse of Power, the UN Principles on the Effective Prevention & Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary & Summary Executions.

The rest are the UN Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and other prison inmates and custodial detainees, the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law; and the Law Enforcement Oath of Honour, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Cannons of Police Ethics, issued by the International Association of the Chiefs of Police, etc.

In all the above mentioned constitutional provisions and regional and international rights treaties or conventions and principles, rules and ethics; the rights of the arrested and detained citizens *against extra judicial, summary and arbitrary executions and long detention without trial as well as torture* are fully provided and guaranteed. Article seven of the UN or International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees that *no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*. The UN Convention against Torture also explicitly requires Nigeria to prevent acts of torture and other ill-treatments by State agents and ensure that there is a prompt and impartial investigation into such acts and those involved by direct involvement, complicity or participation are punished by criminal penalties.

Other constitutionally, regionally and internationally guaranteed custodial rights are rights of the detained citizens to have access to their families, doctors or adequate medical attentions; lawyers, including proper legal preparations, legal defence, interrogation and cross-examination in the language of their choice; decent shelter, clothing, sanitary environment, drinkable water and dietary feeding; dignity of human person; biological visibility, freedom of thought, conscience and worship; and rights to presumption of innocence until judicially convicted as well as right to be told in understandable language within 24hrs of their arrest, offences alleged to have been committed warranting their arrest and detention.

The rights of the detained citizens to be charged to court or released on bail or discharged (if found not indicted) within 24/48hrs if the offenses are non-life or death imprisonment or less than fourteen years imprisonment; and not more than 60 days if the offenses attract capital punishment; are also fully provided and guaranteed.

The policing code or legal leniencies contained in Section 33 (2) (b) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution and the *Order 237 of the Nigeria Police Force Act & Regulations of 2004*; granted to Nigeria Police Force and other policing agencies to use or apply force in extreme circumstances; in cases of detainees' "escape from custody", "resisting lawful arrest" and "self defense in the event of violent attacks by violent citizens using automatic weapons" are exceptionally restricted to *minimum and proportionate use of force* and never permitted as excuses for torture, shooting and killing of accused but unarmed and nonviolent citizens at the point of their arrest or while being detained.

For instance, it is criminally liable and expressly amounts to disproportionate use of force for a police officer to open fire with automatic weapon loaded with live bullets and kill an aggressive citizen armed with a stick or a metal object. The defense of "self defense" is dead on arrival; and if a shot must be extremely fired as a last resort, then it has to be "below the knee" of the victim.

The two provisions cited above grandly and literarily mean *the use of proportionate force* in managing violent custody or prison escapees or self defence while under attack by jail breakers and violent criminals armed with automatic weapons. On the issue of use of force to effect lawful arrest, the two provisions literarily mean zero shooting with live bullets of unarmed citizens under arrest and shooting below the knee or proportionate use of force for armed citizens resisting arrest or escaping from arresting authorities; such as fleeing armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism and murder suspects.

Shooting and killing of citizens arrested unarmed and non-violently and taken into custody and detained are express cases of *arbitrary, summary and extra judicial executions* while excessive use of force against aggrieved citizens armed with sticks and used metals other than automatic weapons leading to their death; totally amount to *unlawful killings*. The two provisions also provide for *reasonable (minimum and proportionate) use of force and use of force as a last resort* in extreme circumstances.

It must be stated clearly that the crude practice of torturing, shooting and killing or torturing to death by Police SARS operatives of their detained citizens is inexcusable and constitutionally, regionally and internationally prohibited. In such circumstances, the Nigeria Police Act of 2004 holds such criminal police officers individually responsible for their murderous practices and misuse of powers as well as their superiors vicariously liable; who may have directed or ordered such killings and torture. The police officers' individual criminal responsibilities are clearly provided in Section 341 of the Nigeria Police Act and Regulations of 2004.

By Article Seven of the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers, Nigerian police officers and their agencies are prohibited from engaging in all forms of corruption and corrupt practices or use of same to engage in gross misconducts such as torture, custodial killings, racial profiling, and bail bribery, commercialization of criminal arrest and investigation and selective law enforcement.

- *Technical Section (3)*

Understanding Modern Criminal Investigations:

It must be stated clearly and unequivocally that the greatest backbone of every police force or service is its criminal investigation management. The success or failure of criminal investigation also determines the growth and advancement or retardation and under-growth of the criminal justice system and administration of every country or society. The modern criminal investigation is very scientific, advanced and sophisticated and has no room for quarks or unprofessional and untrained handlers and serial torturers.

Modern criminal investigation is also at all times clothed with sophisticated science and higher mental reasoning, development and rationalization. Modern criminal investigation especially in the areas of violent crimes (i.e. murder, armed robbery, abduction and terrorism) and physically harmless crimes (i.e. cyber/ICT and white collar or corruption crimes) is divided into modern interrogation *techniques* (especially in violent crimes) and *ICT toolkits or scientific tools for criminal investigation*.

Criminal investigation is defined as a systematic collection of information about crime and assembling of physical and testimonial evidence within the framework of the law in order to identify the perpetrators of the crime and provide evidence for a successful prosecution of the criminal suspects. To “investigate” in Latin means to “to track or trace”; which further means to follow step-by-step by inquiring and observation; to track or trace mentally; to search into with care and accuracy; to find out by careful inquisition; and to undertake a legal criminal enquiry, etc.

The use of scientific technology to solve crime is called *forensic science or criminalistics*. *Criminalistics* is a branch of forensic science, which itself is a major branch of criminology that deals with the study of physical evidence related to crime. It is that part of science applied to answering legal questions, the examination, evaluation and explanation of physical evidence related to crime. Criminalistics is just one of the branches of Forensic Science. Other branches are *pathology, toxicology, physical anthropology, odontology, psychiatry, questioned documents, ballistics, tool work comparison and serology*.

Criminalistics is seminally defined by the California Association of Criminologists as that profession and scientific discipline directed to the recognition, identification, individualization and evaluation of physical evidence by the application of the natural sciences to law-science matters. Criminalistics evidence includes *finger prints, blood and blood stains, semen stains, sand, saliva, drugs and alcohol, hairs and fibers; firearms and tool marks, etc.*

The purposes of criminalistics are *to take physical evidence from a crime scene and to use it to (1) identify the person who committed the crime and link same to the crime scene and the crime victim; and (2) exonerate others who may be under suspicion but not involved.*

Criminalistics evidence from a forensic scientist will be relied upon to establish a nexus between a crime and a weapon of offence; to identify the weapon used for a particular crime-whether a gun found on a suspect was the one that fired the bullet found in the body of a murder victim. Criminalistics evidence can also be used to establish or corroborate an element of crime or reconstruct how a crime has been committed.

For effective and scientific gathering of criminalistics generated evidence, there must be ICT powered *crime/forensic laboratories* with highly trained specialists drawn from relevant multi disciplinary scientific fields. A standard forensic laboratory is the major criminal laboratory where scientific rests are carried out to establish a triangular link between the suspect, the scene of crime and the victim.

A standard and ICT powered crime laboratory consists of the following sections: *mobile unit (made up of scene of crime officer), photography, ballistic/tools marks, documents, chemistry, biology, fingerprints, polygraph examination, voice identification, etc.* The crime laboratory is expected to assist a crime investigator to establish an element of crime and link the crime scene to the victim or criminal suspect; corroborate or disapprove an alibi, facilitate an admission or a confession, exonerate the innocent or confirm the guilt of the accused and provide expert testimony in court.

Other scientific/technical aids for criminal investigation are tools required for identification by means of fingerprint, analysis of stains and microscopic examination of materials connected with crime; photographic cameras, modus operandi, lie detectors, communication system and surveillance equipment such as telephoto lens and detective dyes.

There are also x-ray equipment, metal detectors, hidden cameras, closed circuit televisions and their footages, detective pens, ties and eyeglasses; likewise ICT-powered *sniffer programs and keystroke loggers* and computer tracking machines designed for speedy and efficient information intelligence gathering and electronic tracking of the movements, locations and phone numbers and communications of suspected kidnappers and other violent criminals. Added to these are under-cover surveillance and intelligence gathering and use of “strawmen” techniques.

Effective criminal investigation management also strictly requires well equipped modern crime libraries and their trained personnel manned by criminologists, lawyers especially those grounded in criminal, constitutional, penology, juvenile, marine, property, organized/corporate/cyber crimes, treaty, penal, inter-religious/multi cultural and international human rights, humanitarian and criminal laws; psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, information and computer technologists and technicians; mass communicators and clerical staff team composed of office attendants, research assistants, book keepers and library management staff.

Another formidable and major backbone of criminal investigation/interrogation is the modern *criminal interrogation techniques*. Modern criminal interrogation techniques are one of the most valuable tools by which trained detectives skilfully question willing and unwilling witnesses and crime suspects to obtain an anticipated and voluntary reply. They are a prerequisite for professionalism in the act of criminal investigation.

Skilful application of interrogation technique yields results that are often viewed with magical suspicion by moronic torturers and quarks who do not understand the referenced working system and its scientific and mental demystification. The ability of a police/policing criminal investigator to secure a voluntary and circumstantially undeniable admission from a suspect is skilfully dependent on craft, logic and psychological insight of the investigator; the skill of which is acquired through in-service and service outdoor education and training, advanced practice and research including advanced or improved ICT knowledge or skills.

Globally, there are various modern *principles/techniques* for criminal interrogations designed and put in place as formidable alternatives to use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment including the physical aspect of torture. Of various anti torture principles/techniques in criminal investigation with miniature expert criticisms, there are three most popular of them presently in use especially in United States and United Kingdom.

The most widely used and popular among the three is the Reid Interrogation Technique developed by John E. Reid & Associates since 1974 with periodic socio-scientific updating and improvements till date; which had attracted over 500,000 law enforcement and security professionals who successfully attended its criminal *interrogation and interview programs*. The second most popular technique used majorly in UK is called *PEACE Interrogation Method*. *PEACE* here stands for *preparation & planning, engage & explain, account, closure & evaluate*. The third most popular criminal interrogation technique is called *the Kinesics Method*. Grand summaries of these three globally popular and anti torture criminal interrogation techniques are provided in the later part of this special investigation report under *technical section (4)*.

From the above, therefore, it has been established formidably and unequivocally that a criminal investigator/interrogator with right or modern tools and advanced skills or techniques has no business subjecting his or her suspect to torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; which usually leads to death of the suspect in detention or custody. Any crime investigator/interrogator with the above modern skills and toolkits has no business shooting or amputating or lacerating or dismembering or killing his or her detained suspect in order to extract confessional statement. Resorting to shortcuts such as torture or extra judicial or unlawful killing also breeds social radicalization and facilitates death of innocent citizens and offends the psyche and moral decency of the society as well as sanctity of human lives.

A criminal investigator/interrogator that is equipped with the right training, experience and tools; and with unhindered access to ICT and well equipped crime lab and library will surely turn in thorough and convictable criminal investigation information or report and will never lose his or her case in court no matter how unfriendly, corrupt or rude a trial judge is. The said investigator, too, has no business resorting to “holden charge” or magistrate court without trial jurisdiction in the offence so alleged. As matter of fact any properly investigated and appropriately captured offence crime report will receive speedy trial and become *a criminal trial made easy* for the trial judge, the prosecutor, the defendant and his or her lawyer(s) or defence counsel.

This is more so when every trial court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria allows criminal investigators/prosecutors to charge their suspects with any offence which investigation is concluded and return to the same court later by way of amended charge(s) and add those charges that have their investigations concluded after the first charge was filed.

A good criminal investigator/interrogator with right or advanced training and equipment including well equipped crime lab and library has his or her case made easy and dissipate lesser energy torturing or shooting his or her suspect while in detention. His or her effective management of crime scene will expressly yield him or her enough circumstantial evidence especially in violent crimes which Anambra Police SARS claim to be controlling.

For instance, if a bullet found in the body of a murder victim is forensically analysed and linked to a gun found on a suspect with matching fingerprints, the case of murder is instantly established and it will be improper and waste of time torturing the suspect further; likewise where a screen footage of a suspect of a super market robbery is scientifically analysed and linked to him or her facially and bodily. Under this, a case of armed robbery is expressly made and convictable.

For a criminal investigator/interrogator to be called “skilled, expert and specialist” criminal investigator/interrogator, he or she must be conversant with and grounded in *crime detection triangle or CDT and its three stages*; namely: scene of crime management, information gathering and arrest/identification. *Scene of crime* is the location or place where the criminal act, real or imaginary took place. The scene of crime management is dependent on the nature of crime, location and modus operandi of the criminal suspects.

Information gathering is the activity that takes place after a crime has been committed with or without clue. Such information can be gathered from the suspects, second parties or third parties as well as from the crime scene. *Arrest/identification* of suspects can take place at the crime scene or outside same during commission of the crime, immediately after or shortly after or much later after the crime has been committed. Such arrest/identification may also be extended to other citizens commonly called “parties to crimes” who usually include committers, aiders, abettors, procurers and sponsors.

In this modern world of ICT revolution and sharp and rational reasoning, a criminal investigator/interrogator is totally lost if he or she remains crude, undeveloped, stunted and a serial torturer. As days go by, multiple challenges facing crime detectors and investigators continue to be on the rise. One of the newest challenges facing modern crime detectors and investigators is the advent of cyber crimes. They are majorly perpetrated through *hacking (malicious or illegal access to a computer system for the purpose of causing damages and loss of installed vital information) and virus (alteration of computer data or programs without right, by insertion or distribution of a computer virus)*.

There are also *hardware offence (input, alteration, erasure or suppression of computer data or programs or interference with the computer systems with intent to hinder the functioning of a computer or telecommunication system), software offence (erasure, damage, deterioration or suppression of computer data or computer programs without a right) and telephone phreaking (gaining access without a right to communications services by infringing protocols and procedures)*. This is to mention but a few.

Chief among these cyber crimes or offenses is *hi-tech crime*, also called *computer and cyber crime*; simply defined as *illegal use of information and communications technology (ICT) against persons, properties, organizations or networked computer systems*. These are majorly divided into *hi-tech crime, unauthorized access and interception, alteration of computer data, computer/cyber fraud, unauthorized reproduction and computer sabotage, etc*. Perpetrators of these newest forms of crimes are referred to as “cyber criminals”.

Origin of Anambra Police SARS:

The Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Anambra State Police Command is one of 36 Police SARS formations located in Nigeria's 36 State Police Commands. There are also 12 Police SARS Zonal formations of the Nigeria Police's 12 Zonal Commands. Police SARS sections are under the Nigeria Police Force Criminal Investigations Department presently headed by Mr. Hyacinth Dagala Medgu, a Deputy Inspector General of Police. There is also a Federal SARS squad, known as "Police Federal SARS" or F/SARS. At the State level, SARS formations are under State Criminal Investigations Departments or SCIDs.

Generally, other sections of the Nigeria Police Force Criminal Investigations Department are: *Administration, Anti-Fraud Section, the Central Criminal Registry-CCR (near moribund), X-Squad (supposedly in charge of police corruption), General Investigation, Special Fraud Unit, Legal Department, Forensic Science Laboratory (near moribund), Interpol Liaison, Homicide, and Anti-Human Trafficking, Force Intelligence Bureau, DCI Kaduna Annex and Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU).*

There are also *Police Anti-Cult Squad, Police Anti-Bunkering Squad and Swift Operation Squad (SOS)* as well as Police Mobile Force or Police Anti-Riot Force. Greatest number of atrocities of the Nigeria Police Force (i.e. torture, extra judicial and other unlawful killings and corruption) come from them.

Anambra State of Nigeria is a typical blue-collar State or society making it prone for high incidence of criminal activities particularly violent crimes such as armed robbery and abduction as well as murder and burglary. The Nigeria Police Force has been operating as a federal and central police force since 1967 when various police forces in Nigeria were unified through a military decree, making it a federal affair. But Nigeria's 1999 Constitution recognizes State Governors as *Chief Security Officers of their States* and by Section 215 (4); a State Governor can give his or her State Commissioner of Police lawful directions in matter of security and protection of lives and properties.

By these provisions, State Governors are constitutionally allowed to play supplementary and complementary roles in the management of the Nigeria Police Force and other policing and security formations located in their States for the general security and safety of their States. These supplementary and complementary roles of the Governors have led to formation of State Joint Security Taskforces or SJTFs; composed of commanders and personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Police formations in their respective States.

The Governors from time to time, support or donate security vehicles and other security equipment and cash logistics worth millions of naira particularly to their State Police Commands and Police special formations including SARS. Under the Governors' monthly "security votes", millions of naira is doled out to the referenced security formations as "operational logistics", covering transportation or operational, general maintenance and communications costs.

In all these, Anambra Police SARS are not an exception or excluded. Apart from receiving robust financial and material supports from successive State Governments since 2003 "for effective combat of violent crimes", physical formation facilities have also been provided for them by the successive Governments of Anambra State.

The Anambra Police SARS are presently quartered at Awkuzu Old Party House (headquarters), Okpoko Police Station in Ogbaru LGA (annex), Ekwulobia Old Party House in Aguata LGA (annex), Onitsha Central Police Station (annex), Awka Central Police Station (annex), Nneni (annex), Ogidi Police Station (annex), Ihiala Police Station (annex), Umuchukwu (annex) and Nnewi (annex), etc.

The Anambra Police SARS is presently headed by Mr. Sunday Okpe, a Superintendent of Police (SP); its immediate past OC/SARS is CSP Bassey Abang (now OC/SARS Abia), while it had its darkest and most atrocious and notorious era (2012-2015) under Mr. James Oshim Nwafor-a CSP, who is now OC/File at CP's Office, Awka. Mr. James Nwafor was the Nnewi Annex Commander of Anambra Police SARS from where he was appointed Anambra OC/SARS in 2012 following the routine transfer and promotion of then CSP but now retired ACP Felix Kigigha.

Patterns of Anambra Police SARS Corruption and Atrocities:

Police Corruption is one of the major banes of the present Nigeria Police Force especially the Anambra Police SARS. Police Corruption in Nigeria has been seminally categorized into seven types and dimensions of: *corruption of the authority (brown envelope and daily returns)*, *kickbacks (criminal receipt of goods, services and money)*, *opportunistic theft (stealing from arrestees, traffic accident victims, crime victims and deceased bodies or properties)*, *the fix (tempering or undermining criminal investigations or proceedings for illicit financial or material gains)*, *direct criminal activities (buying or selling or diverting or converting of prerogatives available for police personnel including statutory overhead costs and ghost workers remunerations)* and *flaking/padding (planting of or adding to evidence with intents to doctor or distort same for a price or favour)*.

Other corruptive activities of the Anambra Police SARS are frame-ups, running of errands and slave boys for troublesome billionaires and violent politicians; bail bribery/extortion, criminal labelling and prosecutorial vindictiveness (i.e. concoction of spurious high profile criminal charges and arraignment of suspects in magistrate courts for purpose of remanding them in prison for long as punishment for their refusal or inability to cough out huge sums of money as bail bribes).

How SARS Fetched and Slaughtered their *Human Cows*:

Most of the victims of Anambra Police SARS torture and extra judicial and other unlawful killings in their custody are made up of citizens arrested by the operatives of SARS annexes scattered across the State particularly Onitsha and its environs. Many, if not most of these arrestees are arrested before late night or late evening or early morning and at weekends. They are mostly those enjoying their leisure at rest joints or returning from work or going or returning from early morning and evening church services or activities including Christian crusades and church vigils.

Other *human cows* of Anambra Police SARS comprise of those involved in land or property, business or debt and personal or civil disputes, but got framed up by their opponents including troublesome rich citizens and violent community/vigilante heads and politicians; and transferred to detention facilities of the Anambra Police SARS at Awkuzu or their annexes where they are detained solitarily, tortured and in many cases killed or tortured to death while in custody.

These arrestees are recklessly, commercially and wickedly accused of involvement in "armed robbery", "kidnapping", "arson", "attempted murder", "terrorism" and "terrorism sponsorship", etc. Those who survived torture and extra judicial executions are detained for several months without trial before being dumped in prison custody through magistrate courts under phantom charges of "armed robbery" or "kidnapping", etc, which magistrate courts are disallowed to entertain jurisdictionally. Other *human cows* of the Anambra Police SARS are those accused of "MASSOB and IPOB" or "Biafra" membership. The last category of the arrestees who constitute a fraction or miniature percentage of all the arrestees are those circumstantially involved in robberies, thefts/stealing and victimless crimes (i.e. drug addiction, street and student cultism and motor park/garage touting).

Those arrested by Anambra Police SARS operatives manning SARS annexes especially those returning from early morning and evening/late evening church services or legitimate daily work activities are charged or tasked to pay amounts between N20, 000 and N50, 000 each or more as “bail fee” and those unable or who refused to pay are bundled and transferred to Awkuzu headquarters of Anambra SARS with transfer notes marking them as “armed robbers”, “kidnappers” and “terrorists”. A good number of the dead and tortured victims of Anambra SARS are traced to the above till date.

The level of extortion or amounts demanded and collected from each “capable” detainee as “bail fees” at Awkuzu SARS Headquarters is capable of buying a fairly used automobile. In other words, the amounts range from N200, 000 to N500, 000 or more. An unprocessed/untried kidnapping or armed robbery suspect can also buy his freedom at Awkuzu SARS provided he is capable of paying millions of naira. Crime proceeds and properties recovered from violent criminal suspects’ particularly armed robbery and kidnapping suspects are instantly converted and possessed by Awkuzu SARS personnel particularly their commanders.

By Section 15 (5) of Nigeria’s 1999 Constitution, *the State (Nigeria) is directed to abolish all forms of corrupt practices and abuse of power.* By Section 341 of the Nigeria Police Act of 2004, *a police officer is personally liable for misuse of his powers.* Also, by the extant laws of the Federation of Nigeria, a police officer can be prosecuted for murder or wilful/culpable homicide once he or she is dismissed from the police force.

By Section 353 of the Nigeria Police Act & Regulations of 2004, *a police officer shall not conduct himself in such a manner as to bring his private interests into conflict with his duties or in such a way as to cause a suspicion in the mind of any reasonable person.* By Section 354 of the same Police Act & Regulations, *a police officer may not receive presents (other than gifts from his close personal friends or relatives) whether of in the shape of money, gifts, and free passages or other personal benefits and he may not give such presents.* It is important to point here that the authorities of Anambra Police SARS have gravely observed these sacred provisions above in breach.

Patterns of Torture and Killing by Anambra Police SARS:

There are total absence of scientific methods and tools of criminal investigation and advanced techniques for criminal investigation/interrogation in the entire operational modes of the Anambra Police SARS; leading to crude application and use of torture and custodial executions. In the past 13 years or since 2004, not less than 4000 unprocessed suspects and constitutionally presumed innocent citizens have been killed or tortured to death in the hands of Anambra SARS operatives on annual average of 300 or more and monthly average of 25 or more. Scores of others have also disappeared or become victims of enforced disappearances since then.

Citizens arrested and taken into Anambra Police SARS custody unarmed or non-violently are routinely brought out from their cells and shot dead or tortured to death. The Anambra Police SARS and their oversight or immediate superior authorities- Anambra State Police Command, has at all times defended falsely the said torture and butchery by provocatively, atrociously, falsely and unconstitutionally claiming that “they were armed robbery and kidnapping suspects killed in exchange of gunfire with the Police” or “killed while trying to escape from cells/detention”, or “killed resisting lawful arrest”.

Dead and torture victims of the Anambra Police SARS are tortured or killed through the following forms of *torture*: ceiling or bench hanging, lethal roping, needle insertion into their manhood or private parts, suffocation under scorching heats and sun using thick tarpaulin; deaths resulting from untreated physically and internally inflicted injuries; strangulation, clubbing, machete cuts; fist, brick, metal and plank beatings; injection of killer substances, gunshots, enforced blindness, amputation and the newest forms of torture and *perfect killing* which include: starvation through dry throat with blanket denial of drinking water for weeks and dry stomach with blanket denial of foods for weeks.

The Anambra Police SARS operatives have also devised new undetected methods of inflicting bodily torture on their victims especially in ceiling fan and allied hangings: *whereby victims have their limbs and legs covered with pieces of cloth before being hanged for torture so as to erase any trace of body marks or scars.*

There are also cases of *contaminable/contagious sicknesses and deaths* whereby surviving detainees get infected and affected by the stench of their dead colleagues whose bodies are left un-removed for days inside their cells with consequential health hazards including breathing suffocation leading to instant illness and summary death in custody of the survivor-detainees. A case in point is the recent death of eight detainees inside the Nneni annex cell of the Anambra Police SARS, who were starved to death by being denied water and food for two weeks.

According to a leading rights activist, Comrade Justus Uche Ijeoma, who is also the Executive Director of Int'l Human Rights & Equity Foundation: *ten citizens were arrested recently by Awkuzu SARS and transferred and detained at the Nneni annex cell of the Special Anti Robbery squad. While in detention, they were denied water and food for about two weeks. One of them was earlier bailed with huge amount of money by his family, leaving behind nine others; out of them, eight later died of dry starvation while one miraculously survived and was revived on account of our advocacy intervention.*

Following our intervention, the SARS personnel became unsettled and hurriedly arraigned him before a magistrate court with a phantom charge and he was remanded in prison custody from where we got him bailed on health ground and secured his released on Wednesday, 23rd June 2017. The dead bodies were left inside the cell for days to decompose before they were removed and the only survivor of the ten arrestees stayed in the cell with the dead bodies for days. For more information, Comrade Ijeoma can be reached via juijeoma@yahoo.com or justus.ihref@gmail.com.

Custody of Human Cows slaughtered by Anambra Police SARS:

By law, Nigeria Police officers including Anambra SARS operatives and their authorities are required to keep records of all unnatural deaths in custody. Such records must include names of the deceased, dates and causes of their unnatural death and outcomes or results of coroner's inquests about their sudden death. The Coroner's Laws enacted and existing in most States of Nigeria including Anambra State also oblige the State authorities to investigate and determine the circumstances of all unnatural, sudden and violent deaths through an open and public enquiry. In practice including in Anambra State, these legal or statutory provisions have been observed in grave breach till date.

The whereabouts of the dead victims of Anambra Police SARS have not been officially and publicly disclosed till date. But independent investigations by local and international rights and media activists have incontrovertibly and severally established that those dead bodies including bodies of innocent citizens who are victims of SARS torture and custodial killings are routinely buried in secret mass graves or designated but hidden cemeteries. Few years ago, before the Onitsha and Awada cemeteries were taken over for construction of church buildings by some churches, such dead bodies littered the cemeteries with many of them dumped on the surface or buried shallowly.

There is also an existing unethical practice whereby dead victims of Police and other policing extra judicial executions and unlawful killings are deposited by their murderers in public or general hospital morgues including nearby university teaching hospital morgues and tagged "State property". Such corpses are later abandoned by their murderer-depositors, forcing the hospital morgue officials to "dispose" or "evacuate" them to public or secret cemeteries so as to "decongest" their morgues for "new customers". Such unholy practice was the order of the day during the recent massacre of unarmed and defenceless pro Biafra campaigners and members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria by the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force, etc.

In some, if not in many or most cases, bodies of the extra judicially executed citizens including innocent members of the public are secretly taken out of their places of killing usually from police SARS cells/stations in the dead of the night or hours of the blue law and shallowly buried in isolated bushes or dumped inside rivers with heavy objects tied on them to make them sink and undetected by members of the public.

We had in the course of our investigation into Ezu River SARS killings visited Omambala and Ezu Rivers as well as certain forest locations in Ntoko Community, near Police Mobile Force 29 in Awka and Nawfia/Enugu Agidi in Dunukofia LGA of Anambra State. We also visited Onitsha and Awada cemeteries then to see things for ourselves. The two forests visited which used to host indiscriminate dumping of dead victims of Police SARS extra judicial killings had been sealed by their communities as at the time we visited; owing to their serious concerns and contempt over indiscriminate dumping of the slain bodies by security personnel especially the officers of Anambra Police SARS.

From our thorough investigation into Ezu River SARS killings, we empirically found that *(1) dead corpses dumped inside the Ezu River including nine members of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) were shot and killed by Anambra Police SARS, (2) some of them were already shot and killed or blanketed to death at Awkuzu and Nnewi SARS cells before conveyed to Ezu River in Police SARS trucks in the late night or between 12:am and 3:am of 19th January 2013 , (3) the dead bodies conveyed to Ezu River were conveyed under duress by some survivor-detainees and in company of Police SARS personnel, (4) the survivor-detainees never returned alive as they were shot dead on top of the Ezu River Bridge and dumped together with the slain others inside the River to erase any trace of culpability.*

These explained the blood stains found on top of the Bridge by members of the public hours after the mass killing. While some of the slain bodies were shot and killed at their respective detention facilities at Nnewi and Awkuzu, others were blanketed and suffocated to death under scorching heats in the open and isolated parts of SARS premises. The rest might have died of torture and gunshot injuries sustained during their lethal torture or routine custodial shootings and deadly or excessive use of force by Anambra Police SARS personnel.

Till date, none of the nine MASSOB members arrested around Onitsha Main Market and *Biafran Market* axis by Onitsha Main Market Vigilante Group and Police Personnel from Onitsha Central/Area Command and transferred to Awkuzu SARS on 8th December 2012 leading to their killing and dumping inside Ezu River on 19th January 2013 with other detained criminal suspects at Awkuzu and Nnewi SARS cells has returned alive till date. The star witness account of this is presented below.

Statistics of Human Cows slaughtered by Anambra Police SARS:

The number of the *good, the bad and the ugly* tortured and killed by Anambra Police SARS particularly since 2004, a period of 13 years, when the identities of some dead victims of the murderous outfit and methods of their killing in custody were exposed, is credibly put at not less than 4000, on annual average of 300 and monthly average of 25 citizens. Since then till January 2013 and from 2013 to date, torture and extra judicial executions carried out by Anambra Police SARS have not abated. As a matter of fact, the murderous activities have risen to an apogee or alarming and uncontrollable proportions.

Under a period of two years-2014 to 2016, a globally respected human rights organization-Amnesty International had thoroughly investigated and issued two reports on torture and other ill-treatment in Nigeria and in the two reports, Anambra Police SARS under CSP James Oshim Nwafor was gravely and inescapably indicted. The 2014 report released on 14th September 2014 is titled: *welcome to hell fire: torture and other ill-treatment in Nigeria* while that of 2016 released on 20th September 2016 is titled: *Nigeria: 'You have signed your death warrant': Torture and other ill treatment in the Special Anti-Robbery Squad*.

The two seminal reports also made far reaching recommendations on best ways to get the Nigeria Police authorities and the Government of Nigeria out of globally shameful and atrocious torture practices; till date none of the far reaching recommendations has been implemented; except false denials and name calling by Nigeria Police authorities. The links to 2014 and 2016 anti torture reports of AI are here: (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR44/011/2014/en/>), (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/4868/2016/en/>)

Statistically recorded cases of torture and extra judicial executions by Anambra Police SARS as well as identities of the victims are basketful or too numerous to mention and are contained or cited in several media and rights groups and activists' reports/researches/investigations. One of them worthy to be mentioned and highlighted here was the killing of SARS 20 detainees on 4th November 2004 by Anambra Police SARS then headquartered at the Awka Central Police Station (CPS), Anambra State. Comrade Ifeanyi Onuchukwu, an Nnewi based human rights activist and Executive Director of Humane Justice Int'l in Nnewi was arrested and detained by SARS for "refusing to pay sanitation fees and engaging in public enlightenment campaign against payment of same in Nnewi and environs owing to its fraudulent methods of collection".

Comrade Ifeanyi Onuchukwu was arrested at the instigation of a Government contractor handling the collection of the said sanitation fees and transferred to SARS to be tortured and killed extra judicially. He was also labeled "armed robber". Comrade Onuchukwu was held and tortured without trial from 4th to 19th November 2004 when he was granted bail following swift advocacy pressures mounted by Barr Chuka, obele-Chuka and Emeka Umeagbalasi led Anambra CLO (then).

It was while in SARS captivity that Comrade Ifeanyi Onuchukwu found that several citizens had been solitarily held in various stinking cells at the Police Station for weeks and months without trial or bail; with several of them arrested and detained at the instance of some Government contractors and appointees over civil matters and minor or simple and misdemeanor offences; following which they were framed up and labeled “armed robbers” and transferred to SARS.

Comrade Onukwu further informed that moments after he was thrown into detention at SARS he interacted with some older detainees and was informed that one of the Police officers had handed a sheet of paper with a pen to one of the detainees to re-compile names of those detained and their States of origin and at around 7:15pm same day (4th November 2004), they were brought out of the cell and shot dead. Comrade Onuchukwu said he took possession of the sheet of paper containing their names when the Police officer forgot to recover it from the detainee before he was executed alongside 19 others same evening.

According Comrade Ifeanyi Onuchukwu, the 20 detainees excluding himself and others arrested same day were lined up and shot dead by the corner of the Station and their remains were immediately taken to “Agu-Awka mass graves” same night and criminally buried. Some detainees who were forced to assist in evacuating the corpses never returned to the Station alive. Comrade Onuchukwu hid the sheet of paper and maintained a sealed lip until he was freed on 19th November 2004.

He later gave the names of slain 20 Igbo citizens as: Nduka Okoye, Ephraim Okenyeka, Samuel Odoh, Oforbike Odoh, Chibueze Ugwuoke, Ugochukwu Okonkwo, Chizoba Mbaebie, Ifeanyi Nwafunanya, Ugochukwu Anaekwe, Ifeanyi Izueke, Ekene Ejike, Chinedu Okoro, Uche Ubaka, Charles, Onyeabo Anaekwe, Leonard Obasi, Emeka Ofoke, Chibuzor Asouzu, Obiajulu, Kingsley and Ugoo Nwude.

Their States of origin were given as Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi and Imo. Comrade Ifeanyi Onuchukwu and his organization-Humane Justice Int’l also co-petitioned alongside then Anambra State Branch of the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO) the then Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mustafa Adebayo Balogun (Tafa) and the matter was never conclusively investigated, neither the culprits identified, arrested and punished till date.

The Anambra Police SARS had also in the early hours of 9th May 2009 surrounded and cordoned off the family house of the Board Chairman of this Organization (Emeka Umeagbalasi) and arrested eight members of the family including Emeka Umeagbalasi. The family in question is from Ezinifite in Aguata LGA of Anambra State, Nigeria. The family members and close friends had returned for the wedding ceremony of a younger brother to Emeka Umeagbalasi (Chimezie). The SARS operatives claimed that one of their operatives “lost his rifle at gun point in Ezinifite” and accused a nephew of the family (Uchenna) whom they said they saw riding home on his motor bike in company of a cousin of the family (Chinenye).

Before 6:am of 9th May 2009, Emeka Umeagbalasi’s family house had been surrounded by five hilux trucks filled with well armed SARS operatives, leading to the arrest and handcuffing of eight family members. The arrestees including Emeka Umeagbalasi were dumped at Ekwulobia SARS annex and in a verge of being tortured before one of them (SUPOL Felix) facially recognized Emeka Umeagbalasi and raised a panicky alarm. Before then, another hilux truck with SARS operatives had already left for Ezinifite to bundle the women members of the family including Emeka Umeagbalasi’s wife-Blessing and his mother-Patricia. The alarm so raised instantly unsettled the SARS officers leading to recalling of their menacing squad going to bundle the women family members.

The “chief suspect”, Uchenna Uzoaga and Emeka’s youngest brother-Chinonso Umeagbalasi were handcuffed and bundled inside the Ekwulobia SARS torture chambers while Emeka Umeagbalasi and others got dumped behind the Ekwulobia SARS premises where they were shown three new graves containing the shot and killed victims of SARS. Emeka and others were threatened with death and bluntly told to await their death if in few minutes they still refuse to disclose the whereabouts of the phantom SARS “stolen rifle”.

While these were ongoing, signals let loose and callers included then Governor Peter Obi who Emeka’s spouse sent a distress text message. Other callers were then Acting CP, Amusa Bello, then OC/SARS, Felix Kigigha and then Ekwulobia DPO, SP Dang (now OC/Anti Cult, Imo State). Emeka Umeagbalasi was profusely apologized to and him and other arrested family members were immediately taken back to their family house. Then OC/SARS and Ekwulobia DPO later visited his house in furtherance of their apologies. The said “stolen rifle” was later found lying idle at another Ezinifite village called Aku Village in liquor store; where the bearer SARS operative drank to a stupor and abandoned his rifle.

On March 29, 2009 and June 23, 2009, respectively, the duo of Nonso Ayalogu (43) of Onitsha and Chekwube Okeke (41) of Nanka, in Orumba South LGA, Anambra State, went missing in the hands of the Awkuzu SARS operatives over a business dispute they had with their accusers. The leadership of the Anambra State Branch of the Civil Liberties Organization then led by Comrade Aloysius Emeka Attah investigated their disappearance and found that they have been killed extra judicially by SARS. He later confirmed from the then OC/SARS (CSP Felix Kigigha) that they had been killed before he could call for their case file or intervene. The link below contains accounts of more atrocious conducts of Anambra Police SARS: <http://www.thesourceng.com/MurderOctober262009.htm>.

The Ezu River SARS killings are another clear case in point. Bodies of 25 young men and above were in the early morning of 19th January 2013 found dumped and floating in Ezu River located in Amansea part of Awka, the capital city of Anambra State. The total number of corpses may most likely be between 25 and 40 or more. Thorough investigations and findings made by this Organization showed that the killings were traced to Anambra Police SARS. While some of the slain were shot and killed or tortured to death before being dumped inside the River, others were strongly believed to have been taken to the River alive before being shot dead and dumped inside the River alongside others.

According to interviews we conducted then and other information gathered from some undergraduate students living around Amansea area, freed detainees of Awkuzu SARS including an Awkuzu vigilante operative and an estranged girl friend of one of the SARS operatives who was then a student of the Anambra State/Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu University at Igbariam; the corpses were dumped between the hours of 12: am and 3: am in the late night/early hours of 18th/19th January 2013.

All the corpses dumped were dumped in anticipation that they would be pushed or carried or flushed away by the River flows but some were carried away while others remained at the point of their dumping owing to lesser quantity of river flows occasioned by dry season then. Some villagers especially local swimmers interviewed told Intersociety that dumping of slain corpses inside the River was not new in the area and that why the ones under complaint were seen floating was because of lesser quantity of river flows occasioned by dry season.

In other words, *the corpses were dumped at the wrong time of the season*. An estranged girlfriend of one of the Anambra Police SARS operatives at Awkuzu told Intersociety then strictly on anonymity that “slain corpses are usually moved late night to Omambala River in Otuocha or Ezu River” and that “her boyfriend had told her in December 2012 that their cells at Awkuzu are filled up with so many detainees and that the cells must be decongested (custodial killings) soonest”.

We were also told that some of those corpses dumped in the late night/early morning of 18th/ 19th January 2013 had been pushed by river flows to the interior part of Ezu River called “Onaluokwe River Circle”, where only Ijaw fishermen can access with their canoes. We were further told that the police authorities had on the heels of the news outbreak concerning the floating of slain corpses contracted the Ijaw fishermen to “recover and burry” those slain corpses pushed by river flows into its interior parts including the “Onaluokwe Circle of the River” where the River enlarges.

Slaying of MASSOB Nine by Anambra Police SARS:

CSP James Nwafor of the Nigeria Police Force was the Officer-in-Charge (OC/SARS) of the Special Anti Robbery Squad of the Anambra State Police Command between 2012 and 2015 after taking over from then CSP (now retired ACP) Felix Kigigha. Before his elevation as Anambra OC/SARS, he was in-charge of Nnewi SARS Annex. He is presently the OC/File in CP’s Office of the Anambra State Police Command, Awka. According to official records of the Nigeria Police Force, CSP James Nwafor with Force Entry Number AP31343, is from Ezza North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Southeast Nigeria and was born on 1st January 1961 (56yrs). He joined the Nigeria Police Force on 1st April 1983 and was promoted to Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) on 30th January 2013.

He will be due for statutory retirement on 1st April 2018 when he must have served 35 mandatory years in service. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree (B.Sc.) in Public Administration and is rated by critics “to be far richer than his statutory remunerations as a serving Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) in Nigeria”. The headship of Police SARS in Anambra State is a goldmine owing to high commercialization of their activities and operations as earlier highlighted above.

On 7th December 2012, nine members of the Movement for Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) tagged “MASSOB Nine” were arrested by the combined team of Onitsha Main Market Vigilante Group headed by Mr. Chinenye Ihemko and officers of the Onitsha Central Police Station/Area Command then headed by ACP B.S. Wordu. Their arrest followed a protest/solidarity match around Onitsha Main Market and nearby Biafran Market against the Police/Vigilante Group for killing one of their members, Mr. Uchechukwu Ejiofor on 12th November 2012 who hailed from Imo State. The protest was followed immediately with a meeting on how to bury their fallen comrade. There had also been existing animosity between MASSOB members and Onitsha Main Market Vigilante Group over toll collection and extortion rights around Onitsha Main Market, Biafran and Ose Markets’ axis and adjoining streets, roads and motor parks or loading garages; leading to periodic confrontations between them.

As MASSOB meeting was in progress at their nearby office after the protest, the said combined team stormed the place, shot some of them below the knee including late Mr. Basil Ogbu who was shot at his leg. Nine of them were arrested and their names are: (1) Basil Ogbu (Nsukka-Enugu State) of No. 100 Bida Road, Onitsha, (2) Michael Ogba (Ebonyi State) of Johnbosco Lane, Ugwuagba Layout, Obosi, (3) Sunday Omeogo (Ohaukwu-Ebonyi State) of No. 10 Minaj Street, Obosi, (4) Philip Nwamkpa (Ezza West-Ebonyi State) of Uruowuru Village, Obosi, (5) Ndubuisi Eze Obumneme (Amandugba-Imo State) of No. 2 Maifulani Street, Fegge-Onitsha, (6) Ebuka Eze (Amandugba-Imo State) of No. 5 Anaekwe Street, Fegge-Onitsha, (7) Obinna Oguejiofor (Umuoji-Anambra State), (8) Joseph Udo and (9) Sunday Offor (their relatives not found).

The wounded and arrested nine MASSOB members were later taken to Onitsha Area Command and dumped by the corner of the Command's admin building. The wounded were never treated and before most of their relatives could come for them the next day being 8th December 2012, the then Area Commander (ACP B.S. Wordu) had signed their transfer warrant to Awkuzu SARS; leading to their transfer in the afternoon of 8th December 2012 to Awkuzu SARS with a tag of "armed robbers" and "kidnappers".

All efforts made by some of the nine MASSOB members through their families and lawyers to get them freed administratively from Awkuzu SARS or through court processes proved abortive. The then OC/SARS, CSP James Oshim Nwafor frustrated and flouted orders issued by courts including the Awka Division of the Federal High Court for some of them including late Citizen Basil Ogwu to be produced in court until late night and early morning of 18th/19th January 2013 when they were extra judicially executed and dumped inside the Ezu River alongside detained criminal suspects. For more details concerning how the "MASSOB Nine" were tortured and extra judicially executed by CSP James Nwafor led Awkuzu SARS, see the star witness account below; from the then heavily pregnant wife of late Basil Ogwu.

Star Witness Account:

On Monday, 25th day of February, 2013, Mrs. Uchenna Ogbu, who was in her early twenties then, spoke to the **leadership of International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law** in our office. Mrs. Uchenna Ogbu, who was about six months pregnant then, was the wife of Citizen Basil Ogbu, one of the nine MASSOB members strongly and widely believed to have been tortured and killed extra judicially and dumped inside the Ezu River by Anambra Police SARS.

Her Account: *My name is Mrs. Uchenna Ogbu from Ogbaru, Anambra State, married to my husband-Mr. Basil Ogbu, 25 years of age, from Nsukka in Enugu State. I dropped out of 2nd year from the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria about three years ago due to my mother's death and got married in 2012. My husband is a businessman, dealing in cosmetics along Sokoto Road, near Onitsha Main Market. He has about five apprentices trading and working for him. Some stay in his shop, while others work for him in a motor park, located on Bida Road, near Onitsha Main Market. We live at No.100, Bida Road, in a flat apartment. My husband is also one of the local leaders of MASSOB in Onitsha. We returned from Okigwe in Imo State (headquarters of MASSOB in Nigeria) in early December 2012 and my husband was getting ready for his new administrative posting to Nnewi at Ojukwu's house before his arrest and missing.*

In the morning of December 7, 2012, my husband-Mr. Uchenna Ogbu told me he was going to their office, which is located at Ezeolisa Lane, off Sokoto Road, for a meeting on how to bury one of their members-Citizen Uchechukwu Ejiofor (from Imo State), killed by a combined team of Onitsha Main Market Vigilante Group and Onitsha Central Police Station/Area Command on 12th day of November, 2012. In the evening of December 7, 2012, my husband did not come back; later a call came informing me that he had problem with the police and the Onitsha Main Market armed Vigilante Group. One of their members called me again and told me that my husband was shot and bundled away alongside others by the named combined security team, which stormed their office on the said date.

On 8th day of December, 2012, we organized a search party involving myself, my husband's elder brother and a lawyer and we visited the Onitsha Area Command and the CPS. He was located at the Onitsha Area Command alongside others. We saw him lying on the floor with one of his legs battered with gun bullets without any medical treatment, not even first-aid. His battered leg was covered with carton papers. He managed to speak to us. He said that some of their members were on peaceful procession along Sokoto Road, when the armed security team came and violently disrupted their procession and arrested some of them, after which they raided their office, shot and arrested him; and that about nine of them were violently arrested on the said date.

My husband later asked us to give him pure water(sachet water) and a police officer on duty advised us against it on the ground that he may die if given because of his gun-shot wounds. He suggested a pack of locozade boost and a bottle of malt, which were bought and given to him. The police officer who was touched by my condition (heavily pregnant) and age (early twenties) advised us to hurriedly get a doctor to treat his gun-shot wounds before they are transferred to SARS or State CID. We went to the New Hope Hospital in Onitsha and the doctor on duty demanded police report and by the time we got back to the Onitsha Area Command, my husband and others have been taken away.

We went to the State CID, at Awka and they told us that such suspects including my husband were not brought there. We went to the Awkuzu SARS headquarters and they chased us away. We returned to the Onitsha Area Command and pleaded profusely with the Area Commander-ACP B.S. Wordu before he brought out the transfer list showing that my husband and others were transferred to the Awkuzu SARS headquarters.

It was when several efforts to see my husband at the Awkuzu SARS failed that we went to the Awka Federal High Court to compel the O/C SARS to produce my husband in court, which till date, has failed to yield any good result. Since 8th day of December, 2012, a period of two months, two weeks and three days, I have not set my eyes on my husband-Basil Ogbu. I am tempted to believe that SARS have murdered my innocent husband!

Reaction of the then Government of Anambra State:

The then Governor of Anambra State, Mr. Peter Gregory Obi had traveled to UK on official trip when the news of dumping and discovery of the Ezu River slain bodies broke out; forcing him to cut short his trip. He ordered for the recovery of the dumped corpses, leading to 25 of them recovered and deposited at the Amaku Government General Hospital, Awka for autopsy.

Among the corpses officially recovered, other than those already buried by non-State parties; 15 of them were reburied in Amansea at the instance of the Government of Anambra State and the Police authorities. It has been earlier stated here and above that scores of other slain and dumped corpses pushed by the river flows to interior parts of the Ezu River including its "Onaluokwe" Circle (most dangerous part of the River) were recovered and reburied shallowly by Ijaw fishermen using their canoes so as to tame the public health hazard posed especially for neighboring villagers making use of the River for domestic and farming purposes.

Independently, the total number of the slain bodies dumped inside the Ezu River was put at between 25 and 40 or more. Some say that up to 50 citizens were slain and dumped using police hilux vans in a well coordinated operation carried out in the hours of the blue law. A close ally of CSP James Nwafor told Intersociety strictly on anonymity sometime in 2015 that “20 of the slain corpses came from the Nnewi SARS detention facilities”.

This is more so when the then Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Lawrence Ikeakor had in a press conference held on 12th April 2013 disclosed that “25 corpses were autopsied at the State owned Amaku General Hospital and by the Ezu River side; after which some of the corpses were reburied”. He further disclosed that the final autopsy result/report had since six weeks ago (then) been forwarded to the Federal Government/Senate and that the Ezu River saga involved three resolvable cardinal questions: *who are those killed; who killed them; and what killed them?*

For more details of the said Health Commissioner’s press conference of 12th April 2013, see the link below:<http://dailypost.ng/2013/04/12/autopsy-report-on-ezu-floating-bodies-now-with-senate-anambra-government/>

The Nigeria Police Force and its Anambra State Command, on their part, shamefully claimed that only 19 bodies were recovered. Also, other than the interim report of the result of the autopsy disclosed by the Government of Anambra State through its then Commissioner for Health, Dr. Lawrence Ikeakor; the comprehensive and final report, which was sent to the Federal Government and Senate in March 2013 was never released or publicly disclosed till date.

The then Government of Anambra State had also explained that the Federal Government had in the middle of its (Government of Anambra State) efforts to substantively unraveled the Ezu River saga sent signals to the Government of Anambra State directing same to hand over and hands off everything concerning the Ezu River saga (SARS killings) including the ordered autopsy and its final outcome.

The Government of Anambra State stated also that the Federal Government considered the Ezu River saga as “federal affair” since the Nigeria Police Force and its personnel under whose command and control or oversight that the Ezu River saga took place is constitutionally a federal police and establishment; that it was in compliance with the Federal Government directive, that the Government of Anambra State handed over and hands off as directed; especially when the Senate Joint Committee on Police and National Security/Intelligence had taken over the investigation.

Critics:

Critics say that the then Government of Anambra State headed by Mr. Peter Gregory Obi should have ignored the Federal Government directive and released the final autopsy result. Critics further say that the same State Government should have also set up a Judicial Commission or Panel of Enquiry into the Ezu River SARS killings; more so when science of autopsy can only reveal how the unnatural death of the Ezu River slain corpses occurred or *what killed them* (i.e. whether they were killed by poisoning, clubbing, lynching, strangulation, suffocation, forced suicide/killer liquid substance, torture, gunshots, machete cuts, etc) and cannot answer scientific and manual questions of *who are those killed and who killed them*.

Role of the then Federal Government of Nigeria and its Police:

The then central Government of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and its Nigeria Police Forces headquarters at Abuja made a lot of efforts at covering up the traces and identities of the officers of Anambra Police SARS involved in the butchery and dumping of the slain bodies as well as the identities of the slain. The Anambra State Police Command and its superiors at the Force Headquarters in Abuja also rapaciously and shamelessly engaged in false denials of responsibility.

The then Anambra CP, Bala Nasarawa also addressed several press conferences denying police involvement. The Federal Executive Arm of the country also did all it could to cover up including summary takeover of all the investigations so initiated and the main result of the autopsy ordered by the then Government of Anambra State which never saw the light of the day till date.

Then Senate Cover-up:

The worst of it all was the interference and involvement (with intents to cover up) of the Senate Joint Committee on Police and National Security/Intelligence that claimed to have “investigated” the matter. The Senate Joint Committee was headed by the then Chairman of Senate Committee on Police Affairs, Sen. Igwe Paulinus Nwagu from Ebonyi State and had the following as its members: Sen (Maj Gen) Sani Sale Retired, Senator Mohammed Shaba Lafiaji, Senator Chris Ngige host senator and Sen (Gen) Mohammed Magoro Rtd. (chairman of the Senate Committee on National Security & Intelligence). The Senate Joint Committee was inaugurated in late January 2013 and it had its first sitting at the Executive Chambers of the Government House of Anambra State.

The Senate Joint Committee recorded an armada of failures which included: *skewed or selective non-State party engagement, unclear terms of reference and oversight investigation scope, deliberate exclusion of leading Anambra based rights groups especially the State Branch of the Civil Liberties Organization and International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law; using top-down method instead of down-top method of crime scene and field visits/interactions (i.e. meeting State actors such as State Government, traditional rulers and Police first instead of starting from non State actors), allowing Anambra SARS authorities to stage manage and clean up their records and torture chambers before visiting, inadequate public invitations and impromptu schedules, half baked interviews with the families of the victims, deliberate distortion of facts of the matter, obstruction of justice and general intents to cover up, pervert justice and exonerate the perpetrators.*

As generally expected and in spite of the shocking revelations before the Committee by close relatives of the “MASSOB Nine” including their wives and mothers, the said Senate Joint Committee turned in a grossly watery, provocative and conspiratorial report totally exonerating the Nigeria Police authorities and falsely creating “a communal conflict or rivalry student cult victims’ scenario”.

The report, possibly and inescapably towing the line of the Anambra State Government’s ordered autopsy result/report; weakly admitted that “about six persons had gunshot wounds”. The Senate report also falsely claimed that “only 19 bodies were found”. That is to say that the latter content of the Senate report was tailored in line with the Nigeria Police’s undeniable denials, distortion of facts and obstruction of justice; to the effect that “only 19 corpses were recovered in Ezu River”.

The detailed accounts and testimonies of the families of the “MASSOB Nine”, which gave express and incontrovertible insight into Anambra Police SARS involvement were totally ignored or mangled by the Senate Joint Committee. The then MASSOB Director of Information, Mr Uchenna Madu had in March 2013 appeared before Senator Paulinus Nwagu led Senate Committee and was accompanied by Mrs. Susan Ogba, wife to the missing Michael Ogba; Chidubem Oguejiofor, elder brother to missing Obinna Offor.

Others are Eucharia Omogo, wife to the missing Monday Omogo, Ekene Nwamkpa, wife to the missing Philip Nwankpa, Solomon Ogbu, elder brother to Basil Ogbu; Uchenna Ogbu, wife to the missing Basil Ogbu; Phoebi Eze, mother to the missing Obumneme Eze; and Chukwuma Eze, younger brother to Ndubuisi Eze.

The then Head of Campaign & Publicity Department of this Organization, Comrade Justus Ijeoma, who now heads International Human Rights & Equity Defense Foundation was also dispatched to Abuja to meet with the then Senate Committee chair on Police Affairs (Senator Paulinus Nwagu) and arrange for possible appearance before the Committee by our Organization, but the Senate Committee chair became uncomfortable and dodged the interface.

The Board Chairman of our Organization (Emeka Umeagbalasi) was also invited in April 2013 for interview by the then DIG, Force Criminal Investigations (now retired DIG Peter Gana) on account of our earlier detailed petition on the matter; only for our Board Chair to be told on arrival by an Assistant Commissioner of Police that “the DIG had an emergency and traveled outside the country” and promised to communicate a new date. Till date, no new date had been communicated nor the matter conclusively investigated.

Role of then MASSOB Leadership:

The role played by the leadership of Movement for Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) which lost nine of its members to Anambra Police SARS torture and custodial/extra judicial executions was initially fantastic and commendable. In this respect, Comrade Uchenna Mmadu, in his then capacity as the Director of Information of MASSOB as well as his lieutenants is singled out for commendation for playing an award-winning role in ensuring that those behind the massacre of their members were exposed and brought to book. Apart from travelling thro and fro with the families of the slain MASSOB activists, Comrade Uchenna Mmadu was conscientiously everywhere, ready at anytime called to assist and volunteer facts and other necessary information. For further details, see the link below: <http://247ureports.com/2013/03/05/ezu-river-senate-joint-committee-returns-to-anambra/>

Disappointedly, these efforts were internally cut short, thwarted, sabotaged and compromised along the line and in April 2013 Comrade Uchenna Mmadu was suddenly and unceremoniously removed and relieved of his headship of MASSOB internal committee coordinating “MASSOB Nine Justice Campaign”. This happened barely three weeks after his appearance with the families of “the MASSOB Nine” before the Senate Joint Committee. A conformist unit official from Lagos State branch/region of the Movement was immediately appointed as his replacement.

This signaled the change of entire campaign leading to further compromises and total abandonment of the struggle till date. There was also “a national leadership directive banning every MASSOB official other than “the Leader” from inquiring or asking or speaking or saying anything about “the MASSOB Nine”. Every enquiry and clarification was to solely emanate from the “Leader”. We also understand that this marked the beginning till date of frosty relationship between then Directorate of Information led by Comrade Uchenna Mmadu and then National Leadership of the Movement led by Mr. Raphael Uwazuruike.

- *Technical Section (4)*

Reid Criminal Interrogation Techniques:

The Reid Technique involves three components – factual analysis, interviewing, and interrogation. Following is a brief summary of these components; more information is available on the company's [website](#).

Factual Analysis

The Reid [website](#) describes factual analysis as: An inductive approach where each individual suspect is evaluated with respect to specific observations relating to the crime. Consequently, factual analysis relies not only on crime scene analysis, but also on information learned about each suspect. . . . ;applying factual analysis . . . results in establishing an estimate of a particular suspect's probable guilt or innocence based on such things as the suspect's bio-social status (gender, race, occupation, marital status, etc.), opportunity and access to commit the crime.

Others are their behavior before and after the crime, their motivations and propensity to commit the crime, and evaluation of physical and circumstantial evidence. This factual analysis is also intended to “identify characteristics about the suspect and the crime which will be helpful during an interrogation of the suspect believed to be guilty” such as motive or the suspect's personality type.

Behavior Analysis Interview

The Reid [website](#) describes the Behavior Analysis Interview (BAI) as a non-accusatory question and answer session, involving both standard investigative questions and “structured 'behavior provoking' questions to elicit behavior symptoms of truth or deception from the person being interviewed.”

The investigator first asks background questions, to establish personal information about the suspect and allow the investigator to evaluate the suspect's “normal” verbal and nonverbal behavior. The investigator then asks “behavior-provoking” questions intended “to elicit different verbal and nonverbal responses from truthful and deceptive suspects.” The investigator will also ask some investigative questions during this stage.

The Reid website states that the BAI: provides objective criteria to render an opinion about the suspect's truthfulness through evaluating responses to the behavior-provoking and investigative questions. In addition, the BAI facilitates the eventual interrogation of guilty suspects . . . by establishing a working rapport with the suspect during the non-accusatory BAI, and developing insight about the suspect and his crime to facilitate the formulation of an interrogation strategy.

Interrogation

The Reid [website](#) states that an interrogation “should only occur when the investigator is reasonably certain of the suspect's involvement in the issue under investigation.” There are nine steps to the Reid interrogation technique, briefly described below.

1. The positive confrontation. The investigator tells the suspect that the evidence demonstrates the person's guilt. If the person's guilt seems clear to the investigator, the statement should be unequivocal.

2. Theme development. The investigator then presents a moral justification (theme) for the offense, such as placing the moral blame on someone else or outside circumstances. The investigator presents the theme in a monologue and in sympathetic manner.

3. Handling denials. When the suspect asks for permission to speak at this stage (likely to deny the accusations), the investigator should discourage allowing the suspect to do so. The Reid website asserts that innocent suspects are less likely to ask for permission and more likely to “promptly and unequivocally” deny the accusation. The website states that “[i]t is very rare for an innocent suspect to move past this denial state.”

4. Overcoming objections. When attempts at denial do not succeed, a guilty suspect often makes objections to support a claim of innocence (e.g., I would never do that because I love my job.) The investigator should generally accept these objections as if they were truthful, rather than arguing with the suspect, and use the objections to further develop the theme.

5. Procurement and retention of suspect's attention. The investigator must procure the suspect's attention so that the suspect focuses on the investigator's theme rather than on punishment. One way the investigator can do this is to close the physical distance between himself or herself and the suspect. The investigator should also “channel the theme down to the probable alternative components.”

6. Handling the suspect's passive mood. The investigator “should intensify the theme presentation and concentrate on the central reasons he [or she] is offering as psychological justification . . . [and] continue to display an understanding and sympathetic demeanor in urging the suspect to tell the truth.”

7. Presenting an alternative question. The investigator should present two choices, assuming the suspect's guilt and developed as a “logical extension from the theme,” with one alternative offering a better justification for the crime (e.g., “did you plan this thing out or did it just happen on the spur of the moment?”). The investigator may follow the question with a supporting statement “which encourages the suspect to choose the more understandable side of the alternative.”

8. Having the suspect orally relate various details of the offense. After the suspect accepts one side of the alternative (thus admitting guilt), the investigator should immediately respond with a statement of reinforcement acknowledging that admission. The investigator then seeks to obtain a brief oral review of the basic events, before asking more detailed questions.

9. Converting an oral confession to a written confession. The investigator must convert the oral confession into a written or recorded confession. The website provides some guidelines, such as repeating *Miranda* warnings, avoiding leading questions, and using the suspect's own language.

Expert and Non-torture (physical) Critiques of REID Technique

For a more detailed summary of criticisms of the Reid Technique, see this [article](#) from *Criminal Law Quarterly*, a Canadian journal. For more information on the company's response to such criticisms, see this [document](#) from Reid's website.

PEACE Method

In England, police generally use a less confrontational interview and interrogation method than is used in the United States. The method is called Preparation and Planning, Engage and Explain, Account, Closure and Evaluate (PEACE). Under the PEACE method, investigators allow a suspect to tell his or her story without interruption, before presenting the suspect with any inconsistencies or contradictions between the story and other evidence. Investigators are prohibited from deceiving suspects during an interview (Meissner et al., 11).

The following information on the steps to the PEACE method is drawn from [Authorised Professional Practice](#) (APP), a national body of guidance on policing in the United Kingdom. For more detailed information, see their [website](#).

1. Preparation and Planning. Interviewers should create a written interview plan, focusing on issues such as the objectives of the interview and the order of interviews. Among other things, the plan should include the time a suspect has been in custody, the topics to be covered, and points necessary to prove the offense or provide a defense. Interviewers should consider characteristics of the interviewee that could be relevant to the plan (e.g., cultural background could affect how someone prefers to be addressed). Interviewers may need to consider practical arrangements, such as visiting the scene or the location of the interview.

2. Engage and Explain. The interviewers should engage the individual, including using active listening to establish a rapport with him or her. The interviewers should explain the reasons for the interview and its objectives. They should also explain routines and expectations of the process (e.g., explaining that the interviewers will take notes). Interviewers should encourage the individual to state anything they believe is relevant.

3. Account. The interviewers should use appropriate questions and active listening to obtain the interviewee's account of events. Questions should be short and free of jargon, and can help to clarify and expand the account. Multi-part questions should generally be avoided due to possible confusion, and leading questions should be used only as a last resort.

4. Closure. This stage should be planned to avoid an abrupt end to the interview. Among other things, the interviewers should summarize the person's account of events, allowing the person to make clarifications and ask questions.

5. Evaluate. The interviewers should evaluate the interview to (a) assess how the interviewee's account fits with the investigation as a whole, (b) determine if further action is needed, and (c) reflect on their performance.

KINESIC Interview/Interrogation Technique:

The Kinesic Interview method involves analyzing a person's behavior to assess deception. The method has some similarities to the Reid Technique. Kinesics is the study of nonverbal communication. One author, Stan B. Walters, describes two phases to this process: the “Practical Kinesic Analysis Phase” and the “Practical Kinesic Interrogation Phase.”

During the analysis phase, the interviewer uses several techniques to observe and analyze the subject's behavior “to determine the subject's truthful and deceptive behaviors or at least to determine those areas most sensitive to the subject and, therefore, in need of further attention through verbal inquiry” (Walters 3). Walters describes four fundamental stages of the interview: (1) orientation, (2) narration, (3) cross-examination, and (4) resolution (Id. at 25-29).

The investigator uses information gathered during the first phase to tailor interrogation for the specific subject. Walters describes the interrogator's task of “breaking the cycle of deception” during the interrogation; this includes confronting the suspect's negative-response emotional states (Id. at 209). Walters outlines different interrogation strategies for different personality types.

Walters describes over 30 practical kinesic principles to guide investigators in this process. The “first and most important” such principle is that “No single kinesic behavior, verbal or nonverbal, proves a person is truthful or deceptive” (Id. at 10). The other principles include both general statements of human behavior (people are better able to control verbal than nonverbal kinesic signals) and statements specifically focused on interview or interrogation techniques (to attack a denial, the investigator should review the real or circumstantial evidence with the subject every 3 to 5 minutes).

See more here: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/rpt/2014-R-0071.htm>.

3Es Crime Investigation Triangle:

In all, the modern criminal interrogation/interview techniques above highlighted are inseparable, interwoven and inter-used with *the 3Es Crime Investigation Triangle*; comprising *electronic protective and detective security* (i.e. CCTVs, hidden cameras, metal/voice/lie detectors and biometrics; tracking machines, etc), *electronic intelligence* (surveillance, secret pens/cameras and other electronic tracking devices); and *electronic investigation devices or technologies and researched crime texts* (i.e. modern crime labs and libraries, etc).

The effective use or application of the *3Es Criminal Investigation Triangle* roundly makes application of criminal interrogation techniques totally supplementary and complementary for criminal investigators. The overall potency of modern science of crime or digitalized and mentally advanced criminal investigation is that it ensures or aids speedy prosecution and trial. It is also cheaper, less cumbersome, easily adaptable, accessible, available, affordable, mentally coherent, prosecutorial, convictable, noble, human rights and sanctity of life and image friendly; ICT compliant and corporately credible.

The combined use or application of the **3Es Crime Investigation Triangle** and Modern Crime Interrogation Techniques are also importantly unique in the sense that they credibly and socially ensure the actualization of *three cardinal purposes or aims of criminal investigation management; namely:* ensuring **Inculpatory statement** (a voluntary statement, written or recorded, by a criminal suspect, acknowledging a particular decision or activity associated with a crime), elimination of **Noble cause corruption** (corrupt or illegal acts committed by law enforcement officers in order to secure or maintain an arrest or conviction or other unworthy and atrocious practices such as in-station and out-station corruption, torture and custodial shooting and killing) and **Securing noble sentencing or acquittal** during prosecution.

Expert/Advocacy Recommendations:

- *Call for international interventions and enquiries into high incidences of, and uncontrollable Police SARS torture and custodial deaths and related atrocious practices in Nigeria with Ezu River Police SARS killings of 19th January 2013 as a case study.*
- *Call for proper and round-the-clock international, regional and local monitoring of the activities of relevant policing agencies including the Nigeria Police Force and the SSS in the country especially in the areas of torture, use of force and internal security operations.*
- *Call for immediate and proactive advocacy, diplomatic, human rights and humanitarian attentions and pressures from relevant UN bodies such as UN Rapportuers on Torture, Summary, Extra Legal and Extra Judicial Executions, etc and the UN Rights Council and its specific rights committees as well as the Governments of USA, Canada, UK and members of the EU on the subject matter under complaint.*
- *Call for digitalization and upgrading to international best practices of policing operations in Nigeria especially crime detection, intelligence and investigation and their conformity at all times with international human rights standards.*
- *Call for revolutionalization of science of crime and crime management in Nigeria especially the return and upgrading of moribund Nigeria Police crime/forensic laboratory and use of well developed human and mental resources abundantly available at various universities in Nigeria including NOUN, UNILAG, ABU, UNIMAID, UNICAL, UNI-IBADAN, UNIBEN, UNIJOS, UNN, UNIABUJA, UNIZIK, etc; under “contract staff” or “expert resource exchange” arrangements.*
- *Call for computerization of the Nigeria Police Force and intensification of in-service and out-service trainings and workshops for its officers especially the personnel of its special or technical departments such as SARS, FCID and SCIDs.*
- *Call on the Inspector General of Police(Ibrahim Kpotum Idris) and his Nigeria Police Management Team and specifically the Force Criminal Investigations and Force Operations Departments to critically and expertly study and analyze the **four technical sections** of this special/expert investigative report for the purpose of using them to revolutionalize, computerize and digitalize the Force manually, mentally and scientifically.*
- *Call on the National Assembly and the Attorney General of the Federation as well as the State Governors and their AGs and the State Houses of Assembly to revisit, overhaul and upgrade the Nigerian Federation’s criminal justice and associated human rights code laws (Acts and Laws)in line with international best practices including immediate adoption or ratification and domestication of outstanding regional and international rights and humanitarian treaties. Section 33 (2) (a) of Nigeria’s 1999 Constitution and the Police Order 237 of the Nigeria Police Act and Regulations of 2004 should specifically be expunged or streamlined in definition.*

- *Call on the authorities above named including the Nigeria Police authorities to take serious exception to and condemn strongly and practically at all times all forms of custodial torture, shootings and killings by their law enforcement officers and desist from their incurable habit of false denials which have entrenched a culture of impunity and lawlessness among the authorities and officers of the Force and other policing agencies in Nigeria.*
- *Call on the present Government of Anambra State headed by Governor William Obiano and other State Governors to “fight violent crimes” in their respective States with human face and conscience by respecting the sanctity of human lives and refraining from being complicit in torture and all forms of extra judicial and unlawful killings by their Governments’ financed State Joint Security Taskforces particularly the murderous activities of the Special Anti Robbery, Anti Terrorism and Anti Cult Squads of the Nigeria Police Force operating in their States.*
- *Call on the present Government and Executive Governor of Anambra State and other State Governors to critically and expertly study the **four technical sections** of this special investigation/expert report especially sections three and four and use them to upgrade and transform their States’ SARS headquarters into a state-of-art criminal investigation procession facilities; fully equipped with modern crime labs and libraries with well trained personnel and staff. They should also overhaul and operationalize their Coroner’s laws and their procedures.*
- *Call on the named State Governors and their States’ Police Commissioners, SARS Commanders, politicians and the rich class to stop and desist from flooding SARS formations and cells with **the good, the bad and the ugly** as labeled “violent crime suspects” and restrict the operations of their SARS officers to violent crimes of armed robbery and abduction; with the cases of murder, terrorism and related others taking over by their States’ Criminal Investigations Departments or SCIDs.*
- *Demand that the SARS commanders and the Nigeria Police authorities must release all detainees wrongly held in SARS cells and arrest and prosecute members of the public including politicians and rich or privileged class who framed them up or wrongly or vindictively labeled such citizens as “armed robbers”, “terrorists” and “kidnappers” and got them detained and tortured alive or tortured to death in SARS custodies.*
- *Call for total abolition and prohibition both in theory and in practice of all forms of police corruption especially those highlighted above; and take a concrete step further to periodically investigate the illicit earnings or sources of out- service incomes of SARS commanders including those of the like of CSP James Oshim Nwafor (the notorious OC/SARS in Anambra State between 2012 and 2015 and alleged chief mastermind of the Ezu River SARS killings of 19th January 2013) who critics have alleged to be far richer than his statutory remunerations as a serving Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) in Nigeria.*

Researched By:

- **Emeka Umeagbalasi (Criminologist & Graduate of Security Studies)**
Board Chairman, International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law
Mobile Line: +2348174090052
Email: botchairman@intersociety-ng.org

Co-signed:

- **Barr Chinenye F. Akubulo**
Head, Campaign & Publicity Department
Email: fakubilo.fa@gmail.com

- **Barr Obianuju Joy Igboeli**
Head, Civil Liberties & Rule of Law Program
Email: igboeliobianuju@gmail.com

Address: 41, Miss Elems Street, 430003 Onitsha

Anambra State of Nigeria

Mobile Phone Nos.: +2348182411462, +2349063500218

Website: www.intersociety-ng.org

Email: info@intersociety-ng.org

© Intersociety Publications 2017